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Reminder:

**Don't Look for the Observer
on November 28.**
It is the only week we
don't publish, and we'll be
home enjoying turkey.

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 12, NO. 12

MEMBER NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

50 CENTS

NOVEMBER 14, 2008

Council Delays Support Of Swamp Preservation

By Libby Barsky

The Borough Council is still not willing to endorse a bill establishing a state commission to preserve the Dismal Swamp from additional development, and for the second time, voted to table the resolution at Monday's council meeting. They also tabled a similar resolution in June. The resolution to support the Dismal Swamp Preservation Act was tabled by a vote of 5-1, with Matthew Anesh voting against it.

Prior to the council vote, Assemblyman Peter Barnes, sponsor of the bill, explained that the composition of the commission overseeing the development of the Dismal Swamp would consist of nine members, including two representatives from each of three municipalities—Edison, Metuchen and South Plainfield; two from Middlesex County and one member of Edison Wetlands Association. Barnes also noted that each community would be able to decide which sectors of the swamp in their municipality would be in the protective zone. This was a modification

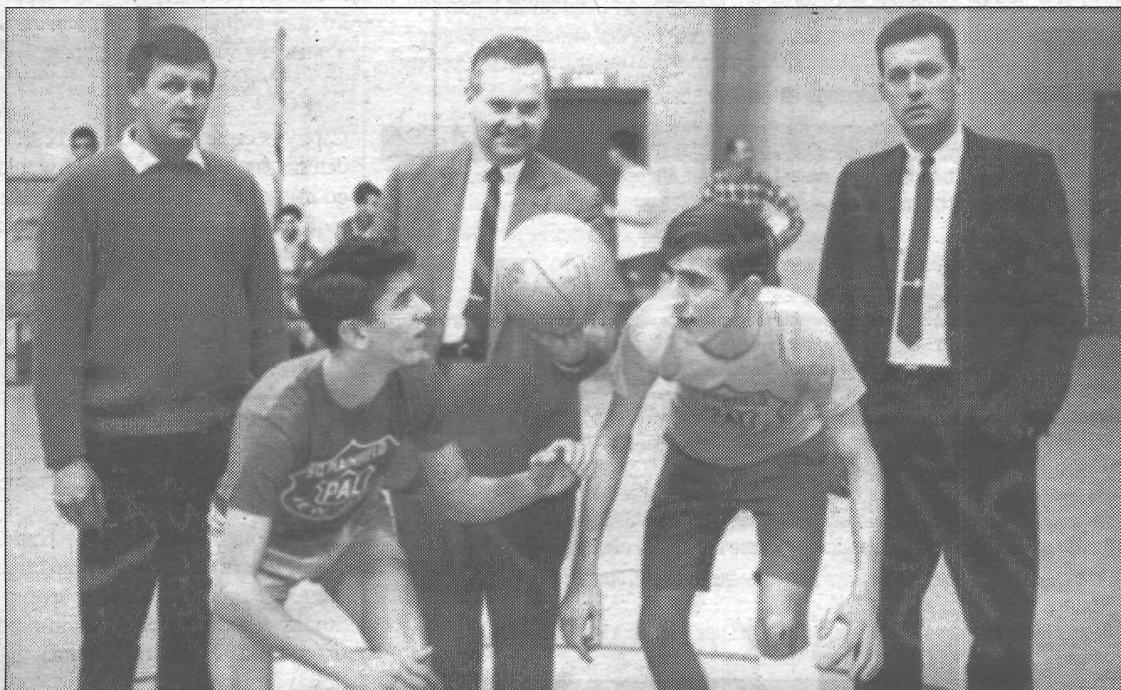
of the earlier bill and would enable South Plainfield to continue moving forward on their plans for a new truck route being developed by the Ad Hoc Truck Committee.

Michael English, chairman of the Ad Hoc Truck Committee, vehemently opposed the formation of the proposed commission. The committee's plan calls for the Hollywood Avenue truck route to pass through approximately 1/2 acre of the Dismal Swamp.

"We already have a zoning board that deals with these issues. This bill would add another level of government. Don't take away our power to decide what should be built into our town," said English. He was also critical of having a member of the Edison Wetlands Association included as a voting member of the proposed commission.

Barnes stated that the object of the bill is to set a framework to encourage each town to protect as much of the Dismal Swamp as it can with the benefit of preventing increased housing density and preventing flooding.

The Dismal Swamp Preservation
(Continued on page 10)



(Left to right) Jack English, South Plainfield PAL director; Ed Phillip; Commissioner Bill Prendergast; Gary Thomas and Bob Martin, external vice president of Jaycees, at a (14-18 year old) basketball game played in the early days of the PAL.

And the Cappy Award Goes to...

Impressed by his deep commitment to the youth of South Plainfield, the Recreation Department and Police Athletic League have announced that this year's Cappy Award will be presented to Jack English (posthumously).

The annual award is given to recog-

nize an individual or individuals who have dedicated years to the youth of South Plainfield. The award is named for the late Tulio Capparelli, a South Plainfield Deputy Police Chief, who recognized the potential in every youth in South Plainfield.

English was born and raised in South Plainfield and ran a successful business for years with his father and brother. Jack and wife Rita had five children: Jack, Tom, Patrick, Michael and Rita-Claire. He spent his early years participating in local sports and brought his love of sports and teamwork to his marriage and children. The English backyard was always the place to be for a pickup baseball, basketball or football game.

Jack passed away 21 years ago, but he continues to impact the lives of many in our community. He was a man who wanted to give every child a chance to enjoy playing sports—no matter their skill level. He gave the opportunity to succeed to every child who wanted to play ball. Most importantly, he wanted all kids to participate and feel part of the team. To be a member of one of Jack English's teams meant being a winner.

Jack's teams were made up of neighborhood kids with varying skills. At first, many teams started

out poorly in the win/loss column, but every player received only words of encouragement. By the end of each season, his teams did exceptionally well. It was the indelible contribution he made to the future of "his kids."

Jack was able to combine his love of sports and his true desire to help every kid enjoy life on a much grander scale when he and Tulio Capparelli began the Police Athletic League Youth Basketball Program. He was able to help many other kids learn to play and enjoy athletic activities in a truly safe and non-threatening way.

Jack expanded his involvement in youth sports by organizing high school-age basketball teams in regional competition. A whole generation of South Plainfield youth learned how to succeed, how to compete, how to face struggles, and most importantly, how to have fun because of the actions of Jack English. He made children understand teamwork—and that coordinated, collective efforts were much greater than the sum of individual abilities. He helped every player build self-esteem and encouraged them to try new things.

The dinner to celebrate Jack will be held at the senior center on Saturday, Nov. 15. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at the PAL.

Cotoia Named to NJSIAA Hall of Fame

Anthony Cotoia has been selected by the NJSIAA High School Hall of Fame Selection Committee to be among those to be inducted into the New Jersey High School Hall of Fame, "Class of 2008."

Cotoia is being recognized for his outstanding football and basketball coaching career at South Plainfield. He is also being honored as an administrator. He served in the capacity of athletic director in

South Plainfield from 1962 to 1979, district supervisor of physical education, health and driver education from 1978 to 1984, assistant high school principal from 1984 to 1985, assistant middle school principal from 1985 to 1989 and principal from 1989 to 1992. Throughout his career, Cotoia has touched thousands of young people's lives. He continues to be a friend, a mentor and a leader to many

in our community today.

This award will be presented at a luncheon preceding the Annual NJSIAA Business Meeting which will be held at the Pines Manor, Route 27 in Edison on Monday, Dec. 1.

Anyone interested in ticket information to the Hall of Fame luncheon should contact Mike Buggey at the high school athletic office, (908) 754-4620, ext. 252.



Anthony Cotoia

The VFW Wants You

Join the ranks of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the foremost veteran organization in the United States which, along with Ladies Auxiliaries, represents 2.4 million members in the pursuit of ensuring veterans benefits and the support of our current military.

Your membership will ensure that we have the numbers to have our issues heard effectively in Congress. Your small annual dues are targeted for military assistance programs, such as phone cards for troops, active military family support and National Veterans Children's Home located in Grand Rapids, Mich., among others. Your dues also provide for various discounts, as well as the VFW monthly magazine, a premier publication focusing on military history and current veterans rights issues.

To join you must have served in the military outside the United States and been awarded or are eligible to receive a foreign war ribbon. Your membership is recognized at any VFW post for admittance.

Our post, 6763, meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. We are also interested in forming a men's auxiliary. We need 25 members, 16 years and older—husbands, widowers, fathers, grandfathers, sons, grandsons, brothers and half-brothers of U.S. Veterans.

The post canteen is open seven days a week, Monday to Friday at 3 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from noon to 2 a.m. For more information, call the post at (908) 668-9751.

—Submitted by Thomas Walter, Commander, VFW 6763

For coverage of this Veterans Day ceremonies
in the borough, see next week's issue.



**U.S. Veterans
give everything
to this country
they love....
even their lives.**

Durham Ave. Thief Nabbed in the Act

Police responded to a call of a possible burglary in process on the 1400 block of Durham Avenue on November 10.

When they arrived they set up a perimeter around the residence and discovered that the rear sliding door had been tampered with and was ajar.

Officers entered the residence and found the suspect, Inocencio Rivera, 38, of Trenton, in the upstairs bedroom. Rivera was arrested and charged with burglary and theft. Bail was set at \$25,000. The suspect is currently being held at the Middlesex

County Corrections Facility.

Anyone with additional information is asked to contact Detective Grasso at (908) 226-7661.



Sweet!

