

2009—THE YEAR IN REVIEW: See next week's issue for a look back at 2009.

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The borough's annual
Reorganization Meeting
will be held at the senior
center on Saturday, Jan. 2
at noon. The public is
welcome to attend.

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 13, NO. 16

Member New Jersey Press Association

60 CENTS

DECEMBER 25, 2009



Tree Lighting Honors Memory of 101st Airborne

Members of the community braved the blizzard-like conditions to join Rick McCriskin and the 101st Airborne Division of Screaming Eagles at the annual tree lighting ceremony commemorating the 248 servicemen and women who lost their lives in a plane crash in 1985. See story on page 6.



Police Make Arrest in Labor Day Slashing

South Plainfield Police announced that they had made an arrest in the case of a Public Works Department employee who had his throat slashed during the Labor Day fireworks event at Spring Lake Park.

On December 16 Anthony K. Cole, 24, of 227 Woolworth Ave. in South Plainfield was charged with attempted murder, unlawful possession of a weapon and possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose.

Officers responded to a 911 call in the park on the evening of September 7 and discovered the 53 year-old borough employee with a laceration

to the neck and throat. He was rushed to JFK Medical Center in Edison and underwent emergency surgery. He is still recuperating and has not returned to work.

Detectives Sgt. Daniel Noonan and Anthony Pacillo, who have been investigating the attack for the past three months, were able to link Coles to the crime scene through a key piece of physical evidence found at the scene.

Cole was arrested without incident and is being held at the Middlesex County Correction Center in lieu of \$1M bail.

BOE Approves \$185,000+ Principals' Raise Over 3 Years

Contract includes 10% increase for 17 employees

By Jans Dornick

The South Plainfield Board of Education approved a new three-year contract with the Professional Principals Unit at their regular public meeting last Wednesday. The contract, which runs from July 2009 through June 2012, includes a 3% raise for 2009/2010, 3.25% for 2011, and 3.75% in the third year.

The unit is made up of 17 individuals and includes principals, assistant principals, the directors of athletics, guidance and adult education, and the supervisors of student personnel services and technology. The previous

contract that ran from 2006 through 2009 had a 4% increase the first year and 4.25% for each of the following two years.

The cost of the contract to the taxpayers during each of the next three years will be \$1,789,854 (current school year), \$1,843,550 for 2010/2011 and \$1,903,465 for 2011/2012.

One of the changes in the new contract is a \$5 increase in the prescription to out-of-pocket co-pays from \$10 for brand name drugs, \$5 for generic and \$0 for mail-ins, to \$15 for brand name drugs, \$10 for generic and \$5

(Continued on page 12)

Eligible Residents Can Get Free H1N1 Vaccines at Regional Clinic

The Middlesex County Public Health Department will administer 5,000 H1N1 vaccinations to individuals within specified target groups from 2 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 7 at the South Plainfield PAL Building, 1250 Maple Ave.

Nasal and injectable vaccines will be available for individuals within the target groups set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services. Specific target groups and vaccination information statements can be viewed on the Middlesex County Public Health Department Web site at www.co.middlesex.nj.us/publichealth/flu-clinics.asp.

Attendees are encouraged to visit the Web site to download, print and fill out the required consent form prior to attending. Filling out forms in advance will reduce wait times.

Middlesex County Freeholder Ron-

ald G. Rios, county public health and education committee chair said, "The Middlesex County Public Health Department is committed to meeting the health needs of our residents and are happy to be able to offer this opportunity. We encourage residents from any of our 25 municipalities to come to this regional clinic."

Michael Zushma, South Plainfield Office of Emergency Management coordinator, stated "Our municipality is proud to host this regional clinic with the Middlesex County Public Health Department in order to provide South Plainfield and county residents with health services for the protection of the community."

Residents with general questions about H1N1 or the vaccine can call the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services toll-free public information hotline from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Sunday at 1-866-321-9571.

Want home delivery of the Observer? Call 908-668-0010 or Email spobserver@comcast.net.



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The South Plainfield Reorganization Meeting takes place at the senior center on Saturday, January 2 at noon. The public is invited to attend!



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 where noted.*

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

Agenda Meeting Public Meeting

To be announced after reorganization meeting

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

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

board of education

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

Committee of the Whole: Jan. 13, Feb. 10, March 10 and March 31

Regular Public Meeting: 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-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 plans sub-committee

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m.

environmental commission

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

South Plainfield Receives Historical Marker

The South Plainfield Historical Society was presented with an historic marker on December 17 acknowledging the 18th Century Quaker Meeting House that once stood on the site of the South Plainfield Community Pool on Maple Avenue.

Making the presentation to Mayor Charles Butrico and Historical Society members Shirley Boguski and Charles Koestner was Zuzette Daro, commissioner of the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission (MCCHC) at a freeholder meeting in New Brunswick.

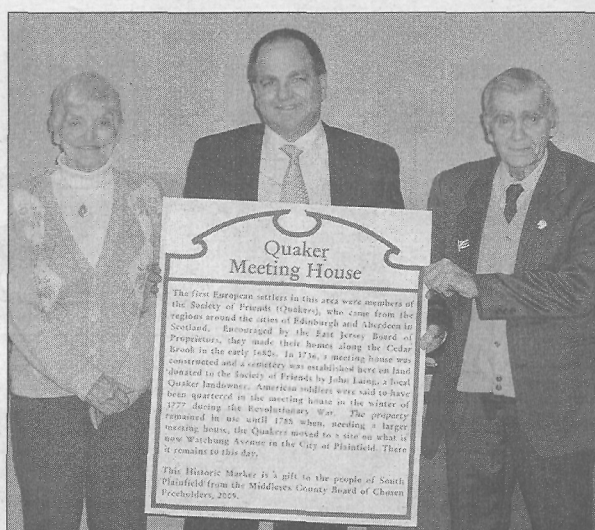
The sign, which will be installed later this month, reads:

The first European settlers in this area were members of the Society of Friends (Quakers), who came from the regions around the cities of Edinburgh and Aberdeen in Scotland. Encouraged by the East Jersey Board of Proprietors, they began to make their homes along the Cedar Brook in the early 1680s. In 1736, a meeting house was constructed and a cemetery was established here on land donated to the Friends Society by John Laing, a local Quaker landowner. American soldiers were said to have been quartered in the meeting house in the winter of 1777 during the Revolutionary War. The property remained in use until 1788 when, needing a larger meeting house, the Quaker Meeting was moved to a site on what is now Watchung Avenue in the City of Plainfield. There it remains to this day.

This Historic Marker is a gift to the people of South Plainfield from the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, 2009.

Some residents may recall a sign at the intersection of Woodland and Maple Avenues designating that corner as the place where the Quarter Meeting House was originally built. However, extensive research by local historian Larry Randolph found evidence to the contrary. Randolph's examination of the Clinton British military maps and the Erskine American military maps of the period, plus topographer C.C. Vermeule's map of the late 1800s placed it elsewhere in South Plainfield. Further research confirmed the facts. The Friends' building was located on block 221, lot 30, a parcel of land presently occupied by the Community Pool. The new marker, a 26" x 30" cast aluminum black plaque, will be installed later this month.

This is the second Historic Marker presented to South Plainfield, the first one being the Hillside Cemetery of Samptown on New Market Avenue. A third and fourth marker has been approved by MCCHC: Conway's Brigade (a Revolutionary War skirmish in the vicinity of Putnam Park) and the First Baptist Church of South Plainfield on Front Street. A fifth nomination, the Laing Grist Mill which was in business for more than



Mayor Charles Butrico, Shirley Boguski and Charles Koestner with South Plainfield Historical Plaque.

