

**Leaf Pickup,  
Section 5—**Place leaves at curb on  
Sunday for pickup  
December 7 through 11.

# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 13, NO. 13

Member New Jersey Press Association

60 CENTS

DECEMBER 4, 2009

## An Evening of Tribute Devine Honored with Cappy Award

The South Plainfield Recreation Department and the South Plainfield Police Athletic League posthumously honored Art Devine as a Cappy Award recipient at a dinner held at the senior center on November 14.

Art's family and friends were on hand, along with Mayor Charles Butrico and members of the council and recreation commission, to remember a man who left a positive impression with the youth of South Plainfield during his coaching years.

Master of ceremonies for the evening was Recreation Commission President Bill Cochran. The guests for the evening were welcomed by Recreation Director Kevin Hughes, followed by an invocation by Vice President of the Recreation Commission Calvin Gross. Speakers included PAL President Chris Colucci; Councilwoman Chrissy Butcas, liaison to recreation, who presented a plaque on behalf of the borough council and

(Continued on page 19)

## Buttiglieri Named Municipal Clerks of New Jersey President



Vincent Buttiglieri and Joan Moreland

South Plainfield resident Vincent Buttiglieri was sworn in as the 83rd president of the Municipal Clerks Association of New Jersey on November 18. The ceremony took place in Atlantic City with over 250 guests in attendance. The association was formed in 1927 and has over 900 members.

Buttiglieri, clerk for Ocean Township, succeeds Joan D. Moreland of Haddon Heights as president. He previously served as clerk and administrator for South Plainfield. In his address to the membership, the new president

set forth goals for the upcoming year including addressing inconsistencies in the Open Public Records Act and enacting legislation which will require that the president of the association, or his or her designee, be a member of the state Government Records Council.

Joining Buttiglieri at the ceremony were his wife RayJean, his parents and his two sisters. Also attending were the entire governing body of Ocean Township, along with Mayor Charles Butrico, Councilmember Chrissy Butcas, former Council President Dennis Cerami and former Mayor Daniel Gallagher.

The oath of office was administered by Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan who commented, "It's nice to know that the entire state recognizes what most of us in South Plainfield have known for years... Vinnie Buttiglieri is an exceptional public official. He is intelligent, hard working, focused and honest. I congratulate the clerk's association for their wisdom in selecting him as president."

Mayor Butrico added, "The clerks association has elected an outstanding individual. I've known Vinnie for years and I know he will do an excellent job."



Mayor Joseph Coughlin (circa 1974) reads a resolution from the borough council honoring Art Devine.

## Cleanup Moves to 24 Hour Operation Borough Contractors Begin Work on New Market Avenue Extension

by Jean Fultz

Since late Spring, activity at the Cornell-Dubilier Electronics (CDE) superfund site has increased steadily, leading up to the latest phase of the project: treatment of the contaminated soil that lies beneath the asphalt.

On October 16 the burners were lit on the Low Temperature Thermal Desorption Unit ("the unit") and testing began to ensure everything was operating properly. Since several different components make up the unit, each had to be turned on and tested at different times to ensure there weren't any leaks in the system. Testing took place over several weeks and ended with clean material being fed through the system for approximately two weeks.

On November 9, treatment of the contaminated soil began during the daytime only. During the next two weeks, as the soil was treated and tested, the temperature of the unit was adjusted until it was determined that 650 degrees was sufficient to remove the contaminants.

The unit began operating 24 hours a day on November 16. About five to



Construction has begun on the New Market Avenue extension.

seven days worth of soil (315 tons per day) can be stored in the tent-like structure behind the unit prior to being fed onto the first conveyor belt.

According to Peter Mannino, remedial project manager for the U.S. EPA Region II in charge of the

project, excavation of the soil can take place during rain or snow, but digging during bad weather will be avoided since the moisture content of the soil needs to be as low as possible before treatment. Currently, digging

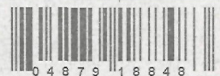
(Continued on page 16)

## It's Hot Tonight!

School spirit was ignited at the SPSHS pre-Thanksgiving Day festivities which included a pep rally, powder puff game and bonfire. All pre-cursors to the annual faceoff between South Plainfield Tigers and North Plainfield Canucks. For story, see page 17.

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## Venerated Basketball Coach Dies



Anthony J. Cotoia.

Anthony J. Cotoia of South Plainfield, one of New Jersey's most

respected and successful high school basketball coaches, died Thursday after a brief illness.

In 1955 Cotoia accepted a teaching position in South Plainfield, when he became the high school's first basketball coach.

After two years of building the local basketball program from the ground up, including establishing youth leagues in town, he

coached the 1959 team to an undefeated season. His overall record at SPSHS was 177-63. Cotoia played a key role in developing state-of-the-art athletic facilities at the high school, including the Frank Jost Track and Field and South Plainfield High School gym, which was named in his honor after his retirement.

For full obituary, see page 21.



## Want to stay informed but can't make it to borough council or BOE meetings?

Council meetings air on Comcast Channel 96 Mondays at 7 p.m. (Check Comcast community bulletin board for last minute time changes.) To purchase a complete copy of a council or BOE meeting, contact the Observer. BOE Meetings air on Thursdays at 7 p.m. Please note: Meetings are now broadcast on Channel 96.

### council meetings

Meets twice a month on Mondays, except as noted.\*

Borough Hall Council Chambers • Questions? 908-226-7605

Agenda Meeting Public Meeting

Monday, December 7 ..... Monday, December 7

Monday, December 21 ..... Monday, December 21

All Agenda Meetings begin at 7 p.m. followed immediately by the Public Meeting, unless otherwise noted. Meetings of the Governing Body are held in accordance with the N.J. Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Ave.

### planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month, \*except where noted.

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7641

December 8

### 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 10

### board of education

Meets Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. at Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. \*except where noted.

Committee of the Whole Tuesday, Nov. 10,\* Dec. 9, Jan. 13, Feb. 10, March 10 and March 31 Regular Public Meeting: Dec. 16, Jan. 20, Feb. 16, March 17 and April 14

### BOE curriculum/technology/student activities

Meets once a month on Wednesdays at 4 p.m. in 2nd floor conference room, Roosevelt Administration Building on Jackson Ave.

Jan. 6, Feb. 3, March 3 (April to be announced)

### BOE buildings & grounds

Meets second Monday of the month at 7 p.m., 2nd floor conference room, Roosevelt Administration Building—Dec. 14, Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 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. December 15

### environmental commission

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

December 9, January 13

### business advisory group

Meets once a month (first Wednesday) Borough Hall Council Chambers, 5 p.m. Questions? 908-757-8100

### ad hoc alternative truck route committee

Senior Center, 7 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7605

## In My Opinion

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

Dear Editor,

Our annual Thanksgiving food drive was a phenomenal success. On behalf of FISH and the homeless women and children who will benefit from your generous donations, I wish to sincerely thank all of you who have so graciously given food and money to this most worthy cause.

All non-perishable food and money donations were given to the FISH Hospitality Program. FISH has been serving homeless women and families since 1990, providing shelter and meals, as well as offering assistance locating employment and affordable housing.

I'd also like to thank the *Observer* for publishing the press releases for this food drive and helping to continue to make this annual event so successful.

Again, thank you for assisting those who are so greatly in need.

I wish all of you a very happy Thanksgiving! Thank you for caring and may God bless you.

DR. ANTHONY DECOSTA

To the Editor:

The latest Rasmussen Poll finds that only 38% of voters now favor the health care plan proposed by President Obama and congressional Democrats, including the two Benjamin Arnolds from New Jersey, Frank Lautenberg and Robert Menendez.

The first stage to passing this bill against the majority's wishes happened on November 21. Sixty votes were needed to move the legislation along. There are 60 Democratic and Independent senators. All 60 voted 'Yea' as opposed to the 40 Republicans who voted no.

And now a Hudson County newspaper is telling of an active discussion that's been going on with the state's Democrats in the event that U.S. Sen. Frank Lautenberg should retire before his term ends in 2014. Lautenberg will turn 86 in early 2010.

With Republican Chris Christie to be sworn in as governor on January 19, 2010, New Jersey's Democrats could lose one of their senators and shift the balance of power in the U.S. Senate, denying the Democrats a 60-vote majority against a filibuster.

With time running out, some prominent state Democrats are talking of a scheme that would have Democratic Governor Jon Corzine resign to be replaced by Senate President Richard Codey, at which point

Lautenberg would resign, and Codey would name Corzine as his replacement.

We just re-elected Peter Barnes and Patrick Diegnan to represent 'We The People,' not the Democratic Party. Let's demand that they, along with our State Senator Barbara Buono, not be party to such shenanigans.

KEVIN (THE ELDER) O'BRIEN

Dear Editor,

I have lived in this town for over 26 years and I have to admit it's not the prettiest town around. Especially between September and early November, it has to be one of the most polluted towns in the area. You guessed it, it's those political signs. They add to the pollution of the town and it gets very embarrassing after a while.

During the last campaign I asked one of the Democratic councilmen about getting rid of the signs. He told me he and the mayor did not like the signs but their "leadership" insisted on them. To Mr. Diegnan, please do not pollute South Plainfield anymore. Use the \$5,000 you paid for the signs and donate that money to the food pantry in town. This would help all those people who are struggling to get a meal because their taxes are too high in New Jersey. Try reducing the size of government which will lead to lower taxes. Stop worrying about putting a "NJ" on a football helmet and start cutting our taxes. You want the job, now do something!

I would like to see the mayor and council institute an ordinance that says political signs can be no larger than 18x24 inches and can be no closer than 1,000 feet of each other. Limit the number of signs and the time they can be posted. Stop polluting South Plainfield.

NORM LOENSER

### 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: spobsobserver@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.

### To the Editor:

I am writing in response to Mr. Fryszczyn's letter regarding middle and high school coaches' salaries which appeared in last week's *Observer*.

While he was a student at South Plainfield High School, my son had caring, dedicated coaches: Mr. Fish, Mr. Fonti, Miss Dabrio and Mr. Fech. Whatever they earned as a stipend couldn't begin to cover the hours of work they put in as coaches.

I realize that economic times are tough, but I hope we never reach the point in South Plainfield where we put money before our children's needs. Academics do come first, but for the many students, the motivation and discipline they learn as athletes benefit them in the classroom. In a time when fitness and obesity are growing problems, student athletes are learning the lifelong benefits of being physically active.

Finally the lessons my son learned "on the field" went far beyond the rules of the game. Rather than seeing the coaches' salaries as a burden, I see them as an investment in the well-being of our children, and I am thankful that these men and women are willing to give of their time, expertise and dedication.

SUSAN C. BARRY

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1110 Hamilton Boulevard, Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080  
Ph: 908-668-0010 • Fax: 908-668-8819  
Email: spobsobserver@comcast.net  
www.spobsobserver.com

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Associate Publisher..... Wayne Grennier  
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Staff Writer..... Libby Barksy

Editorial Assistants..... Jane Dornick, Jean Fultz  
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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.**

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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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-Sushiela Kumar, South Plainfield

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## Affordable Housing Unit Available

The Borough of South Plainfield Affordable Housing Department is accepting rental applications for a three bedroom moderate income apartment. The apartment currently available is at The Highlands of South Plainfield.

Interested households will be required to submit an application and income documentation. The maximum income permitted is \$72,072 for a three person household, \$80,080 for a four person household, \$86,868 for a five person household and \$92,893 for a six person household.

Once certified, households will be required to agree to maintain the units as the family's primary residence.

Applications are available at the South Plainfield Library and the South Plainfield Municipal Building located at 2480 Plainfield Ave. from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Applications can also be requested via mail by calling the South Plainfield Affordable Housing Department at (908) 753-3775.

Applications will be accepted until December 14. There is a \$25 filing fee.



Mayor Charles Butrico presents proclamation to Todd Cohen.

## Mayor Butrico Declares November Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month

The South Plainfield Borough Council and Mayor Charles Butrico declared November as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month with a proclamation read at the council meeting on November 23.

Butrico gave the proclamation to Todd Cohen, a volunteer from the New Jersey Affiliate of the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network—an organization dedicated to advancing research, supporting patients and creating hope for those affected by the disease.

Pancreatic cancer is the fourth leading cause of cancer death in the United States. The five year survival rate is only five percent. The disease is projected to take the lives of over 35,000 people this year and an estimated 42,470 people will be diagnosed with the disease in 2009.

