

Celebrate... Summer's just weeks away! Happy Memorial Day!

# South Plainfield Observer

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VOL. 11, NO. 38

MEMBER NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

50 CENTS

MAY 23, 2008



Emma Regan accepts a \$1,000 savings bond from Debbie and Charlie Kurland of Hometown Heros at the May 14 Junior Journalist banquet. Emma is the first recipient of the annual award given to one Junior Journalist winner.

## South Plainfield Wins 32 Medals at Special Olympics

The South Plainfield Special Athletes track and field members once again competed in the 2008 Regional Special Olympics at Carteret High School on May 3.

Despite gloomy weather, the athletes once again made their coaches and family members proud by giving it their best while showing exceptional sportsmanship and determination.

In the field events, which included the softball throw, tennis ball throw and the standing long jump, the team secured 12 gold medals, five silver medals and a fourth place ribbon.

In the track events, which included the 50-meter walk and the 100-meter run, the team collected five gold medals, two silver medals and a bronze medal. The 4x100 relay team won a gold medal this year and the unified relay team, which consisted of volunteer coach Allen Mazurak and David Agnew, Jr.'s father, David Agnew, Sr., brought home a gold medal also.

At the end of the day, the team accumulated 32 medals, which included 23 gold medals. The South Plainfield Special Athletes this year included Jason DeSantis, Andy McLean, Anthony McLean, Franchot McLean,

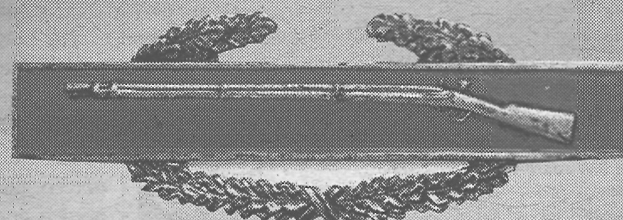
Robert Fallat, Thelma Morgan, Yuri Zakrevski, David Agnew, Jr. and Dave Micabalo.

This year's athletes are commended for their determination and efforts competing in the Regional Special Olympics competition. Despite the extremely dreary weather, the South Plainfield athletes focused on their goal of winning gold medals at the event.

The volunteer coaches spent their valuable time practicing with and cheering on the athletes in order to help them perform their best during the Special Olympics events. Coaches Kevin Hajduk, Angela Raimondo-Hajduk, Allen Mazurak and Sharon McGrath are all exceptional individuals whose devotion to the team is irreplaceable.

Congratulations to the athletes for representing South Plainfield with the utmost respect and pride. Their sportsmanship, drive and accomplishments are what everyone loves about watching them compete.

The team's next competition is the State Special Olympics competition at the College of New Jersey the weekend of June 6-8. Good luck special athletes at the states!



## The Badge of Glory

Author Unknown

Of all the medals upon our chests  
From battles and wars we knew  
The one admired as the very best  
Is the one of infantry blue.

It's only a rifle upon a wreath  
So why should it mean so much?  
It is what it took to earn it  
That gives it that Touch.

To earn this special accolade  
You faced the enemy's fire  
Whether you survived or not  
God dialed that one desire.

For those of us who served the cause  
And brought this nation glory  
It's the Combat Infantryman's Badge  
That really tells the story.

Submitted by Pat Janus,  
whose husband Walter received the  
Combat Infantryman's Badge in 1951.  
He was with the 1st Calvary Division in Korea.

## HOT TOPIC Trucks

### Council Vote on Truck Route Spurs Move to Senior Center

Planning on attending the May 27 regular meeting of the Borough Council? The meeting has been moved to the Senior Center due to the anticipated number of residents expected to attend.

The council will vote on amend-

ing the ordinance on weight restrictions on Hamilton Boulevard and Belmont Avenue.

Want to know the facts? Turn to pages 6 and 7 for statistics on the often debated issue of trucks in the borough.

## You are cordially invited...

American Legion Post 243 and VFW Memorial Post 6763 of South Plainfield would like to invite the public to join them in their Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday, May 26. Ceremony begins at the VFW Post on Front Street at 9 a.m. and ends at the American Legion Post on Oak Tree Ave. at about 10:30 or 11 a.m. In between there will be wreath laying ceremonies at Veteran's Park and the three cemeteries in South Plainfield. Refreshments will follow at the American Legion Post.



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

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

**BOE meetings** Thursdays at 7:30

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



To purchase a copy of a complete Borough Council or BOE meeting, contact the *Observer*.

#### council meetings

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

#### Agenda Meeting

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.

#### planning board

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 board of adjustment

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

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

#### board of education meetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted  
Committee of the Whole, Wednesdays 7:30 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.

#### recreation commission

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

#### taxpayers advisory group

The Taxpayers Advisory Group (TAG) meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at  
Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave. at 7 p.m. Questions? 908-769-0786.

#### site plan sub-committee

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m.  
June 17, July 15, August 19, September 16,  
October 21, November 18, December 16.

#### environmental commission

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

#### traffic safety advisory commission

Meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room, Borough Hall

#### board of education curriculum/technology meetings

Meets once a month on Mondays at 8 p.m. in the 2nd floor conference room at Roosevelt  
Administration Building on Jackson Ave.

## IN MY OPINION

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

To All South Plainfield Residents:

I graduated in 2004 from South Plainfield High School and have been going to college out in San Diego at Platt College. I will be graduating in June with a bachelors degree in Video Production and 3D Animation.

I need your help! Please go to www.surprisingfacts.tv, then click on "Explore The Gallery." Ours was shot in San Diego but listed under "JP, South Plainfield, NJ" Cursing Car Drivers. Great, if you need a laugh! Voting begins June 12 through June 30.

**THANK YOU,  
JACLENE PRONGAY**

Dear Editor,

The South Plainfield Soccer Club held its first evening of stand-up comedy on May 3. The event was a roaring success!

Our club is made up solely of volunteers and everyone's help is always needed and very much appreciated. The thought behind the comedy show was to do some kind of fundraiser, but at the same time try to give something back to us, the parents. Between schools, sports and after school activities, family and work, we could all use a night of laughter. And that's exactly what we got.

There were so many people who helped on this project: Donna Riccardi took care of tickets and reservations; Lorrette Nagel and Chris Paez worked to get donations of prizes that were raffled off; donations from Ciccio's Pizza, Applebee's, Tastee Subs, Red Bull, Summer Drama Workshop, Red Robin, Gabrielle's, Our Town Deli and Starbucks; volunteers included Mary Cargill, Jack Deffler, Mina Licato, The Born's, Bill Buttrico, Anthony Salerno, Jake Salerno, Laura Readie, Gayle Buttrico, The Harrells,

Joe Evans, Echo Sikel, Rich Paez, The Seyffart's, Jayne Mott, John Skula, Janet McDermott, The Sanko's, Nancy O'Shea, Jackie Vill, Terry Ward, Kevin Hughes, the South Plainfield Recreation, Police and Fire Departments. I apologize if I have forgotten to specifically mention anyone else who may have helped make the evening a success.

Thank you for your help and dedication. It was a pleasure working with you. Most of all it was great to see everyone laughing so hard and enjoying the evening. Thank you!

**ANN MARIE  
FERRANTE-SEYFFART**

To the Editor:

Our elected Republican Majority has once again decided to mark their territory by moving forward with the truck traffic reversal. Just like our current Republican president, they are using "flawed intelligence" to address an issue rooted in a personal agenda. Unfortunately Lt. Murtagh's traffic focused assessment has supported their plans for the reversal. How can a borough police officer possibly conclude that the truck route will not pose any additional risk to the students of Roosevelt Elementary? How can our superintendent of schools, Jose Negron, be convinced that it's okay to route 100's of trucks a day past the longest row of classroom windows and playground? And where are the school board members? Your silence is deafening folks! Get your heads out of the sand for the welfare of the students that you represent unless your political affiliation takes precedent, of course.

The Republican Majority's solution to the distractions, noise and pollution created by the truck traffic must be to have the teachers shut the windows and close the blinds. That will

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.

also protect the students from a hazardous material spill after an accident at the intersection of Hamilton and Belmont, right? Will the Republican Majority, Lt. Murtagh, Mr. Negron and our school board assure the students of Roosevelt Elementary that the noise, constant exposure to diesel containments and increased potential for a hazardous materials spill within 100 feet of their school is really okay? Please let us know the time/date you plan to meet with the students as we'd like to be in attendance. Shouldn't the children and teachers have a voice as well?

There hasn't been a traffic accident involving a truck on the current New Market route so far this year. Were the accidents in previous years actually due to the route itself or simply driver negligence? And we don't just mean the truck drivers since a car was undoubtedly involved. As for the trucking industry's study, they are not particularly interested in the quality of life for our town residents and motivated only by reduced miles (cost). All management of these companies, please raise your hand if you reside in South Plainfield!

We feel for the residents of New Market however until a long term solution can be found it seems that being a mixed use (residential, multi-family and light industrial) street which runs parallel to the primary train track through town keeps the movement of goods at least confined to one area. Also, there is not a school along the route. If the Republican majority hadn't reversed the New Market extension, the issue of sharp turns would have been a moot point to a large degree. The big question now is which Republican Majority supporter will be the beneficiary of the land under the demolished multi-family dwellings that were purchased for the project?

This is a perfect example of small town politicians impacting our quality of life and endangering our children for their own personal agendas. Again we ask, please tell us a town council that consciously voted to route their truck traffic past an elementary school?

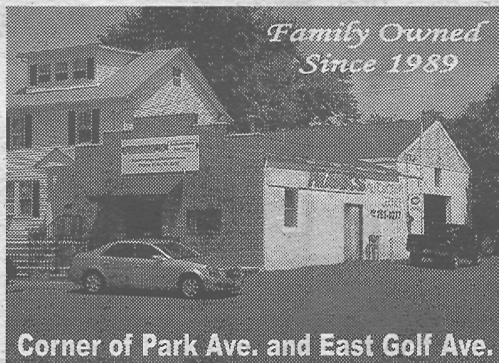
**TIGHE & DEBORAH FALATO**  
(Continued on page 12)

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#### SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

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

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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## South Plainfield Gas Price Check

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

Station	Location	5/13/2008 6:00 PM	5/20/2008 6:00 PM	See Note
Jersey Oil	Park Ave & E. Golf Ave	\$3.539	\$3.599	1*
Citgo	Maple & Park Ave.	\$3.539	\$3.599	
Raceway	Clinton & W. 7th	\$3.539	\$3.599	2*
Enrite	Durham & Texas	\$3.559	\$3.599	
Jersey Oil	Hamilton & Amboy	\$3.579	\$3.629	
Exxon	Maple & Park Ave.	\$3.579	\$3.639	
Gulf	Front St. & Oak Tree Ave.	\$3.639	\$3.689	
Gulf	Stelton & New Brunswick	\$3.659	\$3.699	
Shell	Plainfield & Lane	\$3.679	\$3.699	
Lukoil	Durham & 287	\$3.699	\$3.699	
Lukoil	Hamilton & Stelton	\$3.699	\$3.759	
1* Jersey Oil Credit Card Price- \$3.699				
2* Raceway Credit Card Price - \$3.689				

## NEWS

### Suburban Woman's Club

This is a happy May Day for the members of the Suburban Woman's Club. We have so many good things to report that we are full of smiling faces.

First, here are the results of the Mother's and Father's Day card contests we conducted at our local schools:

The Franklin School winners for Mother's Day cards were Stephanie Heim, Jenna Dickerson and Patricia Lacasale. For Father's Day cards, the winners were Elizabeth Lee, Rooja Patel and Jake Giordana.

The Kennedy School winners for Mother's Day cards were Emily Kuchinski, Nicole Murtagh and Morgan Merkle. For Father's Day cards the winners were Scott Riccardi, Patrick Kopolka and Mary McNeil.