200 years at the dam of the Cedar Brook, has been made. The sixth (the Lehigh Valley Railroad coal hostler ruins) is in the works. Absent from the nominations is the Spicer Manufacturing plant. Its nomination to the National Register of Historic Places has been submitted by a state agency to the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office for review.

The Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders have sponsored the Historic Marker Project since

2005, gifting local communities throughout Middlesex County with handsome outdoor signage. MCCHC reviews the nominations, selects worthy sites and coordinates its production. Historical societies, chambers of commerce, schools, PTA organizations, scout groups and any local associations interested in history are eligible to make nominations.

For more information, E-mail sphistoricalsociety@verizon.net.

Armed Gunman Robs Drug Mart

A man brandishing a handgun fled Drug Mart on West Seventh Street with a bottle of OxyContin pills on December 8.

Employees of the store reported that the suspect entered the empty store and said "give me everything you got" then raised a silver handgun in the air. One of the employees explained that he needed to get the key in the back and went downstairs and called 911. The suspect yelled that he was taking too long and the employee returned to find the suspect behind the drug counter. He was then told by the suspect to lock the front door and demanded OxyContin. The suspect fled on foot toward Raceway Gas with a 40 mg bottle of the drug worth \$560.

The suspect is described as a white male, approximately 6' 1" with hazel eyes, a heavy black coat, black gloves, black ski mask and black sunglasses.

BOE to Hold Special Executive Meeting

A special executive session of the South Plainfield Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 29 at 5 p.m. for the purpose of conducting interviews for the position of assistant superintendent. No action will be taken.

The meeting will be held in the second floor conference room of the Roosevelt Administration Building, 125 Jackson Ave.

South Plainfield Observer

The South Plainfield Observer is published weekly on Fridays by G&G Graphics Inc.

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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.

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Time is Running Out for New Vehicle Sales Tax Deduction

The Internal Revenue Service reminds individual taxpayers who are considering buying a new car that they have until December 31 to take advantage of a tax break that may not be around in 2010.

"Taxpayers who buy a qualifying new motor vehicle this year after February 16 can deduct the state or local sales or excise taxes they paid on the first \$49,500 of the purchase price," said New Jersey's IRS Spokesman Gregg Semanick. "Qualifying motor vehicles include new passenger automobiles, light trucks, motorcycles and motor

homes."

Individuals who itemize and those who take the standard deduction can benefit from this tax break. The deduction is reduced for joint filers with modified adjusted gross incomes (MAGI) between \$250,000 and \$260,000 and other taxpayers with MAGI between \$125,000 and \$135,000. Taxpayers with higher incomes do not qualify.

Taxpayers who take the standard deduction need to complete Schedule L and attach it to Form 1040 or Form 1040A to increase the standard deduction by the allowable amount of state or local sales or excise taxes paid on the purchase of the new vehicle. Also, check the box on line 40b on Form 1040 or line 24b on Form 1040A.

Individuals who itemize should include the allowable amount of state or local sales or excise taxes from the purchase of the vehicle on Form 1040, Schedule A.

More information is available at IRS.gov in the "Tax Benefits of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009" section.

Math Genie Program at Library

There will be a special program on the "Math Genie" system at the library on Sunday, Jan. 3 at 2 p.m.

The program will introduce parents to "Math Genie," a method of teaching children, from toddler to pre-teenage, mathematics using both a logical and creative focus. This program is free; no pre-registration required.

For more information, please call (908) 754-7885.



Students Entertain Guests at Winter Concert

Franklin Elementary School held their annual winter concert on December 14 featuring the school's orchestra, band, chorus and Franklin's music LAMP program which performed with the chorus.

Franklin School Principal Ellen Decker-Lorys welcomed parents and guests and then the celebration of music began.

The students, dressed in black and white, entered the stage smiling and waving to parents and family.

First to perform was the school's orchestra conducted by Bruce Mikolon. The students performed *Open String's Samba*, *Beginner Medley*, *Dreidel Song* and *Jolly Old St. Nicholas*. The band, conducted by Toby Baldwin, followed with a medley of holiday songs.

The evening ended with the Franklin School Chorus performing *Christmas Round*, *The Joy of Hanukkah*,

Frosty the Snowman and *Carol of the Bells*. The fourth grade LAMP students, accompanied by the chorus,

performed *Gonna Catch That Santa*. Refreshments were served after the performances.



Peter Colucci, northeast regional manager, Wilson Supply located on Harmich Road, suggested that employees skip their annual gift exchange this year and instead collect money to purchase food for seniors in need. All agreed it was a good idea. Last week, John Bussicula, Wilson Supply branch manager, and Wilson Supply employee Cindy Miller delivered the donated food to Borough Hall for distribution to South Plainfield seniors.

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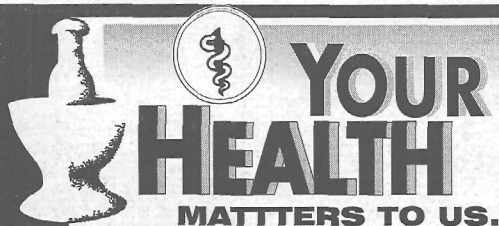
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South Plainfield Observer

Events

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 School 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 party beverage (BYOB) and snacks for your table. DJ music provided by "Heat Wave." Champagne toast at midnight. Seating of 10 at tables-reserve early!

For tickets, call Fran at (732) 287-4768 or Lisa at (908) 756-0633, ext. 10.

2010 Borough Reorganization Meeting

January 2

The Borough Council Reorganization meeting will be held Saturday, Jan. 2 at noon at the senior center.

VFW Country Breakfast

January 3

The VFW, located on Front Street, will hold a country breakfast on Sunday, Jan. 3 from 8 to 11 a.m. The public is welcome.

For more information, call (908) 668-9751.

Math Genie Program at Library

January 3

There will be a special program on the "Math Genie" system at South Plainfield library on Sunday, Jan. 3 at 2 p.m.

The program will introduce parents to "Math Genie," a method of teaching children, from toddler to pre-teenage, mathematics using a both a logical and creative focus. This program is being presented free of charge; no pre-registration is required.

For more information, please call (908) 754-7885.

Library Board of Trustees Meeting

January 12

The next meeting of the South Plainfield Library Board of Trustees will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 12 at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held at the library.

The meeting will include discussion of the library's current and future plans, including matters of library policy and needed improvements of library services and facilities. It will also serve as the annual Reorganization Meeting, involving the appointment of board members and assignment of duties. Members of the public are invited to attend this important meeting; no pre-registration is required. There will be a public comment period early in the meeting.

— Out of Town —

Holiday Jamboree At Forum Theatre

December 29-30

Winnie the Pooh and Friends Holiday Jamboree will be presented at the Forum Theatre, 314 Main St. in Metuchen on 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.

Steppin' Out Singles New Year's Eve Bash

December 31

Steppin' Out Singles will celebrate the New Year with other singles on Thursday, Dec. 31 at 9 p.m. at the Days Hotel, 195 Route 18 South in East Brunswick. Dance, mix and mingle all night. Hats and noisemakers, cake and coffee. Dress to impress. Call the hotel for reasonable room rates. Ages 40 and up. Proper attire required, admissions is \$15.

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

St. Helen's Caregiver Support Group

January 4

The Caregiver's Support Group, held in St. Helen's Parish Center, located at Lamberts Mill Road in Westfield, will meet on Monday, Jan. 4, at 8 p.m.

The support group for those caring for elderly or chronically ill loved ones meets on the first non-holiday Monday of each month.

For more information, please call Marilyn Ryan at (908) 233-8757.

NAMI Discussion and Speaker Series

January 4

NAMI-Middlesex, an affiliate of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill,

SENIOR CENTER Calendar

Coming Up....