The December 5 issue will be mailed to every home and business in South Plainfield. What a great opportunity

to advertise your business! For information call 908-668-0010.

In My Opinion

The opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily those of the publisher, nor do we guarantee their accuracy.

To the Editor:

As we approach the presentation of the Cappy Award, I'd just like to take time to look back at the special man for whom this award is named. What many people don't know is how much time Cappy lost with his family so that others in South Plainfield, the less fortunate, or maybe kids whose parents couldn't spend enough time with them, could benefit.

His children always had the oppor-

tunity to play whatever sports they wanted. He coached others, but never his own. He would sit in the outfield in his police car and watch. He helped the less fortunate, kids with no baseball glove, or maybe holes in their shoes. He'd run trips to Mets and Yankees games. If Cappy had a dollar in his pocket, you could bet the kid with no money at all got it. He saw no color; he judged you not by the size of your wallet, but by the size of your

heart. Holidays at the dinner table at Cappy's always included the less fortunate sitting with his family. One of his favorite sayings was "Be good to the people on the way up, because you'll meet them on the way down."

A devout Christian, he never hit you when you were down. He'd drill you for your mistakes, then pick you up to help you. He passed away last year, one year too early to see a man of color become president. He's now smiling down on us. He saw no color.

Cappy knew the meaning of what blood and family meant. When I would go to the house to see Cappy, I'd stay awhile, and upon leaving I would kiss this giant of a man, and say I love you, just to see his eyebrows raise and get that look. Last year Cappy became sick and was bedridden his last 10 weeks or so. I would go to the hospital to feed him in the morning and go back at night so he'd eat dinner. For me it was a bonding time that we'd never had. Upon his death, he grows bigger and stronger to me. I think about who he was, his lessons in life, and his many accomplishments. I love you, Dad.

**YOUR SON,
BILLY**

To the Editor:

With tough economic times comes a greater need for those who can reach out to the public citizens of our community who find themselves in need of food and gifts for their children this holiday season.

The South Plainfield Social Services Department will again be organizing the annual "Holiday Project." We find the families in our community which are having difficulty providing food and some type of holiday gift through the school system.

The project starts with the collection of food from the Boy Scout food drive. The collections will take place on November 15. If every family in our community would give a can or package of food, we would easily accomplish our goals and fill the pantry for the winter.

The next step is the adopt a family program whereby donors can 'adopt' a family for Christmas or bring in a new gift (clothing is greatly appreciated). If interested in this program, please call Margaret Ackerman, direc-

tor of social services at (908) 226-7925 or stop in Borough Hall.

If you know of a family or senior citizen who might benefit from our program and may not be signed up, please contact me.

Thank you for your considered assistance with this annual appeal.

MARGARET ACKERMAN

To the Editor:

Last week voters made their choice for South Plainfield Borough Council. While our bid for re-election fell short, we both feel good about the race we ran, an issue-oriented campaign talking about bringing back financial accountability and improving our neighborhoods. Despite what people tell you about running for public office and serving as elected officials, we can say that it is a worthy endeavor, and we enjoyed every minute of it.

We owe our gratitude to many. First, to the over 4,000 voters who made us their choice, we thank you for your support.

We also want to thank our countless volunteers. The number of people who stuffed envelopes, made phone calls, put up lawn signs and walked door to door awed us. Our volunteers were incredible.

Finally, to our opponents, we wish you the best of luck as you represent the people of our town. We know you have the judgment and intelligence to do what's best. Be independent, trust your own judgment, and you'll do well.

The election is over, but the work is just starting. Each of us promises to continue to work for a better South Plainfield. We hope the council will continue the progress that was made over the last 10 months and make our residents its top priority. We know that the Republican council members, Ray Rusnak and Tim McConville, will work in a bipartisan manner toward that end, too.

Again, thank you to the people of South Plainfield for a truly amazing experience.

**COUNCILMAN MATT ANESH
AND COUNCIL PRESIDENT
ROB BENGIVENGA**

Residents of South Plainfield:

We are humbled by your overwhelming support in last Tuesday's election and we thank you for elect-

Submit Your Letters to the Editor:

Send your letters to South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax to 908-668-8819, or via E mail: spobserver@comcast.net. Deadline is Monday, 5 p.m. Letters must be accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. 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. Submission is not a guarantee of publication. We do not accept anonymous letters. Letters are strictly opinion.

ing us as council people in the town that we love. We are proud of our campaign and look forward to moving the borough in a new direction for the benefit of all our residents.

There are many tasks to be completed and we are committed to carrying out the platform on which we ran, which includes: (1) tighten our belts and stop spending beyond our means so there will be no municipal tax increase next year; (2) keeping trucks off Hamilton Boulevard and Belmont Avenue and completing the New Market Avenue extension project; (3) once again making preservation of open space a priority; and (4) enacting full disclosure of business interests and property ownership by members of the council and their families so that the transparency of our elected officials will become the law in South Plainfield.

Most importantly, we will restore courtesy and respect to the workings of borough government. You have our pledge that we will never seek to divide our residents or slander the reputations of those with whom we have a difference of opinion.

If you want to serve our borough in any capacity or have any ideas or suggestions, please contact us. Our contact information is: Chrissy Buteas E-mail: Christinebuteas@comcast.net, telephone: (908) 447-3466; Franky Salerno E-mail: Frankysalerno@comcast.net, telephone: (908) 448-4112.

**SINCERELY,
CHRISSE BUTEAS AND
FRANKY SALERNO**

Dear Editor,

The McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals would like to thank all the residents who participated in the

(Continued on page 8)

Want to Stay Informed But Can't Make a Council Meeting?

Regular Council meetings air on Comcast Channel 74 Mondays, 7:30 p.m. Agenda and/or Other SPECIAL Meetings air Saturday at 8 p.m.

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

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

Current BOE Meetings air on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

council meetings

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

Agenda Meeting	Public Meeting
November 17	November 24
December 1	December 8

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

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

December 11*

board of education meetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted

Committee of the Whole, Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.: December 10, January 14, February 11, March 11 and April 1.

Regular Public Meeting, Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.: 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.

November 18, December 16

environmental commission

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

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.

South Plainfield Observer

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How to Reach Us



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Staff Writer	Libby Barksy		Jean Fultz, Roxanne Cortese

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

We encourage the submission of stories and photos. To get an article published: Type (double spaced) the article and mail, email or fax. Include name, address and telephone number. Deadline for submission is Monday, 5 p.m.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Submit letters to the editor by mail, email or fax. Letters should not exceed 200 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. Letters must include name and phone number, for verification.

To comment on the content or to suggest a special story idea, contact the publisher at (908) 668-0010.

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

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BOROUGH NOTES

- The council approved the installation of traffic calming devices and signage on portions of Lane Avenue, Lake Street, Walnut Street, Oak Tree Road and Rahway Avenue as part of the Speed Hump Installation Program.
- The CFO was authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$26,954.60 for a tax appeal refund to USLR-New Durham Rd. Associates.
- William Conti was appointed to the full-time position of Fire Inspection Specialist.
- The clerk has been authorized to solicit bids for a replacement vehicle for the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department Engine 5.
- Philip Buono and Eric Milstein were hired as probationary part-time telecommunications operators for the police department, effective November 17.
- The council approved the extension of the warranties for two recently purchased police patrol cars from the dealer, Warnock, at a cost of \$2,754 each, for a total cost of \$5,490.
- The police department has been authorized to enter into a maintenance program with Queues Enfroth Development to provide access to all state and federal police related information at a cost of \$28,107.
- Borough fees were waived for the installation of an exterior illuminated sign in front of the Senior Center (excluding electrical).
- Daniel Painter has resigned as probationary part-time 911 telecommunications.
- The council approved an inter-local agreement between the Township of Woodbridge and the Borough of South Plainfield for industrial wastewater sampling for a period of two years, effective January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2009 at a rate not to exceed \$75 per sample.



William Conti is sworn in as fire inspector specialist by Councilman Matthew Anesh at Monday's Borough Council meeting. Conti's wife, Cindy, holds the Bible.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN MY TOWN FROM A BUSY BUSY MOM *jd*

The high school Peer Leadership "Heroes and Cool Kids" program will begin on Wednesday, Nov. 19 under the leadership of Ms. Vandermark, Mr. Encinas, Ms. Marconi, Ms. Zurka and newest leaders, Mr. Cirigliano and Mr. Emmons.

Adopt-A-Family program has begun and Thanksgiving baskets will be distributed on Thursday, Nov. 20 to less fortunate local families.

Senator Barbara Buono will give a presentation to Government and Law classes during November.

The Middle School Student Council and Peer Leadership students traveled to West Point on October 28 and toured the campus. The football team ended their season 5-1. The field hockey team and the boys and girls soccer and cross country teams ended their

seasons with winning records. Cross country took a first and second place in the finals.

The student/faculty basketball fundraiser will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 25 at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$3 per person. A portion of the money raised will go towards this year's eighth grade class trip to Washington, D.C. Baked goods will be on sale; proceeds will also go toward the trip.

The South Plainfield Education Association will host a "new" toy drive during the Board of Education public meetings on Wednesday, Nov. 19 and Wednesday, Dec. 17. A box will be available for the toys.

The South Plainfield Athletic Booster Club will have a "new" toy drive at the Thanksgiving Day varsity football game at Jost Field.

Tax Credit to Aid First-Time Homebuyers

First-time homebuyers should begin planning now to take advantage of a new tax credit included in the recently enacted Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008.