The Riley School winners for Mother's Day cards were Desteni Melendaz, Abigail Ramirez and Natalie Romano and honorable mention went to Gabriella Cangialosi.

The Sacred Heart School participants were Matilda Mercer and Daisy Garcia who received a Commendation for Participation.

Congratulations to all the talented

boys and girls. Their cards showed creativity and imagination. Thank you for all your efforts to everyone who submitted a card to be judged.

As mentioned before, the Suburban Woman's Club participated in the College District of NJSFWC Spring Conference and Achievement Day held on April 24. The members who received Gold Ribbons for jewelry were Diane Gallo for a bracelet and Mary Ann Iannitto for earrings. Diane Gallo received a Gold Ribbon for party favors. Second place awards went to Lucy Hudson for a bracelet, Natalie Bergen for baking drop cookies and Mary Iannitto for an abstract oil painting. Third place awards went to Mary Ann Iannitto for an oil painting-landscape. Honorable Mention went to Ginger Pierce for an oil painting-seascape.

Despite a gloomy day, the yard sale held on May 3 was a success and we extend our heartfelt thanks to all our faithful friends for their patronage and to the American Legion for the use of their front lawn.

Submitted by Gloria M. Breuning,  
Publicity Chairman

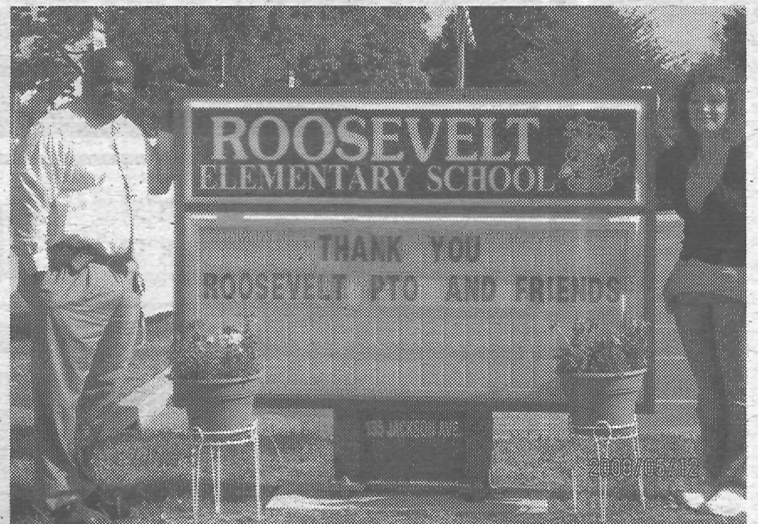
## New Sign Erected at Roosevelt Elementary

A school sign has been erected in front of Roosevelt Elementary School thanks to the hard work of Nora Sikanowicz and Sue Fierro, who sought donations from surrounding businesses and families throughout South Plainfield. The two parents canvassed the town to generate close to \$4,000 in donations. The school PTO raised the remainder of the money needed through various fundraisers. As a result of this hard work and dedication of time, it has become possible for Roosevelt Elementary School to display a brand new school sign. The sign will be used to display upcoming school events and show the Character Counts Word of the Month. Roosevelt Elementary School, now in its fifth year, is pleased to be able to display such a wonderful sign and wants to thank the following people for their generosity:

Edward Wilinski, Jade Scotti and Christine Komjati, Kyle Patterson, Charles Ford-principal, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Clark, Rachel Rockicki, Rodrigo and Mariana Ramirez, Roosevelt School staff, Samardhi Jeedigunta, Sophia Adams-on behalf of Kevin and Sarai Adams, Spoorthi Jeedigunta, Thalia Alfares and Media Sofyan, Andrew Family, Babinetz/Lipuma Family, Battista Family, Bell Family, Boettger Family, Cassio Family, Celentano Family, Cone Family (Zakaya and Zaire), Contreras Family, Dang Family, De-Andrea Family, Diamant Family, Garg Family, Gray Family, Heilmann Family, Jerome Family, Kaczak Family, Kamal Family, Khandelwal Family, Kumar Family, Lampasona Family,

### CORRECTIONS

On page 3 of the May 16 issue of the *Observer*, the name of Frank Raciti, owner of Frank's Automotive Service, was misspelled in the photo caption announcing his donation to C.O.A.C.H.E.S Care. Also, on page 7, Mikayla Mastroianni was pictured with mom, Lisa Jones. We regret the errors.



Charles Ford, Roosevelt Elementary School principal and Kelly Villares, Roosevelt PTO president.

Licato Family, Maistickle Family, Marero-Fierro Family, Mazellan Family, Mitchell Family, O'Bryant Family, Obregon Family, Ortiz Family, Penyak Family, Rodriguez Family, Sadiq Family, Santos Family, Severini Family, Sikanowicz Family, Simpson Family, Singh Family, Thuppil Family, Villares Family, Wallace Family, Walsh Family and Tuong/Rosa Family.

A very special thanks to the following businesses for their generous donations towards the purchase of our school sign: B&C Deli, Blaise of Color, Inc., Cali-Air Heating and

Cooling, Century 21 Moretti Realty, Ciccio's Pizza, Colonial Fence Co., Inc., Di-Lex Trucking, Frank P. Licato, Jr., D.M.D., In the Cut-Anthony Fierro, Innovative Land Surveying, Inc., J. Anthony Equipment Co., KKK Trucking Co., Inc., Michael's Custom Woodworking, Old Bridge School of Dance-Andrea Loniewski, Our Town Deli, P&J Auto, Pizza Stop, Re/Max Best Realty, Sal's Spirit Shoppe, Staats Auto Body, Superior Integrated Solutions, The Pizza Stop, Timber Creek Landscaping, Twin City Pharmacy and Xtreme Clean Car Wash.

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# Around Town

## Elks Family Carnival

Through May 25

The Elks family carnival at Veteran's Park (behind the Senior Center) takes place 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 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 plans for the upcoming 2008 Project Graduation celebration. If you would like to help out, try to attend this meeting. If unable to attend, contact any executive board member to find out how you can volunteer.

## Tiger Sharks Meet and Greet Night

May 27

Members of the South Plainfield Community Pool who would like to learn more about the Tiger Sharks Swim and Dive teams are 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.

What's happening at the

## SENIOR CENTER

MAY

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b> NJ Property Tax Relief Program and Forum May 29 at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. ... Let Us Hear Your Ideas! Call Joann at (908) 226-7606				Bingo 10am-2pm <b>23</b>
<b>26</b> Center Closed for Memorial Day	Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social Group 10am	<b>27</b> Aerobics 8:45 am Line Dancing 10am Computer 10 am, 11:30am, 1pm Crocheting 1pm Tai Chi 2pm	<b>28</b> Pathmark Shopping 9am Computer Class 10am Exercise Class 1:15pm	Bingo 10am-2pm <b>30</b>
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.				

## High School Spring Choral Concert

May 28

The Spring Choral Concert, "A Tribute to Broadway," is on Wednesday, May 28 at 7 p.m. in SPHS auditorium. Tickets are \$3 for adults; \$2 senior citizens and students. Free admission for students with gold cards. Refreshments will be available for sale during intermission. On June 4, the band and orchestra will hold their spring concert.

## Riley Lip Sync Show

May 29

Come show your support and see Riley Elementary School kids put on a lip sync show you'll never forget on Thursday, May 29 at 7 p.m. Cost is \$2.

## VFW Meatloaf Dinner

May 30

The VFW, located on Front Street, will hold a country breakfast on Friday, May 30 from 5 to 8 p.m. Public is welcome.

## 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.

## VFW Country Breakfast

June 1

The VFW, located on Front Street, will hold a country breakfast on Sunday, June 1 from 8 to 11 a.m. Public is welcome.

## 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.

## Art Muglia Memorial Golf Outing

June 27

The fifth annual Art Muglia Memorial Golf Outing will take place on Friday, June 27 at Heron Glen Golf Course located in Ringoes. All net proceeds will go to Art's favorite charity, The Matheny School, for children and adults with developmental disabilities. The cost for golf, continental breakfast, cart, prizes and barbecue lunch is \$125 per golfer.

For more information or to register, please call Jim Muglia at (973) 667-2466.

## — Out of Town —

### 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 Ave. in Middlesex, will host a carnival on Wednesday, May 28 through Saturday, 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.

### Red Cross Spring Tasting '08

May 31

The Tri-County Red Cross and Wine Country of North Plainfield Spring Tasting '08, a special wine, beer and spirits tasting, will be held on Saturday, May 31 from 1 to 6 p.m.

Anyone of legal drinking age is invited for a casual and informative walk-around tasting at Wine Country of North Plainfield's location on Route 22 West. Visitors can come at any time during the five hour tasting to learn more about specialty drinks, and are welcome to stay for a few minutes or a few hours.

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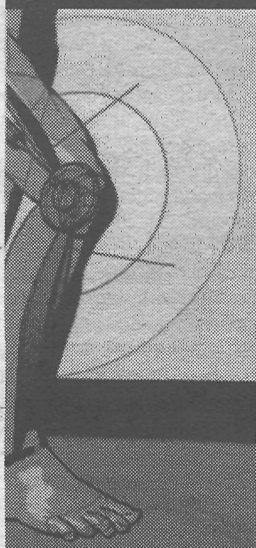
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# HOT TOPIC

## Trucks

# From the Boulevard to New Market: A Long Road

With the council about to vote next Tuesday on rescinding the ordinance that placed vehicle weight restrictions on Hamilton Boulevard, the *Observer* offers a brief chronological history of how trucks have ended up on the present truck route on New Market Avenue.

The original reason for rerouting trucks onto New Market Avenue was to detour truck traffic while the Hamilton Boulevard reconstruction took place. The alternate route directed trucks on Hamilton Boulevard to turn left onto St. Nicholas; then right onto South Clinton Avenue; right

onto New Market Avenue; right onto Hamilton Boulevard and left onto Spicer to Belmont. The construction project took more than two years to complete.

Since the Hamilton Boulevard reconstruction was completed, there has been no study to determine the increase of commercial or residential traffic on either road; but most agree, it has increased. At this week's agenda meeting a resolution to do a traffic count on Hamilton Boulevard and New Market Avenue was tabled at the request of Councilman Tim McConville, over the objections of Mayor Charles Butrico.

In Summer 2006, Charles Butrico, then a councilman running for mayor, proposed the alternate truck route be made permanent. He unveiled a plan to upgrade several intersections and purchase property on Hamilton Boulevard which would allow trucks to avoid turning right onto Hamilton Boulevard and left onto Spicer Avenue and instead go straight through the traffic light at Hamilton and connect with Spicer Avenue at Garibaldi Avenue. A second phase at a later date called for the trucks to terminate at Fulton Street and Spicer Avenue. At that time, Butrico did not have

a final cost for either plan. In 2006, the council consisted of four Democrats and two Republicans and his proposed plans had no problem moving forward, but there were objections from residents on New Market and the Republican Minority.

In November of 2006, Charles Butrico was elected mayor. About the same time the borough received a letter from the state approving the weight restrictions on Hamilton Boulevard. The letter has been disputed and questioned by those opposed to the alternate truck route. Opponents claim the state never gave permission to put trucks on New Market Avenue. The letter simply says that the state approved the ordinance imposing weight restrictions on Hamilton Boulevard. Opponents to the Mayor's plan have repeatedly referred to another letter from a state inspector saying the alternate truck route was unsafe. Mayor Butrico explained that he and members of the council met with state officials after that inspection and described their proposed plans for upgrades along the route and at the Hamilton Boulevard and New Market Avenue intersection. Shortly thereafter the state approved the Hamilton Boulevard weight restrictions.