Please Note: Holiday Luncheon scheduled for December 20 was cancelled due to inclement weather. A new date will be announced.

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

Daily Activities: Morning coffee, pool, cards, board games, computer classes, exercise, art, Tai Chi, yoga and crafts. Lunch Served Monday-Friday.

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

Active Seniors 8:30 am
Shopping Trip 9 am
Crafts Class 10 am
Computer 10 am, 11:30 am, 1 pm
Exercise Class 1:15 pm

FRIDAYS (Closed New Years Day)

Bingo 10 am-2 pm

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

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

monthly speaker series will be held on Monday, Jan. 4 from 7-9 p.m. at University Behavioral HealthCare, 671 Hoes Lane, Rm. D201 in Piscataway. The topic is "The Battle of the Bulge; Weight Gain and Mental Illness."

For more information, call (732) 745-7409 for further information.

Hunterdon Chamber Networking Breakfast

January 6

Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce presents Leads Exchange, a networking breakfast (first Wednesday of every month) on Wednesday, Jan. 6. Registration at 7:45 a.m. at the Hampton Inn, 6 Frontage Dr. in Clinton. Continental breakfast compliments of the Clinton Hampton Inn. Free admission; bring a friend.

To register, call (908) 782-7115 or visit www.hunterdonchamber.org.

Mass for Racial Harmony

January 17

The Diocese of Metuchen will hold a Mass for Racial Harmony on Sunday, Jan. 17 at noon at St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral in Metuchen.

The Most Rev. Edward T. Hughes,

Bishop Emeritus of Metuchen, will be the principal celebrant and homilist at the Mass. Bishop Martin D. Holley of the Archdiocese of Washington will be the guest homilist. The Mass is sponsored by the diocese's Commission for Black Catholic Ministry. A reception will follow the Mass.

For information, call (732) 562-1990, ext. 1624.

Singles Upscale Dance Party

January 23

Steppin' Out Singles is hosting an upscale dance party on Saturday, Jan. 23 at 8 p.m. at the Grand Summit Hotel Grand Ballroom, 570 Springfield Ave. in Summit. Ages 40 and up; no jeans/sneakers; \$15 admission.

For info, call the 24 Hour Hotline (732) 656-1801.

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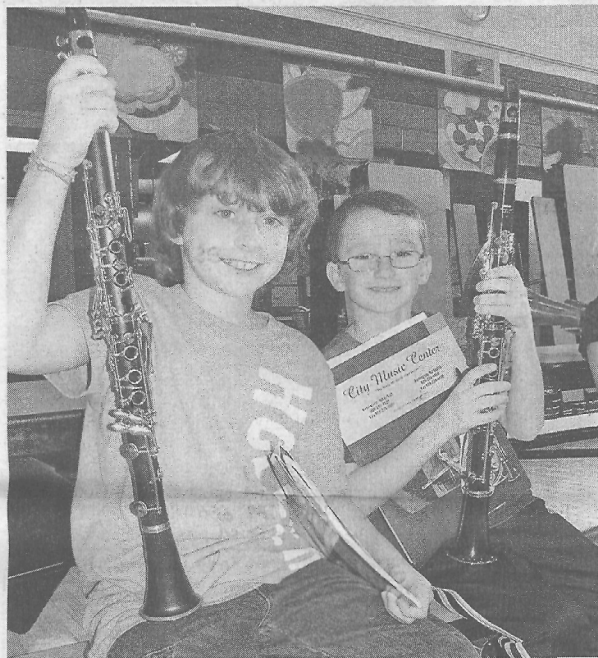
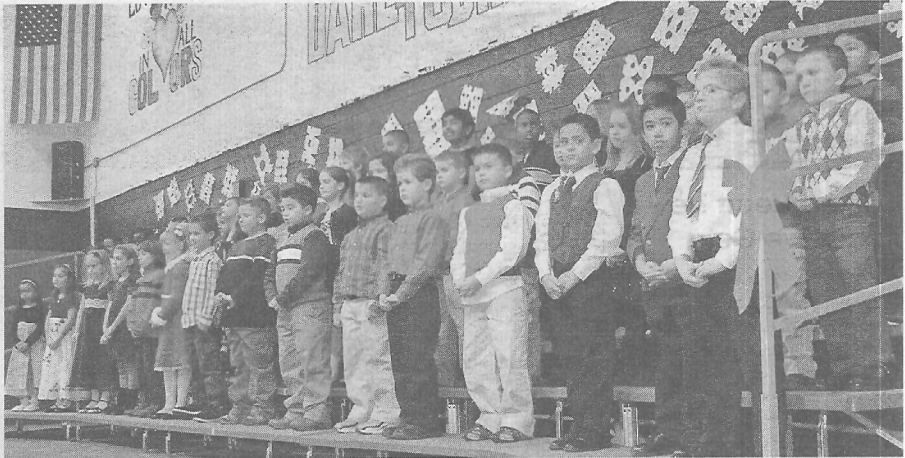
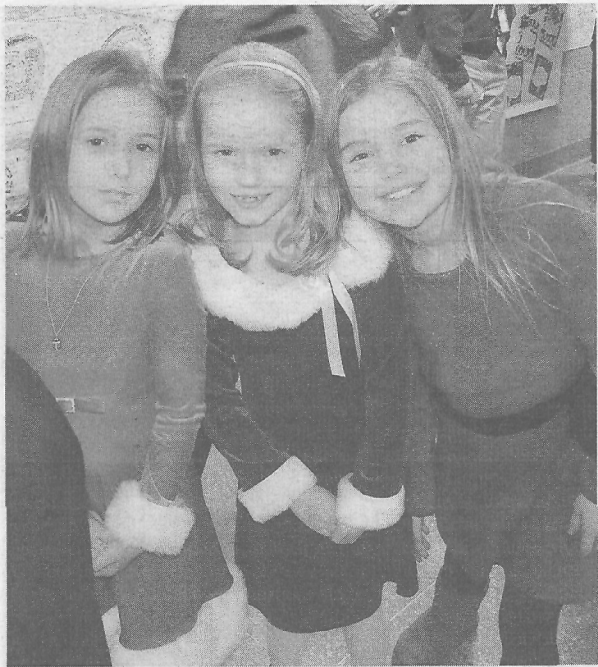
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South Plainfield Observer

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Kennedy Winter and Choral Concerts

by Jane Dornick

John F. Kennedy Elementary School's band and orchestra winter concert took place the evening of December 8. Band Conductor Toby Baldwin led students in playing *Hot Cross Buns*, *Go Tell Aunt Rhodie*, *Lightly Row* featuring Zahveac Thorne, Charles Lovett on tenor sax and Brandon Wizda and Michael Lapolla on clarinet; *Mozart Melody* with Joshua Persad, Jaquelyn Battista, Stephanie Waters, Connor Wolpin playing mallet percussion, *London Bridge* with solos by Zahveac Thorne, Charles Lovett on tenor sax, and *Jingle*

Bells. The orchestra played *Rolling Along*, *Good King Wenceslas* and *Kwanza*, led by Sarah LiVecchi, director.

The Kennedy School choral concert took place on the afternoon of December 18. Director and pianist Barbara Habeeb spent the last couple of months in music class to work with all of the students who performed a medley of holiday songs.

The kindergarteners sang *Oh Christmas Tree*, *On This Night/Hanukkah is Here* and *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*. The first grade sang *Up on the Housetop*, *Once Upon a Christmastime/Silent Night* and

Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree. The second graders performed *Jolly Old St. Nicholas*, *Hanukkah Song* and *Here Comes Santa Claus*. The third graders sang *Holly Jolly Christmas*, *It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year*, *Jingle Bells/Mele Kalikimaka*. The fourth grade class sang *Do you Hear What I Hear*, *Angels We Have Heard on High* and *Winter Wonderland*.