"Since there's no early detection method for pancreatic cancer, people have to overcome tremendous odds to beat this," said Cohen, a resident of Middlesex County who lost his father, Richard, to the disease in 2002. "By raising awareness, the opportunity is there to increase funding for research into early detection methods and effective treatment options to give people a chance to beat this dreadful killer."

For more information about the organization, log on to [www.pan-can.org](http://www.pan-can.org).

## Council Tables Resolution to Allow Development of 708 Units

The Borough Council agreed to table a resolution executing an agreement allowing a developer to build a maximum of 708 apartment units, 156 of which are low income housing, on New Brunswick Avenue. Mayor Charles Butrico stated at the November 23 meeting that this would be the final step in order for the borough to receive its Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) certification and meet the state requirements. Tyler Properties LLC owns the 86.54 acres next to Harris Steel near the Piscataway border where the proposed complex will be located.

Councilman Ray Rusnak, along with several members of the public, expressed their discontent with such a large influx of new residents citing an increase in taxes to cover the cost of new schools and road repair and exacerbating traffic problems. Rusnak said we should "slow down" and "not rush" into a builder contract although there have been prior ordinances passed over the last year to accommodate the project.

Since participation in COAH is voluntary, Butrico feels that the borough needs to "protect itself as in order to have a say where low income housing is designated since this is a state-mandated program. If we do not cooperate then he said a developer will have the authority to override our zoning ability and build where they want."

Members of the public asked the council to wait and see what Governor-Elect Chris Christie will do with COAH as he has stated during his campaign that he will "gut the program and put it to an end" as it costs taxpayers too much money.

Councilwoman Chrissy Bureas suggested to Borough Attorney Patrick Bradshaw that a clause be included in the resolution stating that

this was enacted solely to meet COAH requirements. Bradshaw agreed to look into the validity of such a clause and a vote on the resolution was postponed until the next meeting on Monday, Dec. 7. According to Butrico the state requires that all necessary paperwork be completed by Saturday, Dec. 12.

COAH was created by the Fair Housing Act of 1985 as the State Legislature's response to a series of New Jersey Supreme Court cases known as the *Mount Laurel* decisions. The Supreme Court established a constitutional obligation for each of the 566 municipalities in the state to establish a realistic opportunity for the provision of fair share low and moderate income housing obligations.

South Plainfield has to complete a total of 299 units to meet COAH requirements which are based upon the size of the town, industry and amount of open space according to Butrico. There are low income units already in complexes such as The Highlands, Woodland Manor and Celebrations, which has yet to be developed on the former Tingley Rubber Company site, which account for a portion of the borough's affordable housing requirement. Even if the units are never built, the borough has still met its legal obligation by designating such sites.

## Holiday Giving For Needy Pets

The Plainfield Animal Hospital is collecting pet food donations to be distributed to needy pets for the holiday season. Please bring canned or dry pet foods to the drop off box at the animal hospital, 2215 Park Ave. from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sundays.

Monetary donations will also be gratefully accepted and used to purchase pet food for those in need.

Thank you for your generosity and may you have happy and healthy holidays.

For information or directions to the hospital, please call (908) 755-2428.

## Sacred Heart Church

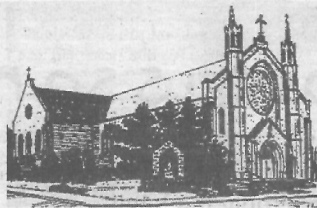
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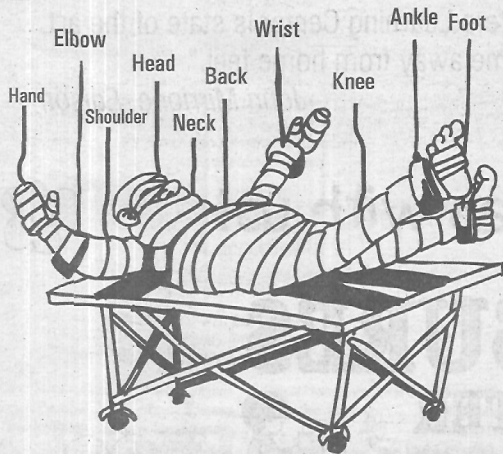
Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday 9:30, 11:30 a.m.  
Weekdays Mon. 7 p.m., Tues. 9 a.m., Wed. 9 a.m., Thurs. 7 p.m., Fri. 9 a.m.

Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.  
Holy Days 7 p.m. (Vigil); 9 a.m., 12 p.m.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation** - Saturday 10-11 a.m., 4-4:45 p.m. and after 5 p.m. Vigil Mass



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## Fire Dept. Annual Project Santa Returns

It is that time of year again, when Santa travels around town by fire truck, visiting the children and helping to raise money for the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department.

Imagine the delight of children as Santa Claus arrives at their homes on a fire truck with lights and sirens playing Christmas carols.

The special visit from Santa requires a \$25 donation from each family who would like Santa to deliver their presents by fire truck.

All you have to do is download a form from the fire department's Web site, fill it out and bring it to the fire department, along with a small, inexpensive gift and a check made out to SPVFD. To obtain the form, visit [www.southplainfieldfire.com](http://www.southplainfieldfire.com). Scroll down to "Project Santa" and click on the PDF below the Santa to download the form. Please write the child's name and address in big letters on the package. Then just sit back and relax; the rest is up to us.

Drop off gifts at the firehouse on one of the following dates: Friday, Dec. 4, 6-9 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 6, 1-4 p.m. or Tuesday, Dec. 8, 6-9 p.m.

Packages brought in after December 8 will be charged \$50 extra. Families must reside within the Borough of South Plainfield.

Santa will be delivering to various school districts between Monday, Dec. 14 and Thursday, Dec. 17 between 6 and 9 p.m. The delivery schedule will be announced at a later date.

Santa's hotline is (908) 412-8868. Please leave a message and we will get back to you ASAP.



South Plainfield students, with the support of Guidance Counselor Eileen Boettger, Student Council Advisor Tony Encinas, Debbie Boyle and the Boyle Memorial Foundation and all seven schools, teachers, staff and students donated food to six less fortunate families in South Plainfield. Additional food, along with turkeys donated by Steve Bohn, were distributed by 2009 graduate Eric White to social services in town.

## Board of Ed Announces Public Hearing on Contracts

The South Plainfield Board of Education will conduct a public hearing to discuss and/or modify contract terms and conditions for non-affiliated employees pursuant to P.L. 2007, c.53. The hearing will take place during the regular public meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the Roosevelt Administration gymnasium.

Members of the public are invited

to submit public comments regarding the appointment of the Superintendent of Schools. The board will not publicly discuss personnel matters and will not respond to comments made by the public. The board will give all comments appropriate consideration.

Be aware that the subject of this hearing retains the right of privacy and shall retain all rights regarding defamation and slander according to the laws of New Jersey. The board will not be held liable for comments made by members of the public.

Formal action regarding amendments to the contract terms to the superintendent's contract will be taken at the regular meeting scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 16 at 7:30 p.m.

## Knights Collecting Coats And Blankets for the Needy

'Tis the season to be grateful for what we have and to reach out to those in need. When you are looking through your closets this holiday season and find coats and blankets that you no longer use, consider donating them. The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 is sponsoring its annual coat and blanket drive from Saturday, Nov. 21 through February 28, 2010.

The Knights will be collecting coats and blankets every Tuesday evening at the Knights of Columbus Hall located at 334 Hamilton Blvd. from 7:30 p.m. A collection bin will also be located inside Our Lady of Czestochowa Church on Hamilton Boulevard. At Sacred Heart Church you can find our big drop box in the parking lot.

If you are a member of another organization, a business owner or employee and find you can advocate for us at your next meeting or in your office and are successful in collecting a number of coats and blankets, we can

pick them up from you. To arrange for a pick up, call Greg Gaydos at (908) 731-5302.

This is our fourth year collecting coats and blankets in South Plainfield. The first year we collected about 100 coats. The second year that number increased to over 400 coats and 100 blankets. Last year we collected over 1,000 coats and blankets. This year we are hoping to do more.

Don't have a coat to donate but still looking to contribute? This year we will be accepting donations in order to purchase coats for this very special cause. Contact us at the phone number below for more details.

To arrange for us to pick up large donations, for more information on the coat and blanket drive, or to learn more about membership in the Knights of Columbus, please call Greg Gaydos at (908) 731-5302.

Submitted by Joe Scrudato

## McCriskin Hosting Annual Tree Lighting and Caroling Program

McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals will be hosting the annual tree lighting and caroling program on Saturday, Dec. 19 at 4:30 p.m. and they are asking the entire community to participate.

This marks the 25th year that McCriskin will light the 85 ft. tall tree on the lawn. The annual tree lighting is done in memory of the members of Task Force 3-502 101st Air-

borne Division who tragically died when their plane crashed in Ganter, New Foundland on December 12, 1985. They were on their way home from a tour of duty. It is also the second year for caroling.

Following the tree lighting, light refreshments will be served at the senior center.

Everyone is invited to help kick off this year's holiday season.

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# events

## Around Town

### Family Shopping Night at Kennedy

December 4

Kennedy Elementary School will be holding their annual family shopping night on Friday, Dec. 4 from 6-8 p.m. This is a great opportunity to finish (or start!) your holiday shopping. Many affordable gifts available for the entire family. Holiday crafts for children, fresh baked goods, hot chocolate and holiday themed raffle baskets.

For more information, call Susan at (908) 705-1032.

### Blackrose to Perform

December 5

Blackrose, the band, performing classic rock and roll music and today's hits, will be at Tim Kerwin's Pub, Rt. 28 in Middlesex on Saturday, Dec. 5 at 10 p.m. No cover charge.

### Sacred Heart School Open House

December 6

Sacred Heart School will hold an open house on Sunday, Dec. 6 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Check out our ad in the *Observer* on page 11. Come join us for coffee and refreshments and learn more about Sacred Heart School.

### Historical Society Meeting

December 8

The South Plainfield Historical Society will hold its December meeting

at Sherban's Diner on Tuesday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m.

Nomination of officers for the new year will be accepted at this meeting. New officers will be installed at the January meeting. New members are gladly welcomed. Come and join us, and learn the history of your town.

### Grant School Cash For Gold Fundraiser

December 8

Trade in your unwanted jewelry for some holiday cash on Tuesday, Dec. 8, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Grant School. Proceeds benefit the Grant School 2010 Stokes Trip.

### Franklin School Vendor Night

December 8

Franklin School will be hosting a vendor night on Tuesday, Dec. 8, from 6 to 8 p.m. Looking for that perfect holiday gift? Join us for a night of shopping. Tables are \$20.

For information, call Sue Aleksandrowicz at (908) 797-6218.

### Elks Hoop Shoot Contest

December 11

The Elks will hold their annual Hoop Shoot contest on Friday, Dec. 11 at Riley School. The contest is open to boys and girls ages eight-13. Registration begins at 6 p.m. Proof of age is required.

For more information, call Bill Reuter at (908) 791-1214.

### Knights of Columbus Breakfast with Santa

December 12

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus will be holding their annual Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 12 from 9 a.m. to noon at the hall located at 334 Hamilton Blvd. The price for the breakfast (which includes eggs, bacon, French toast, pancakes and much, much more) will be adults \$5, children \$3, or \$15 for a family of four or more. Seats are limited.

For more information or to make reservations, please call Tom Berry at (908) 531-0428.

### SPBA Annual Holiday Blood Drive

December 12

The South Plainfield Business Association will sponsor its second annual holiday blood drive on Saturday, Dec. 12 from 9:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. in the court room of the municipal building, 2480 Plainfield Ave.

Walk-ins are welcome. Donors will receive sandwiches, snacks and a Chick fil-a coupon, located in the Woodbridge Mall. Raffles throughout the day.

For more information, contact Jared Tamasco of the New Jersey Blood Services at (732) 220-7109 or Carl Adlassnig at (908) 757-1933

### Cultural Arts Presents It's A Wonderful Life

December 13

The South Plainfield Cultural Arts

### SENIOR CENTER Calendar

#### Coming Up....

Dec. 14 - Hunterdon Hills Christmas Show, \$70 pp  
Dec 20 - Christmas Luncheon 12:30pm

#### MONDAYS

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

#### TUESDAYS

Bingo ..... 10 am-2 pm  
Ladies Group ..... 10 am

Call (908) 754-1047 for more info or visit [www.southplainfieldnj.com/SeniorCenter](http://www.southplainfieldnj.com/SeniorCenter)  
2009 dues are due-\$10 membership

#### WEDNESDAYS

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

#### THURSDAYS

Shopping Trip ..... 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, computer classes, exercise, art, Tai Chi, yoga and crafts. Lunch Served Monday-Friday.