The borough had purchased the three properties on Hamilton Boulevard for approximately \$1.68M which were demolished in 2007. Upgrades were also made at the intersection of South Clinton and New Market avenues.

In the 2007 election, the Republicans took control of the council with a 4-2 majority. Since then the council has blocked spending on the New Market Extension project and voted to take grant money slated for the improvements on the New Market Extension and apply the money to improvements on Tompkins Avenue.

Residents along New Market Avenue have been regularly attending council meetings to express their displeasure on rerouting trucks to their road. Some say they did not purchase their homes on a truck route, unlike those who live on Hamilton Boulevard. Others complained about the condition of New Market Avenue and how dangerous it is for children who walk to school along that road since there are only partial sidewalks along the entire length.

A traffic study conducted by Traffic Safety Officer Lt. Kevin Murtagh deemed the alternate truck route dangerous, and is the main reason for the decision to return trucks to Hamilton Boulevard. Murtagh noted that pedestrian traffic along New Market and Spicer is at risk due to the lack of sidewalks along portions of New Market and Spicer avenues, and that New Market Avenue is prone to flooding during heavy rains. His study showed an increase in accidents at the intersections along the alternate truck route, including the six turns trucks must maneuver around the route, versus only two turns they have to make on Hamilton Boulevard, as well as the additional cost of fuel and the additional emissions because of the added distance of the alternate truck route. Murtagh's traffic study estimates that approximately 1,537 commercial trucks are headed toward Metuchen Road each day. His report states that 46 commercial crashes occurred in 2005; 58 in 2006; and 53 in 2007 along both routes. Of the 53 in 2007 there were 28 (60%) on South Clinton Avenue. Murtagh's study did not include 2008 accidents.

Based on Murtagh's statistics, approximately 3,074 trucks use the roads every day, which equals a yearly (260 days) rate of 799,240 trucks traveling to and from Metuchen Road. The percentage of crashes using these statistics is .0004725 percent. He also added that 71% of the trucks involved in crashes were found at fault.

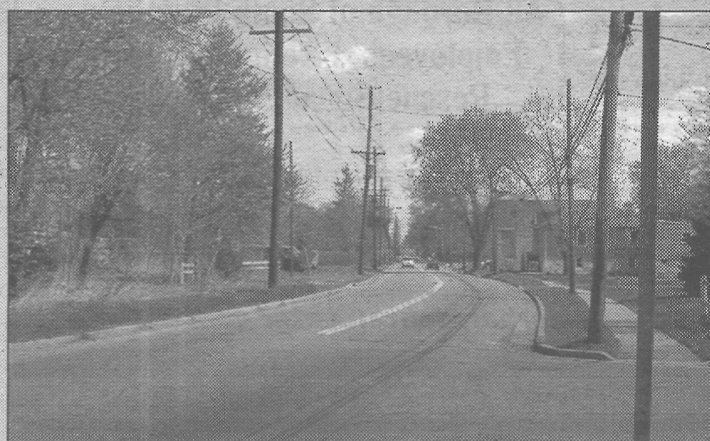
The alternate truck route (from Hamilton and St. Nicholas to Spicer and Belmont) is approximately 3.1 miles one way, with more than half of the route passing through commercial roads—St. Nicholas, South Clinton and a portion of New Market. The Hamilton Boulevard route is .9 miles, but it is more than 95 percent residential. Hamilton Boulevard also passes Roosevelt School, two day care centers and two churches, one on Belmont. At the May 5 council meeting, Murtagh read a memo he wrote to Police Chief John Ferraro with safety suggestions to make Hamilton Boulevard safer when trucks return. (*Murtagh's statement is on page 7.*)

The Mayor said he will veto the ordinances when passed. But with the Republican Majority favoring the return of trucks to Hamilton Boulevard, it will only delay the process a few weeks. The ordinances must be approved by Middlesex County before trucks can go back on the boulevard.

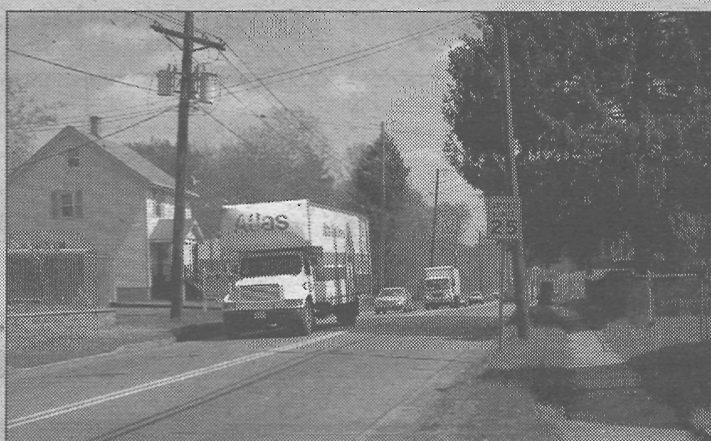
Next Tuesday's council meeting will take place in the Senior Center at 7 p.m.

## NEW MARKET AVENUE FACTS

There are approximately 35 residential dwellings the entire length of New Market Avenue, between the intersection of South Clinton Avenue to Hamilton Boulevard (.9 miles) and approximately two additional residences having a side yard on New Market Avenue.



Sidewalks with handicap-accessible curves located on eastbound side of New Market from Highland Avenue to Hamilton Boulevard.



In the area where there are no sidewalks on the westbound side of New Market there are sidewalks on the eastbound side.



Once you reach Staats Auto Body there are several blocks of open fields and a wooded area before several commercially-zoned houses. Some have sidewalks in front of them and some do not.



There are approximately 17 commercial buildings on New Market Avenue, including the Polish National Home, the Elks Club, a bar, a vacant beauty salon and other businesses.

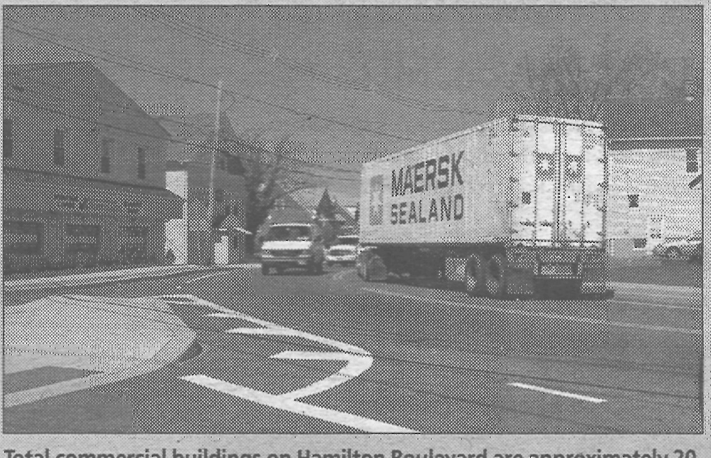
Want to know more? Attend the May 27 Borough Council meeting.

## HAMILTON BLVD FACTS

Hamilton Boulevard from New Market Avenue to St. Nicholas has approximately 44 residential dwellings (approximately 1.3 miles), with another 12 residences that have side yards on Hamilton. Sidewalks run the entire length of Hamilton Boulevard on both sides of the street.



Hamilton Boulevard, which was completely reconstructed, has sidewalks with handicap access on both sides for the entire length.



Total commercial buildings on Hamilton Boulevard are approximately 20, most of which are located near the New Market and Hamilton intersection. Two are located at the bend on Hamilton Boulevard.



Hamilton Boulevard passes in front of Roosevelt School and the school's driveway, both of which exit and enter on Hamilton Boulevard.



Hamilton Boulevard from Lexington Avenue to St. Nicholas has three commercial buildings on the southbound side.



## HOT TOPIC

## Trucks

## From Borough Councilmembers

The members of the Borough Council were asked for their comments on what route trucks should take. Below are the responses we received.

The truck detour is unsafe, unfair and unwise.

Every expert who has looked at the truck detour has said it's dangerous. The prior council did not do a single traffic-safety study before shifting the traffic.

It's unfortunate that some people are trying to make this a political issue and are using it to try to divide the town. This should not be about pandering. It's about safety. The truck detour is dangerous, plain and simple.

New Market Avenue and Spicer Avenue were not built to handle truck traffic.

In addition, it is unfair to the people who live along New Market and Spicer. They did not buy their homes along a truck route. I don't understand why some people think it's fair to treat them like second-class citizens.

—Council President Robert A. Bengivena, Jr.

I wish that the Republican Council would take the time to review all the facts, verify its conclusions, and understand the magnitude of their decision to put trucks back on Hamilton Boulevard. What is their plan?

To do nothing and support the thought that "trucks were always on Hamilton Boulevard" is just putting your head in the sand. As elected officials we need to take action promptly and decide what is the lesser of the two evils.

There is much more at stake when trucks go back on Hamilton Boulevard.

My original interest in the traffic reports were to see if the intersection improvements are working. It is apparent that they are, and the 2008 truck accident report proved it. The report also shows four truck accidents on Hamilton Boulevard and how close one truck came to a collision with the school. For some reason the Republican council choose to ignore this report. A councilperson has to make decisions and tell the borough what you stand for and how you'll vote, which is something the Democrats did and the Republicans refused to do.

—Councilman Raymond Petronko

I understand the concerns from both sides of the argument and why individuals living along both roadways don't want the trucks there. Unfortunately, the trucks need to go somewhere and until we figure out the Helen Street extension, the question is which route has the least impact to the residents of this community. I think that is clearly the New Market route. Since making the improvements last year, we have seen a sharp decrease in the number of accidents along the New Market route and I believe that extending New Market Avenue through the Cornell site will resolve the last major intersection problem.

Hamilton Boulevard and Belmont Avenue are both heavily populated residential areas with major automobile traffic. Moving the trucks back onto these roadways is going to create a number of safety concerns. Mixing so much car traffic with trucks will create the potential for more accidents on these heavily populated residential roads.

Finally, we can't forget about Roosevelt School which sits right on Belmont Avenue. Trucks will be traveling within a few feet of children walking to school and playing outside during recess. Mixing school children and trucks could spell disaster if an accident ever occurs.

From the beginning, I have supported keeping trucks off of Hamilton Boulevard and Belmont Avenue and will continue to do so in the future.

—Mayor Charles Butrico

I was disappointed with the vote to put trucks back on Hamilton Boulevard at last week's Council meeting. I have always said safety was a determining factor when voting for this issue. I truly believe that putting trucks back on Hamilton Boulevard will cause more harm in the long run and that is the reason why I voted against it. One thing I did notice at last week's meeting was the great turn out of our residents. It was also great to see residents from New Market Avenue and Hamilton Boulevard talk to each other about their concerns about the trucks. Somehow this has gotten to become a Hamilton Boulevard vs. New Market Avenue issue, and that should not be! This is a South Plainfield issue and we need to work together on fixing this.

—Councilman Joe Scrudato

## Traffic Safety Officer Gives Recommendations for Hamilton Blvd.

From Lt. Kevin Murtagh

With the likelihood that the truck route and truck weight restrictions will be being lifted in the near future, Lt. Kevin Murtagh offered the following suggestions to increase the safety of students at Roosevelt School, as well as motorists, at the May 9 Council meeting. These suggestions were gathered at the Traffic Safety Commission meeting and a meeting Murtagh had with Superintendent Jose Negron.