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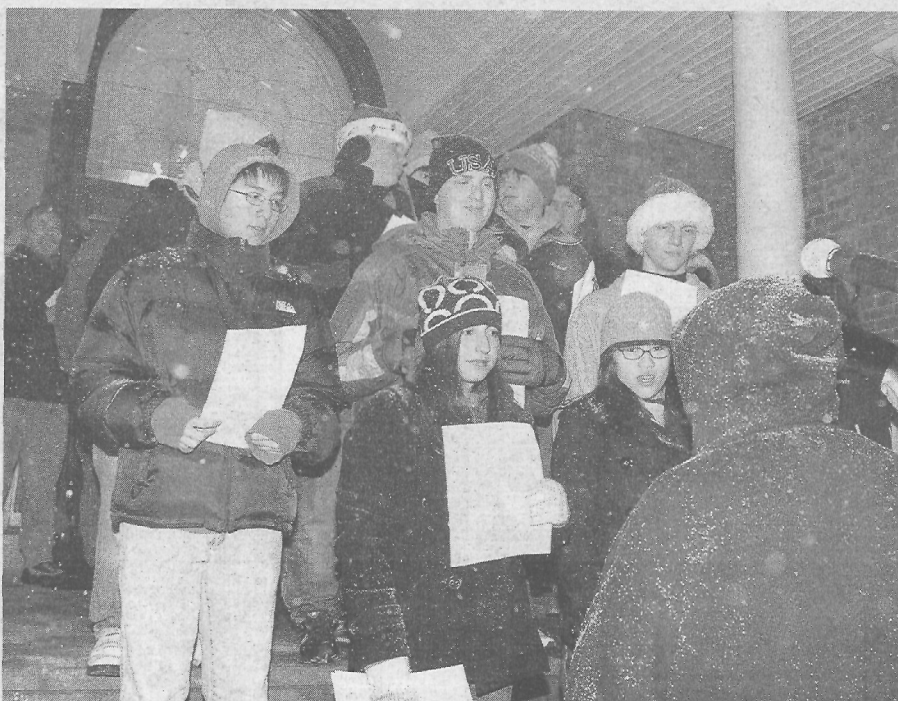
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Frosty the Snowman and Santa Claus pose for photos with local children.



SPHS Traveling Choir led by Tracy Murray.

Holiday Tree Lighting at McCriskin Honors Screaming Eagles



George Fallon, General Anthony C. McAuliffe NY/NJ Chapter president, presents a short history on the annual tree lighting.

Each Christmas for 25 years the giant evergreen tree that graces the lawn of McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals lights the night sky in remembrance of the 248 servicemen and women from the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division who lost their lives in a plane crash on December 12, 1985.

The paratroopers were returning home from a peacekeeping mission in the Middle East. After a stop to

refuel in Gander, Newfoundland, the plane crashed shortly after takeoff, killing all aboard. It is still considered the worst disaster in Canadian aviation history.

This year's ceremonies took place during the height of last Saturday's snow storm, but still attracted one of the largest crowds in the tree lighting's history.

In keeping with tradition, the tree lighting ceremony was led by the members of the U.S. Army 101st Airborne Division of Screaming Eagles, NJ/NY Chapter.

On hand for the evening ceremonies were dignitaries and guests, including Assemblyman Patrick Diegan, Mayor Charles Butrico and members of the Borough Council, the South Plainfield High School Traveling Choir under the direction of Tracy Murray, Santa Claus, Frosty the Snowman and members of the Pop Warner Eagles Junior Midget Cheerleaders, who returned from Orlando, Fla. where they placed second in the national cheerleading finals.

The ceremony began with the Gander Memorial Honor Guard posting of colors and leading the crowd in the reciting of *The Pledge of Allegiance*. General Anthony C. McAuliffe NY/NJ Chapter President George Fallon welcomed the guests and gave a short history of the tree lighting and the 101st Airborne Division. Cpl. Bob Maslo read a poem entitled, "Santa Claus and the Soldiers." Bagpiper Duncan McCaskill and Timothy McCabe performed *Amazing Grace* and *Taps* was played by Al Palmer. The traveling choir sang *God Bless America* and Rev. Nehemiah Thompson closed the ceremonies with a benediction prayer.

Helping Rick McCriskin pull the numerous switches that light the massive tree were members of the South Plainfield Eagle Cheerleaders.

Following the tree lighting, Santa Claus, Frosty the Snowman and all the guests joined the traveling choir in singing holiday songs as they walked down Plainfield Avenue to Flanagan's Restaurant where they enjoyed some



Veterans from the VFW and the U.S. Army 101st Airborne Division and Councilman Frank Salerno, an Iraq War veteran.

warm refreshments.

Rick McCriskin would like to thank Paul Josewitch from SBP Industries located on New Market Avenue for

donating the audio equipment and Glen Della Sala from Della Sala Electric for preparing the tree with the lights.

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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Chris Grippo

Well, we have come to the end of another year with the prospect of an even better one before us. At this time the library would like to thank all of our patrons for another outstanding year and we hope to see you even more frequently in the coming year. We will have lots of programs for children and adults so stay tuned and watch for notices in the library, in the *South Plainfield Observer* and on our Web site: www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

Also, as a reminder for those planning New Year's Eve parties and activities for New Year's Day (particularly those involving watching football), the library has a lot to offer. We have a large music collection which offers you choices for a wide variety of music styles from retro (fifties, girl

groups, doo wop) to current hitmakers from American Idol (Adam Lambert, Carrie Underwood, etc.) to rap and all other types.

We also have a large selection of cookbooks to help you prepare everything from appetizers to full scale meals, and they include all the most popular chefs from Rachel Ray to Paula Deen to Martha Stewart. So stop by and let us help you with your party needs.

Finally, Miss Mija and Miss Linda will not be having their usual story-times this week. However they will be back on their usual schedule the week of January 4.

As a reminder: the South Plainfield Public Library will close at 12:30 p.m. on New Year's Eve and be closed on New Year's Day. We will reopen on Saturday, Jan. 2 at 9 a.m. We wish you all a happy and healthy New Year.

Coffeehouse to Feature Local Talent

The Almost Famous Players will present a coffee house at the South Plainfield PAL on Maple Ave. on Saturday, Jan. 9 from 6-9 p.m. The musical event will feature many South Plainfield residents.

Relax in a coffee house atmosphere with low lights and decorated tables. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Emcee for the evening will be South Plainfield's own Jason Jackson.

Performers will include Chocolate Bread-Taylor Mandel, Justina Canubia, Rob Moreira and strings; The Battle Began-Jimmy Bejlani; The Ugly Club-Ryan Egan; A Clear Blur; Lory Jackson and Josh Jackson, and the Almost Famous Players Ensemble. Additional acts may be included.

Tickets are \$5 in advance or \$6 at the door. Call (908) 346-2290 or E-mail angelonly@aol.com for more information.

Refreshments for sale will include

coffee, tea, hot chocolate, soda, water, pizza, hot dogs, baked goods, etc.

Please support Almost Famous Players and enjoy an evening of musical fun!