Available for a limited time only, the credit applies to home purchases after April 8, 2008 and before July 1, 2009. It reduces a taxpayer's tax bill or increases his/her refund, dollar for dollar, and is fully refundable, meaning that the credit will be paid out to eligible taxpayers, even if they owe no tax or the credit is more than the tax that they owe.

However, the credit operates much like an interest-free loan, because it must be repaid over a 15-year period. So, for example, an eligible taxpayer who buys a home today and properly claims the

maximum available credit of \$7,500 on his or her 2008 federal income tax return must begin repaying the credit by including one-fifteenth of this amount, or \$500, as an additional tax on his or her 2010 return.

Eligible taxpayers can claim the credit on new IRS Form 5405, which contains instructions for first-time homebuyer credit, will be included in 2008 tax forms. Instructions are available on the IRS Web site at IRS.gov.

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St. Peter by the Sea Holiday Concert at Sacred Heart

Father Alphonse Stephenson and his symphony orchestra, St. Peter by the Sea, will present a Christmas concert at Sacred Heart Church on Sunday, Nov. 30 at 3 p.m. This will be Father Stephenson's eighth appearance at Sacred Heart.

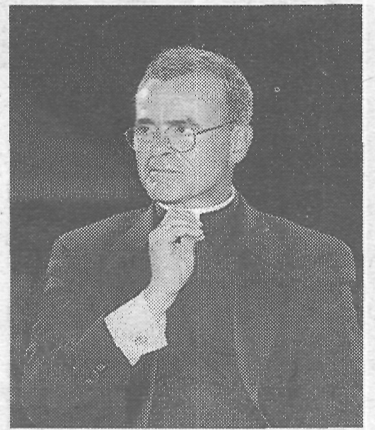
Father Alphonse Stephenson is well known for his versatility: part maestro, part comedian and part priest.

Father Stephenson's first orchestra was formed in New York's Theatre District while he served at St. Malachy's, the Actor's Chapel. His conducting debut was with bass soloist Paul Plishka of the Metropolitan Opera. In 1980, Michael Bennett, the late Broadway director and choreographer, hired him as conductor and music director for his smash hit, "A Chorus Line." He conducted nearly 3,000 performances of the famous musical.

A student of the late George Schick of the Metropolitan Opera and Dr. Robert Abramson of the Juilliard School, Father Alphonse has been guest conductor of the Fresno Philharmonic, Delaware Valley Philharmonic, Metro Lyric Opera, the Greater Palm Beach Symphony Orchestra and the Key West Pops Orchestra.

He is a colonel and the command chaplain of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard Headquarters at Fort Dix.

The concert will consist of tradi-



Father Alphonse Stephenson

tional Christmas music and other seasonal favorites. Father Stephenson also entertains his audiences with his good cheer and charisma.

His orchestra consists of members who collectively have hundreds of years of study and performed tens of thousands of concerts and recitals.

Admission is \$25 in advance; \$30 at the door; students and seniors, \$20. Tickets are sold after all masses. For information, call Lisa at the Parish Center (908) 756-0633.

The Knights of Columbus will sponsor a dinner after the concert in the Sacred Heart cafeteria at 5 p.m. Cost is \$10, seating is limited. For reservations, call Kevin at (908) 753-2907.

Anthony Guida Takes Over as Varsity Baseball Coach at SPHS

Former Dunellen baseball coach Anthony Guida has been selected as the new varsity baseball coach at South Plainfield High School.

Last season Guida led Dunellen to a GMC Gold Division Championship and was named the Division Coach of the Year. A standout player at Monroe High School and Rowan University, he helped lead Rowan to the NJAC Championship and a 36-8

record in 1999.

Guida served as an assistant coach at Rowan from September 1999 through May 2001. He currently is a physical education instructor at SPHS.

Guida replaces Ray Ciecawicz, who resigned at the end of the 2008 season.

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Around Town

SENIOR CENTER Calendar

Coming Up.....

November 14, 1-3 pm

Passport Applications and Renewals

November 15, 7:30 p.m.

Cappy Awards Dinner, \$15

November 19, 9:30 am

Trip to LaNeve Restaurant Luncheon & Show, \$52

November 20, 9 am

Bally's Trip, \$20 received back in coins

December 11

Hunterdon Hills Playhouse Christmas Show-Bus, show, luncheon, dessert buffet, \$66

December 20

Christmas Luncheon, noon \$5 per person

MONDAYS

Silver Sneakers 8:30 am
Crocheting 9:30 am
Yoga 10:30 am
Art Class 11:30 am

TUESDAYS

Bingo 10 am-2 pm
Ladies Group 10 am

WEDNESDAYS

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

THURSDAYS

Closed Thanksgiving Nov. 27
Pathmark 9 am
Crafts Class 10 am
Computer 10 am, 11:30 am, 1 pm
Exercise Class 1:15 pm

FRIDAYS

Bingo 10 am-2 pm

Daily Activities: Morning coffee, pool, cards, board games, crafts.
Lunch Served Monday-Friday.

908-756-1047
Center open daily 9 am - 12:30 pm
Saturdays 9 am - 13:30
Closed Sundays

Cappy Award Dinner

November 15

The Recreation Department and the Police Athletic League will present the Cappy Award posthumously to Jack English at dinner on Saturday, Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m. at the senior center.

English, a lifelong resident who died 21 years ago, was a pioneer in organizing youth oriented sports in South Plainfield. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at the PAL.

Blackrose to Perform

November 15

Blackrose, a band performing classic rock and roll music and today's hits, will perform at Rugs and Riffy's, located on Rahway Avenue in Woodbridge on Saturday, Nov. 15. 10 p.m. No cover charge.

Pancake Breakfast at American Legion

November 16

The American Legion Chaumont Post 243 on Oak Tree Avenue will hold an all-you-can eat pancake breakfast on Sunday, Nov. 16 from 8 a.m. to noon. Adults \$5; children \$3; under six are free. All profits go to the scholarship fund.

SPBA Meeting

November 20

South Plainfield Business Association will hold its next monthly meeting on Thursday, Nov. 20, 9 a.m. at Sherban's Diner on Front Street. This month's "Spotlight on Business" presentation will be by Curves of South Plainfield and the Community Projects presentation will be by Marge Ackerman, director, South Plainfield Social Services.

Call Debra Anne Leporino at (908) 754-6914 if you would like to be a guest or speaker at the next meeting.

JFK Vendor/Craft Fair

November 20

JFK Elementary School will hold its annual vendor/craft fair on Thursday, Nov. 20 from 6-9 p.m. Vendors and crafters wanted. Contact Jennifer at (908) 755-8912 or Janice at (908) 756-4175 for information.

Holiday Boutique at Wesley Methodist

November 22

Wesley United Methodist Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave., is holding its annual holiday boutique and tea room on Saturday, Nov. 22, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Unique handcrafted items include jewelry, knitted and crocheted apparel, Longaberger Baskets, Discovery Toys and Dove Chocolate at Home.

The tea room will offer a variety of foods including quiche, soup, sandwiches, salads and baked goods.

For more information or directions, please call (908) 755-3850.

St. Stephen's to Hold Holiday Bake Sale

November 23

St. Stephen's Orthodox Church, located on Lane Avenue, will hold a holiday bake sale on Sunday, Nov. 23 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Homemade pies, breads, cookies and desserts.

For preorders or information, call (732) 801-0539.

Abraham Lincoln Program

November 23

The South Plainfield Historical Society presents "Abraham Lincoln: Man of Sorrow" on Sunday, Nov. 23 at 2 p.m. at the senior center at 90 Maple Ave. The program is free.

Please join us and Christian Johnson of The American Historical Theatre as he gives special insights into our country's great emancipator.

SPHS Class of 1983

November 28

South Plainfield High School Class of 1983 will hold their 25th Silver Anniversary Reunion on Friday, Nov. 28 at the Crowne Plaza, 2005 Lincoln Hwy. in Edison. Reunion begins at 7 p.m. and will include an open bar, buffet dinner and DJ music.

If you are a class member and haven't received an invitation, contact Linda Beyer Daly at (609) 865-8358, Diane Lillo Zychlinski at (732) 968-3240 or E-mail SPHS1983@aol.com.

Rescue House of Prayer Special Service

November 29

Rev. Dr. Irene M. Campbell and the officers and members of the Rescue House of Prayer Inc. invite all residents to the ordination services of Deaconess Marion Roberts, who will

be ordained an elder missionary. Carilyn Reese, Minister Robert Reese and Sister Deydra Boatwright will become licensed as ministers.

The services take place on Saturday, Nov. 29 at 1 p.m. at The Rescue House of Prayer located at 1921 Roosevelt Ave.

Knights of Columbus Annual Trivia Night

November 29

South Plainfield Knights of Columbus will hold their second annual Trivia Night on Saturday, Nov. 29 at 6:15 p.m. at the Senior Center, 90 Maple Ave. First question at 7:02 p.m. sharp. Door prizes awarded throughout the night. Feel welcome to bring your favorite party snacks. Table of eight only \$160. Proceeds to benefit the Middlesex County Make a Wish Foundation.

For reservations, call Eric (732) 801-9002.

Soccer Club All You Can Eat Breakfast

November 30

South Plainfield Soccer Club will hold an all you can eat breakfast on Sunday, Nov. 30 (Thanksgiving weekend) at the Elks Lodge on New Market Avenue. Menu includes pancakes, bacon, French toast, sausage, eggs, home fries, coffee and juice. Tickets: \$6; steak and eggs \$12. Time slot reservations for pre-paid ticket buyers only. Walk-ins welcome.

For reservations or tickets, call (908) 756-7543.