Senior Center is open daily 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Closed Saturdays and Sundays

Commission presents, "It's A Wonderful Life," the radio play, at the Edison Valley Playhouse, 2196 Oak Tree Rd. in Edison on Sunday, Dec. 13 at 2 p.m. Light refreshments; admission is free, reservations required.

For information or to reserve tickets, call Pam at (908) 754-2381. Reservations on a first come, first served basis.

### McCriskin Tree Lighting, Caroling

December 19

McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals will be hosting its annual tree lighting and caroling program on Saturday, Dec. 19 at 4:30 p.m.

The annual tree lighting is done in memory of the members of Task Force 3-502 101st Airborne Division who tragically died when their plane crashed

in Gander, New Foundland on December 12, 1985. They were on their way home from a tour of duty. It is also the second year for caroling.

Following the tree lighting, light refreshments will be served at the senior center. Everyone is invited.

### Sacred Heart New Year's Eve Gala

December 31

Come join us for a New Year's Eve celebration on Thursday, Dec. 31 from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. in the Sacred Heart cafeteria. Cost of \$50 per person includes a hot buffet, setups, dessert, coffee and champagne. Party hats, noise makers and streamers will be provided. Bring your own choice of party beverage (BYOB) and snacks for your table. DJ music for dancing

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Prices and payments include all costs to be paid by a consumer except lic, reg, taxes and fees. Pictures are illustrative only. Not responsible for typos. This offer cannot be combined with any other offers. \*Up to 72 mos, on select models, to qual buyers w/ approved credit. \*\*On select 2010 VW models. To qual buyers. Excludes title, taxes, options & dealer fees. \*\*Leases are 39 months w/ 12k mi/yr, c20 thereafter (c25 on '10 CC Sport/'10 Tiguan S) Lessee responsible for excess wear and tear. ('10 Golf - \$0 Cap Cost, \$0 1st mo pymnt, \$0 Bank Fee, \$0 Sec. Deposit = \$0 Ttl due at Signing. Ttl Pymnts/Ttl Cost \$10,101 Residual \$9786.45), ('10 CC Sport = \$0 Cap Cost, \$0 1st mo pymnt, \$0 Bank Fee, \$0 Sec. Deposit = \$0 Ttl due at Signing. Ttl Pymnts/Ttl Cost \$12,831. Residual \$14,853), ('10 Jetta Se - \$0 Cap Cost, \$0 1st mo pymnt, \$0 Bank Fee, \$0 Sec. Deposit = \$0 Ttl due at Signing. Ttl Pymnts/Ttl Cost \$11,661. Residual \$13,923) See dlr for details. Offer ends 1/4/10.

# events

## Around Town

provided by "Heat Wave." Champagne toast at midnight.

RSVP by Sunday, Dec. 20. Seating of 10 at tables—reserve early! For tickets, call Fran Schulte at (732) 287-4768 or Lisa at (908) 756-0633, ext. 10.

### — Out of Town —

#### Justice, Tough Love & Politics in Hebrew Bible

December 4

The I.L. Peretz Secular Jewish Community is pleased to announce its upcoming monthly educational program, "Justice, Tough Love, and Politics in the Hebrew Bible" on Friday, Dec. 4 at 8 p.m. at the Reformed Church of Highland Park on 19-21 2nd Ave. in Highland Park. The public is invited; fee is \$5 for non-members.

For more information about the presentation, call (732) 545-9691 or E-mail info@ilperetz.org.

#### Wine Tasting at Liberty Village Outlets

December 5

The Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce will be holding a holiday wine tasting event on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 1 to 5 p.m. at Liberty Village Premium Outlets in Flemington. Over 20 distributors present; a portion of the proceeds will benefit the Flemington Food Pantry.

Tickets are \$30 for chamber members and \$40 for general admission. For

more information or to register, call (908) 782-7115 or visit [www.hunterdon-chamber.org](http://www.hunterdon-chamber.org).

#### Singles "Dress Down" Dance Party

December 5

Steppin' Out Singles, will hold a dress down dance—near jeans—on Saturday, Dec. 5 at 8:30 p.m. at the Woodbridge Hilton, 120 Wood Ave. South in Iselin. Ages 40 and up. Jeans OK tonite, admissions is \$15.

The 24 hour hotline is (732) 656-1801.

#### NAMI-Middlesex Support Discussion

December 7

NAMI-Middlesex, an affiliate of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, is holding an informal discussion and speaker series entitled, "Mandatory Outpatient Legislation: What You Should Know!" on Monday, Dec. 7 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at University Behavioral HealthCare, 671 Hoes Lane, Room D201 in Piscataway. Everyone is welcome to attend.

For more information, call (732) 745-0709.

#### Depression/Bipolar Support Meeting

December 9

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance monthly educational meeting will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 9 at

7:45 p.m. using the facilities of the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, 21 Normandy Heights Road in Morristown. Public is invited; nominal donation is requested from non-members.

For further local information, call (973) 994-1143.

#### Holiday Jamboree at Forum Theatre

December 10-13, 29-30

Winnie the Pooh & Friends Holiday Jamboree will be presented at Forum Theatre, 314 Main St. in Metuchen on Thursday and Friday, Dec. 10 and 11 at 10 a.m., Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 12 and 13 at 11 a.m. And Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 29 and 30 at 10 a.m. Tickets are \$14.

For more information or tickets, call (732) 548-5600 or visit [www.forumtheatrearts.org](http://www.forumtheatrearts.org).

#### Christmas Canata

December 12

Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church, 888 Stuyvesant Ave. in Union, presents a Christmas canata, "Comfort and Joy," featuring the choir of the church on Saturday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. Includes the musical, carol singing and a candlelit service. Free.

For more info, call (908) 688-3164.

#### Send Your Events to:

Email: [spobservers@comcast.net](mailto:spobservers@comcast.net)

For information on how to submit your event, visit our Web site at [www.spobservers.com](http://www.spobservers.com)

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Sacred Heart School student council members.

## McCriskin/Sacred Heart Collect Coats/Sweatshirts for Needy

McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals, along with the members of the Sacred Heart School student council, held their annual "Help Keep our Kids Warm" coat and sweatshirt drive on November 21.

This year's event, where over 75 jackets and 50 sweatshirts were donated, was held outside of the main entrance of the funeral home. Members of the Sacred Heart Student Council assisted the many South Plainfield residents who participated in the program by

receiving the donated items.

Marge Ackerman, director of social services, will be distributing the donated sweatshirts and jackets to under privileged children in the borough for this upcoming winter season.

For more information, contact Ackerman at (908) 226-7623

Both the funeral home as well as the Sacred Heart Student Council would like to recognize and thank everyone for their participation in this year's clothing program.

In an effort to stimulate the local economy, we're rolling back prices for new and existing customers. Call for our reduced rates or to schedule an appointment!

Come in & enjoy **Wow! \$14** & ALL OUR NEWLY REDUCED PRICES

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Preview at 9 a.m.

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Through December 31, 2009, a portion of my purchases will be donated to each of the following groups:  
The South Plainfield Girl Scouts, Autism Speaks, and the Michael Pepe, Jr. Foundation.

LIFE MEMBER: American Numismatic Association, Garden State Numismatic Association, Watchung Hills Coin Club (original member).  
MEMBER: Early American Coppers Club, Numismatic Literary Guild, New Jersey Numismatic Society

## Coalition of Cultural Diversity Essay Contest

The South Plainfield Coalition for Cultural Diversity will be holding its annual Festival of Cultures and tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday, Jan. 18 at Riley Elementary School. The Coalition is asking for young people, ages 12-14, to participate in the festival by entering an essay contest.

The contest will deal with the following theme:

Tell us what you would do to create a more harmonious, friendly and welcoming community. Would you make any changes? What would they be? What kinds of projects would you create?

Essays must be no more than 300 words, typed and double-spaced, and will be judged on content, creativity, spelling and grammar. All essays must include a separate sheet of paper with the student's name, address, age and phone number. Winning essays will be read by the students at the festival in January.

Essays should be sent to: The South Plainfield Coalition for Cultural Diversity, P.O. Box 894, South Plainfield, N.J. 07080 and postmarked by Monday, Dec. 21.



First and second grade Roosevelt School students and invited veterans attend the tree dedication ceremonies of the Veteran's Tree on November 20. Brian Mazellan, the parent of a first grade student, donated the tree after attending the Veterans Day services at Roosevelt on November 2.

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## First Operation Medicine Cabinet Collects Over 9,000 Pounds of Over-the-Counter Medicine

Gerard P. McAleer, special agent in charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) New Jersey Division, and Angelo M. Valente, executive director of the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey (PDFNJ), announced that over 9,000 pounds of medicine, with a street value of over \$35M, was collected during Operation Medicine Cabinet New Jersey, the first in the nation statewide day of disposal of unused, unwanted, and expired medicine. The statewide effort was spearheaded by the DEA NJ Division, the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General (OAG), and the PDFNJ, with partnership and support by many other local and statewide prevention and enforcement organizations.

Over 440 local police departments and sheriff departments, in all of New Jersey's 21 counties, hosted collection sites, where New Jersey residents came out in force to support Operation Medicine Cabinet and rid their homes of unused, unwanted, and expired medicines on November 14, clearing their homes of over 9,000 pounds of prescription and over-the-counter medicine.

"I wish to thank the residents of South Plainfield who participated in this program. Their efforts made this a

great success. We collected two large plastic bags of assorted medications. I am pleased that we contributed to the 9,000 pounds collected statewide," commented Police Chief John Ferraro.

McAleer stated, "This initiative reduced the availability of prescription drugs that could have been abused by our family members and friends. Approximately 3 1/2 million pills have been voluntarily discarded and properly disposed, with the assistance of community members, law enforcement agencies, and prevention and treatment organizations throughout the state."

"Operation Medicine Cabinet New Jersey accomplished two main goals: first and foremost, it generated unprecedented attention to the issue of prescription and over-the-counter medicine abuse, and secondly, it caused tens of thousands of New Jersey residents to look at their medicine cabinets as a potential source for young people to access highly addictive and deadly drugs," said Valente.

Based on the overwhelming response and success, the program organizers are currently planning on expanding this program to other states throughout the country.

## SPBA Sponsoring Annual Holiday Blood Drive

The South Plainfield Business Association will be sponsoring its second annual holiday blood drive on Saturday, Dec. 12 from 9:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. in the court room of the municipal building, 2480 Plainfield Ave.

Walk-ins are welcome. All donors will receive sandwiches, snacks and a free Chick fil-a sandwich coupon, located in the Woodbridge Mall. Gifts from members of the SPBA will be raffled off throughout the day.

If you would like to make an advanced appointment, call 1-800-933-2566 or go to [www.nybloodcenter.org](http://www.nybloodcenter.org).

For more information on the blood drive, please contact Jared Tamasco of the New Jersey Blood Services at (732) 220-7109 or Carl Adlansnig at (908) 757-1933.

For more information on the SPBA, please contact Debra Anne Leporino, SPBA president, at (908) 754-6914.

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## Volunteering Enriches Life for Audrey and Ken Reisch

Ken and Audrey Reisch are retired, but they have very little "free time." They have set themselves up with a busy schedule where practically every day is spent volunteering with children or adults in schools, nursing homes or senior centers.

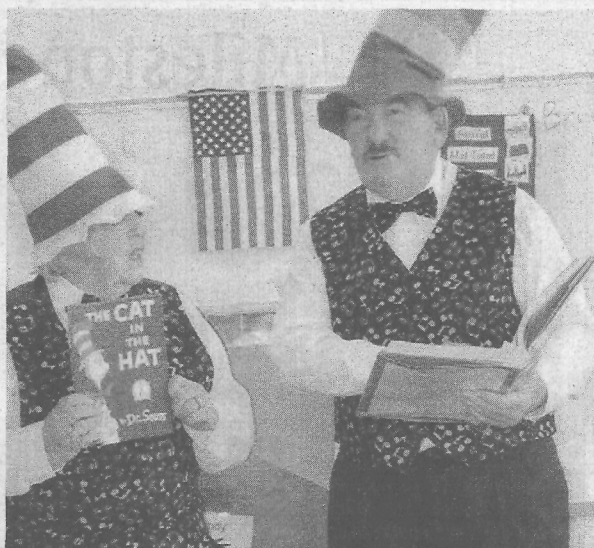
Monday evenings Ken has a conversation group with foreign students to explore the interpretation of idioms to help these highly educated students interpret American "English" while Audrey teaches English as a Second Language at the Westerguard Library in Piscataway.