According to Murtagh, the first series of improvements that must be made before allowing trucks to utilize Hamilton Blvd. and Belmont Ave. are:

- Redesign the approved signal at Hamilton Boulevard and Belmont Avenue. Although recently redesigned, the signal still presents several problems. His recommendations are:

- The stop bar for northbound traffic on Hamilton Boulevard should be relocated so that left turning trucks from Belmont Avenue can safely make the turn. Murtagh is asking to relocate or redesign the right turn lane off Hamilton Boulevard onto Belmont Avenue. He was assured by CME that the turn lane would not be signal controlled; however, a signal was installed and that signal is not visible to motorists and has caused problems. He also said that the turning radius from Belmont Ave. onto northbound Hamilton Boulevard prevents trucks of any size from safely making a right turn and suggested that the radius should be redesigned and the signal relocated to allow this turning movement. He added that in the interim, the borough should consider restricting trucks over four tons from making right turns from Belmont Ave. on to Hamilton (NJDOT approval is required). And, finally, he said that the new stripping on Belmont Avenue at that intersection has also caused problems, saying that the new configuration has a painted island to channel traffic to the right prior to the lanes opening to two lanes at Hamilton Boulevard. Numerous motorists try to follow the pattern only

to be passed on the left over the painted island. Murtagh's suggestion is to start both the left and right turn lanes of Belmont Ave. at the intersection of Spruce Street. This would allow for a greater queue length which will be essential for the truck traffic. There is no need for a painted island to channel traffic to the right and then open to the left lane.

- To install a guide rail along the north curb line of Belmont Avenue from the west edge of the school property to the gate to the east of the school. The guide rail should be installed between the roadway and the sidewalk.

- To install vinyl slats in the fence along the Belmont Avenue side of the school to reduce the view of traffic and reduce traffic noise. The slats should start at the west edge of the property and continue to the gate opening.

- Install flashing speed limit assemblies on Hamilton Boulevard, south of Belmont Avenue and north of Harvard Avenue to increase awareness of the speed limit when children are present. This would require approval from Middlesex County. Hamilton Boulevard is posted 35 mph, with 25 mph when children are present.

- To reinstall the guide rail that was in place in the area of Hamilton Boulevard and New York Avenue. The guide rail was removed as part of the Hamilton Boulevard reconstruction project and was supposed to be reinstalled as part of a Middlesex County Guide rail project. The guide rail was not reinstalled at the order of former clerk Vincent Buttiglieri.

- To bus all students south of Belmont Avenue and to the west side of Hamilton Boulevard and south of Montrose Avenue.

- To make the necessary road construction improvements outlined in his Hamilton Boulevard punch list, specifically repairing the sinking and cracked areas around the manholes. Murtagh said that this problem will only worsen with truck traffic. Additionally, the depressions and grading differences around the manholes will cause an increase in

noise as trucks hit these areas.

The next series of suggestions should also be considered and implemented to improve the safety in this area:

- Reconfigure the entrance and exit at Roosevelt School. The police worked with Schoor DePalma on the new school project in 2006 and several designs were offered. In addition, the BOE was approached when the roadway was being reconstructed in 2006 to install a driveway on the north edge of their parking lot on Hamilton Blvd. This would become an exit only driveway allowing motorists additional distance to turn on Hamilton Boulevard when vehicles are queued on Hamilton Blvd. at the traffic signal with Belmont Ave. The present driveway would then become an entrance only. This would make exiting the lot safer and would improve traffic flow within the school lot.

- To reexamine the current traffic pattern at Roosevelt School and the administration building. The current traffic pattern is not the pattern that was designed and has caused many problems.

- To examine the possibility of dead ending Jackson Avenue at Hamilton Blvd. (south side) or making Jackson Avenue and portions of Garibaldi Avenue a one way traffic pattern. This would prohibit or eliminate a dangerous turning maneuver for vehicles that make a left turn from Jackson Avenue onto Hamilton Boulevard or those that attempt to cross to the north side of Jackson Avenue.

- If the above suggestion is implemented, the one way traffic pattern on Evona Place should be rescinded and Evona Place would become a two way street.

- To restrict trucks over four tons from all side streets off of Hamilton Boulevard and Belmont Avenue. Reduce the truck speed limit on Belmont Avenue to 20 mph and Hamilton Boulevard to 25 mph. This would only be approved based on a current traffic study and NJDOT approval.

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Jeff Brewer performs a tribute to Billy Joel.

## “Piano Man” Entertains at Fire Department Concert

By Patricia Abbott

On May 10 the South Plainfield Fire Department held their annual fundraiser concert. This year's event, “Piano Man,” was a Billy Joel tribute with performer Jeff Brewer and his band. The two-hour concert thrilled Billy Joel fans and featured classics including “Piano Man” and “The Stranger” to the “River of Dreams” and “I Go to Extremes.” Brewer not only sounded like Joel, he looked like Joel, something many audience members commented on.

Brewer, a Canadian native, comes

from a musical family. He started singing in church at age three and with local bands in New Brunswick, Canada. He has been doing the Billy Joel show for about six years. Band members are Brewer, Paul Vardy on drums, Glen Affeldt on guitar and Dennis Papadotis on bass.

The fire department's annual shows have offered South Plainfield a chance to experience quality professional shows with well-known entertainers close to home and at a reasonable price. Previous shows featured the Vogues, the Happenings, the Drifters and Beatlemania.

## SPHS Announces Honor Roll-Grades 11 and 12

### Third Quarter

#### GRADE 11

Adea E. McKnight, Aedan G. Bayona, Akil C. Nurse, Alan (AJ) R. Kunie, Alba J. Hernandez, Alex E. Cihanowycz, Alex G. Kahonu, Alexa R. Kunch, Allen G. Garcia, Allison R. Clawans, Allyson Paterek, Alyssa A. Sutherland, Alyssa M. McCreesh, Alyssa M. Rutowski, Amber E. Scott, Andrea Vedutis, Aneri Sheth, Ann Thao Dang, Anthony A. Jackson, Anthony R. Salerno, Anthony V. Usuriello, Ashley L. Capparelli, Audrey L. Cupo, Brian F. Pullen, Britany M. Tucci, Caitlin J. Herriott, Catherine M. Krawiec, Chelsea W. Hunt, Chris W. Lontoh, Christina M. Cornelius, Christine L. Snogans, Christine M. Usuriello, Christopher J. Seesselberg, Christopher M. Lesniak, Cori M. Black, Cornelius C. Mootoo and Cristopher Kedmenec.

Danielle M. Butrico, Dharti C. Patel, Douglas A. Porzio, Emily R. Orlandini, Eric A. Pascale, Eric M. Pantaleon, Erik D. White, Faryn M. Evans, Francesca Bayak, Garrett A. Kelly, Gina M. Curcio, Heather L. Stoloff, Heather R. Thomas, Heba A. Shaalan, Henry A. Carrillo, Ian V. Collins, Jaclyn M. Kukuch, Jacqueline Bosse, Jahleel K. Drewery, Jaime L. Giannakis, James V. Sansone, Jason Richard M. Ingle, Jeffrey G. Moncada, Jennifer D. Taliaferro, Jennifer L. Gustafson, Jennifer R. Disch, Jessica L. Handwerger, John P. Barry, Jonathan E. Conroy, Jose M. Contreras, Joseph Hernandez, Joseph A. Lacerda, Joseph M. Mennuti, Joshua B. Rivera and Julio A. Calderon.

Kaitlyn Pangborn, Kaitlyn E. Salvatore, Kaleigh M. White, Kara E. Thomas, Kathryn Paterek, Kelliann Friday, Kelly McCormack, Kenneth M. Breslau, Kirsten M. Nuber, Klayton P. McDaniel, Krisha P. Patel, Krisstoffor C. Abarabar, Kurt P. Carlson, Latchmie Phagoo, Lindsay B. Fredericks, Lindsay J. Barton, Lucas D. Simpson, Lyndsey A.

Murtagh, Matthew M. Hoppe, Maxwell K. Butler, Michael B. Pachytel, Michael J. Boyle, Michael J. Dezmin, Michael J. Skeete, Michelle L. Slover, Michelle M. Kobilis, Michelle S. Bello and Mulan Wang.

Nathaniel W. Eliassen, Nicholas A. Jankoski, Nidia C. Diaz, Nora T. Stasio, Patrick R. Nolt, Priya J. Patel, Quynhhu T. Doan, Rachel C. Smith, Rajindra Maniapien, Rebecca A. Deffler, Richard A. Harzula, Robert G. Hoffman, Sagar P. Sindha, Sandra A. Pleeter, Sara K. Frazzano, Sean P. Coffey, Sheryl L. Lipuma, Stephanie D. DiCindio, Stephen G. Kelly, Stephen W. Wagner, Steven Chen, Tanvi N. Patel, Taylor A. Deskins, Theodore J. Skwiat, Timothy R. Oppelt, Timothy R. Ratti, Tina Foscolo, Tramane J. Miller, Victoria B. Tran, Vikash Budhan Vincent J. Fazio, Wilfred M. Quesada, Zane P. Lesky and Zhen Chan (Carol) Liu.

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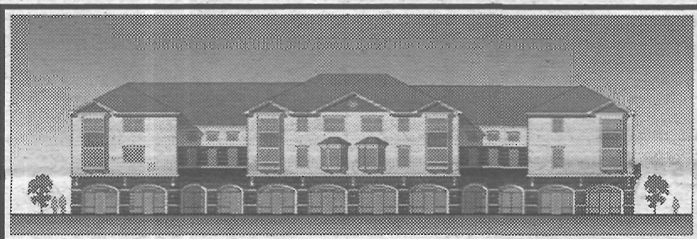
Channel J. Dues, Christian J. Cole, Christina Monticchio, Christina M. Nieves, Christina M. Slatky, Christopher D. Spayder, Christopher D. Tapia, Christopher J. Uribe, Christopher M. DeOliveira, Christopher M. Pennisi, Christopher P. Delaney, Christopher R. Duquette, Dana A. Alexa, Daniel A. Nastarowicz, Daniel A. Pompilio, Daniel E. Espin, Danielle M. Dembia, Danielle M. Heilmann, Diana I. Naser, Dora M. Orellana, Dorothy Anne D. DeLeon, Elan

J. Sims, Elix Colon, Elizabeth J. Diamant, Elizabeth J. Flannery, Erica L. Bowden and Erica S. Linick.

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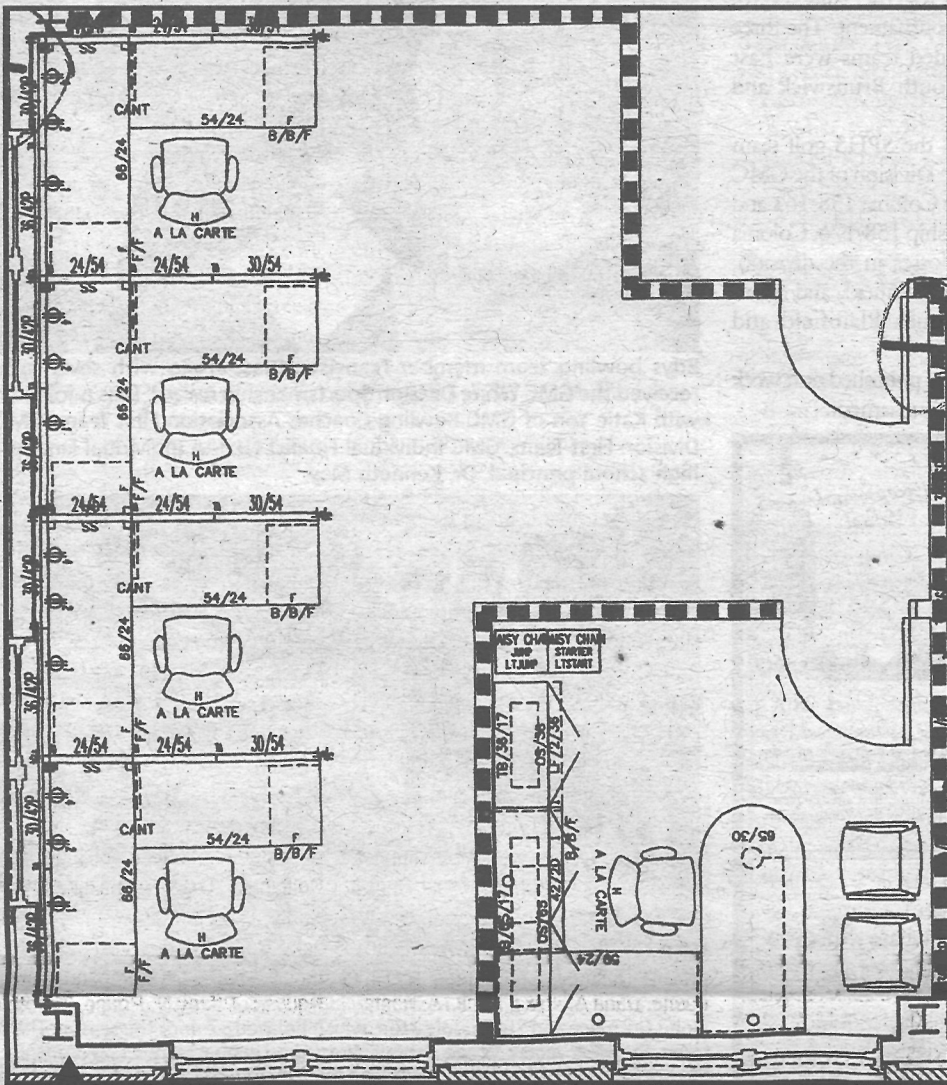