Education Foundation Telethon Raises \$4,650

By Patricia Abbott

The South Plainfield Education Foundation, with assistance from high school faculty members, 31 students and district administrators, recently completed the four-

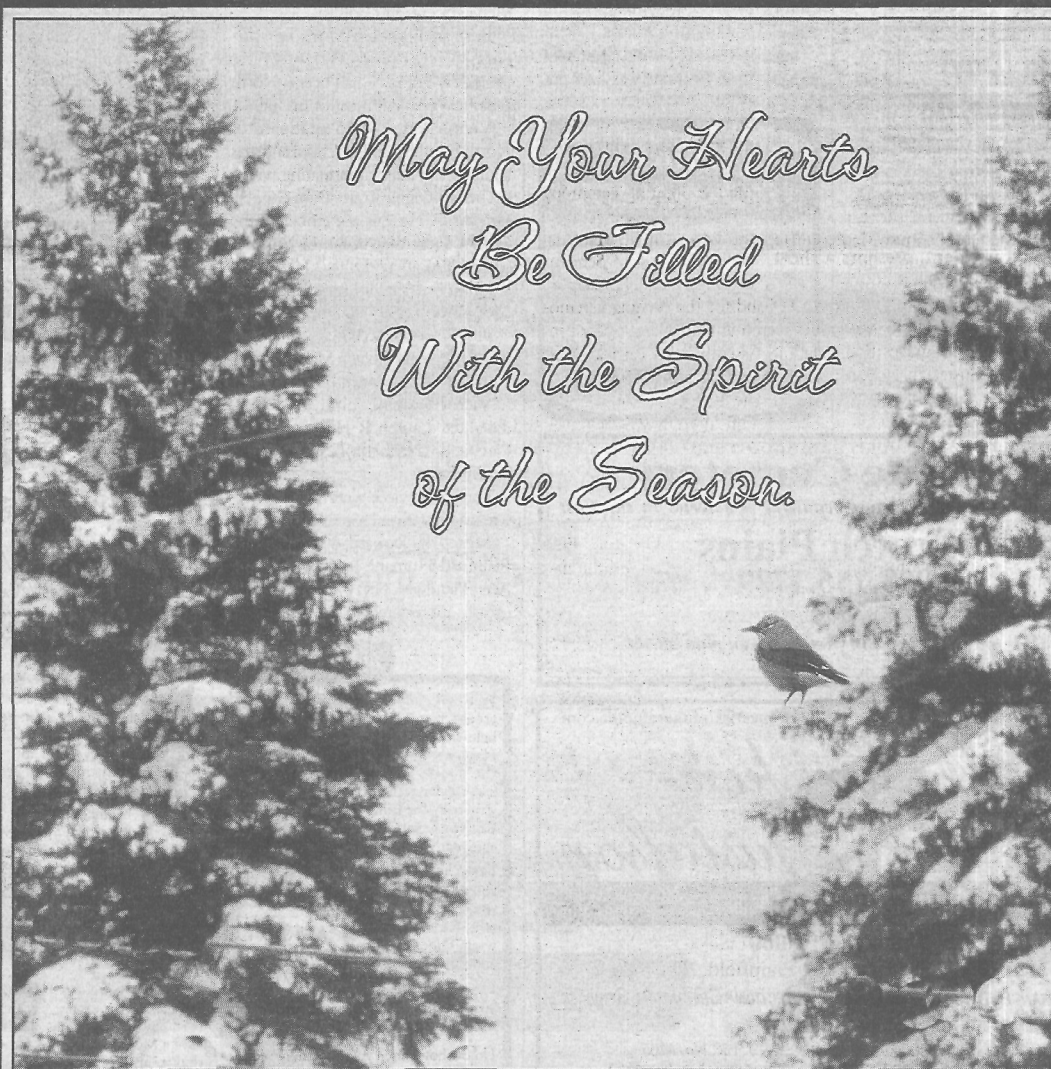
night annual telethon fundraiser. The funds raised go toward scholarships and educational programs.

The first three nights entailed organizing information, phone calls and paperwork. Students stuffed over 2,000 envelopes. Refresh-

ments were provided for the volunteers. Assistant Principal Ralph Errico and the district's director of technology, Russ Mattoon, helped with the task of setting up and breaking down each night.

The pledges totaled \$4,650.

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Obituaries

Michael Sabino, 45

Michael Sabino lost his long and courageous battle with cancer on Tuesday, Dec. 15 at JFK Medical Center in Edison.



Born in Plainfield, Michael was raised in South Plainfield before moving to Avenel four years ago. He was employed by Nischwitz & Co. in South Plainfield where he worked in oil service. A member of the B.P.O. Elks #2298, he enjoyed music, attending concerts and had a love for football, especially the New York Giants. Michael loved his cat, Tigger.

He is predeceased by his sister, Debbie Sabino, who died in 1990.

Michael is survived by his parents Arthur R. Sr. and Margaret Sabino; a brother, Arthur Jr. and wife Lydia Sabino, all of South Plainfield, and by his companion of 23 years, Diane Deschaine. He also leaves behind his niece and nephew, Shawn and Sarah Sabino, and many aunts, uncles, extended family and friends.

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

Matilda (Day) McWilliams, 88

Matilda (Day) McWilliams died on Wednesday, Dec. 16 at the Country Arch Care Center in Pittstown.

Born in London, England, she met her husband, the late Thomas McWilliams, during WWII while they were both serving their country in the British Special Forces. After the war, they moved to Scotland and eventually came to the U.S. in 1948. They moved from Newark to Kearny, prior to settling in South Plainfield in 1962.

While living in South Plainfield she was a member of Wesley United Methodist Church and was also a teacher's aide for South Plainfield High School for over 20 years.

Matilda is predeceased by her husband, Thomas McWilliams, who died in 2002 and all of her siblings.

Surviving are four daughters, Mabel "Mac" McCourt and husband James of Florida, June Hays and husband Robert of Illinois, Elizabeth Ayotte and husband James of Moore Twp., Pa. and Lynne Danik and husband Steven of Milford; a son, Thomas J. McWilliams and wife JoAnn of Brielle; 12 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

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

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Alzheimers Association of Northern NJ Chapter, 400 Morris Ave., Suite 251, Denville, N.J. 07834.

Lorraine P. (Perrotte) Podlovits, 72

Lorraine P. (Perrotte) Podlovits died on Friday, Dec. 18 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

Lorraine was born and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y. and had resided in Queens, N.Y. before settling in South Plainfield in 1974.

Initially working for Western Union in New York, Lorraine was later em-

ployed in various companies in Central Jersey doing secretarial duties for most of her life prior to retiring.

She was a fun person with a great personality who had a love of music, especially country music and Alan Jackson. She also really loved making day trips to the Amish Country in Lancaster, Pa. More importantly Lorraine was a doting grandmother who loved her four granddaughters immensely and enjoyed every moment she had with each of them.

She is predeceased by her parents, Frank and Florence Perrotte.

Surviving is her husband of 39 years, Richard; two children, Donna Leonardi and husband, Frank of Doylestown, Pa. and Joseph and wife Amy of Brea, Calif.; two brothers and their wives, Frank and Rosalie Perrotte and Robert and Linda Perrotte; four beloved granddaughters, Sofia, Madelyn, Emilia and Rachel and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the St. Jude Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, Tenn. 38105.

Victor R. Huey, 81

Victor R. Huey died on Friday, Dec. 18 at Haven Hospice located in JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born in Elizabeth to his late parents, Victor and Helen Marie (Kuebler) Huey, he had been a North Plainfield resident most of his life.

Victor was a 1945 graduate of North Plainfield High School and was a journalism major, graduating with a bachelor's degree in arts from Rutgers University. He was a member of the Chi Psi Fraternity. A fan of baseball, he was also an avid music lover, having his own "Victor Huey Orchestra" back in the day.

He is predeceased by his wife, Barbara Huey, who died on May 29, 2009 and by an infant sister, Juanita.

Victor leaves behind his loving daughter, Lauren P. Huey of North Plainfield, and man's best friend, his buddy Bailey.

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

Memorial contributions to the Plainfield Humane Society, 75 Rock Ave., Plainfield, N.J. 07063 would be greatly appreciated.