On Tuesdays, they read to children at the Grandview School in first and second grades in Piscataway.

On Wednesdays they dress in costume, read stories and sing to children with cerebral palsy at the Lakeview School in Metuchen. Last year during activities for Dr. Seuss Birthday, they also read to those students.

On Thursdays the Reischs join the Silver Tones Singers and perform at either the VA hospital, senior center or at nursing homes.

On Friday afternoons they are involved in helping fifth graders write books about themselves in the Reading Buddies program. They meet at the Piscataway Senior Center or Kennedy Library.



Audrey and Ken "The Two-badours" Reisch read and sing at Lakeview School to children with cerebral palsy.

Ken is also on the Board of the Literacy Programs of New Jersey and was recently involved with a big gala for the program at the Heldrich Hotel in New Brunswick.

Both Ken and Audrey are also members of the South Plainfield Cultural Arts Committee. Ken noted that

last year Cultural Arts hosted a big 25th anniversary celebration and also put on a talent show. It was so successful, Cultural Arts is planning another talent show here in March.

And they are open to volunteer at new programs as well.

"People get in touch with us and if

it sounds good, we'll see what it's about," said Ken.

They will participate in the Salvation Army sponsored Amici program, where they will be in New Brunswick mentoring children whose parents are incarcerated.

Ken believes volunteering really enriches everyone's lives. "People can find the time. Look what we've accomplished. It's not a 9-5 job—it's different days. It's a break in the day to do something good," he explained.

Volunteering started for the Reischs while they were living in Westbury, N.Y. when Ken was still working and Audrey was tutoring from home.

Their home seemed empty once their three children married and moved away. They heard about the Long Island University's program of placing foreign exchange students in private homes while they were attending college, and applied.

"Sometimes we had three students at a time, sometimes one or two. They stayed six months to a year and then went back. We still correspond with them and they come back to visit.

"We were in the program for 10 years and during that time 117 students from around the world lived with us," said Ken.

After 9/11 the number of foreign

students allowed visas to study in this country was severely limited and the program ended for the Reischs.

"My son, who lives in Metuchen with three children, urged us to sell our house and move closer to him. He said he was spending more time traveling to see us than he was spending with us." The Reischs have three children and six grandchildren.

"We took my son's advice, sold the house and moved to South Plainfield," said Ken. "It's been a good move. We are accomplishing so much! So many people retire and don't know what to do. For us, we found volunteering is great! Our goal is to inspire people by our example. Our motto is, 'it feels good giving back.'"

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## southplainfieldpeople Milestones



Troy Kurilew is joined by the scouts, leaders and others who assisted him with the painting of Fellowship Hall and the hallway at Pilgrim Covenant Church for his Eagle Scout project this past September. Pictured (L-R) are William Walsh, Brian McCarthy, John McCarthy, Brandon Pauls, Troy Kurilew, James Conrad, Jeff Pauls, Jorgen Holtermann, Eric Holtermann and Erica Holtermann.

### Pornovets Selected to Ride at Equine Affaire

Alexis Pornovets was one of the few picked by Olympic Equestrian Champion Bruce Davidson, Sr. to ride at the Equine Affaire in Springfield, Mass. after submitting a descriptive summary and video on her horse, Taylor Made. They participated in

demonstrating "How to Produce an Event Horse," which included dressage, show jumping and cross country.

Alexis currently rides at Haderway Stables in Kingston with trainer Tracy Wagner.



Alexis Pornovets on her horse, Taylor Made.

### Jennifer Butrico and Michael Babin to Wed

Frank and Ann Marie Butrico of South Plainfield are excited to announce the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer Butrico, to Michael Babin, son of Crystal Babin and Angelo Vicari of Shelton, Conn.

The bride-to-be is a 2002 graduate of South Plainfield High School and a 2006 graduate of Seton Hall University with a BS in business administration. She is employed by Jones Apparel Group in New York City.

Her fiancé, Michael, is a 2002 graduate of Shelton High School in Connecticut. He is a 2006 graduate of Seton Hall University with a BA in



communications. He is employed by Enterprise Rent-A-Car in Freehold.

The couple plans to be married in the Spring of 2011.

### Michael Robert Cupo Completes Basic Training

Mr. and Mrs. Michael E. Cupo are pleased to announce their son, Michael Robert, has graduated from basic training with the United States Army at Fort Knox, Ky. Michael will now attend AIT School at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri for training as a heavy equipment operator.

The Cupo Family is proud of Michael's accomplishments and his dedication to serving his country.

*Seasons Greetings*

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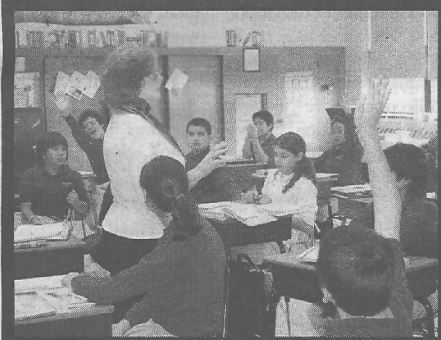
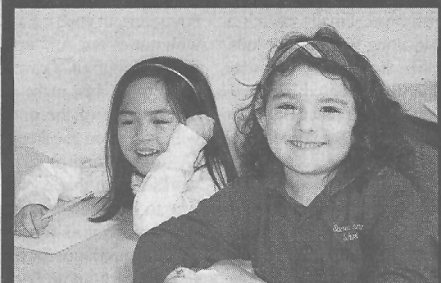
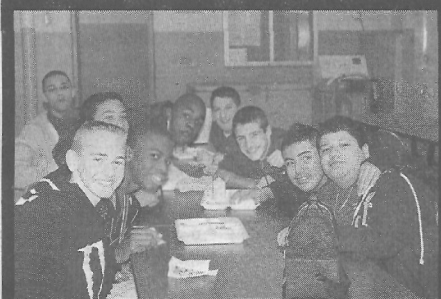
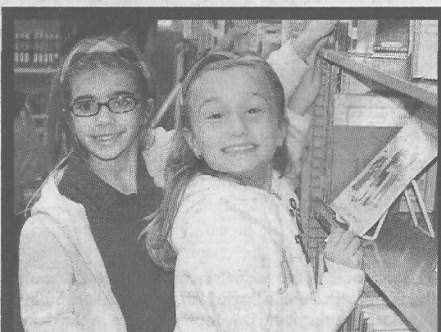
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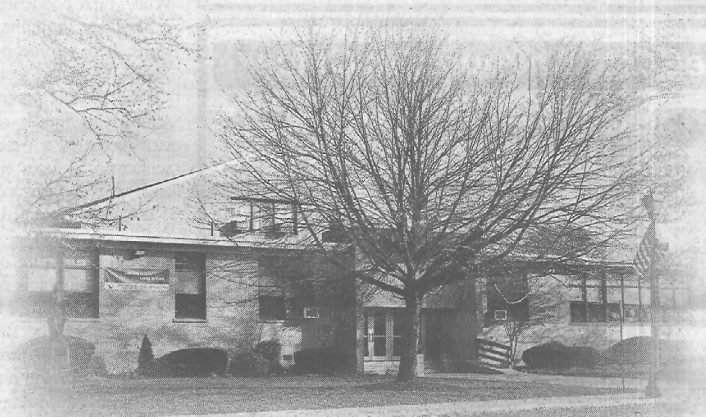
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## SPHS Grads Form Alumni Association

Members of the South Plainfield Education Foundation have formed an alumni association and are seeking information on all graduates of South Plainfield High School. They will be sending out newsletters and intend to publish a book next year with graduates names and addresses.

The proceeds of the book sales will go to pay for the annual SPHS Hall of Fame luncheon and plaques honoring former achieving alumni. The Foundation and the Boyle Memorial Foundation have been covering the cost for the past couple of years. To date they have raised \$788 during a canning event in October to help produce the book.

If you are a former graduate of the high school and are interested in participating in the South Plainfield High



Education Foundation members (L-R) Debra Anne Leporino and Marge and Mike Reedy, along with Debbie Boyle (not pictured) sold 50/50 raffle tickets at the high school Thanksgiving Day football game in North Plainfield. They were also soliciting graduate's names for the alumni association.

School Alumni Association E-mail, to vision2001.org for further information.  
sphsalumni@yahoo.com or log on

From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

*Hmm... What size shirt does he take? Which book in that series has she not read yet? Which ones are the popular toys the kids want? What's the credit limit on my charge cards? While you're pondering all those typical holiday shopping season questions, here's some news from the South Plainfield Library.*

Don't forget about the financial seminar on Sunday afternoon at 2. Conducted by a Wells Fargo representative, it'll focus on home equity and the financial concerns of retirees. This is being presented free; pre-registration is required.

We'll have our usual slate of children's programs next week. The "Monday Morning Movie" for preschoolers will be shown Monday morning at 10:30. Storytime for children ages four and over will be held on Tuesday morning at 10:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. "Time for 2's & 3's" for children age two and three, will be held on Wednesday and Thursday at 10:30. And "Baby Time," for children age two and under, will be held on Friday morning at 10:30. There's also the special winter

"Kidcraft" program on Monday evening at 6:30. Space is limited for this program, so you must pre-register. There's a \$1 materials fee, payable upon registration. Finally, there's a holiday sing-along program for kids, featuring Mr. Kurt, on Wednesday evening at 6:30. Be advised: This program will be held just down the street at the senior center. For more information, please call and ask for Miss Linda or Miss Mija.

The next meeting of the Library Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday evening at 7. Members of the public are encouraged to attend and get the latest news on the library's current and future plans. There will be a public comment time early in the meeting.

Here's a quick reminder about the charity collections we're currently hosting. There are collection boxes for American Britney Rescue (a rescue effort for homeless dogs) and the Lion's Club (collecting eyeglasses, hearing aids and related accessories for the needy), as well as a collection bin for the ongoing Middlesex County Community Food Drive. We're also still accepting donations for Books to Keep, which brings new books to

needy children throughout the area. We hope you'll be able to contribute to these worthy efforts.

And we've got room for one more reminder: if you're having trouble with one of our A/V items, don't try to fix it yourself. Leave that sort of thing to us. Just make a note of the exact nature of the problem, along with where on the item it occurred. (A time reading or chapter number works best in that regard.) Then, be sure to let us know about the problem before you return the item. Thanks in advance for this.

That's all for now. For more details, please call (908) 754-7885 or visit [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us). See you next time. Now, where were we?

*What's this store's return policy? Are gift certificates available? What happened to all the parking spaces? Can I get this gift-wrapped?*

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Mayor Charles Butrico (right) presented certificates to the newest class of CERT members. New CERT members are: Matthew Anesh, Shawn Ferguson, Gregory Gaydos, Barbara Gillen, Michael Gillen, Charles Merryman, Eric Myers, Fred Noel, Sharon Padula, Clifford Perrino and Deryck White. Not pictured is Emergency Management Coordinator Mike Zushma, who teaches the CERT class.

## Donations Sought for "Shirley Thompson's Christmas"

For the past six years, Shirley Thompson has helped provide Christmas presents to children in need in South Plainfield, along with hot Christmas dinners for them and their families. Dinners are also delivered to senior citizens who normally receive Meals on Wheels, which does not deliver on Christmas day.

All gifts and food for the hot din-

ners are purchased through donations received from local businesses, friends, family and neighbors. Volunteers are also sought to help deliver the presents before Christmas, and deliver Christmas dinner.

This year Shirley expects the needs to be greater than in past years, and is asking for the community's assistance in donating any of the following

items: Children's and teenagers' size clothing, pajamas, hats, gloves and scarves, socks, purses for teenagers, games, puzzles or coloring books. All items should be new and unwrapped; they should be age appropriate for children in elementary through high school. She is also accepting donations of non-perishable food items, gift cards and other items needed to prepare the hot dinner for Christmas day.