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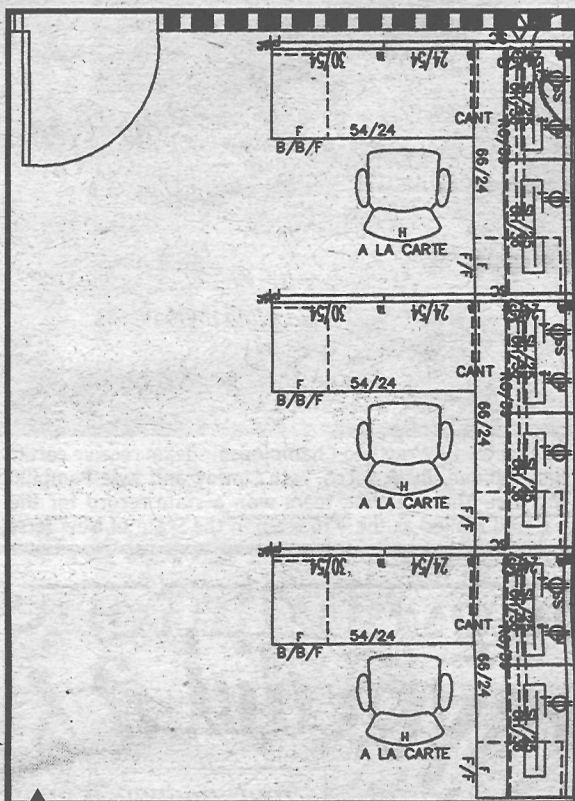
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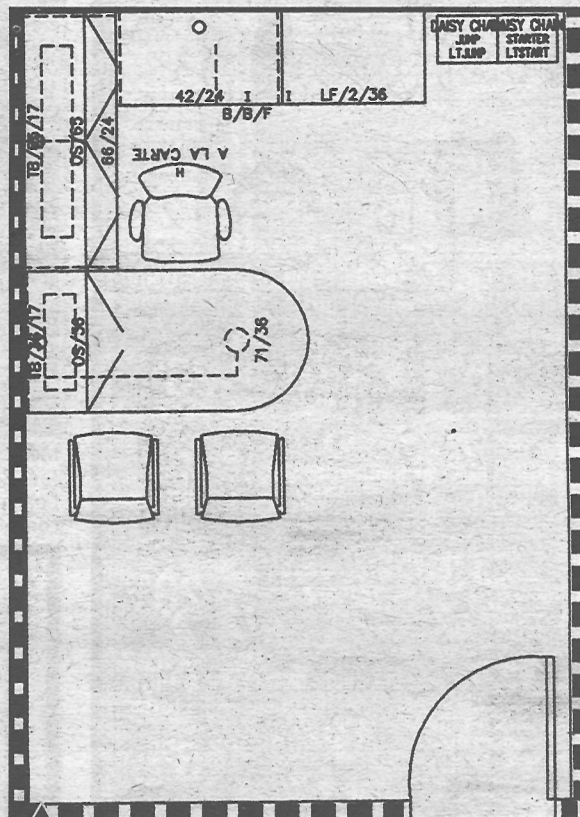
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# Sports

## SPHS GOLF

Submitted by Mike Kavka

### Golf Team Wins GMC White Division

The SPHS golf team traveled to Centerton for the Group II South and Central Region Golf Tournament on May 12. The course is located near Vineland. The weather did not cooperate and it rained on this golf course. The strong winds also made playing conditions very difficult. The scores were JR Licato 82, Brad Martin 97, Andrew Gray 93 and Vinnie Padula 99. These high scores were due to the wind, rain



Vinnie Padula

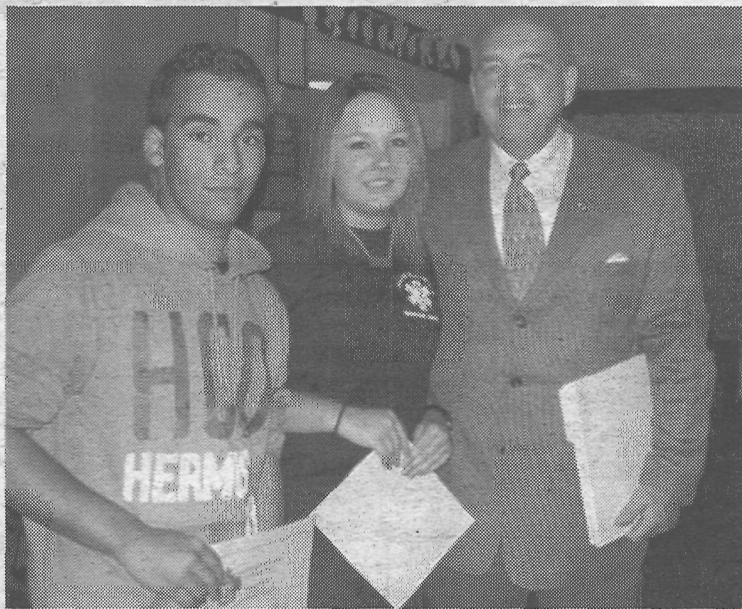
and cold. Excellent weather returned on May 13. The Tigers won their 15th match at their home course, the West Nine, against Edison, 159 to 186. This time two seniors, Vinnie Padula and JR Licato, shot 38's to lead the team.

That evening the GMC coaches seeded the teams for the GMC tournament scheduled for yesterday, May 22. South Plainfield received a num-

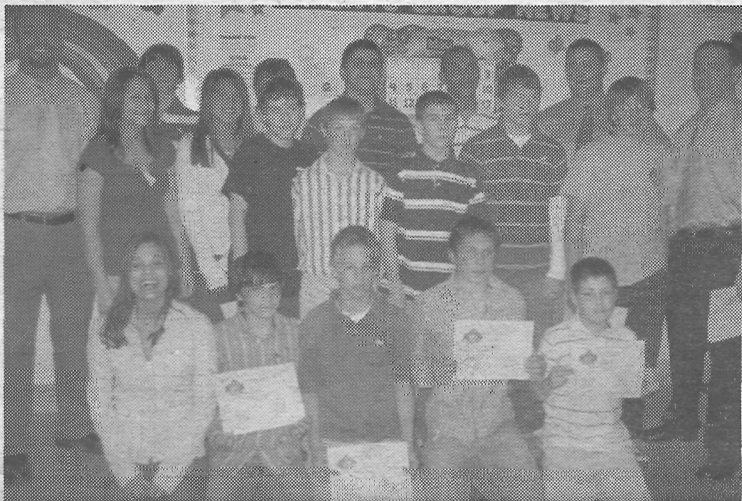
ber four seed that puts them into the finals without having to win a preliminary round. The first four seeds will be paired together and receive byes into the tournament. The three other top seeded teams were East Brunswick, South Brunswick and Middlesex.

On May 14 the SPHS golf team won the White Division of the GMC with wins over Colonia 158-161 and Monroe Township 158-176. Colonia had just two losses in the division, both to South Plainfield, and Monroe lost to South Plainfield and Colonia.

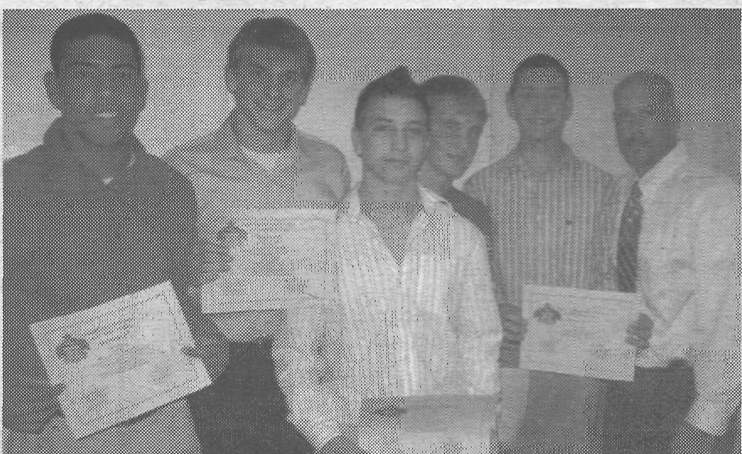
Results will be published next week for the GMC Tournament.



Boys bowling team member Francisco Dias, along with seven others, received the GMC White Division Sportsmanship Award. Dias is joined here with Katie Yon of GMC Bowling Coaches Association First Team, GMC All Division First-Team, GMC Individual Finalist NJSIAA Individual Finalist and high school principal, Dr. Kenneth May.



Congratulations to the 28-member Middle School wrestling team, coached by John Gonzalez and Steven Johnston, which finished 32-4 for the season. The team won the New Jersey Grade School Wrestling League Team Championship and Tyrant Dual Meet Champions. Wrestling team members are Troy Davisson, Anthony Ashnault, Dylan Painton, Kyle Brady, Troy Heilmann, Tyler Hunt, Andrew Sanchez, Scott Whalen, Corey Stasenko, Steve Vincent, Mike Molinaro, Alex Lundy, Dylan Dorey, Tyler Calderone, Christian Cooper, Raul Calle, Shawn Gorman, Nick Graves, Dominic Gruver, Joey Jakubik, Ray Jazikoff, Bobby Kolvites, Frank Makecki, Joey Pellegrino, Jake Seider, Zach Smithline, Anthony Torchia and Ryan Walsh. Managers are Asia Acevdo, Jessica Gomes and Samantha Zelasko.



Members of the District 12 Wrestling Championship Team receive certificates: Joel Santos, Nick Vallone, Ryan Sacco, Jeff Conroy and Kyle Pompilio with Coach Kevin McCann. The wrestling team won a state record for the 24th consecutive year and ranked as the #16 team in the State of New Jersey.