In Loving Memory-Ninth Anniversary

I see the countless Christmas trees, around the world below, with tiny lights, like Heaven's stars, reflecting in the snow. The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away that tear, for I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year!

I hear the many Christmas songs, that people hold so dear, but the sounds of music can't compare with the Christmas choir up here.

I have no words to tell you, the joy their voices bring for it's beyond description, to hear the angels sing.

I know how much you miss me, I see the pain inside your heart. But I am not so far



ANTHONY EDWARD SINGH
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away, we really aren't apart. So be happy for me loved ones, you know I hold you dear. And be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year!

I send you each a special gift from my heavenly home above. I send you each a memory of my undying love. After all, "love" is the gift, more precious than pure gold. It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.

Please love and keep each other, as my Father said to do. For I can't count the blessings or the love he has for you! So have a Merry Christmas, and wipe away that tear. Remember, I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

Sadly Missed, Mommy & Daddy, The Singh, Guzinski, Spohn, Rafalko, Pullen, Kurilew & Harkey Families

Sports

SPHS Bowling

By Ralph Fech

Tiger Bowlers Fall to Perth Amboy, St. Joseph's and State Champion Sayreville

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| South Plainfield | 677-672-660-2009 |
| Perth Amboy | 878-841-877-2596 |

Andrew Yon's 200 game and 527 set was the only bright spot for the young Tiger Bowling Team as they were beaten by a good Perth Amboy squad. The vastly improved Panthers feature a trio of bowlers who use the two-handed delivery very effectively.

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| South Plainfield | 697-828-684-2209 |
| St. Joseph's | 1002-937-966-2905 |

The boy's bowling team, comprised of all underclassmen, put some pressure on a senior laden St. Joseph's squad in the second game, but eventually fell to the tough Falcons in a 4-0 sweep.

Sophomore Andrew Yon led the Tigers with a solid 183-210-178-571 set, while freshman Robert Benwell chipped in with a 219 high game.

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| South Plainfield | 608-677-719-2004 |
| Sayreville | 819-947-868-2634 |

Despite Andrew Yon's 516 high set, the boy's bowling team was overwhelmed by state champion Sayreville. Griffin Lynch's 169 and Tom Riccardi's 161 chipped in for the young Tigers.

Lady Tigers Breeze By Perth Amboy, But Are Edged by Sayreville

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| South Plainfield | 542-593-485-1620 |
| Perth Amboy | 415-477-438-1330 |

Nikki Disch's 162 game and freshman Allison Yuschick's 155 led the girl's bowling team as they upended Perth Amboy. Freshman Nicole Benwell chipped in with a 144 game.

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| South Plainfield | 550-554-574-1678 |
| Sayreville | 646-721-613-1980 |

Rebecca Moskal's 135 game was the highlight as the girl's bowling team dropped a close match to a determined Sayreville squad.

Lady Tigers Bowling Team Finishes Tenth in "Warren Wheeler" Westfield International

The girls bowling team, with just two returning lettermen, placed tenth in the Warren Wheeler Westfield Invitational this past weekend at Jersey Lanes. Nikki Disch and freshmen Allison Benwell and Rebecca Moskal paced the Lady Tigers.

Merry Christmas Kelly and Ryan.

Stockton's Men's Basketball Team Passing Along Skills to Younger Players

The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey's Men's Basketball team will be hosting a basketball clinic on Saturday, Dec. 5 for the little brothers

of Big Brothers/Big Sisters and for the boys of the Boys and Girls Club of Atlantic and Cape May Counties.

Members of the Stockton's Men's Basketball team will host an hour long clinic to pass along shooting form, offensive moves and dribbling technique for nearly 50 young, local players. The clinic will be organized into five skills stations, where participants will have the opportunity to focus on specific drills and training exercise.

Coach Gerry Matthews, who is in his 24th season at Stockton and has a career record of 460-190, said, "This is the second year that we have hosted the clinic, and we are looking forward to giving back to the community again this year."

Last year was an unforgettable season for Stockton's Men's Basketball team. Highlights of the 2008-2009 season include the following: the team finished the season with a record of 30-3, earned the title of 2008-2009 NJAC Champions, and earned Division III NCAA National Runner Up; Coach Gerry Matthews was named the NJAC Coach of the Year for the eighth time; and Point Guard Santini Lancioni was a First Team All-American and a finalist for the NABC Division III Player of the Year.

So far this season, Stockton's Men's Basketball Team has a 3-1 record and a three-game winning streak. The Ospreys are currently ranked fifth in the nation.

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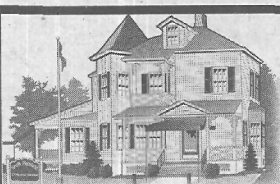
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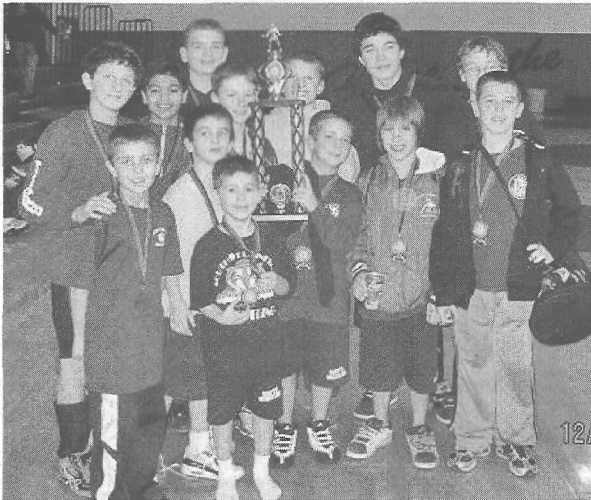
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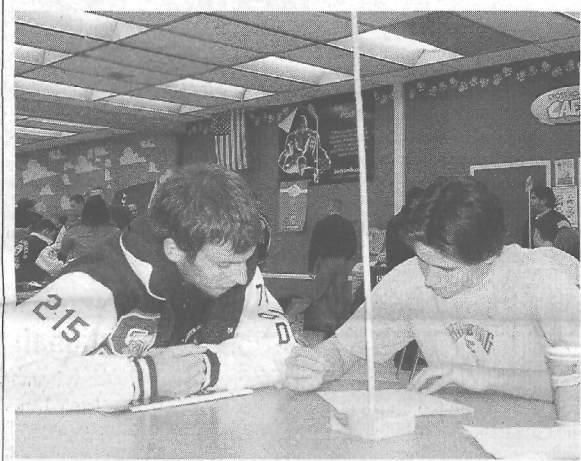
Sports

RECREATION WRESTLING

By Joe Sacco



Rec Wrestlers Take Third Place at Robbinsville Duals—Standing left to right in the back row: Ray Jazikoff, Desmond Santos, Matt Hurst, Kyle Bythell, Christopher Maszczak, Scott Quiorga, Ryan Walsh. Front row: David Loniewski, Joey Heilmann, Anthony White, Jake Giordano, Jeff Plungis, Joey Penyak. Not pictured: Jordan Hamberg, Ryan Duhamel, Jake Hoffman, Brenden Hedden, Danny Hedden, Christian Gonzalez, Coach Giordano, Coach Maszczak and Coach Green.



High School Hosts College/Football Fair for NJ Athletes

By Patricia Abbott

South Plainfield High School hosted its sixth annual college/football fair on December 7. Over 100 student athletes from high schools across Central New Jersey were in attendance. The students had the opportunity to literally visit 23 colleges in one night. Students and parents talked to football coaches from schools in New Jersey and a number of states from across the country. Among the schools in attendance

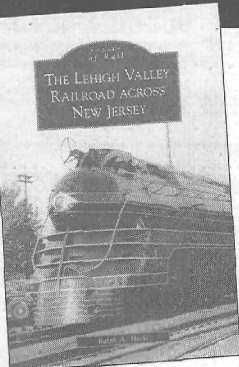
were William Paterson, Kean, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Montclair State College and Rutgers University.