St. Peter by the Sea Orchestra Concert

November 30

Sacred Heart Church will present a concert by The Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea conducted by Reverend Alphonse Stephenson on Sunday, Nov. 30 at 3 p.m. General admission is \$25; at the door, \$30; seniors and students \$20.

After Concert Dinner at Sacred Heart

November 30

The Knights of Columbus will host a dinner in Sacred Heart School cafeteria after the St. Peter by the Sea concert on Sunday, Nov. 30 at 5 p.m. Cost is \$10. Limited seating.

For reservations, call Kevin at (908) 753-2976.

— Out of Town —

Brass Lantern Open House

November 14

The Brass Lantern, located on Main Street in Metuchen will be holding their holiday open house on Friday, Nov. 14 from 7 to 9 p.m. Refreshments and entertainment.

For information, call (732) 548-5442.

Daughters of Penelope Tricky Tray

November 14

The Daughters of Penelope, Tethys Chapter #229, will hold their annual tricky tray fundraiser on Friday, Nov. 14 at 7 p.m., in the community center of St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 1101 River Rd. in Piscataway. Admission of \$7 includes one sheet of auction tickets, coffee and desserts. Other refreshments will be available including hot dogs, chips and soda. Proceeds benefit various Central Jersey charity and scholarship funds.

For more information, call Alice Kartikis at (732) 297-0581 or Polly Ploussiou at (732) 297-6246.

Christmas Bazaar

November 15

Plainfield Gesang-ung Turn-Verein, Inc., located at 220 Somerset St. in North Plainfield, will hold a Christmas bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 15. Visit us with your family and friends.

Luncheon will be served in the Ratskeller. A great selection of German specialties, chocolates, coffee, stollen, bread noodles, home baked cakes and cookies. Christmas decorations, knitted sweaters and quilts. Brick-a-brack tables and lots more.

Indoor Yard Sale

November 15

Resurrection of Christ Church, located at 649 Bound Brook Rd. in Dunellen, will hold an indoor yard sale on Saturday, Nov. 15 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bag sale on clothes and half price sale on selected articles begins at 10:30 a.m.

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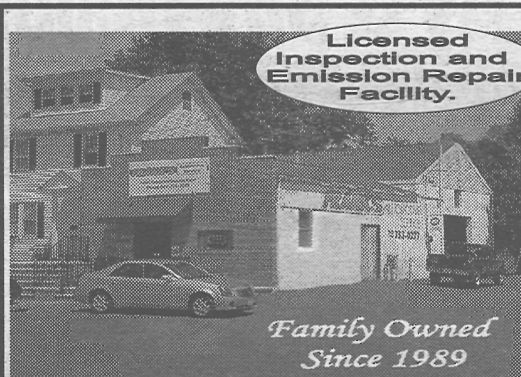
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YMCA Swim Clinic

November 15

A Mutual of Omaha breakout swim clinic, hosted by the Metuchen-Edison YMCA Mantarays will be held on Saturday, Nov. 15 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Wardlaw-Hartridge School on 1295 Inman Ave. in Edison. Check-in at 8:30 a.m. Fee is \$50 and limited to the first 100 swimmers. Participants will learn champion performance techniques on all four strokes and understand how the body, mind and heart affect swimming. T-shirt, poster, DVDs and other souvenirs. Parents and coaches can watch.

Call Kristine Sinram at (732) 548-2044, ext. 212, for details.

Annual Mass to Celebrate Adoption

November 16

For those whose lives have been touched by adoption, the Diocese of Metuchen will celebrate an annual Mass on Sunday, Nov. 16 at noon at Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen. Adoptive families, including adoptees, adoptive parents, extended families and birth parents. All are welcome.

For more information, call (732) 562-1990, ext. 1624 or visit www.dio-metuchen.org.

Grief and The Holidays Lecture

November 20

The Center For Hope Hospice & Palliative Care will offer a "Grief and the Holidays" lecture on Thursday, Nov. 20 at 7 p.m. at All Saints' Episcopal Church, 559 Park Ave. in Scotch Plains. Free of charge; refreshments and fellowship follow the presentation.

For more information, call (908) 654-3711.

AALL Stamps and Collectibles Open House

November 22 & 23

AALL Stamps and Collectibles, 38 N. Main Street in Milltown, will hold an open house on Saturday, Nov. 22, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 23, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. A huge selection of collectors' supplies and accessories, as well as numerous lots and collections at special sale prices also available.

Further information can be obtained by calling (732) 247-1093.

CPR, First Aid Course

November 23

Learn basic CPR and first aid for children and infants at the YMCA located at High Street in Metuchen, on Sunday, Nov. 23 from noon to 3 p.m. Members \$35; \$40 for non members. Registration is required.

Contact Diane Kohlbecker at (732) 548-2044, ext. 225, for details or E-mail diane.kohlbecker@metuchen-edisonymca.org.

Indoor/Outdoor Christmas Market

November 23

Deutscher Club of Clark, located at 787 Featherbed Lane, is holding an indoor/outdoor Christmas market on Sunday, Nov. 23 from noon to 5 p.m. Imported German linens and gifts, German Christmas cards and candies, stolen, handmade items, jewelry. Gluehwein and dinners available. Open to the public; free parking.

For more information, call (732) 574-8600.

Scott Culver Brings History to Life

By Libby Barsky

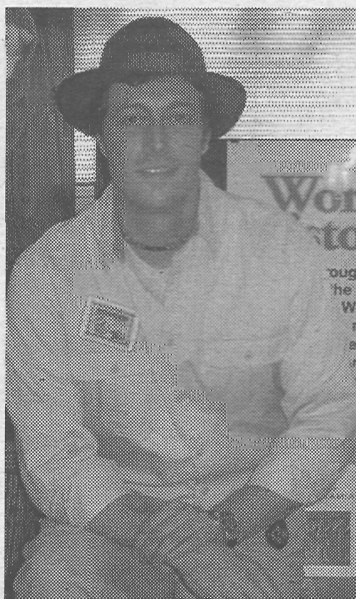
Halloween saw many school staff members teaching in costume.

But Scott Culver, social studies teacher at Grant School, teaches in costume every Friday. He has come to school dressed in safari mode on Fridays since classes began in September. Wearing a khaki safari outfit is his way of bringing out the fun and adventure of searching for the past as an archeologist in the study world history.

"My brain began to explode," said Culver when he saw the sequel to the movie, "Raiders of the Lost Arc" last summer.

"I thought about teaching world history as an adventure in ancient civilizations and having the students put themselves in the place of the person doing the exploring," he said. "I wanted them to participate and discover what happened in the past and why it happened," he added.

Culver was aided in adapting his classroom to the theme of a social studies safari (searching for antiquities) with props from the movie he collected from store displays.



Scott Culver dresses as Indiana Jones to lead his world history class on social studies safari.

"When I was in the Shop Rite and saw them taking down the display for the movie, I asked if I could have the materials before they threw them out. They even packed them for me," he said.

Troop 125 is Scouting For Food

Boy Scout Troop 125 from VFW Post 6763 will be collecting nonperishable food items on Saturday, Nov. 15, beginning at 8 a.m. as part of their annual Scouting for Food Campaign. The food will be donated to less fortunate families within our community. Please have bags on the porch by 8 a.m.

In addition, the scouts are also participating in "Operation Scouting," which sends personal items to soldiers in Iraq and overseas. Please include any personal items you would like to donate as well. Label the bag "Operation Scouting."

Lastly, scouts will be collecting used eyeglasses, sunglasses and hearing aids for the Lions Club. Place them on the top of the bags.

The scouts' goal was to put a bag on every house. In the event you did

not receive a bag and would like to participate, please place a bag on your porch for the scouts to pick up. We thank you as always for your continued support of the scouting program.

For more information on scouting, visit us any Monday night at 7:30 p.m. at the VFW, located on Front Street.

—Submitted by Marie Markey

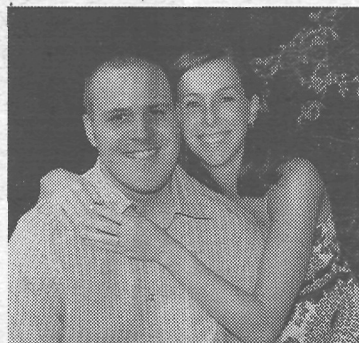
Food Drive to Help Needy Families

The South Plainfield Soccer Club is holding a food drive to help needy families in South Plainfield. A box will be available at the snack stand this weekend and next, November 8-16, for food donations.

The items will be donated to the South Plainfield Food Pantry at Borough Hall.

southplainfieldpeople

Milestones



Adam Lillia and Leyna Bollwage

Leyna Bollwage and Adam Lillia are Engaged

Anne and Blaise Bollwage of South Plainfield are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter, Leyna, to Adam Lillia, son of Linda and William Lillia of Vineland.

Leyna graduated from South Plainfield High School in 1999 and attended Fairleigh Dickinson University, graduating with a master of arts in teaching. Leyna works as a second grade teacher in Bernards Township and is finishing her program for a master of arts in educational technology at New Jersey City University.

Adam graduated from Vineland High School in 1996. He attended William Paterson University and graduated magna cum laude. Adam is a physical education and health teacher in Readington Township.

An August 8, 2009 wedding is planned.