"If you already participate in a holiday fund drive, please continue to do so. I am not looking to take the place of something you already do," said Thompson. "If you are a local business and would like to hold a toy, clothing or non-perishable food drive, or if anyone has any questions, contact me at (908) 756-7686."

All donated items should be dropped off by Thursday, Dec. 10 at 131 Montrose Ave. Be sure to put your name on the package.

standing warrant.

• On Nov. 19 Mark L. Dominguez, 45, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.

• On Nov. 22 Natasha Johnson, 36, of Piscataway was arrested for driving while intoxicated, careless driving, driving on a suspended license, refusal to consent to breath testing and possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle.

## police report

On Nov. 17 an employee of Verizon on Hadley Road reported losing his wallet at work. The wallet was found in the parking lot, however \$190 in cash was taken.

• On Nov. 18 Kevin Hill, 38, of Edison was arrested for no insurance, driving on a suspended license, failure to maintain lamps and three outstanding warrants.

• Earl A. St. Louis, 32, of Plainfield was arrested for speeding and an out-

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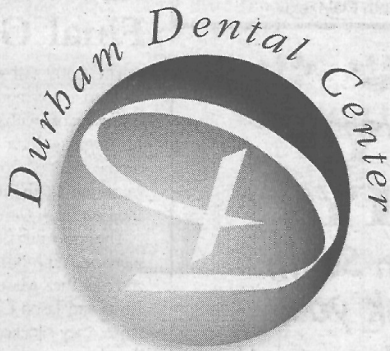
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# Sports

## SOCCER CLUB NEWS

By Dawn Hutchison

### Season Concludes on High Note

The fall season officially came to an end last weekend. The teams enjoyed a great run this fall. Congratulations to the Mustangs who won their flight championship at home on Sunday, Nov. 22 with a 2-1 victory. These boys had a tremendous season and should be very proud of the way they represented themselves and the club.

In addition, the U-13 girls team, the Strikerz, are co-flight champions. Great job on a fantastic season girls.

And to all of our teams, Sharks, Spartans, Wanderers, Thunder, Arsenal, Storm, Mustangs, Strikerz and Hammertime, we are very proud of each and everyone of you.

The board would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for a great season. To our coaches and their assistants, you have worked tirelessly with your teams, practicing, training and competing for several months. It is your dedication to the kids that make it all possible. We are glad to have you all.

To the players, you gave your all

on the fields, making your coaches and your families proud. You have all made this club stand out as you have maintained your cool out there and let your skills speak for you on the field. That shows what real sportsmen/women you all are.

Thanks to the parents for assistance in getting our snack stand manned, supporting our fundraisers, getting involved, and most importantly, for support of your children and their teams. It is a tremendous commitment with a traveling team and we all appreciate all that you do.

Although we are not on the fields, our club continues to work through the off season to prepare for the spring season. In just a few short months, we will be back out on the fields. We look forward to another super season and hope that more parents get involved with the many aspects of the club.

We wish you and yours a very healthy, happy and safe holiday season.

## U-12 MUSTANGS

By Rick Marcovecchio



U-12 Mustangs

### U-12 Mustangs Win Flight Championship

The U-12 boys soccer team won the flight championship on November 22 with a 2-1 win over the Highland Park Hawks. In a hard fought battle, the Mustangs avenged a 3-1 loss to Highland Park from the prior week to finish the season at 9-1.

The Mustangs started the game with sheer determination and attacked the opponent's goal throughout the first half. The aggressive play by the Mustangs proved to be too much for the Hawks when Nick Polizzano took the ball and shot into the right corner of

the goal, putting the Mustangs in the lead 1-0 at halftime.

In the second half, the Mustangs had many opportunities as the play stayed on the opponent's side of the field. The Mustangs went up 2-0 when Ryan Duhamel took a cross from the left and put a shot past a diving goalie.

The defense for the Mustangs was impenetrable, as they did an excellent job of guarding the Hawks' best player as he was limited to only one shot after scoring three goals against the Mustangs last week.

The Hawks made it interesting when they notched a goal with five minutes left, but the Mustangs held off their attack over the remaining minutes to win the game and the championship.

Throughout the year the Mustangs have been led by the defense of Christian Gonzalez, Nick Diffrancesco, Glenn O'Bryant and Matt Lind, as well as goalies Kyle Delpaoli and Matt Lind. Midfielders Gavin Castro, Jake Alba, Nick Polizzano, Brian Tse and Patrick Waldrop have helped keep the ball on the opponent's side of the field as the offense of Ryan Duhamel, Richard Marcovecchio, Nathan Mensah, Victor Ladino and Dillon Harris put pressure on the other opponent's goal.

Coaches Rick Marcovecchio, John Polizzano and Glenn O'Bryant could not have been more proud of the kids as their efforts at practices and games were admirable. The coaches wish to thank the parents as well as the South Plainfield Soccer Club for all their support on a very successful season.

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### U-11 ARSENAL By Chris Paez

### Arsenal Wins Final Game

The 2009 fall soccer season has come to a close and what a great way to finish it off, with a win. The boys U-11 traveling soccer team Arsenal took on the Pythons from Piscataway two weeks ago at the memorial turf field and beat them with a score of 1-0.

The entire first half of the game was scoreless. With Nicholas Plate in goal and Alec Paez, Mason Resende, Edwin Rivas and Jason Cieszkiewicz on defense, they blocked any chance that their opponent had of scoring a goal. Ryan Stankan, Ricky Pellegrino, Jake Giordano, Tyler Curtis and Caleb Kuberiet played a fantastic game in mid field, while Jason Belanger, Cristian Butrico, Scott Riccardi and Jake Smith went up against the defensive line while playing offense. The only goal of the game was scored by Jared Marks with 10 minutes left in the second half off an assist by Jake Hoffman.

Even though Arsenal was moved up one flight since last season, they finished off this season with a record of 5-3-2. The coaches are very proud of their hard work, effort and desire to win. Congratulations Arsenal and good luck in the spring!

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# Sports

## U-10 WANDERERS

By John Wizda



U-10 Wanderers

## U-10 Wanderers End First Season With Victory

The U-10 Wanderers wrapped up their inaugural season in a big way this past week by defeating the Woodbridge Tornados 4-1. They took an early lead in the first quarter when the ball trickled in for an easy goal.

In the second quarter forward Billy Keane was tripped and blasted a penalty shot that was deflected by the Tornados' dominating defense. The Wanderer offense put the pressure on, and with 30 seconds left in the half, forward Chelsea Alers executed a perfect pass to forward Brandon Wizda whose rocket of a shot tied the score, 1-1.

Digging in for a tough battle in the second half, the Wanderers sent in a tough defense anchored by Ben Sanko, Damani Nelson and Briana Noriega. Billy Keane took over in goal to help shut down the Woodbridge offense. As field conditions were wet and muddy, neither team could get things going; every attempt on both sides were stopped. Nick Farinella broke away with the ball and got a shot off, just missing wide. Brandon Wizda then scored the go ahead goal in the third quarter on a laser shot high up in the right corner of the net.

In the final quarter came another great effort from the defense-Joey Venitelli, Jackie Battista and Ben San-

ko. Goalie Billy Keane continued to clear the ball for forwards Eric Akpan and Mike Lapolla who each took accurate shots on goal to put on added pressure. The highlight of the fourth quarter and the game came when the Tornado goalkeeper punted the ball high and to mid field. Forward Brandon Wizda deflected the punt off his chest, trapped the ball and with no defenders around, dashed straight down field and slammed his third goal. The "Wiz Kid" would add another goal, his fourth of the game, late in the fourth quarter to seal the win.

Congratulations to the team on a great first season. Special thanks to trainer Clint, who helped improve skills on the field, and to parents who cheered us on all season long.

The 2009/10 Wanderers are: Goalie/Forward Billy Keane, Goalie/Forward Mike Lapolla, Goalie/Defense Damani Nelson. Also on defense are Ben Sanko, Joey Venitelli and Jackie Battista. The rest of the offense consisted of forwards Briana Noriega, Eric Akpan, Nick Farinella, Chelsea Alers and Brandon "Wiz Kid" Wizda. The Wanderers were led by Head Coach Bob Sanko and assistant coaches Blaze Lapolla, Dawn Farinella and John Wizda.



## JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

### General Meeting:

The next general meeting will be held on Monday, Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse. Come out and see what is going on.

**Spring Registration:** Final registration for the spring season will be held on Saturday, Dec. 5, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at

the clubhouse. Bring your child's birth certificate if they are new to the SPJBC. Registration forms can be downloaded from the Web site at [www.leaguelineup.com/spjbc](http://www.leaguelineup.com/spjbc). Once completed, mail to the address on the form. Late registrations received after December will incur a \$20 late fee. Timely registration is vital to identify team

needs and for a smooth season start.

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**Chateau Ste. Michelle Merlot 2005 Columbia Valley**  
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Firm in texture, with ripe currant and berry shaded by smoke, coffee and spice nuances as the finish lingers. Drink now through 2012. - Rated by the Wine Spectator.

**Provenance Sauvignon Blanc Rutherford 2008**  
750 ml  
**12.99**

Key lime, passion fruit, melon and nectarine flavors are ripe, juicy and fleshy, with great intensity, a vivid acidity and terrific focus and clarity. Drink now. - Rated by the Wine Spectator.

**Souverain Merlot 2006 Alexander Valley**  
750 ml  
**14.99**

Sleek and well-structured, with red currant and spice aromas and appealing black cherry, toasty sage and espresso flavors. The tannins firm up the finish. Drink now through 2014. - Rated by the Wine Spectator.

**Ruffino Toscana Modus 2006**  
750 ml  
**19.99**

Blackberry, violet and licorice aromas follow through to a full body, with silky tannins. This has sweet fruit, with toasty oak and citrus fruit on the finish. Sauvignon and Merlot. Best after 2010. - Rated by the Wine Spectator.

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## Library Participating in Books to Keep Program

During this holiday season, the South Plainfield Free Public Library is once again participating in the "Books to Keep" program.

The library is now collecting donations of new hardcover and paperback books for distribution to needy children and young adults throughout Middlesex County. Books to Keep is a project of the Libraries of Middlesex, a consortium of New Jersey public libraries, and the Middlesex County College Library.

Books to Keep was begun in 1990 to promote the joy of reading, en-

courage library use and foster pride in book ownership. Distribution of books will be done through area service clubs and social service agencies, including day care centers, soup kitchens, the Middlesex County Board of Social Services, Head Start programs and programs serving children with AIDS. Since its inception, well over 100,000 books have been distributed in cooperation with 30 different agencies and organizations throughout Middlesex County, with 10,000 distributed last year alone.

The South Plainfield Library has

participated in Books to Keep for many years. Senior Library Assistant Kenneth Morgan, who coordinates the program for South Plainfield, is very optimistic about the program. "Our patrons have always been very generous in donating to the program," he said. "I'm confident that they'll continue to give to this worthy cause."

New hardcover and paperback books suitable for children from preschool age through adolescence may be brought to the library through December 15. Monetary donations for the purchase of additional books are also being accepted. Donation envelopes are available at the library's circulation desk. Contributions may be made payable to Libraries of Middlesex and mailed to Leah Wagner, Monroe Township Public Library, 4 Municipal Plaza, Monroe Township, N.J. 08831, or they may be brought to the library.

For more information, call (908) 754-7885 or visit the library's Web site at [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us).



Soil is discharged from a conveyor belt after being treated in the Low Temperature Thermal Desorption Unit at the Cornell-Dubilier Electronics superfund site.

## Cleanup Moves to 24 Hour Operation

(Continued from page 1)

operations end around 4:15 p.m. each day, and will only take place during daylight hours going forward.

Concrete blocks surround the unit and are intended to keep the treated soil in a certain area so that there is no runoff should it rain or snow. Under the blocks, and on top of the asphalt, a plastic membrane is in place to catch any soil discharged from the unit after being treated. Treated soil is then rescreened and tested again. If the soil is acceptable, it will be used as backfill on the site; if it is deemed unacceptable, it is moved to another pile to await removal by dump truck.

Daily operations include the loading of dump trucks with the rejected soil that either does not meet specifications prior to being treated, or is rejected after treatment. Water trucks continually spray down the work area to keep dust and dirt from blowing away. As the full dump trucks are ready to leave the site, they are sprayed down with water, weighed and inspected to make sure the tarps holding the material down are secured. The soil is then transported to North Jersey where it is placed on rail cars and shipped to Michigan for incineration.