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<b>Dr. Loosen</b> Riesling "De L" 2006 7.99 750 ml Apple and peach notes are backed by lively acidity in this elegant white. Has nice balance and length. Drink now through 2012. - Chosen as a Best Value by the Wine Spectator on April 30, 2008.	<b>Brancott</b> Sauvignon Blanc 2007 8.99 750 ml This wine is bright, with very good intensity to grass, lime, lemon blossom and grapefruit tones. Pronounced mineral and stone flavors extend through the concentrated finish. Drink now. - Rated by the Wine Spectator on February 29, 2008.	<b>Chat. Ste. Michelle</b> Chardonnay 2006 9.99 750 ml This Chardonnay has a gentle, ripe style, with pretty pear, pineapple and spice flavors that linger nicely on the slightly resinous finish. Drink now. - Rated by the Wine Spectator on May 31, 2008.	<b>Ruffino</b> Boscana Modus 2005 18.99 750 ml Fresh aromas of raspberry and flowers follow through to a medium body, with fine tannins and a medium finish. Sangiovese, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Best after 2009. - Rated by the Wine Spectator on October 31, 2007.
<b>Sutter Home</b> Cabernet, Merlot, Pinot Grigio 4.99 750 ml	<b>Corbett Canyon</b> Coastal Cellars All Types 5.99 1.5 liter	<b>Chat. Ste. Michelle</b> Gewurztraminer, Sauvignon Blanc 7.99 750 ml	<b>Cline</b> Zinfandel 8.99 750 ml
<b>Beringer</b> White Zinfandel 8.99 1.5 liter	<b>Barefoot</b> Cellars Cab., Merlot, Chard. 8.99 1.5 liter	<b>Robert Mondavi</b> Private Selection Coastal Cabernet, Merlot 8.99 750 ml	<b>Il Principe</b> Chianti All Types 6.99 750 ml
<b>Serenity</b> Cabernet, Merlot, Chardonnay 9.99 750 ml	<b>Robert Mondavi</b> Woodbridge Cab., Merlot, Chard. 10.99 1.5 liter	<b>Francis Ford Coppola</b> Diamond Series Cab., Merlot, Syrah, Zin. 12.99 750 ml	<b>Rosemount</b> Diamond Varietals All Types 7.99 750 ml
<b>Robert Mondavi</b> Napa Chardonnay 14.99 750 ml	<b>Paso Creek</b> Merlot Cab. Sauv. 15.99 750 ml	<b>Robert Mondavi</b> Napa Cab. Sauv., Pinot Noir 17.99 750 ml	<b>Walnut Crest</b> All Types 8.99 1.5 liter
<b>ZELKO</b> Vodka 10.99 1.75L	<b>CLUB 400</b> Blended Whiskey 12.99 1.75L	<b>Paul Masson</b> Ruby, Rose, Burgundy, Chablis, Rhine 9.99 4 liter jug	<b>Cucao</b> Carmenere, Merlot 9.99 750 ml
<b>BENTLEY'S</b> London Dry Gin 11.99 1.75L	<b>CANADIAN PEAK</b> Whisky 13.99 1.75L	<b>Almaden</b> Mountain Chablis, Burgundy, Blush, Rhine 10.99 5 liter box	<b>Il Principe</b> Montepulciano D'Abruzzo, Pinot Grigio 9.99 1.5 liter
<b>PORT ROYAL</b> Light Rum 12.99 1.75L	<b>SCOTCH ISLAND</b> Scotch Whisky 14.99 1.75L	<b>Dom. Ste. Michelle</b> All Types (except Luxe) 9.99 750 ml	<b>Moet &amp; Chandon</b> White Star Extra Dry 33.99 750 ml
<b>SKYY</b> Vodka Flavors 13.99 750 ml	<b>JAGERMEISTER</b> Cordial 16.99 750 ml	<b>SVEDKA</b> Vodka 80° 19.99 1.75 liter	<b>BUD LIGHT LIME</b> 12 oz. N.R. Bottles or Cans (Loose Case) 5.99 6-Pack
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<b>CHRISTIAN BROTHERS</b> Brandy 16.99 1.75L	<b>KAHLUA</b> Coffee Liqueur & Flavors 17.99 750 ml	<b>1800</b> Reposado or Silver Tequila 21.99 750 ml	<b>CORONA</b> EXTRA or LIGHT 12 oz. N.R. Bottles (Loose Case) 23.99 Case
<b>OLD SMUGGLER</b> Scotch Whisky 17.99 1.75L	<b>CANADIAN CLUB 80</b> Canadian Whisky 19.99 750 ml	<b>CUTTY SARK</b> Scotch Whisky 24.99 1.75 liter	
<b>AMARETTO DI SARONNO</b> Cordial 19.99 750 ml	<b>ZYR</b> Vodka 80° 26.99 750 ml	<b>MALIBU</b> Rum All Types 25.99 1.75 liter	
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## Volunteers Needed For Stream Restoration Project

Join your neighbors on the west side of the borough in restoring the Walnut Street Park creek to a healthier, cleaner-running stream. Local residents will be working on Saturday, May 24 to clear weeds and plant native shrubs and wildflowers along the stream banks. Volunteers will get hands-on instruction in restoration planting techniques. Contact Alice Tempel, environmental specialist, at (908) 226-7621 or E-mail [atempel@southplainfieldnj.com](mailto:atempel@southplainfieldnj.com) for information.

This workday continues a project started last spring. A storm last April raised the water table so high that basement sump pumps were running non-stop for weeks. The stream channel had been choked for years by Japanese knotweed, an invasive, alien species that crowds out native plants. The dense growth traps debris and the stream was badly backed up when residents in the neighborhood organized

to clear it out.

Bound Brook Tributary 14-14-2-2 flows from the Plainfield border, under Tompkins Avenue, past Franklin School through Walnut Street Park, behind Fox Place and out across New Brunswick Avenue to Piscataway's New Market Pond. It is piped through storm sewers part of the way and opens out into a creek where it enters the park near McDonough Street. The banks have been eroding badly, partly because the Japanese knotweed does not hold soil well. Erosion adds silt to the stream bed, suffocates animal life and reduces storage volume for stormwater, which can lead to flooding.

The Walnut Street Park Irregulars are asking those who enjoy the outdoors and care about the borough's environmental quality to lend a hand in this ongoing effort to reclaim the stream corridor from invasive weeds and trash.

## 130 Enjoy Soccer Club's Comedy Night

The South Plainfield Soccer Club held its first comedy night at the PAL on May 3. A total of 130 attended the event and enjoyed a wonderful variety of snacks and food. Before the show, everyone was able to meet and speak with those in attendance. The evening's events also included several raffles. Comedy Blast, Inc. provided three comics, including the headliner for the evening, Keith Purnell.

The comedians were very entertain-

ing and kept everyone laughing.

Everyone is looking forward to the Soccer Club hosting the event again.

While this event was a fundraiser for the South Plainfield Soccer Club, the evening was also intended to be for the parents who work hard for the club and at the same time raise money for the kids.

It was evident by the smiles and roaring laughter that everyone who attended enjoyed the entire event.

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## Obituaries

### Julia Garcia, 75

Julia Garcia died on Tuesday, May 13 in the Haven Hospice Unit of Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Cuba, Mrs. Garcia came to the United States in 1972. She initially resided in Miami before settling in Plainfield over 30 years ago.

She operated Melissa Fashions, a retail clothing store, in Plainfield for a number of years.

Surviving are her beloved husband, Ramon; a daughter, Maria Quintanilla and a sister, Nery Gomez.

Also surviving are two grandchildren, Mike and Melissa Quintanilla.

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

### Ottile O. Gatewood, 85

Ottile O. (Gottman) Gatewood died on May 12 at Hope Hospice in Bonita Springs, Fla.

Born in Germany, she lived in Westfield and South Plainfield most of her life before moving to Florida in 2005.

Ottile had worked for Pepperidge Farms and various local bakery's in the area.

She was predeceased by her husband, Walter, in March of 1983 and two daughters, Susan Vincent in 1991 and Rose Millar in 1994.

Ottile leaves behind two daughters, Lois Devivo of Fort Myers, Fla. and June Canavan of Colorado Springs, Colo.; a son, Dean Gatewood of Modesto, Calif.; nine grandchildren, Liz, Alison, Jackie, Erin, Justin, Kelly, Kenny, Jeff and Darci and six great-grandchildren.

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

### Julia (McCaskill) Bataille, 74

Julia (McCaskill) Bataille died on Saturday, May 17 at the Hope Hospice Center in Scotch Plains.

A former member of the South Plainfield Rescue Squad and an avid bowler in her younger years, Julia was the wife of Gene Bataille, Sr. Married for 52 years, Gene died in 2004. Julia was a special women, caring for and giving to others most of her life.

In addition to her husband, Gene, she was predeceased by three sisters, Roberta Wilson, Jessie Kansky and Gracie Hoose.

She is survived by her son, Gene, Jr. and two grandsons, Jason and James; a sister, May Ozimek and husband Stanley and a brother, Duncan McCaskill and wife Lynn.

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

Donations in her memory may be made the Center for Hope Hospice/Peggy's House, 1900 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains, N.J.

### John M. Pepe, Sr., 74,

John M. Pepe, Sr. died on Monday May 19 at his home.

A Plainfield High School graduate, John attended Wyoming Seminary Prep and later graduated from Penn State University. While attending college, he was a member of the Delta Upsilon Fraternity.

John was an avid sports fan and gifted athlete. He enjoyed college boxing, stock car racing, the NCAA, handball and golf. He was also an eastern wrestling champion and played semi-pro football for 14 years.

As a physical education teacher for Plainfield High School, John also served as the school's wrestling and golf coach. He later became the superintendent of recreation for the City of Plainfield and was the WERA Radio sports director and a familiar voice on air.

He served as the state recreation commissioner and also as the Union County Parks president. In addition, John was a member of many local civic organizations, including the Jr. Chamber of Commerce, UNICO, Kiwanis, Flying Eagles the Maddolonesse Club and was a member of the Plainfield West Nine golf course.

He was predeceased by a son, John "Chip" M. Pepe, Jr. and a brother, Frank.

Surviving are his wife, Helena Cecilie (Franke) Pepe; two daughters, Lee Cecilia DelGuercio and husband Vincent and Michelle Pepe-Vasile and husband Leonard; a daughter-in-law, Nancy Adami and his twin sister, Jeanne Baker.

Also surviving are six grandchildren, Jennifer Lee, Ashley Marie, Marie Cecilia, Helena Anni, Elizabeth Grace and Angelica.

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

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*Realize the Courage and Dignity they provided and  
will continue to provide in the years to come.*

*Respectfully,  
Rick McCriskin and Jim Gustafson*



# IN MY OPINION

(Continued from page 2)

## To the Editor:

Bob Jones and myself attended the New Jersey School Boards Association Delegate Assembly as Delegate and Alternate on May 17. It has been brought to the School Board Associations attention that a legislative action is in the process of being introduced that will change the School Board Elections from April of each year to the general election in November. Please contact your legislative representatives as soon as possible to let them know if you feel that moving the elections to November would impose political inferences on the School Board Election or if it would offer more voter turnout if the election was held during the same time as the general elections. Please visit the South Plainfield Board of Education Web site at [www.spnet.k12.nj.us](http://www.spnet.k12.nj.us) and use the link to contact your legislators to voice your opinion. Your opinion is very important and will offer an affect on this change.

**BOB JONES, NJSBA DELEGATE  
AND DEBBIE BOYLE, NJSBA  
ALTERNATE**

## Dear Editor,

Recently, the South Plainfield High

School Chapter of Help Darfur Now held a Darfur Awareness Program at Wesley Methodist Church. At the event organized by Reverend Thompson and Fran Flannery, club members Annie Polanco, Ryan Miller, Holly McDede and Heather Stoloff spoke to members of the congregation about the current genocide in the Sudan. Multimedia presentations were created by club member Susan Tian.