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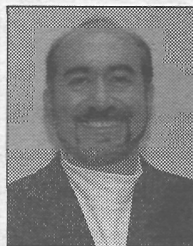
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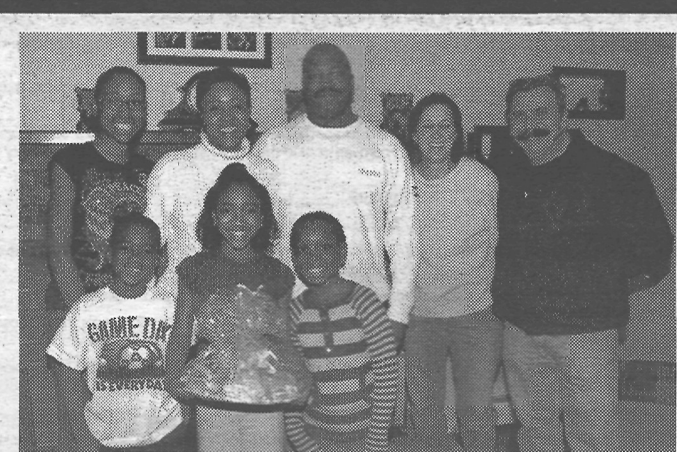
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2008-09 Junior Journalist Winner



Congratulations!

2008-09
JUNIOR JOURNALIST

Debbie and Charlie Kurland present dinner to Junior Journalist winner Olivia O'Leary and her parents, Simone and Sean; sister, Jenae; brother, Brandon; and cousin, Camille.

Almost Famous Players Thank Supporters of Putnam Park Tour

As the director/founder of South Plainfield's Almost Famous Players (AFP), I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who supported the 2008 Putnam Park Haunted Woods Tour. Below is an attempt to recognize everyone!

The sixth annual Haunted Woods Tour got off to a late start and was unfortunately plagued with problems. Several local businesses/organizations immediately came to our rescue with donations. They included: South Plainfield Elks Lodge, Jo-Ann's Dance Studio, Twin City Pharmacy, Oak Tree Buy Rite, the South Plainfield Observer, local resident Maureen T. and all the many others who responded to our call for help.

With no response to our ad for a set/tech director and less than two weeks before opening night, we were desperate. Christopher Abbott stepped up to the plate and put his newly acquired Middlesex County College degree and advanced theater/stage skills to good use. I must credit my son with bringing in his pro- and semi-professional friends to help. Jon Bergman of Hillsborough returned to us after a four year absence. He helped create details that gave us a final script. He also helped with the extensive and elaborate makeup and knowing about our precarious financial situation, he often provided needed items out of his own pocket. He helped choreograph and practice combat scenes and provided several costumes. In addition, he helped transport many bins of



The cast of the Almost Famous Players 2008 Putnam Park Haunted Woods Tour pose for a group photo after their final tour on November 1.

props to the trailer. Most importantly, he assisted Chris with the vital electrical plotting.

Haunted Woods veteran Tommy Hickey of Middlesex showed up to help in a variety of areas. We had hoped he would be on hand to perform, but he had a previous engagement with Uncle Sam and reported to Iraq a week before we opened. David Willenbrock of Avenel helped

with the sets, lighting, blinds, tarps and more.

Jon, Chris and Tommy provided a background for the school-aged actors to learn, grow and show off their skills.

Many in the 2008 show were new to theater. South Plainfield resident and AFP veteran, Jesse Colby, stopped by to help wherever needed and even showed up on closing night to provide some extra special scares!

Between these dedicated individuals, they ran yards and yards of extension cords and hung lighting throughout the park, which provided not only safety, but created mood lighting to help make our scares...scarier! They set up fog machines, black lights and other scary scenes.

There are so many other people to recognize and thank. I apologize in advance if I have left anyone out.

First of all, without Officer Dave Franchak and Halls Trucking there would have been no show. For the past five years Dave has arranged with Halls Trucking to provide us with a large storage trailer. Without Halls Trucking and Dave, there would be no show.

I would like to thank the mayor and council for their ongoing support. A special thank you to Mayor Charlie Butrico who, since his early days as a council member and up until today, has always backed AFP 100%. We appreciate and thank him for his patience and constant support. Charlie helped us obtain a last minute electrical permit (normally handled by our non-existent tech director).

Thanks to Police Chief John Ferraro for his support and for ensuring extra Putnam Park patrols after various incidents before the show began and also

during the time between shows. Thanks to the officers who took the police reports on the damage and theft, especially Officer Rogers, who arrived at my house to take the report because I had no vehicle. I'd like to thank Councilman/fireman Ray Petronko for his support and for helping to obtain a light truck for several of our performances.

Thank you to South Plainfield Fire Chief Larry DelNegro and the other firefighters who drove the truck to the park and remained to oversee the safety of our audience and cast. Special thanks to Jack Pedersen and his son, Michael. Jack helped with security and Michael repaired the generator that had failed the week before.

Revere Road resident Danny Nigro, while unable to assist us full-time as he had in early years, helped with the lighting plot and kept an eye on the park at night. AFP's Halloween show has not been the same without him. Danny has always supported our efforts even when he was unable to help. We want to recognize him for his work and support!

We also wish to thank the residents of Revere Road who "kept an eye out for trouble." I know my son spoke to several people who walked their dogs in the park at night. All were familiar with the show and agreed to help keep watch.

Big Lot store, located across the street from Putnam Park, has supported us for two years providing discounts on equipment and props. We want to thank the managers and hope to see them and their employees at the show next year.

Earlier in the month most of the cast members fulfilled the AFP commitment to clean in and around the wooded area. Many bags of trash, including a lot of broken glass and fast food garbage, were picked up. The actors also raked and cleared trails of fallen branches and cut dangerous sticker bushes. They helped set up and break down every night. On November 2 almost half of the cast showed up at the park for the final clean up and a break down of all sets and blinds.

We are grateful for their support and help! However the show would not, and could not, have been the success it was without the help of the handful of loyal, hard-working parents and volunteers: Michele and Garry Kenny, Laura and Kenny Manio, Maggie Temple, Louanne Severini, Steve Bohn, Karen Kunch and Joan Abbott. Both before, during and after each show, I knew I could rely on them. For me they are angels in disguise. Add to this list the AFP regulars and newbies who spent countless hours at my house sorting costumes, props, masks and more. They painted signs by the dozen and printed flyers to be displayed outside of South Plainfield.

The 2008 season was a rough year for AFP's Putnam Park Haunted Woods Tour. At one point I thought it might be the end of AFP.

We survived vandalism, theft, Mother Nature, a bad generator and the loss of an entire performance to a nasty, cold, rainy evening. We were worried... apparently needlessly! The residents of South Plainfield and the regulars who come out to see our show rain or shine, did not let us down.

Four shows turned into three and nerves were frayed, but when someone came up behind me after the last scene and whispered, "This is the best show I have ever seen!" I knew we were successful! Thank you South Plainfield! -Patricia Abbott

RedHorse Gallery to Feature NJ Artist

VSA arts of New Jersey announces an exhibit by artist Michael J. Turner from November 24 to January 23 at the Red Horse Gallery at the Freehold Raceway Mall. A meet the artist reception will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 9. Located on the upper mall level next to Sears, the Red Horse Gallery is a collaboration of VSA arts of New Jersey and the Arc of Monmouth featuring exhibits by artists with disabilities, special events, and classes. Regular gallery hours are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Michael J. Turner is a watercolor artist who received his BA in English from Monmouth College in West Long Branch. Prior to developing his career in the arts, he served as a military equipment item manager at Fort Monmouth for the U.S. Department of Defense. His interest in watercol-

ors began with his retirement from civil service.

Turner has exhibited at Ralyn's Gallery in Lakewood and Lavin's Gallery in Freehold. He has received various awards for his art, which has been displayed throughout Monmouth County over the past several years. He is a member of the Freehold Art Society, The Laurelton Art Society, and The Guild of Creative Arts. Turner is a lifelong resident of Monmouth County, currently residing in Howell Township with his family.

Founded in 1978, VSA arts of New Jersey is a part of the international VSA arts network, an affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC. VSA arts of New Jersey is dedicated to promoting the creative power of people with disabilities.

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LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 1837

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$187,060.00 FOR THE ACQUISITION OF VARIOUS EQUIPMENT 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, November 14, 2008 and that a public hearing be scheduled for Monday, November 24, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

ORDINANCE NO. 1837

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

- Section 1. That there is hereby authorized pursuant to applicable statutes of the State of New Jersey, as a general improvement, the following improvements in the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, New Jersey:
- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| COPS Technology Grant | \$187,060.00 |
| TOTAL | \$187,060.00 |
- Section 2. That the improvements described in Section 1 hereof shall be authorized as general capital improvements for the Borough of South Plainfield in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey.
- Section 3. It is hereby determined and declared by this Mayor and Borough Council as follows:
- That the maximum estimated amount of money to be raised from all sources for the purposes stated in Section 1, hereof, is \$187,060.00.
 - That the cost for said projects shall be financed by a U.S. Department of Justice COPS Technology Grant.
 - The estimated useful life of said improvements is hereby determined to be five (5) years.
- Section 4. That the total amount of the appropriation to be expended for Architectural and inspection costs, legal costs, advertisement of ordinance and other expenses as provided in Section 48:2-20 of the Revised Statutes, is not to exceed \$1,000.00.
- Section 5. This ordinance shall take effect after final passage and publication in accordance with the law.
- ATTEST:
Joann L. Graf
Acting Municipal Clerk
\$89.30

November 14, 2008

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SOUTH PLAINFIELD BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

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HOLIDAY BLOOD DRIVE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5TH
4:00 pm to 9:30 pm

SOUTH PLAINFIELD SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER
90 MAPLE AVE, SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY, 07080

BLOOD DRIVE WILL BE COMBINED WITH A "FOOD OR CASH DRIVE" AND A "TOYS FOR TEENS" DRIVE TO BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD. The recommendation is to donate the 2 Nets' tickets or an age appropriate gift to the "Toys for Teens" drive. A bus ride to the Nets' game will also be sponsored by the SPBA on the evening of the basketball game.