Areas that are backfilled with the treated soil are covered with nine

inches of stone and six inches of asphalt. This "cap" will remain in place forever. Mannino reiterated that the entire soil treatment process remains on schedule to be completed in 12-15 months, at which time the property will be released to be returned to productive use.

In addition to the daily activities at the CDE site, the borough has begun construction of the New Market Avenue extension. Fencing around the site has been moved back so the borough's contractor, Star of the Sea, could pour concrete for curbing and sidewalks, which began several weeks ago. The road has been widened, and new sidewalks installed, to allow for wide turns onto Hamilton Boulevard before the overpass. Beyond the fence, stakes have been placed that delineate what will be the center of the new road once paving begins.

"Our goal is to be done with the road by the end of this year, but we are at the mercy of the weather," said Mayor Charles Buttrico. "However, if we get a rough base coat [of asphalt] down, the road would be usable." Final paving would then be done in the Spring since the asphalt company will not pave in the snow. To view more pictures, visit our Web site at [www.spobservers.com](http://www.spobservers.com) and click on "Photo Gallery."

Questions regarding the clean up should be directed to Peter Mannino, remedial project manager for the U.S. EPA Region II at (212) 637-4395, E-mail [mannino.pietro@epa.gov](mailto:mannino.pietro@epa.gov) or Pat Seppi, community involvement coordinator at (212) 637-3679, E-mail [seppi.pat@epa.gov](mailto:seppi.pat@epa.gov).

## 3-Credit Course At Middlesex County College

Middlesex County College offers students who are home on holiday break a chance to complete a full semester course in a shortened time period. Winter Session classes that run from Monday, Dec. 28 through Wednesday, Jan. 13 are available at MCC's main campus, 2600 Woodbridge Ave. in Edison.

Winter Session provides the opportunity to complete degree requirements, tackle a course that doesn't fit into a regular schedule, or reduce credit load during the coming spring semester. Last year, students from many different colleges and universities took Winter Session courses at MCC.

Among the courses scheduled for Winter Session are art, business, computer science, criminal justice, economics, English, health, history, languages, mathematics, philosophy, social sciences and speech.

Winter Session courses cover the same subject matter, retain the same academic rigor and include the same number of in-class instructional hours as courses scheduled during a traditional semester.

Go to [www.middlesexcc.edu/winter](http://www.middlesexcc.edu/winter) to register or learn more.

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Homecoming king and queen Andrew Nguyen and Brittany Alvarado (center) with runners up Ryan Flanagan, Bianca DiDolce, Malcolm Austin and Elizabeth Martin. Cheerleaders (right) perform at the pep rally on Thanksgiving Eve.



## Pageant, Pep Rally, Powder Puff Game Kick Off SPHS Homecoming Festivities

By Patricia Abbott

Students at South Plainfield High School were busy during the pre-Thanksgiving days with numerous activities. On November 24 they held their annual homecoming pageant in the high school auditorium. Principal Dr. Ken May opened the event by welcoming the audience. Friends and family of the 18 nominees filled the room, each hoping their friend or relative might be named king or queen, or be named to the royal court.

There were a total of 18 nominees. Running for king were Richie Szeliga, Brian Palma, James Seyffart, Stephen Balzer, Christopher Gualana, Andrew Nguyen, Malcolm Austin, Ryan Flanagan and Shane McLanson. Nominees

for queen were Jenna Heckel, Bianca DiDolce, Elizabeth Fasullo, Brittany Alvarado, Elizabeth Martin, Isabel Afonso, Melissa White, Amanda Plum and Candice Grevious.

The nominees were escorted on stage as MC Bill Cochrane read a short biography about each of them.

There were a few tense moments before the winners were announced.

The 2009 Homecoming King was Andrew Nguyen and his Queen is Brittany Alvarado; second runners up were Ryan Flanagan and Bianca DiDolce, and first runners up were Malcolm Austin and Elizabeth Martin.

The festivities continued on November 25 with the annual Powder Puff football game between the junior and senior girls. The game was held at Jost

Field. Winners for the second year were the senior class of 2010.

Afterwards, a pasta dinner was held in the school's cafeteria followed by the pep rally, a last minute boost for the morale of the players going up against its old rival, North Plainfield. After the lively rally, the team cheerleaders and guests went outdoors for the traditional Thanksgiving Eve bonfire.

The South Plainfield/North Plainfield rivalry had been a tradition for many decades, but stopped in the 80s. It was resumed about six years ago.

Despite SPHS giving it their best effort, the game was won by North Plainfield. Despite the loss, the school has hopes that perhaps next year... the South will rise again!



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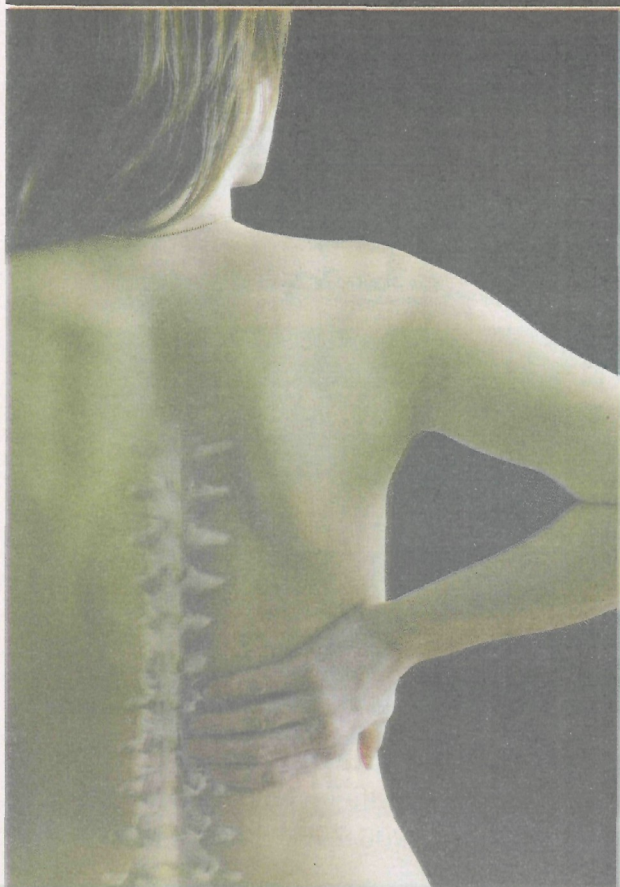
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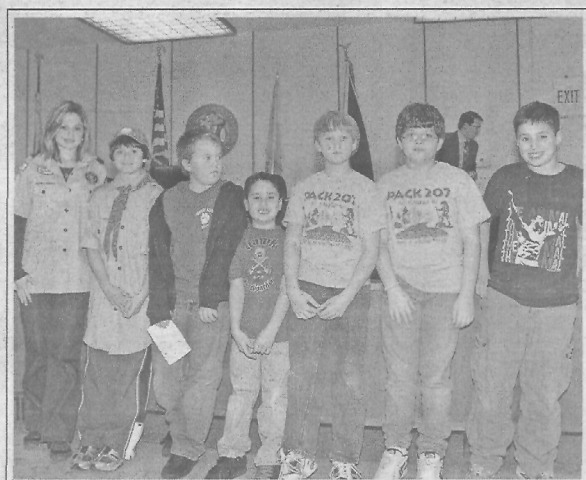
"If You Haven't Heard Of Us Ask Your Grandfather"

## MOMS Club Looking for New Members

The MOMS Club of South Plainfield, which serves South Plainfield and Piscataway, is looking for new members. Come meet our members and see what we're all about!

The club is an international support group for mothers who stay at home with their children. The group offers a wide range of daytime activities including playgroups, park days, a monthly moms night out, kids in the kitchen, movie time, craft time, special programs for mothers and children, and get-togethers for the whole family. The club also performs service projects that benefit needy children in our community. Children are welcome.

For information, visit [www.momsclubofsouthplainfield.com](http://www.momsclubofsouthplainfield.com) or call Nancy at (732) 236-3229.



Cub Scouts from Cub Pack 207/Den 5 attended the November 23 Borough Council meeting to work on their citizenship badges. Pictured with their leader Chris Paez are Drew Mackenzie, Danny O'Shaughnessy, Sal Dente, Alec Paez, Tomasz Tarnawski and Giovanni Dente. Attending but not pictured is Sam Campbell.

## 100th Birthday Celebrated at Cedarcroft Bible Chapel Harvest Home Dinner

Imagine living forever! Well, not quite forever, but Alfred Guzzetti, a congregant at Cedarcroft Bible Chapel celebrated his 100th birthday on November 8 as part of its annual Harvest Home Dinner. Approximately 100 of his friends and family were there.

The dinner followed the Sunday morning service. After dinner, a variety of people shared testimonials about Guzzetti, which ranged from secrets of his long life to accounts of his support and kindness in difficult situations.

John Bosse reminisced about repairing a barrier designed to keep the deer out of Guzzetti's beautiful gardens and walking paths in the woods which he, as an able gardener and landscaper, had taken the time to manicure over many years.

Rita Rabideau remarked on the patience and intellectual acuity of Guzzetti showed when he, at age 80, taught her a new computer program.

Ken Ward shared that it was rare that a man 100 years old would admit that he was wrong, as he had once admitted when discussing the interpretation of a passage of Scripture. A caring

mother expressed thanks for the time Guzzetti had consoled her in a difficult time with her child.

David Dunbar, president of Biblical Theological Seminary, was the guest speaker. Citing the lyrics of "Forever Young" by Bob Dylan, Dunbar remarked that his very good friend, Alfred Guzzetti, lived so long because he was forever learning, forever listening and forever loving.

Divon Pender, a seven-year-old, won the hearts of the audience when he stepped to the microphone and uttered a child-like, yet profoundly

sweet prayer of thanks for the Chapel centenarian that only a child could convey.

After the testimonials, Guzzetti's daughter-in-law, Nancy, brought out a cake with 100 candles and all of his friends sang *Happy Birthday* and watched him blow out the burst of flame on his cake. A time of prayer followed in which Kingsley Baehr and friends of the Chapel's oldest person thanked God for his faithfulness and for the love this 'continually young' man communicated to all of them throughout his 100 years.

## Historical Society Meeting Dec. 8

The South Plainfield Historical Society will hold its December monthly meeting at Sherban's Diner on Tuesday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m.

Nomination of officers for the new year will be accepted at this meeting. New officers will be installed at the January meeting. New members will be gladly welcomed. Come and join, and learn the history of your town.

Washington and his troops camped and marched all over this area. Settle-

ment of the area was started in the 1660s. You can check that out by looking over the grave stones in the cemetery on New Market Avenue.

The History Center is located at the Roosevelt Administration Building, lower level on the Jackson Avenue side, and is open every Tuesday from 2 to 4:30 p.m.

For more information, E-mail [SPHistoricalSociety@verizon.net](mailto:SPHistoricalSociety@verizon.net).

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### Cedarcroft Bible Chapel

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Accepting the Cappy Award for their father are Art Devine's sons, Ed, Mike, Harry and Charlie, and daughter, Delores.

## Devine Honored with Cappy Award

(Continued from page 1)

Bill DiNizio, chairman of the Cappy Award Nomination Committee.

Art Devine encompassed all of the qualities past recipients of the Cappy Award stood for—a man who showed devotion to his family, his community and the youth of South Plainfield. Devine founded the Falcons basketball team, a team for boys in the fifth and sixth grades. He served as coach and took care of all the administrative functions associated with the team. His youngest son, Dan, played on the first and the next season, but when he moved onto seventh grade, Art didn't move with him, but opted to continue coaching the fifth and sixth graders and handle all of the administrative duties.

In total, Art spent 18 seasons at the helm of the Falcons. During those years, he coached over 200 young men and one young lady, Michelle Cochran. The Falcons were very successful on the court, capturing numerous league championships and many tournament titles. As proud as Art was of those accomplishments, he was more proud of the manner in which his young athletics conducted themselves off the court. He instilled values and taught life lessons that stayed with the players long after basketball ended.

Art also spent over 12 years with the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club. During those years, he not only managed, but served on the executive board as treasurer. The development of the C League occurred during his tenure and was done to include all of the young boys and girls who wanted to play baseball.