The club would like to extend their thanks to club members Heba Younes, Shamiko Reid, Sean Coffey, Keri Gould, Kirsten Nuber, Krisha Patel and Allison Clawson for planning and coming to the presentation and their continued enthusiasm; Annie, Ryan, Holly and Heather for speaking; Susan for all the videos and powerpoints she created; Kristen Partesi for her artistic designs for posters and t-shirts; the Wesley Methodist congregation for their eagerness and hospitality; and Reverend Thompson for inviting us to educate people about this present-day genocide. Thanks!

If anyone is interested in learning more about the recent events in Darfur and easy ways people can help end the genocide, please go to [www.savedarfur.org](http://www.savedarfur.org). If you have any questions, concerns, or are interested in having these students give you or a group a presentation on Darfur, please contact Fran Flannery at (908) 754-4620, ext. 416.

**SINCERELY,  
KATIE NUBER, MEMBER  
SPHS CHAPTER OF HELP  
DARFUR NOW, SENIOR SPHS**

*PS-If anyone is interested in purchasing t-shirts designed by Kristen Partesi, pins, or bracelets or would like to make a donation, please call the number above. All profits are donated by the club to Doctors Without Borders and the Darfur Rehabilitation Project.*

# Poll Responders Say Broadcasts Are Helpful

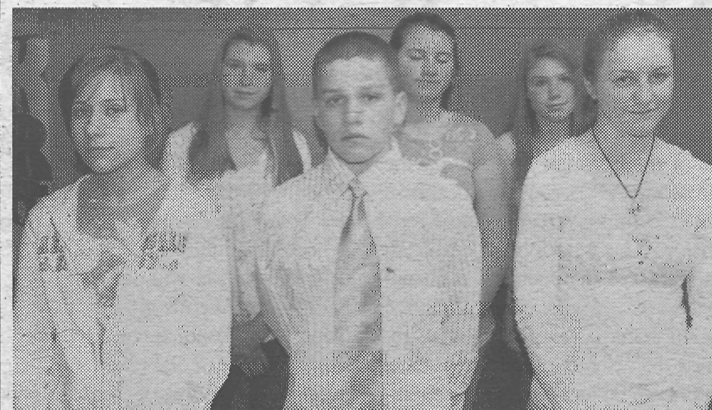
A recent survey at spobserver.com asked readers whether or not they watch the council and BOE meetings broadcast on Comcast Channel 74. Out of the 42 who responded, 15 indicated that they do watch the meetings and 13 out of the 15 said that watching has influenced their decisions during election time. 82% of respondents (32 out of 39) said they would not attend the meetings in person if they were not broadcast.

The producers are looking to expand the programing to include interviews with borough and school officials and other notable citizens in the borough. Volunteers are needed to conduct interviews in front of the camera, as well as videotape current meetings and other newsworthy events.

If interested, contact Jane at (908) 668-1258 or Rich D'Urso, SPHS, at (908) 754-4620, ext. 652.

# policereport

- On May 13 William N. Thorn, 46, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, careless driving, leaving the scene of an accident and failure to report an accident.
- Raymond S. Kearney, 26, of Plainfield was arrested for the theft of five Dell computers from DHL-Airborne on New Durham Road.
- Rahman H. Muhammad, 45, of Orange was arrested for hindering apprehension and failure to have the required lights on a bicycle.
- A Perth Amboy resident reported the theft of a 1993 Honda Civic from the parking lot at Colorful Story Books



The South Plainfield Middle School Students of the Month for March are (L to R) Paula Lasota-Avalanche, Gracie Piekarski-Cyclone, Patrick Boyle-Monsoon, Allyson Quintanilla-Lightening, Allison Wagner-Thunder and Laura Biggs-Tsunami.

# OLC's Feast of Saint Anthony is Coming!

The Feast of Saint Anthony will take place June 3-7 at Our Lady of Czesstochowa 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.

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## LEGAL NOTICE

**If you were a subscriber or beneficiary of a Health Net Plan at any time between 1995 and 2007 you may be eligible to participate in a class action settlement**

A Settlement has been proposed in a class action lawsuit involving Health Net, also formerly known as Physicians Health Services, PHS, and First Option Health Plan. The Settlement will provide up to \$215,000,000.00 for payments to subscribers or beneficiaries of various Health Net Plans from July 1995 to July 2007. If you qualify, you may send in a claim form to get benefits, or you can exclude yourself from the Settlement, or object to it.

The United States District Court for the District of New Jersey authorized this Notice. Before any money is paid, the Court will have a hearing to decide whether to approve the settlement.

### Who Is Included?

You are a Class Member and could get benefits if you were in an employer health insurance plan with Health Net from April 1, 1997 to July 31, 2007 (or as early as July 1, 1995 if you were in a New Jersey small employer plan), or an individual and family plan with Health Net from September 1, 2004 to July 31, 2007. The Classes before the Court are:

(a) a subscriber or beneficiary in any large or small employer plan from April 1, 1997 to August 31, 2004, other than in a New Jersey small employer plan, who received medical services or supplies (including, inter alia, surgery, anesthesia, and the like) from an Out-of-Network Provider and for whom Health Net made reimbursement determinations less than the providers' actual charge; ("McCoy Class") or

(b) a subscriber or beneficiary of any New Jersey small employer plan from July 1, 1995 through August 31, 2004, who received medical services from an Out-of-Network Provider and for whom Defendants made reimbursement determinations less than the providers' actual charge; ("Wachtel Class") or

(c) a member in any large or small employer plan insured by Health Net, and subject to ERISA, from September 1, 2004 through July 31, 2007, who received medical services or supplies (including, inter alia, surgery, anesthesia, and the like) from an Out-of-Network Provider and received reimbursement of less than the provider's billed charge; ("Scharfman ERISA Class") or

(d) a member in any large or small employer plan, or any individual and family plan, insured by Health Net from September 1, 2004, through July 31, 2007, who received medical services or supplies (including, inter alia, surgery, anesthesia, and the like) from an Out-of-Network Provider and received reimbursement of less than the provider's billed charge that was determined by Health Net, Guardian or a third party vendor applying Health Net's out-of-network claims practices, including the use of Ingenix data ("Scharfman RICO Class").

### What's This About?

These actions challenge the way that Health Net pays claims when members of Health Net's health insurance plans use medical providers who are not part of their network. These actions claim that Health Net provided inadequate usual, customary and reasonable reimbursement to its members for covered services provided by out-of-network providers by using the Ingenix databases and/or other protocols or methods. These actions also challenge the quantity and quality of the information Health Net provided

about how it will pay for covered out-of-network care, how Health Net explained its benefit denials and how it decided appeals from subscribers who disagreed with Health Net's decisions. Health Net denies these allegations and any wrongdoing or liability.

### What Does The Settlement Provide?

Health Net has agreed to create a Cash Settlement Fund of \$175,000,000.00 (of this amount, \$15,000,000.00 has been allocated for payments ordered by the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance) and a Prove Up Settlement Fund of up to \$40,000,000. The Cash Settlement Fund and the Prove Up Settlement Fund will be distributed pursuant to the Settlement Agreement and a Plan of Allocation to Class Members who timely file a Claim Form and Release. Further, Health Net will initiate certain business practices for the benefit of Class Members.

### How Do You File A Claim?

In order to be eligible for a payment under the Settlement, you must complete, sign, and mail the Claim Form and Release SO THAT IT IS **POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN AUGUST 25, 2008**. A Claim Form is part of the full notice package you can request below.

### What Are Your Other Options?

If you don't want to be legally bound by the Settlement, you have the right to exclude yourself by submitting a written request for exclusion postmarked no later than June 23, 2008. If you exclude yourself, you can't get money from this Settlement. If you stay in the Settlement, you may object to it by June 23, 2008. The detailed notice explains how to exclude yourself or object.

The Court will hold a hearing in these cases, *McCoy v. Health Net, Inc., et al.* (03-cv-1801), *Wachtel v. Health Net, Inc., et al.* (01-cv-4183), and *Scharfman v. Health Net, Inc., et al.* (05-cv-0301) on July 24, 2008, to consider whether to approve the Settlement and a request by the lawyers representing all Class Members (Barry M. Epstein, Esq. and Barbara G. Quackenbos, Esq. of Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer PA, 90 Woodbridge Center Drive, P.O. Box 10, Woodbridge, NJ 07095-0958, and D. Brian Hufford, Esq. and Robert J. Axelrod, Esq. of Pomerantz Haudek Block Grossman & Gross LLP, 100 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10017-5516), for attorneys' fees and costs, for investigating the facts, litigating the case, and negotiating the Settlement. You may ask to appear at the hearing but don't have to.

### Where Can You Get Additional Information?

All persons believed to be members of the Classes eligible for this Settlement were mailed a full Notice, a Proof of Claim and Release form and individualized Blue Sheet. If you believe you are part of the Class and did not receive that package, request one at once by contacting the Claims Administrator at:

Health Net Class Action Litigation  
c/o Berdon Claims Administration LLC  
P.O. Box 9007

Jericho, New York 11753-8917

Phone: (800) 906-2811

Fax: (516) 931-0810

Website: [www.berdonclaims.com](http://www.berdonclaims.com)

Additional information is also available at:

[www.healthnetclassaction.com](http://www.healthnetclassaction.com)

# LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

## LEGAL NOTICE

May 14, 2008

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Planning Board at its meeting held on May 13, 2008.

A. Case #07-05/Minor-Peter and Julie Yackel. Block 215; Lot 1; 3008 Park Avenue. The applicant's request for (1) waiver and minor sub division approval was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

B. Case #709/Site/V-JRB Properties, LLC. Block 409; Lot 15; 111 Snyder Road. The applicant's request for (3) waivers and preliminary and final site plan approval w/bulk variances was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary Beth Khidre  
Recording Secretary-Planning Board

\$28.50

May 23, 2008

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# Girl Scouts Receive Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards



Meghan Elizabeth Hartman from Troop 232 received the Gold Award, Girl Scouting's highest award.



The South Plainfield Girl Scout community held their annual Gold, Silver and Bronze ceremonies recently at Wesley Methodist Church. A total of 39 girls from seven troops received awards.

Carolyn Parisi was the master of ceremonies. The names of the girls were announced by their troop leaders and presented by Mayor Charles Buttrico, who also gave each girl a proclamation from the Borough Council. As each girl received her award, they also received a flower from the members of Daisy Troop 137.

Meghan Elizabeth Hartman, from Troop 232, received the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award that a girl scout may earn. For many, the leadership skills, organizational skills and sense of community and commitment that come from "going for the gold" set the foundation for a lifetime of active citizenship. Last year, approximately 5,500 girls received the Girl Scout Gold Award. That was around 5.4% of the eligible registered Girl Scouts in grades 10-12. Meghan raised four seeing eye dogs for her gold project.

The Girl Scout Silver Award symbolizes girl scout's accomplishments in Girl Scouting and community activities as she matures and works to bet-

## Cappy Award Nominees Sought

The Police Athletic League and Recreation Commission are accepting nominees for the 2008 Cappy Award now through June 1. Recommendations may be made by sending a letter stating the qualifications of the candidate. Once received, two Police Athletic League and/or recreational peers will approve the recommendations for consideration.

Nominees must have 10 years of service in youth sports and/or recreation; not just service 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, ethical judgment and must possess dedication and commitment to the youth of South Plainfield and never have been convicted of a felony.

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

ter her life and the lives of others. Receiving Silver Awards from Troop 118 were Elizabeth Becker, Amanda Hoagland, Megan Kaczka, Amelia Lyte and Sarah McCarthy.

The Girl Scout Bronze Award recognizes that a Junior Girl Scout has gained the leadership and planning skills required to follow through with a project that makes a positive difference in her community.

Bronze Award recipients are:

Troop 2-Katherine Cooper, Zoe Falcone, Moriah Garcia, Rebecca George and Sara Reineke.