For more information and/or questions about eligibility, please contact Jared Tamasco of the NY/NJ Blood Center at 732-220-7109 or JTamasco@nybloodcenter.org. For more information on the Combined Drive, please contact Debra Anne Leporino, SPBA President, at 908-754-6914 or Carl Adlansnig of R&C Auto Rebuilders, Inc. at 908-757-1933. Thank you.



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South Plainfield Police Receive Annual Awards and Commendations

In the early morning hours just prior to beginning their long day assisting with the Labor Day celebrations, Police Chief John Ferraro assembled the department for their annual awards ceremony. The following officers received citations and medals for their exceptional service this past year.

Performance Notice-Officer Daniel Hoppe. On July 13, 2008, Hoppe observed a vehicle parked at the 7-11 on Plainfield Avenue. A computer check revealed that the vehicle had an expired registration. The motor vehicle was stopped and an odor of burnt marijuana was detected. A search of the vehicle discovered eight small zip-lock bags of marijuana and a brown bottle containing 27 Oxycodone pills and one Xanax. A check on the arrestees revealed a long criminal history of drug use and distribution.

Letter of Commendation-Sgt. Dan Noonan, Sgt. James Foran, Det. Shaun Clifford. On August 21, 2007, police responded to the Enrite Gas Station on Durham Avenue on the report of an armed robbery. Noonan, Foran and Clifford followed up on all leads and were able to locate one of the suspects at a local hospital registered under an alias. He was interviewed and a subsequent surveillance was conducted. All involved were arrested and this violent crime was solved.

Letter of Commendation-Det. James Darby, Det. Christopher Colucci, Det. Antonio Grasso. During September, October and November 2007, approximately nine motor vehicle burglaries occurred at LA Fitness located on New World Way. Grasso was able to obtain information on a possible suspect. Darby and Colucci located and interrogated the suspect which led to the identification of a second suspect.

Letter of Commendation-Detective Vincent Campagna. On January 5, 2008, Campagna responded to West Elmwood Drive, the scene of a burglary. He located blood evidence, collected it and sent it to the DNA laboratory of the New Jersey State Police. About one month later, the DNA results confirmed a match which helped convict the offender.

Letter of Commendation-Officer John Petriello, Officer Antonio Grasso, Officer Joseph Glowacki. On March 2, 2008 units responded to Edith's Hair Salon on Front Street on the report of a burglary in progress. Petriello, Grasso and Glowacki observed that a window had been broken. The perimeter of the

building was posted and a systematic search was conducted. A suspect was located inside and refused to surrender. After a struggle, he was taken into custody. The burglar was arrested, charged and incarcerated.

Letter of Commendation-Lt. Peter Arancio, Officer John Petriello, Officer David Franchak, Officer Roberto Vega, Officer Michael Molinaro, Officer Lloyd McNelly. On April 4, 2008, Arancio, Petriello, Franchak, Vega, Molinaro and McNelly responded to McKinley Street on the report of a burglary in progress. A perimeter was immediately established by Arancio. Officers then began a tactical search of the storage yard. One suspect was captured by Molinaro, who notified officers that another suspect might still be in the yard and possibly injured. Officers began an exhaustive two hour search in heavy rain, which failed to locate any additional suspects. Molinaro interviewed the suspect and obtained information from his cell phone's call history which resulted in the identification and arrest of two additional suspects by McNelly.

Letter of Commendation-Officer Mark Bullock and Officer Michael Grasso. On May 6, 2008, Bullock and Grasso were dispatched to Route 287, just north of Exit 5, for a motor vehicle crash with injuries. When they arrived, they learned that there were multiple vehicles involved, including three motorcycles. The roadway was littered with debris and covered the entire width of the roadway. There were six injured victims lying in the roadway. Bullock and Grasso shut down the highway and began assessing the victims. One of the victims, a motorcycle rider, had severe head injuries and two broken legs. Bullock and Grasso and an EMT performed CPR on the victim until paramedics arrived. The victim was stabilized and transported to Robert Wood Johnson Hospital via North Star helicopter. Due to the lack of medical personnel, the officers remained to provide first aid to the other victims.

Letter of Commendation-Sergeant Wayne Diana. On July 3, 2008, Diana investigated the theft of gas from Jersey Oil located on Park Avenue. The suspect had presented false identification to the attendant. Diana was able to determine that the false identification belonged to the victim of a violent home invasion in Plainfield. The victim had been held and tortured in his home. Diana provided the Plainfield detectives with information

which led to the arrest and incarceration of the two violent criminals who were responsible.

Letter of Commendation-Sgt. Dan Noonan, Detective Antonio Grasso and Detective Anthony Pacillo. On July 30, 2008, Pacillo responded to West 7th Street to assist in an investigation at the Bravo Supermarket. Pacillo detained several potential suspects involved and was able to identify the individuals. A short time later, patrol units were summoned to respond back to the Bravo Supermarket in reference to a drive-by shooting. Noonan, Grasso and Pacillo were able to confirm that the suspect, who had previously been identified, was responsible for the shooting. The suspect was positively identified and arrest warrants were issued.

Letter of Commendation-Lieutenant Charles Siedenburg. In 2007, Siedenburg recognized the need to be better prepared to address critical incidents. A national increase in school shootings, workplace violence, the need for infrastructure security and other situations requiring a heightened tactical response led to the formation of a highly trained team of officers. Siedenburg has coordinated the purchase of weapons, equipment and training for this team. He also incorporated additional tactical training during the semi-annual firearm qualifications. Siedenburg is to be commended for his approach to addressing these needs and taking on the added duties associated with this team.

Lifesaving Medal-Officer Michael Redden. On January 24, 2008, Redden was dispatched to a residence on West Hendricks Boulevard on a report of a 60 year-old woman choking on food. When he arrived, he discovered that the victim was unable to breathe. Redden quickly assessed the situation and performed the Heimlich maneuver, which cleared her airway. The rescue squad arrived and transported the victim to the hospital.

Lifesaving Medal-Officer Garrett Cassio, Officer Peter Magnani and Officer Mark Bullock. On April 28, 2008, Cassio, Bullock and Magnani responded to Babes Drive on the report of an unconscious elderly woman with no pulse and not breathing. Cassio used his automated external defibrillator and delivered two shocks. Magnani and Bullock preformed CPR until paramedics arrived. The victim's heart began beating and she was transported to Muhlenberg Hospital.

(Continued in next week's Observer)



The Harlem Wizards brought their basketball extravaganza to South Plainfield Middle School.

Harlem Wizards Wow Middle School Students

By Jane Dornick

With their famous "Trick Hoopz and Alley Oops," the Harlem Wizards' exciting brand of world class showmanship razzled and dazzled South Plainfield Middle School students.

The hour-long extravaganza featured Wizard players Donnie "Dazzle" Seale, Kenyon "The Gift" Jones, Aswan "Sparkplug" Morris, Gordy "G-Wiz" Malone, Ron "Skycam" Ferguson, Jr. and Swoop "The Big Kid" Simpson playing a full court game against eighth grade boys and girls from last year's basketball team roster.

Coached by gym teacher Don Panzarella, the middle school players were no match for the amazing Wizards, but enjoyed the opportunity to learn

some new moves and have some laughs. The magic included the hottest basketball tricks and humorous interactive games with teachers and students.

The show closed with motivational messages from premier showman "Swoop," who explained how he was hit by a car at the age of four. The accident left him with one leg shorter than the other, inspiring the crowd to live out their dreams no matter what the odds.

Since 1962, the Harlem Wizards have played over 6,000 games in both the United States and abroad, thrilling millions of fans along the way. They have performed on many different courts and stages around the world against celebrities, freestyle ballers and professional teams.

Adoption Center Needs Volunteers

People for Animals, a nonprofit animal welfare organization serving New Jersey, has an immediate need for volunteers to care for homeless cats living in the Cat Adoption Center at the PETSMART store in Bridgewater's Promenade Mall at the intersection of Route 28 and Route 287.

The cats at the center are housed in 10 cages that require cleaning twice a day including the replenishing of fresh food and water. In addition, the cats need love and attention to make their stay less stressful. The advantage of the center is that the cats can be viewed by the public seven days a week and hopefully increase their chances of

finding a permanent home. Volunteers are asked to perform luv-a-pet house-keeping chores once a week or once every two weeks around 7 a.m., so that the cleaning is complete prior to the store opening. It takes about one to two hours to clean. Volunteers must be willing and able to handle these friendly homeless cats and kittens so that they can be moved from cage to cage.

For more information or to volunteer, please call (973) 282-0890 ext. 310 and leave a message for Martha. Information about the organization and about the pets for adoption is available at www.pfa.petfinder.com.

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2008-09 Junior Journalist Winner

Congratulations!
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Debbie and Charlie Kurland present dinner to Junior Journalist winner Leon Dass and his parents, Hardai and Deodat; sister, Leanne; and grandparents, Sabitree and Harry.

CALL FOR ENTRIES:

2008-09 JUNIOR JOURNALIST

Attention students in grades K through 12: If you are interested in fame, a free meal and an opportunity to win a \$1,000 savings bond, we are looking for you. Submit your poems, essays or stories to your teachers or to the *Observer* and you will be entered to be the next Junior Journalist!

Emily Kuchinski Named Junior Journalist

Emily Kuchinski, Kennedy School fourth grader, is this week's winner in the 2008-09 Junior Journalist program. Her submission has earned her dinner for her family, courtesy of Hometown Heros.