One of the featured speakers for the evening was George Graves, who nominated Art for the Cappy Award. Graves, who played on Art's team, spoke of the man he came to admire, for the sportsmanship, devotion and dedication he showed during the 16 years of coaching. He noted that the fact that many players went on to become doctors, law enforcements officers, lawyers and accountants, is a testament to the leader Art became. From 1970 to 1975, the team compiled a record of 210-5 Graves said despite the great records the team amassed, Art was always more interested in character building then winning.

Bill DiNizio, chairman of the Cappy Award spoke about its importance saying, "This annual award is one way of teaching the youth the history of this town. Children today live in a world where everything is at their immediate disposal with today's technology they have. I think it is important they know that not everything happens immediately. Children don't always realize the amount of volunteerism and effort that was put in by many individuals over the years, not only to start up programs, but to improve the program that they benefit from and enjoy to day. My hope is that by having this award every year, a child may read an article in the Observer or hear people talking about the recipient and learn something about their town from it. Talk to your friends and neighbors about the Cappy Award and let's keep it alive and moving forward. The commission starts taking nominations in the summer. If you

have any questions, contact one of the members of the commission."

Art's sons, Mike and Ed, both spoke on behalf of their father, saying how proud the family was that their dad was being recognized for his volunteerism.

"If dad would be here today to accept this award he would have been honored and humbled. He would be especially pleased to receive an award named after Mr. Capparelli, who dad considered one of his best friends," said his son Ed Devine.

Mike Devine said he felt his mom, Delores, was equally deserving of the award. "She spent years working with the March of Dimes, American Legion Woman's Auxiliary, Junior Baseball Woman's Auxiliary, PTA, Rosary Society. She was also responsible for starting the cheerleading team and in all those years, she never missed one of the 700 games over the years," he exclaimed.

The Cappy Award is named after Deputy Chief Tullio Capparelli. An inscription on the wall of the PAL says it all: "This site is dedicated to Deputy Chief Tullio 'Cappy' Capparelli, a man devoted to his family, his community and the youth of South Plainfield. Through his efforts generations of South Plainfield children have been able to expand their horizons and further develop their physical mental potential..."

A plaque honoring Devine will hang on the wall at the PAL alongside former Cappy Award winners, Ed Niemczyk, Charles Decker, Salvatore "Buddy" Severini, Philip Aiello, Richard Curcio, Amando "Artie" Fiore, Owen Kelly, Nancy Pauls and Jack English.

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Charlie and Debbie Kurland (left) from Hometown Heros deliver dinner to Junior Journalist winner Yenefiker Alamerew (center) pictured with her dad Ashenafi, mom Abby, grandmother Helina and sister Dinkayhu.

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## Seasonal Traditions at Olde Towne Village

Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission announces a free holiday program to be held on Sunday, Dec. 13 at East Jersey Olde Towne Village, 1050 River Rd. in Piscataway.

**Victorian Ornament Display**—East Jersey Olde Towne Village will display Victorian ornaments through February 1. This brilliant exhibit of antique holiday ornaments dating

from the 1840s to the 1940s includes Victorian glass and paper tree ornaments, German Kugels, early light sets from 1910 to 1930, and various lithographs and prints. It is open to the public during regular Village hours.

**Holiday Program**—A Holiday program will be held on Sunday, Dec. 13 from 1 to 4 p.m. The program includes holiday tales, the holiday exhibit, children's craft and a caroling concert.

Pre-registration is required.

The program begins at 1 p.m., with Robert Moulard presenting "Drive The Cold Winter Away." In character as Irish harper, Michael Keane, who came to America in 1754, will perform songs and tales featuring instruments such as the Irish harp, Baroque flute and violin, harpsichord and more.

From 2 to 3 p.m. enjoy the opening reception and tour the Victorian Ornament Display, refreshments will be offered. At the same time a children's craft will be available. Appropriate for children ages 5-9, accompanied by an adult. Children will assemble a foam Gingerbread mobile using peppermints, lollipops and more. Gingerbread is believed to have originated in Egypt and with the Greeks. Baked year round, the flat bread was sold at medieval fairs and the shapes often represented the "news of the day," such as newly crowned royalty. A foam Christmas snow globe will also be decorated with a scene of Santa, a tree with ornaments and gifts under the tree.

Starting at 3 p.m. a Dickens-era caroling concert with spiced punch in which the historical vocal quartet will present holiday songs using guitar, concertina and whistles.

To register for these free programs, call (732) 745-3030. Persons with hearing disabilities may dial (732) 745-3888 (TTY users only) or 711, the New Jersey Relay System. The Village is an accessible site, and an assisted listening system will be in use during the programs. An American sign language interpreter can be provided without charge with a two-week advance request. Wheelchairs are also available upon request for visitors who may need assistance from the parking lot to the programs.



Franklin School Principal Ellen Decker-Lorys with tenure recipient Christine Warian and former Franklin Principal Althea Bowman-Williams

## Board of Education Awards Tenure for Two Teachers

Two reading teachers received tenure at the November 18 Board of Education meeting.

Nicholas Deremiah, who has been teaching seventh grade reading classes at the middle school, received his tenure certificate from Assistant Principal Kevin Hajduk.

Hajduk praised Deremiah for his attitude of expecting excellence from his students and credited his encouragement of students in creating a 27% increase in the recent ASK test results.

Deremiah graduated with a BA degree in English from Loyola College in Maryland in May 2006.

Christine Warian, who is the reading specialist at Franklin School, received tenure from Franklin Principal Ellen Decker-Lorys. She has been a reading specialist at Franklin since November 2006 working with students in grades one through four who are not reading or writing at grade level. She is also the test coordinator for the NJASK tests.

Warian holds a BA in music education/therapy from Immaculata College and an MA degree in reading specialization from Kean University. She is currently taking classes in the Orton Gillingham method of reading instruction at Fairleigh Dickinson University to further refine her ability to teach students with dyslexia and other problems which prevents them from reading at grade level. Before coming to Franklin she taught in Catholic schools and as a substitute teacher and tutor for 16 years. When she applied to teach

in South Plainfield, former Principal Althea Bowman-Williams essentially made the decision to hire her. Bowman-Williams had been an assistant principal at the high school before coming to Franklin as principal.

"She strives for perfection and is a team player. She also seems quiet and reserved—but she loves to joke," said Decker-Lorys. "What you need to know is when Christine learned former Principal Bowman-Williams had kidney disease and needed a kidney—she wanted to be her donor. She went to be tested, was accepted and gave her kidney to Bowman-Williams. That's the kind of person she is."

Bowman-Williams was at the presentation and publicly thanked Warian for the first time.

"I never had a chance to say thank you to you. I couldn't have done it with out you!" said a healthy Bowman-Williams.

## Sacred Heart Christmas Services Schedule

Join us for worship and praise on Christmas Eve with masses at 5 p.m. and midnight.

Be sure to arrive by 4:30 p.m. for the children's pageant and the choral prelude at 11:45 p.m. Christmas Day will find us in prayer at 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Our Advent Penance Service is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 12 at 10 a.m. Leave the weight of the world behind!

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## Metuchen YMCA to Compete in NJ Environthon

The Metuchen Branch YMCA is looking for a team of students in grades 9-12 interested in their local and global environment. The team will be competing in the New Jersey Environthon. They will work together to create displays and visuals to help discuss specific issues currently plaguing our environment as well as the importance of creating and maintaining a healthy environment for future generations.

For additional information, contact mike.tonzola@metuchen-edisonymca.org or call (732) 548-2044, ext. 210.

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## Obituaries

### Anthony J. Cotoia, 81

Anthony J. Cotoia of South Plainfield, one of New Jersey's most respected and successful high school basketball coaches, died on Thursday, Nov. 26 after a brief illness. He would have turned 82 on November 30.



Anthony Cotoia

Cotoia was born in Panni, a small mountaintop village in the province of Apulia, Italy. He came to the United States with his mother and a sister in November 1938 when he was 11, part of his father's relocation of the family to America that took a few years. The family settled in New Canaan, Conn. and he attended high school there. Cotoia was captain of the football and basketball teams and president of his graduating class.

After high school, Cotoia enlisted in the Army and served in Korea with the Seventh Infantry Division. The GI bill enabled him to attend the University of Delaware, where he majored in education and minored in history, earning both his bachelor's and master's degrees.

After two years of teaching physical education in Vineland, Cotoia accepted a teaching position in South Plainfield in 1955. The following year, he met fellow teacher Janice Magavich and they wed in 1959. They were married for 43 years.

When Cotoia arrived in South Plainfield, the high school was new and offered students very few athletic programs. After he was hired as the high school's first basketball coach, he drove through town trying to get a sense of how popular the game was. To his dismay, he saw only one basketball hoop, behind Delaio's Market. Even worse, the boys playing there that day went to parochial school.

After two years of building the local basketball program from the ground up, including establishing youth leagues in town, he coached the 1959 team to an undefeated season.

His overall coaching record at South Plainfield was 177-63. His teams won three Central Jersey championships and the state Group 3 Championship in 1964. As a varsity football coach, he enjoyed a record of 14-3-1.

Cotoia later became athletic director at South Plainfield High School. In that position, he was instrumental in expanding the number and scope of the high school's sports programs and ensuring that the girls' programs achieved parity with the boys' programs. He also served as a vice principal at the high school and middle school and retired as principal of the South Plainfield Middle School in 1992, after working in the district for 37 years.

Cotoia played a key role in developing state-of-the-art athletic facilities at the high school, including the Frank Jost Track and Field and South Plain-

field High School gym, which was named in his honor after his retirement.

He was a founding member and secretary of the Mid-State Athletic Conference.

Throughout his life, Cotoia was active in his community. He served as a member of the South Plainfield Borough Council for nine years, three as president. After his wife died in 2002, her colleagues donated books to the John F. Kennedy Elementary School library, where she had taught. Cotoia continued that tradition each year, donating 25 books to the school library in her memory.

After retiring, Cotoia was active with the Plainfield Chapter of UNICO, the South Plainfield Historical Society and the Sacred Heart Parish, serving as its historian.

He also remained active in high school sports by serving on the selection committee of New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association's Coaches Hall of Fame. Additionally, he assisted at NJSIAA coaching clinics and evaluated basketball officials for state high school championship assignments.

In 2007, Cotoia's two daughters gave him a surprise 80th birthday party which was attended by many of his former players and colleagues, some who came from as far away as Florida, Nevada and South Carolina. An outgrowth of that event was the creation of the Anthony J. Cotoia Scholarship for a graduating South Plainfield High School varsity basketball or football player who intended to pursue a career in teaching and coaching. Cotoia felt that education was a great equalizer and that it was essential to assist the next generation of teachers and coaches.

In 2008, Cotoia was inducted into the NJSIAA/Bollinger Hall of Fame, the organization's highest honor, for his lifetime contributions to interscholastic sports in New Jersey.

The son of the late Alfonso and Anna Bianco Cotoia, he is predeceased by his wife, two brothers, Frank and Rocco Cotoia, and by a sister, Antonia Gesualdi.

He is survived by two daughters, Margaret Ann of Hamilton and Patricia of South Plainfield, as well as a sister, Sarah Ruggiero, of New Canaan, Conn.

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

Memorial contributions may be made to the South Plainfield Education Foundation Inc.-Anthony J.

Cotoia Scholarship, P.O. Box 733, South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

### Rosemary Richkus, 87

Rosemary Richkus passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 17 in JFK Haven Hospice.

Born in Elizabeth, she lived in Hillside, Roselle Park and Rahway before moving to Edison 25 years ago.

Mrs. Richkus was a "Rosie the Riveter" during WWII. She was a former insurance clerk for American Insurance Associates in Rahway, retiring in 1987. Rosemary was a devout Catholic who cherished her family.

Mrs. Richkus is predeceased by her loving husband, Peter Richkus, who passed away in 1973; her parents, John and Mary Clemens; two brothers, William Clemens and Joseph Clemens and two sisters, Agnes Blythe and Mary Smith.

Surviving are three sons, Peter Richkus, Joseph Richkus and John Richkus; two daughters, Mary Gomes and Rosemary Wilson; a brother, John Clemens; five grandchildren, Theresa, Peter, Robert, Terry and Taylor; three great-grandchildren, Melissa, Joseph and Gianna, and a dear friend, George Rau and his family.

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

### Roger P. Royce, 78

Roger P. Royce entered into eternal rest on Tuesday, Nov. 24 at the Haven Hospice located in Edison within JFK Medical Center.