Students visited the representatives in the two high school cafeterias.

SPHS football coach Philip McGuane, who moved from room to room, commented, "In many cases colleges were able to give applications with the fees waived, something that was much appreciated by the parents!"

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—Ralph A. Heiss, Author



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Grant School Announces First Quarter Honor Roll

High Honor Roll

Kevin Adams, Thalia Alfares, Lanae Ali, Jose Arrubla, Trevor Bali, Jason Belanger, Andrew Bisgaard, Surindra Boodhoo, Cristian Butrico, Samuel Campbell, Christian Canetti, Gabriella Cangialosi, Sarah Cargill, Hemanth Chiluka, Sydney Christian, Amanda Ciardiello, Jack Cochrane, Tyler Curtis

Leon Dass, Jamie Donato, Ryan DuHamel, Ziad Elmasy, Nicholas Farinella, Madison Faustini, Megan Forster, Melissa Gallant, Nicholas Gavilanes, Carlos Gil, Jake Giordano, Nicole Goitandia, Grace Hageman, Ishani Haldar, Daniel Hedden, Ryan Hu, Adanna Ibeku, Chace Jones, Krista Kaczka, Caleb Kuberiet, Kim Lam, Michael Lampasona, Tony Le, Lawrence Lenau, Benjamin Lundy

Ryan Marston, Krishna Martes, Ceara McCormick, Megan McDermott, Mary McNeil, Anthony Montuori, Camila Mosquera, Bianca Murcelo, Claire Nagel, Liam Nagel, Jessica Neal, Helen Nguyen, Melissa Novak, Timothy Nuber

Grace Ochoa, Karan Patel, Neel Patel, Raj Patel, Riya Patel, Daniel Persaud, Nikolas Peterson, James Piedilato, Nicholas Plate, Meagan Praul, Daniel Ramotowski, Scott Riccardi, Maximilian Rohrer, Natalie Romano

Pooja Sindha, Cody Soper, Kevin Sopher, Nicholas Spadavecchia, Drew Spahn, Owen Sprigle, Ryan Stankan, Joshua Stasenko, Olivia Stragapede, Emily Sukenik, Tahirshah Syed, Michael Therattil, Michael Tran, Miguel Velez, Ashley Veliz, Katherine Vill, Kyle Wong

Honor Roll

Aiden Adamson, Lisa Affinito, Jacob Alba, Chelsea Alers, Alexes

Aquilina, Chris Ayala, Serenity Batson, Nicholas Battista, Yunita Behari, Ashli Bell, Jonathan Blanco, Miranda Bourbeau, Jeremy Brown, Divya Budhan, Ariel Buenano, Kenny Bui, Michaela Butrico, Kyle Bythell

Vincent Cano, John Carone, Andrea Castillo, Amanda Cavaliere, Alejandro Cepeda, Daniel Cherrez, Crystal Chum, Jonathan Conrad, Anel Cortez Ochoa, Brian Csobor, Gina Cummings, Gabriella Cusick, Megyn Decarlo, Jessica Deepan, Cassidy DeGrazio, Mike Delice, Lindsey Diamant, Jenna Dickerson, Nicholas DeFrancesco, Matthew Dolan, Katherine Dolinski, Kylie Donnelly, Amanda Duffy

Habiba Elbastawisi, Tamara Elliot, RaeAnne Englert, Hunter Estevez, Taylor Euston, Paige Ewing, Marianna Fahmy, Isiah Feeley-Sudeall, Dianne Ferraro, Gregory Forbes, Alexandria Frontz, Matthew Gallant, Jack Gillis, Neil Mervin Gonzalez, Zackary Gorman, Kaitlyn Gray, Gabriela Guerrero, Robert Gwiazda, Stephanie Heim, Taylor Henry, Anthony Hernandez, Jake Hoffman, Rebecca Horvat, Caitlin Hughes

Christa Iazzetta, Tatiana Ishod, Christopher Jefferys, Julio Jones, Kevin Jones, Patrick Kopolka, Kelvin Kariuki, Andres Kato Duenas, Andrew Kensey, Jouni Khalaf, Kayla Khan, Tazmeen Khan, Edward Kobilis, Elijah Koyongian, Christopher Kuberiet, Joseph Lacasale, Stephanie Lacasale, Grayson Lackey, Charles LaDelle, Victor Ladino Furque, McKenzie Larsen, Jason Le, Elizabeth Lee, Brianna Leonard, Thomas Licato, Thais Lopez, Ethan Lyte

Richard Marcovecchio, Annalise Markessinis, Jared Marks, Shanaya Martinez, Christopher Maszczak, Nicholas Matos, Emily Mazellan,

Gabriela Medina, Stefanie Melchiorre, Adia Menendez, Carly Miceli, Daisy Milian, Jaielyn Mitchell, James Moore, Kiian Morgan, Marissa Mulligan, Naome Nabi, Rebecca Ng, Julia Nguyen, Justin Nguyen, Steven Nguyen, Naomi Nieves

Glenn O'Bryant, Olivia O'Leary, Lawren O'Neal, Sarah Oehler, Jacquelyn Orellana, Ever Orellana Castro, Samuel Ortiz, Anthony Palmeri, Taylor Parajon, Jocelyn Paredes, Sebastian Paredes, Pooja Patel, Ravi Patel, Reina Patel, Elie Paul, Ricky Pellegrino, Dion Pender, Jason Petriello, Nicholas Pezzolla, Nicholas Polizzano, Bryan Dominic Pontevedra

Kelsy Prins, Rachel Ramagado, Abigail Ramirez, Kimber Reels, Emma Regan, Joseph Reo, Katherine Reo, Samantha Reo, Kayla Rivera, Mia Roach, Jameer Robinson, Jaime Rochotte, Justin Rochotte, Justin Rodriguez, Nathaniel Rodriguez, Sara Roman, Alyssa Russo, Nicholas Ruzicka, Angela Sanchez, Kayla Santiago, Brittany Santos, Seth Santos, Jean Sapini, Katie Saravia, Nicholas Scalera, Camryn Schaeffer, Michael Schroeder, Bryan Scipio Jr., Thomas Scott, David Schawiak, Benjamin Schaeffer, Martha Skoczynski, Kara Slattery, Kirsty Sperr, Daniel Sprenger, Justin Spry, Sydni Surowiec, Nicolea Sutor, Tomasz Tarnawski, Ellie Tom, Jack Townley, Danny Trieu

Stephanie Velez, Jonathan Veras, Lauren Villares, Vita Viran, Sandra Vordzorgbe, Asadullah Waheed, Patrick Waldrop, Sarah Walsh, Joshua Ward, Matthew Waters, Brianna Weber, Kyle Whalen, Lea Wietrzykowski, Anna Williams, Talia Wilson, Zachary Wolpin, Jahmir Yancey, Reece Young, Arnold Zavala, Emily Zawadski