Students should submit their original written works to their teachers, school principal, Hometown Heros on Hamilton Blvd. or the *Observer* office at 1110 Hamilton Blvd.

Winners receive a catered dinner for their families from Hometown Heros and will be honored at a year-end banquet in May of 2009, where they will be additionally recognized for their efforts. Junior Journalists also have the opportunity to win the Ruth Kurland Memorial \$1,000 savings bond which will be awarded at the banquet.



Junior Journalist winner Emily Kuchinski with teacher Cynthia Severino and Principal Kelly Richkus.

For more information, call the *Observer* at (908) 668-0010 or Hometown Heros at (908) 755-4376.

Starting School

By Emily Kuchinski

I knew summer had to come to an end,
And I was excited to meet a new friend.

I was anxious to start,
Because I wanted to get smart!

Fourth grade was going to be cool,
Because we were the oldest in the school!

(Continued from page 2)
"Keep Our Kids Warm" program held on Saturday, Nov. 8.

Over 100 sweatshirts were donated by numerous residents of our community. As mentioned in the articles promoting the sweatshirt drive, Jimmy and Ricky will be making a donation on behalf of our community to the Bristol Myers Squibb Children's Hospital and Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Fund in New Brunswick.

This is the program's third year running, and each year the sweatshirt drive is a success. The sweatshirts will be given to underprivileged children who reside in our community for the upcoming winter season.

Again, on behalf of the funeral home, we would like to express our gratitude to all the residents of our community and will look forward to next year's participation in our annual program.

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To the Editor:

I was very surprised to read in the *Home News Tribune* that Councilman Anesh wants another Democracy Day to bring the trucks back to Hamilton

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In My Opinion

The opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily those of the publisher, nor do we guarantee their accuracy.

Boulevard. Mr. Anesh, you had your Democracy Day on November 4 when the people of South Plainfield voted. The message was clear—they do not want trucks on Hamilton Boulevard.

Councilman, I am afraid it is time to take your ball and go home. The game is over!

FRANK SMITH

To the Editor:

Did the Muhlenberg Hospital (MRMC) horse leave the barn for good? This is a difficult question to answer. The forces against the reopening of Muhlenberg are many. The governor and health commissioner have not given the citizens of Plainfield and the 13 area communities serviced by MRMC any breaks. The one positive item suggested by the New Jersey State Health Planning Board was that Solaris retain the acute care license for two to three years was shot down by Health Commissioner Heather Howard. In addition, the Solaris organization is very well connected to New Jersey politics.

The City of Plainfield is striking back by appealing the health commissioner's findings to the New Jersey Appellate Court. The determination of Mayor Robinson-Briggs and six of seven Plainfield City Council members who voted to appeal the decision is appreciated. The only exception was Councilmen Cory Storch, who did not vote to appeal the decision. It is difficult to understand the reasons for his non vote on the matter. Assemblyman Gerald Green is supporting the appeal of the health commissioner's decision. Furthermore, joining in the appeals process is the Newark based People's Organization For Progress (POP) and the Coalition to Restore Muhlenberg. The POP organization has fought hard to save hospitals in other communities besides Plainfield.

Under the misguided leadership of Governor Jon Corzine, there have been nine hospital closings in the past two years. This is a record that speaks for itself since most hospitals that closed were in communities with heavy minority populations. Yet there are plans to build a hospital in Plainsboro which happens to be near where health commissioner Heather Howard lives. Also, the Pascack Valley Hospital in a more affluent area is scheduled to reopen. It appears that Corzine does not recognize that health care is a right of all citizens. The governor's actions of closing hospitals in minority communities throughout the state do not follow the policy being advocated by President-Elect Barack Obama. In his Democratic Party acceptance speech, Obama emphasized that health care was a right of all citizens. All citizens of the Plainfield area should embrace

the decision to appeal the health commissioner's findings.

Did Solaris have so much political clout that the closing of the Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center was a no contest from the start? Public listings of political contributions made to New Jersey State Senate and Assembly candidates, as well as the New Jersey State Democratic Party for the periods starting January 1, 2004 and ending December 31, 2007, were reviewed. Some interesting trends have been revealed. During that period, the top six highest paid Solaris executives contributed a total of \$32,286 to area politicians and the Democratic Party. The Democratic Party received \$10,000 in contributions. The two highest recipients of political contributions were State Senator Barbara Buono (\$12,800) and Assemblywoman Linda Stender (\$5,386). Barbara Buono, a state senator from Metuchen who is head of the Senate Budget and Appropriation Committee, is married to Martin Gizzi, a high paid physician who is employed by the Community Hospital Group by the Solaris Health Systems. Adam Beder, Solaris Health Systems director of Government Affairs, once served as deputy director for the New Jersey Hospital Association. He is also a former member of Barbara Buono's staff. Amie Thornton, Solaris Health Systems vice president and project manager, was previously employed by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services.

Solaris Health Systems is a large organization and one of the top 20 employers in New Jersey, as per the number of individuals being employed. They have the political might because of their size. A number of physicians and employees of Muhlenberg Hospital did express privately their support to the groups fighting to save the hospital, but would not come forward in public. An interesting happening occurred at the May 6, 2008 Plainfield High School State Health Planning Board meeting when several executives from Solaris, including president and CEO John McGee, were present for the meeting. Assemblywoman Linda Stender showed up before the start of the meeting and left before the meeting was called to order. Her remarks were then given by Mayor Colleen Maher of Fanwood who stated, "The assemblywoman couldn't be here today, but she is very concerned over the closing of this hospital."

The Plainfield area needs to restore an acute care hospital at the Muhlenberg site. All citizens need to call/write their local politicians supporting the citizens and other efforts. The combined forces of David are fighting Goliath.

JOHN GOSTEL

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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Sunnie Randolph

The Friends of the South Plainfield Public Library are raffling off a holiday quilt handmade by a resident of South Plainfield. Raffle tickets are \$2. The winner will be drawn on December 17. Stop in the library to see the quilt and purchase some chances.

Thanksgiving is only a couple weeks away. If you have to cook, the library has many cookbooks with holiday recipes. "How to Cook a Turkey and All the Other Trimmings" (641.6) is a book to start with. Others include "The Betty Crocker Complete Turkey Cookbook" (641.568 CRO) and "The Thanksgiving Table" by Diane Morgan (641.568 MOR). The library also carries many popular magazines that have great Thanksgiving ideas and recipes. Magazines may be borrowed for two weeks—except for the current issue. If you find something you need in the current issue, you can photocopy what you need.

Children's programs will not follow their regular schedule this week. At 10:30 a.m. on Monday there will be the Monday Morning Movie for preschoolers. Tuesday, Nov. 18 storytime is cancelled. The morning storytime

on Wednesday, Nov. 19 is cancelled, but there will be an evening storytime and craft at 6:30 p.m. for children four and older. Storytime and crafts are cancelled on Thursday, Nov. 20. On Friday, Nov. 21 there will be a Baby Time at 10:30 a.m. for babies up to two years old.

Download free movies and television shows to your computer from "MyLibrarydv" on the library's Web site at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us. The movies include classics and foreign films. Just follow the instructions on MyLibrarydv.

While you're cooking, cleaning or traveling for the holiday, try listening to a book on tape or a book on CD. The library has hundreds of titles to pick from fiction, nonfiction, inspirational, children's, etc. It makes the jobs and time go much faster and you can do at least two things at once. The library's bestseller books are often available for check out in the unabridged audio book on CD version when there is still a long reserve list on the hardcover book version. There are books you will always want to read as a traditional book, but there are many titles you won't mind listening being read to you.

policereport

• On Oct. 29 Scott M. Connor, 36, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license, failure to inspect, no insurance and an outstanding warrant.

• Thomas J. Wyckoff, 61, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated and careless driving.

• An employee of Gannett Fleming on Cragwood Road reported the theft of a HP laptop computer, two coats, an Alpine GPS and an Apple iPhone from their vehicle.

• Quick Check on Sampton Avenue reported a young white male left the store without paying for two subs.

• On Oct. 30 Praveen K. Koduri, 38, of Edison was arrested for driving while intoxicated, speeding and failure to observe a traffic signal.

• Sana Khan, 52, of Edison was arrested at Macy's for shoplifting \$207 worth of clothing.

• A W. 7th Street resident reported an egg had been thrown at their vehicle while driving on Plainfield Avenue.

• A Surrey Road resident reported that an egg had been thrown at the rear door of their home.

• On Oct. 31 Vidal E. Vasquez, 29,

of Perth Amboy was arrested for failure to observe a traffic light and an outstanding warrant.

• Penyak Roofing on Kennedy Road reported that eggs had been thrown at their vehicle.

• On Nov. 1 Stephen Otieno, 37, of New Castle, Del. was arrested for having an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle and an outstanding warrant.

• A New Market Avenue resident reported that the rear window of their vehicle was smashed.

• A gas station attendant at Exxon on Park Avenue reported a thin black male had approached him with a gun. He ran into the office, locked the door and called police. The suspect fled.

• On Nov. 2 Patricia M. Addonizio, 61, of West Orange was arrested for driving on a suspended license, suspended registration, no insurance, right on red where prohibited, failure to exhibit a drivers license and an outstanding warrant.

• On Nov. 3 Francis R. Garrick, 43, of Howell was arrested at Home Depot for shoplifting a Husky socket and a 10" pipe wrench valued at \$24.



Scouts and adults of Boy Scout Troop 125 participate in the twenty-third annual beach sweeps aimed at cleaning up the Jersey Shore.