Born in Quebec, Canada to his late parents Raul and Mary Royce, Roger moved to the United States as a young man, where he lived in Paterson and Iselin before settling in South Plainfield 30 years ago.

As a proud veteran, he faithfully served his country in the United States Army. Roger was honorably discharged as a medical technician in 1953 and was awarded several citations for his courageous acts.

Employed as a general manager for

Supermarkets General, he worked throughout New Jersey before his retirement in 1992.

He was a communicant of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield and Saint Anne de Beaufre Catholic Church in Quebec, Canada. He is a former fourth degree member of the Iselin Knights of Columbus and the Disabled American Veterans, where he served as vice president for many years.

He was a dedicated father to Maryann, grandfather to Kellyann and loving pop-pop to Jordan, Savannah and Breanne.

He is predeceased by his devoted wife, Anna D. Royce, who passed away on February 14, 2002; a brother, Leon and a sister, Margaret Liegeois.

Roger leaves behind a loving daughter, Maryann Royce-Kochler and husband Fred of Bound Brook; a dear brother, Joe Royce of Wanage; a cherished granddaughter, Kellyann Gibson of Easton, Pa. and three adored great-grandchildren, Jordan Royce, Savannah Rose and Breanne Mikala, all of whom will miss him dearly.

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

### Herbert J. Bennett, 82

Herbert J. Bennett died at home on Sunday, Nov. 22 with his loving wife and stepson by his side.

Born in Merrimac, Mass. to his late parents, George and Gladys (Elliott) Bennett, he lived in Plainfield before moving to South Plainfield 46 years ago.

Herbert was a union laborer for 30 years and retired from Local 221.

An avid gardener, he also enjoyed watching movies, reading, traveling, and sports.

He is predeceased by his first wife of 40 years, Beatrice (Hanger) Bennett; a daughter, Nancy Bengivenga, and by four siblings, George, Fred, Jennie and Nellie.

Herbert is survived by his wife Joan (McCallion) of 19 years; daughter, Gay A. Gavinski of South Plainfield and former sons-in-law Emil Gavinski and George Bengivenga; two stepsons, Gerry Sheraiko and wife Carolyn of Virginia and Gary Sheraiko of South Plainfield; two sisters, Gladys Smith and Fay and husband Bill Kubach; two

sisters-in-law, Jean Bennett and Jane Bennett; his mother-in-law, Margaret McCallion; a sister-in-law and husband, Dolores and Kevin Bristol as well as his pets, Baby Sunshine and grandpuppy Max, and many nieces and nephews.

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

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to the Multiple Sclerosis Society, Mid New Jersey Chapter, 246 Monmouth Road, Oakhurst, N.J. 07755, or to a charity of your choice

### John P. Young, 64

John P. Young of Bridgewater died on Saturday, Nov. 21 at his residence.

John was born in Plainfield, and lived in Bridgewater for the past six years. He is a former resident of South Plainfield and Piscataway.

John was a disabled Vietnam era veteran, serving in the U.S. Army in Germany from 1965 to 1967.

He worked for Art Color in Dunellen, Union Carbide in Bound Brook and the Borough of Middlesex. John was a custodian for the South Plainfield and Flemington School systems. He had a Black Seal Boiler License. John also volunteered for "Contact We Care," a listening hotline and for hospice.

John is predeceased by a sister, Carol Buerstle.

Surviving are two sons, Matthew and wife Caryann of South Plainfield and Christian and wife Lisa of Dunellen; a sister, Patricia Young and her significant other, Ken French; five grandchildren, Reece, Cole, Ella, Grace and Jason and his former wife, Olinda (Bruss) Young.

Funeral services were held at Sheehan Funeral Home in Dunellen.

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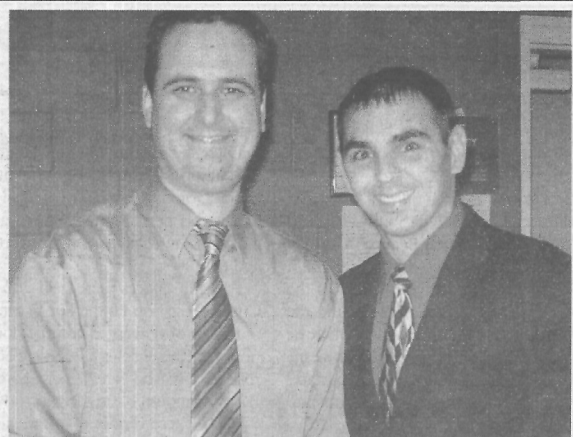
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Middle School Asst. Principal Kevin Hadjuk (R) presented Middle School reading teacher Nicholas Deremiah with his tenure certificate.

## Wanted: Volunteers for Borough Boards, Agencies, Committees and Commissions

The Borough of South Plainfield is seeking volunteers who would like to serve on a borough board, agency, committee or commission starting on January 1, 2010. Vacancies exist on a majority of boards.

Anyone interested in applying for a position on one of the above, or wish to find out more information about any of the vacancies, go to the borough's Web site at [www.southplainfieldnj.com](http://www.southplainfieldnj.com).

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

Applications for appointment are available online, or may be obtained at the borough clerk's office, 2480 Plainfield Ave., Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Deadline for submission of applications is Tuesday, Dec. 15.

For further information, please contact Borough Clerk Joann Graf at (908) 226-7606.

## Rutgers Alumni Group Seeking Active Catholics to Help Students

RUCatholic: That is the question a newly formed Rutgers alumni group is asking these days. It is estimated that there are 50,000 Catholic alumni of Rutgers University and they are the individuals who are being invited to offer spiritual, social and professional support to Catholic students at the State University of New Jersey.

"We're looking to cast a broad net. We're looking for Catholic alumni who are active in their faith," said Oratorian Father Peter R. Cebulka, director of the Catholic Center at Rutgers.

As the campus ministry at Rutgers University, the Catholic Center provides for the spiritual, sacramental and pastoral needs of the Catholic community at the university. To further its mission, the Catholic Center is now seeking Catholic alumni to show current students that there are successful Catholics available to encourage and support them.

"It's not necessary for alumni who want to get involved to have been active with the Catholic Center when they were students," Fr. Cebulka said, adding the Catholic Center is not seeking to build a traditional alumni organization to have meetings. "We're looking to create relationships and support for Catholic life on campus," he said.

Supporting Fr. Cebulka in establishing the alumni group is Michael J. Foxx, a member of the Strategic Planning Committee for the Catholic Center at Rutgers and chair of the subcommittee for Catholic alumni. "We're trying to promote different activities involving the students and to give them a sounding board for questions about business, their faith and life in general," Foxx said.

To date, the group's activities have included tailgating at football games, gatherings for new students, and an annual Mass for students who are graduating. This past summer, Foxx hosted a retreat for alumni, current students and friends.

With the launch of its Web site, [www.RUCatholic.com](http://www.RUCatholic.com) the alumni group hopes Catholic alumni will hear the invitation and respond with their support.

According to Fr. Cebulka, alumni are needed to support the Catholic Center in four areas:

**Spiritual:** Alumni are invited to

connect with young adult groups, periodic days of prayer, retreats, praise and worship gatherings, Eucharistic adoration, etc.

**Social:** Alumni are encouraged to take initiative in developing social activities and events for alumni and students.

**Development/fundraising:** Financial support for the ministry is crucial and alumni are needed to assist in developing new funding resources for the center.

**Student outreach:** An essential task for the chaplains is to prepare students for life in the "real world" of both society and the Church. Alumni can assist students in making that transition through mentoring, internships and sharing practical advice on how students can keep their faith alive outside the Catholic Center.

For more information, visit [www.RUCatholic.com](http://www.RUCatholic.com) or call (732) 932-8465.

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## Social Services is Adopting Needy Families

The South Plainfield Social Services Department has begun their annual project that provides gifts to the families of our community who find themselves unemployed, underemployed or facing illnesses this year which has affected their ability to provide for their families. There are over 100 families in our community who are badly in need of our help this holiday season.

If you would like to adopt one of these families and provide gifts, call Social Services Director Marge Ackerman at (908) 226-7625 or visit the office located at the municipal building on Plainfield Avenue.

If you cannot adopt an entire family and would like to donate a gift toward this project, this would also be much appreciated. We are in need of new clothing for children of all ages, but especially older children between the ages of 11 and 16. If you would like to buy for a particular child, we can provide sizes.

We have more families in need this year than in past years. If you are fortunate enough to be able to provide for your families, please keep these needy families in mind and pick up an additional gift to donate.

The social services/welfare department operates daily from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. and is on call through the South Plainfield Police Department 24 hours a day. The function of this department is to assist the needy with financial help and guidance in their search for employment. In the case of the disabled, assistance is given to access such programs as food stamps, energy assistance and PAAD.

A food pantry operates daily and is accessible to all South Plainfield residents who find themselves in need. If you have questions, please feel free to call Ackerman at (908) 226-7625.

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If you have questions, please feel free to call Ackerman at (908) 226-7625.

## Local Boy Scout to Install Carbon Monoxide Detectors for Senior Citizens

Michael Mocharski from Boy Scout Troop 207 is working towards his Eagle Scout Rank which is the highest award you can receive in scouting. Michael's project is the installation of 30 carbon monoxide detectors that he has collected from local businesses.

If you are 65 years old or older, a resident of South Plainfield and don't already have an existing carbon monoxide detector in your home, then please stop by the South Plainfield

Senior Center at 90 Maple Avenue or the South Plainfield Fire Prevention Office at 123 Maple Avenue between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. by Friday, Dec. 11 to place your name on the sign up sheet.

You will be contacted to schedule an appointment for installation in your home during the month of January.

If you have any questions, please contact Michael at (908) 757-3369.



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Dr. DiCarlo with patient Anthony Delisa.

By Jean Fultz

Dr. J. Patricia DiCarlo is a pediatrician who is devoted to the children she cares for in South Plainfield and the surrounding communities. According to Victoria Nworu, whose son Ugonna, 20 and daughter Tochi, soon turning 18, have been cared for by DiCarlo over the years, she was more like a sister to her than a doctor. "She has an open heart for the children. She was always patient, kind and caring. A couple of times I had to call her for an emergency and she always responded right away. She gives you patience, she gives you time. It was her calling to be a doctor for the children," explained Nworu.

DiCarlo graduated from the University of Panama Medical School in 1981, and came to the United States in 1982 to pursue further training in the medical field. She completed residency training in anatomic pathology at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine and Stamford Hospital in Stamford, Conn. In 1988, after deciding to change her specialty, she began residency training in pediatrics at UMDNJ- New Jersey School of Medicine. She completed pediatrics residency training in 1992 and decided to pursue private practice.

She chose South Plainfield as the ideal place for her practice since it was close to her home and to local hospitals. For the past 15 years, she has been providing loving care to the children of South Plainfield not only as a pediatrician, but also as the medical inspector for the South Plainfield School District.

Doug Delisa, whose four year-old son, Anthony, has

been cared for by DiCarlo since he was born, calls her "more of a friend than just a doctor." He remembers one instance when Anthony took ill over a weekend. "I called her on a Sunday because Anthony was running a fever, and she said 'Can you meet me at the office in 15 minutes?' She is always available, and I would recommend her not only to anyone, but to everyone who has children in South Plainfield. She genuinely enjoys Anthony when he goes in for a visit," he said.

DiCarlo recently moved into a new office in the Durham Professional Center, 285 Durham Ave., Suite 2B, at the corner of Helen Street and Durham Avenue. Her staff includes Office Manager Terri Christ, Assistant Office Manager Rona Nalven, Medical Assistant Melissa Rodriguez and Registered Nurse Lotte Cossman.

Cossman, who currently works part time in the office, responded to a help wanted ad for a receptionist 13 years ago, and ended up being hired as the doctor's assistant. She previously worked as a nurse at Muhlenberg Regional Medical center for more than 25 years.

"I've worked with a lot of doctors, but Dr. DiCarlo is different. The children seem to love her, and she always has a smile for them. She is a very compassionate doctor. She takes her time with the children and their parents when it's necessary," Cossman said.

DiCarlo is married to Frederick J. DiCarlo, M.D., an assistant medical examiner with Middlesex County. They have two children, Jim and Laura. Jim graduated from Seton Hall University several years ago and presently resides on the island of Oahu, Hawaii. Laura is a sophomore at New York University.

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