Troop 397-Laura Grace Boyce, Elizabeth M. Foy, Iyanla K. Joyner, Mia A. Mathis, Giovanna M. Nolan and Virginia L. Novak.

Troop 120-Elizabeth Abate, Alexis Cavaliere, Morgan Evans, Madison Faustini, Ashley Gruver, Casidhe Holoboski, Brianna Saffold, Monica Spooner and Allison Tuyp.

Troop 585-Alyssa Jean Kelly and Natalie Kozak.

Troop 838-Alyssa Adamson, Di-  
Onne Agnew, Zakaya Cone, Christina Conroy, Claire Hageman, Sabrina Hemming, Jenna Howarth, Michelle Keane, Kayle O'Neil, Rachael Pedersen and Emma Sprigle.



Thirty-nine Girl Scouts were recognized with awards at Gold, Silver and Bronze ceremonies held at Wesley Methodist Church.





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# LEGAL NOTICE

SUMMARY OR SYNOPSIS OF 2007 REPORT OF AUDIT OF  
THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
AS REQUIRED BY N.J.S.A. 40A:5-7

## COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE - CURRENT FUND

REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME REALIZED	JUNE 30, 2007	JUNE 30, 2006
Fund Balance Utilized	2,553,000.00	2,755,000.00
Miscellaneous - From Other		
Than Local Property Tax Levies	8,992,409.98	8,964,630.50
Collection of Delinquent Taxes and		
Tax Title Liens	236,881.35	65,965.02
Collection of Current Tax Levy	63,651,814.35	60,189,530.34
Total Income	75,434,105.68	71,975,125.86
EXPENDITURES		
Budget Expenditures:		
Municipal Purposes	23,809,285.32	22,924,766.79
County Taxes	9,841,440.49	9,184,113.80
Local School Taxes	38,987,343.00	37,347,986.00
Other Expenditures	60,806.08	17,281.61
Total Expenditures	72,698,874.89	69,474,148.20
Adjustments to income before Surplus:		
Expenditures included above which are by Statute	2,735,230.79	2,500,977.66
Deferred Charges to Budget of Succeeding Year	125,000.00	
Statutory Excess to Fund Balance	2,860,230.79	2,500,977.66
Fund Balance - Beginning	2,706,978.90	2,961,001.24
	5,567,209.69	5,461,978.90
Less:		
Utiliz. as Anticipated Revenue	2,553,000.00	2,755,000.00
Fund Balance - Ending	3,014,209.69	2,706,978.90

## COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE - SEWER UTILITY FUND

REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME REALIZED	JUNE 30, 2007	JUNE 30, 2006
Fund Balance Utilized	\$350,000.00	\$350,000.00
Collection of Sewer Service Charges	4,714,250.16	5,048,408.64
Miscellaneous - From Other than		
Sewer Service Charges	184,684.83	455,446.42
Total Income	5,248,934.99	5,883,855.06
EXPENDITURES		
Budget Expenditures:		
Operating	4,431,106.00	4,332,100.00
Capital Improvements	15,000.00	200,000.00
Debt Service	649,161.83	673,204.60
Deferred Charges & Stat. Expend.	43,300.00	48,300.00
Total Expenditures	5,139,567.83	5,253,604.60
Excess in Revenue	110,367.16	630,250.46
Statutory Excess in Revenue	110,367.16	630,250.46
Fund Balance - Beginning	1,244,871.46	1,389,621.00
	1,355,238.62	2,019,871.46
Less:		
Anticipated Current Fund Revenue	399,000.00	395,000.00
Util. as Anticipated Revenue	350,000.00	380,000.00
Fund Balance - Ending	606,238.62	1,244,871.46

## COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE - SWIM POOL UTILITY FUND

REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME REALIZED	JUNE 30, 2007	JUNE 30, 2006
Fund Balance Utilized	0.00	\$2,448.59
Deficit General Budget	70,263.09	67,592.69
Membership Income	144,677.00	137,109.00
Miscellaneous - From Other		
Than Rental Income	32,891.12	36,228.44
Total Income	247,831.21	243,378.72
EXPENDITURES		
Budget Expenditures:		
Operating	191,821.00	192,198.59
Capital Improvements	500.00	500.00
Debt Service	47,410.21	46,506.50
Deferred Charges & Stat. Expend.	8,100.00	3,400.00
Total Expenditures	247,831.21	242,605.09
Excess (Deficit) in Revenue	0.00	773.63
Statutory Excess to Fund Balance	0.00	773.63
Fund Balance - Beginning	7,559.66	9,234.62
	7,559.66	10,008.25
Less:		
Utiliz. as Anticipated Revenue	0.00	2,448.59
Fund Balance - Ending	7,559.66	\$7,559.66

### RECOMMENDATIONS

It is Recommended:

That all interfund loans be cleared by cash transfer where feasible.

That the Borough continue to review its financial accounting and reporting policies and procedures as well as internal control procedures to ensure that all of its control objectives are met as it relates to Other Officials Collecting Fees.

\*\*\*\*\*

The above summary or synopsis was prepared from the Report of Audit of the Borough of South Plainfield, Middlesex County, New Jersey for the fiscal year 2007. The financial data included in the summary or synopsis is presented in the form prescribed by the Local Finance Board, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey. Readers are cautioned that the summary or synopsis was prepared solely for the purpose of compliance with the public disclosure provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:5-76, and accordingly, the summary or synopsis should not be relied upon for any other purpose. The Report of Audit, submitted by Andrew G. Hodulik, Registered Municipal Accountant, is on file at the Borough Clerk's office and may be inspected by any interested person.

A Corrective Action Plan, which outlines actions the Borough of South Plainfield will take to correct the findings listed above, will be prepared in accordance with the Federal and State requirements. A copy of it will be placed on file and made available for public inspection in the Office of the Clerk in South Plainfield within 45 days of this notice.

*JoAnn Graf*  
JoAnn Graf  
Acting Borough Clerk

\$350.40

May 23, 2008

From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Jaimie Donnelly

My most recent hobby is home decorating and I have been spending hours watching HGTV, researching Web sites, or reading magazines or books on the topic. The simple short-cuts I have found have saved money, time and space. I have turned my bedroom from French classic to simple and modern with some basic moves and a few dollars. I have created bookshelves from wood crates to using my husband's broken dresser to make a hidden toiletry cabinet. For these simple changes, I give all the credit to the magazines and books I checked out at the library.

The library has over 130 decorating magazines and books making the options for decoration almost endless. Kitchens are one of the most expensive rooms in a home to redesign. Today's cost to renovate one can be as expensive as a new car! If you are looking to do some inexpensive touches to your current kitchen then you need to check out "Kitchen Decorating Ideas for under \$100" by Rebecca Jerdee. If you are seeking a cozier bedroom, I suggest "Charming Guest Rooms: Decorating Secrets from Country Inns" by Mickey Baskett. Finally, if you want to update your growing child's room then you need to check out "Reinvent Your Kids' Room" by Christine E. Barnes.

We have an ongoing free adult knitting program that began in mid May. The program is on Thursday nights at 7 p.m. No supplies are provided and you will have to bring your own size six knitting needles, plus two skeins of worsted weight yarn to make a scarf or one skein of cotton yarn for two potholders. Registration is required and seats are limited to 10 participants.

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

This weekend is Memorial Weekend and the library will be closed Sunday, May 25 and Monday, May 26.

If you have questions on programs or would like to reserve any decorating books, call (908) 754-7885.



Staff, family and friends from Central Jersey Federal Credit Union participated in this years "March For Babies" that began at the Rutgers RAC in Piscataway. The team collected more than \$500 in donations.

## SCHOOL BOARD Notes

Mr. Murray's high school chorus gave a musical presentation at the public meeting held on May 13. Congratulations on an outstanding performance. The BOE recognized the students and staff who received awards and honors for participating in high school boys and girls winter track, basketball, bowling, swimming, wrestling and Middle School wrestling.

The BOE approved the following:

- The South Plainfield Math Team/ Central Jersey Math League Trip to Penn State University for competition.

- Administrators Unit staff reappointments and salary approvals
- Teachers unit certificated staff reappointments for 2008/09.

- Secretarial staff reappointments and salary for 2008/09.

- Instructional support/bus aide staff reappointments for 2008/09.

- Van driver staff reappointments and hourly rates for 2008/09.

- Lori Tirone was reappointed school district accountant for 2008/09.

- Non-affiliated 12-month staff reappointments were Marlene Steele as transportation supervisor and Kathleen Murano as assistant transportation supervisor.

- Leslie Rippon was reappointed athletic trainer effective August 1.

- Appointed registered licensed practical nurse were: Carmelo Chang, Jennifer Lyness, Ann Marie McManus, Lee Ann Thompson and Carol Ullom.

- Reappointed non-affiliated 12-month secretaries were: Adele Veirs, Barbara Schlachtum, Theresa Tempe, Debra Schroeder and Kathleen Mindler.

- 12-month staff reappointments were: Renan Santana, Jim Veirs and Richard Mowrey.

- Reappoint Susan Alexander as part-time secretary/clerk typist.

- Richard Recine was reappointed residency investigation consultant.

- Dorothea Bohn was reappointed substitute caller.

- The BOE approved the shared service agreement between the Borough of South Plainfield and the South Plainfield Board of Education for the appointment of a school resource officer to patrol the schools.

- Resignations were accepted from Linda Kapur-SPHS Spanish teacher; Suzanne Wojcik-Middle School guidance counselor, Nicholas Scalzo-physical education teacher, Amy Carlos-Kennedy School media specialist and Christine Soltesz-Roosevelt School reading specialist.

- Connie Barca was appointed substitute instructional support aide.

- Iris Quinones-Ramos was appointed speech-language specialist for bilingual speech and language evaluations.

- The 2008/09 transportation routes with George Dapper Bus Company were approved.

- The BOE accepted an Environmental Awareness Grant from Middlesex County Department of Planning Division of Solid Waste Management

- Congratulations to SPHS and Middle School drama clubs' presentations, which were wonderful, along with the amazing instrumental extravaganza by the Middle School students.

- The Family Math programs that are held in district are fun and exciting for the staff, students and families.

- The BOE has been participating in shared services with the borough by sharing their audio system on various occasions.

- The Junior Journalist dinner was held at the American Legion on May 13 with Mayor Charles Butrico, former Mayor Dan Gallagher, council members, BOE administration members, teachers, students and their families hosted by the Observer family and Charlie and Debbie Kurland of Hometown Heros.

- Thank you to all of the people who volunteered their time to work in the Athletic Booster Club snack stand for the track meets.

- May 19 through May 22 is salute to volunteers week, so again, thank you to everyone who has generously volunteered their time in the school district.

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## SPPD Crime Statistics

### April

The South Plainfield Police crime statistics for April 2008 are:

Crime Classification	No. of Cases	Crime Classification	No. of Cases
Homicide .....	1	Weapons .....	1
Agg. Sexual Assault .....	0	Prostitution .....	1
Robbery .....	0	Sex Offenses .....	1
Agg. Assault .....	1	Narcotics .....	6
Burglary .....	6	Gambling .....	0
Theft .....	31	Offense Against Family .....	0
MV Theft .....	1	DWI .....	9
Simple Assault .....	15	Liquor Laws .....	0
Arson .....	3	Drunkenness .....	0
Forgery/Counterfeit .....	4	Disorderly Person .....	4
Fraud .....	6	Vagrancy .....	0
Embezzlement .....	0	All Others* .....	47
Stolen Property .....	0	Runaway JV's .....	3
Criminal Mischief .....	10	Total .....	150
		Year to Date .....	557

\*Includes found and lost property, harassment, missing adults, assists, general accidents, squad call, etc.