Scouts Volunteer to Clean Up New Jersey Beaches

Scouts and leaders from Boy Scout Troop 125 participated in Clean Ocean Action's 23rd Annual Fall Beach Sweeps on October 18. Beach Sweeps were held at over 60 sites throughout New Jersey. Volunteers removed and catalogued thousands of pieces of debris.

"Litter on the beach can ruin our experiences at the beach," said Scout Dakota Uhl. "Why do people litter? Litter can hurt us when we are at the beach and hurt the animals, birds and fish," explained Scout James Markey, who is a member of the South Plainfield Glitterbugs.

All volunteers who participated in the sweeps completed datacards, which are reviewed, compiled and analyzed by Clean Ocean Action. The information collected at the cleanups identifies pollution problems, aids legislators in passing and enforcing laws to protect the marine environment, and contributes to local and global efforts to combat marine pollution. In 2007, 4,937 volunteers collected over 302,000 items from 116 locations during the combined spring and fall cleanups (the complete 2007 report is posted on Clean Ocean Actions Web site). Beach Sweeps also educate individuals about nonpoint source pollution or "pointless" pollution that affects our ocean.

fects our ocean.

The scouts reported that their most unusual find were parts of a bed frame. Although high tides limited access to certain areas, with the help of over 300 people, much trash was found, including: 1,507 plastic food and candy wrappers, 2008 plastic bottle caps, 615 cigarette filters, 240 tampon applicators, 128 foam plastic cups and 34 balloons. Some unusual items found include a plastic football, bicycle tire, three socks, toy horse, toy ship's wheel, massive ball of fishing line and a tent frame.

"It's important that each person be responsible for their litter," stated Marie Markey, member of the South Plainfield Clean Communities Committee as well as troop secretary.

If each person took steps to prevent litter from entering our waterways it would be a great help. Do not let litter collect on sewers. Pick up litter when you see it. If people would "Can It" correctly the first time, properly securing garbage can lids, it would be a great help in reducing litter.

"This project emphasized the scout oath, law and motto. Everyone should follow the "Leave No Trace" principles scouts are taught," said Scoutmaster Jim Donelson who was proud that his troop participated in this statewide project.

To learn more about Clean Ocean Action and the beach sweeps, or to review clean up results, visit www.cleanoceanaction.org or call (732) 872-0111.

To learn more about Boy Scout Troop 125, visit us any Monday night at 7:30 p.m. at VFW Post 6763 at 155 Front Street.

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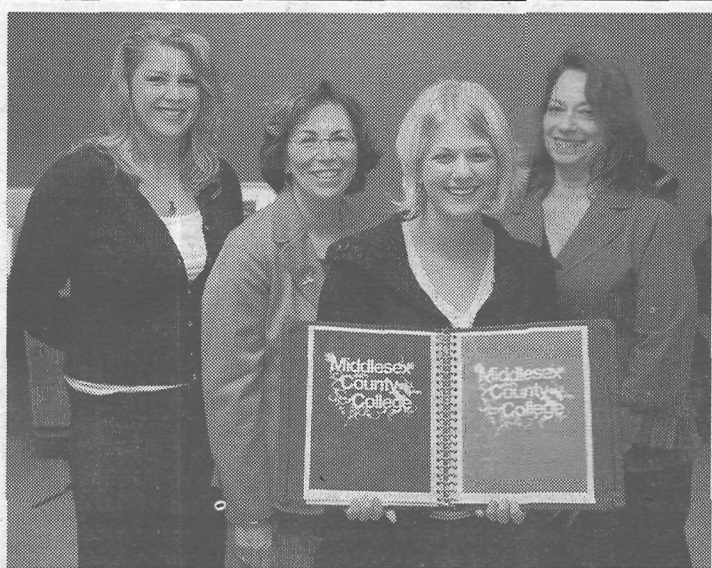
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Middlesex County College student Gina Butrico was presented with a \$100 gift certificate to the college bookstore after winning a competition in her graphic design class. She created the cover of a notebook that the bookstore will be selling in the spring of 2009. (Left to right) Mary Tutalo, buyer and marketing manager for Blue Colt Bookstore; College President Joann La Perla-Morales; Ms. Butrico and Francine Krinsky, assistant professor of visual arts, who taught Butrico's class.

Nutcracker Twirls in at Paper Mill Playhouse

Paper Mill Playhouse (Mark S. Hoebee-Artistic Director, Mark W. Jones-Executive Director) is proud to announce a sparkling holiday production of Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker" featuring the renowned Paper Mill Orchestra. Paper Mill Playhouse and The New Jersey Ballet celebrate their 38th annual production, the only "Nutcracker" in the State of New Jersey with a live orchestra.

Clara and her valiant "Nutcracker" Prince return to the stage along with the Sugar Plum Fairy, toy soldiers, villainous Mouse King and a cast of over 90 performers. Stunning sets and an enormous Christmas tree light up the Paper Mill stage.

Experience the wonder of the "Nutcracker" as originally envisioned by its creators, with the lush orchestral score played live, and magical special effects to delight the eye and ear. Enjoy the holiday season in the beautiful North Jersey countryside, nestled against the scenic South Mountain Reservation. Our blazing 19th Century fireplace and brook-side setting adorned with twinkling white lights provide the perfect backdrop for a night to remember.

The performance schedule is Friday, Dec. 19 at 8 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 20 at 2 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 21 at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m.; Monday and Tuesday, Dec.



22 and 23 at 7 p.m.; Wednesday, Dec. 24 at 1 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, Dec. 26 and 27 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 28 at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. Tickets range from \$19 to \$57 (subject to a \$1.25 facility preservation fee) and may be purchased by calling (973) 376-4343, the box office on Brookside Drive in Millburn or online at www.papermill.org. Visa, Master Card, Discover and American Express accepted. Groups of 10 receive up to a 25% discount on tickets and should call (973) 379-3636, ext. 2438.

This year marks the 38th season for New Jersey's favorite "Nutcracker."

The first performance took place in 1971 at Paper Mill Playhouse, with Edward Villella (then a star with New York City Ballet) as the Cavalier. Over the years, thousands of performers and millions of patrons have made this "Nutcracker" a cherished holiday tradition with families throughout New Jersey and beyond.

The heart of the production is a galaxy of stars of international reputation—20 professional artists from 11 nations. These artists have toured on every continent with such internationally renowned companies as the Bolshoi Ballet, Russian National Ballet, Ballet Argentino, Mongolian State Ballet, Hungarian State Ballet, Russian Imperial Ballet, The Royal Ballet, London Ballet, and Ochi International Ballet of Japan. Many have also performed with such acclaimed American companies as Stars of American Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet, Los Angeles Ballet, Fort Worth Ballet, Carolina Ballet, Ballet Austin and the international tour of Riverdance.

Paper Mill Playhouse is one of the country's leading regional theatres. Paper Mill's programs are made possible, in part, by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, A Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Council Tables Swamp Preservation Act

(Continued from page 1)

Act is currently before the Senate Environmental Committee and is expected to be voted on before the end of the year.

Barnes said if this bill is enacted it would be the first regional commission in this area overseeing municipal

land use. He likened it to the current Delaware Raritan River Canal Commission.

Last week the Edison Council voted to support the Dismal Swamp Preservation Act and next week a resolution to support the bill will be in front of the Metuchen Council.

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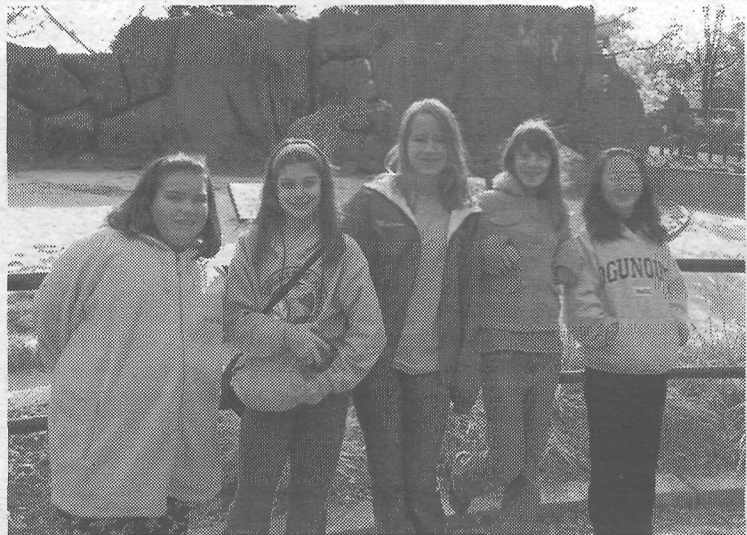
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Among the activities the girls took part in were interactive presentations, meeting a zookeeper and live-animal encounters. They took an evening hike through the zoo, giving them the opportunity to observe some of the animals in their "night mode." Girls spent the night inside of the zoo's mammoth tree house and came away with an official Night Flight patch.

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A study commissioned by the New Jersey Press Association (NJPA) and conducted by Belden Associates revealed that newspapers are the number one choice for news among New Jersey residents and that 93% of adults with a media preference choose a newspaper for local community and neighborhood news.

The study also revealed that 73% of New Jersey shoppers use newspapers as their primary source for local shopping information and 2 out of 3 consumers rely on newspapers for information related to purchases. You may also be interested to know that the average number of days a weekly paper is kept is 4.2 and the average number

of readers per copy in a household is 2.0. And that ads are 2nd only to local events in reader interest.

Statistics also reveal that more South Plainfielders rely on the Observer for local news than any of the dailies, surpassing the local circulation of The Home News-Tribune, the Courier News, and The Newark Star-Ledger.

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