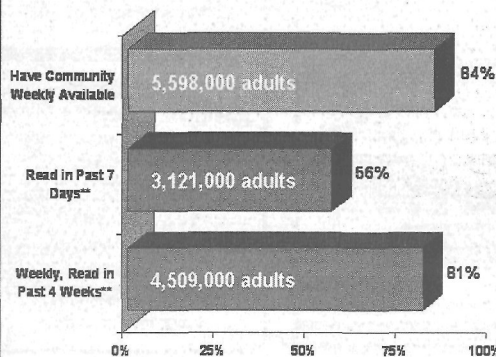
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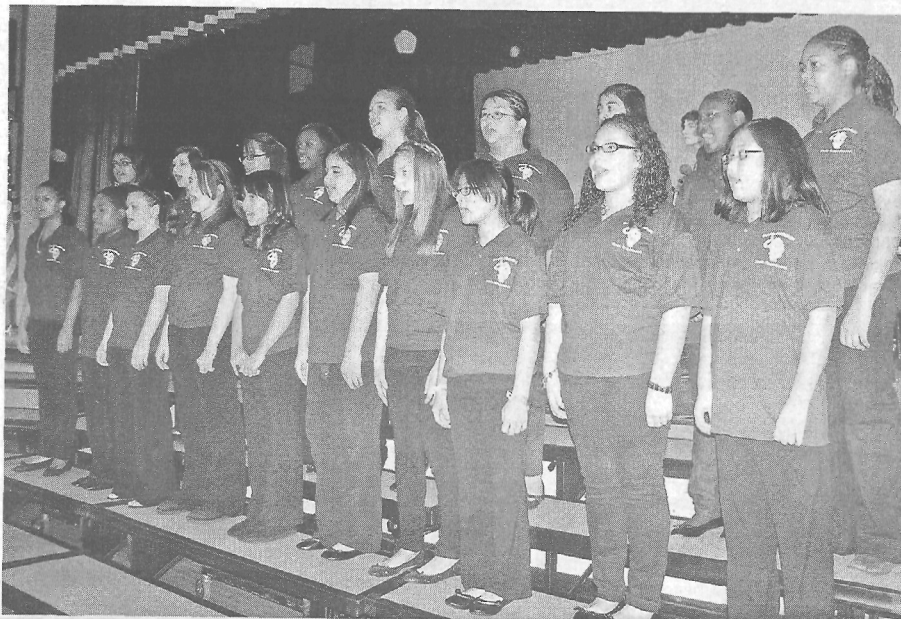
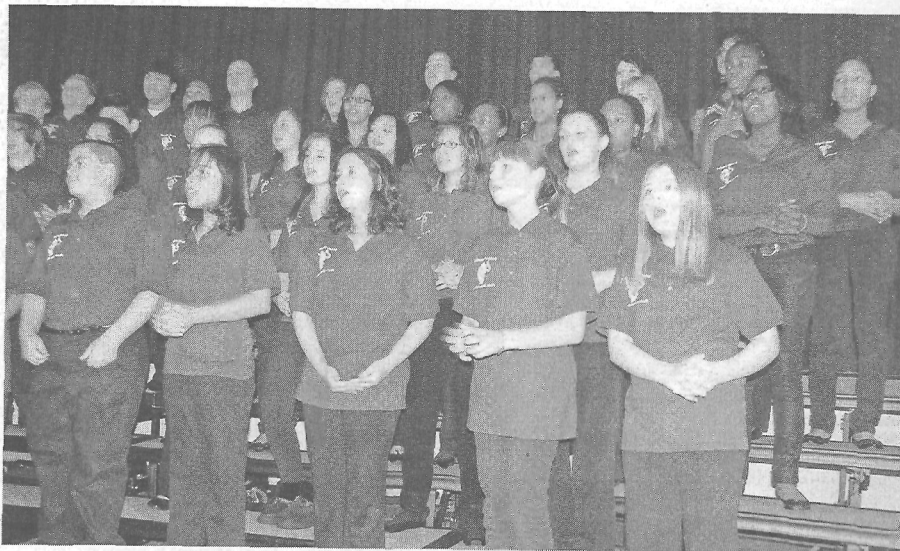
Middle School Winter Concert Features Gems/Onyx Choir

The middle school held their winter concert on December 15 in the SPHS auditorium. Principal Steve Novak opened the show and Sam Persad led the audience in *The Pledge of Allegiance*. The Gems/Onyx, conducted by Donna Markiewicz, sang *The Star Spangled Banner*.

The orchestra, conducted by Sarah LiVecchi, played *Hanukkah Joys*, *Sleigh Ride* and *Hallelujah Chorus*. The Gems/Onyx sang *Christmas*

Time is Here and *Baby It's Cold Outside*. Andrew Weiss directed the concert band in performing *The Runaway Sleigh*, *African Bell Carol* and *Spainia*. The Concert Choir sang *Adeste Fideles*, *Seize the Moment*, *Al Shlosha*, *Let it Snow!*, *Christmas in About Three Minutes* and *You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch*, with solos by Nina Bavosa and Jaime Bilak.

Frank Jacobson accompanied the choir on piano.



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Roseo Family Renews Adopt-A-Spot Contract

The Roseo Family has renewed its adoption of the Cedarbrook Avenue stream crossing for the next two years. The Roseo's first adopted this spot, which stretches around the corner to the open field on Morris Avenue and fronts on the large Middlesex Water Company property, in 2005. Clean-ups are done quarterly or more often if needed.

This wooded area near Riley School and the senior residence seems to attract litter and illegal dumping, so it is important to have regular cleanups. The Roseo's are active participants in the borough's Clean Communities program, joining in town-wide clean-ups and trail maintenance days at the Highland Woods Nature Reserve.

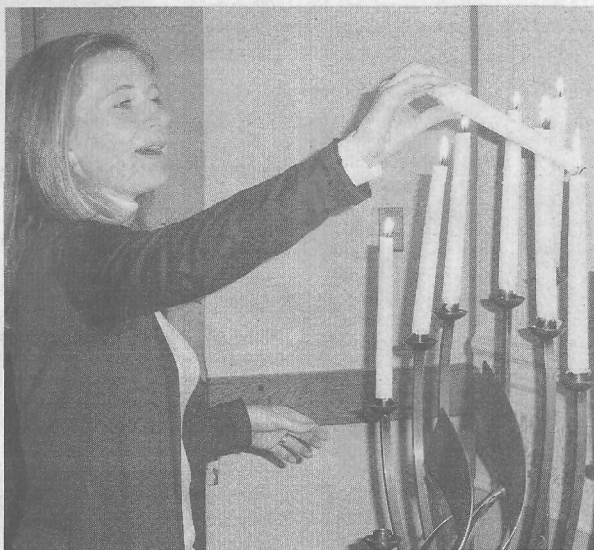
The CBA is looking for more adopters for roadsides that front on wooded areas. Stretches of Metuchen Road, Tyler Place and Garfield Avenue are in need of attention.

For more information about the Adopt-A-Spot program, call (908) 226-7621 or E-mail at atempel@southplainfieldnj.com.

Library Trustees Meeting Jan. 12

The next meeting of the South Plainfield Library Board of Trustees will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 12 at 7 p.m. at the library.

The meeting will include discussion of the library's current and future plans, including matters of library policy and needed improvements of library services and facilities. It will also serve as the annual reorganization meeting, involving the appointment of board members and assignment of duties. Members of the public are invited to attend.



Student Cantor Vicky Glikin lights the menorah as she tells the story of Chanukah.

Temple Sholom's Youngest Students Celebrate Chanukah

On December 19, young families at Temple Sholom (Fanwood/Scotch Plains) celebrated Chanukah, the festival of lights, with a special Shabbat Pray 'N Play led by Student Cantor Vicky Glikin.

"My family goes to the Pray 'N Play every month. We always have fun," says Jackie Lieberman of Scotch Plains, who attended the event with her husband and their two-year-old son. "It's interactive, so the whole family is up dancing and singing and playing together. I even see older kids having a

good time along with their young siblings. Afterward, the kids play and the grown-ups have a chance to chat. It's a great way to spend a Saturday morning."

The next Pray 'N Play will be held on Saturday, Jan. 16 at 10 a.m. and will be followed by a free bagel brunch in the playroom. All families with young children are welcome.

For more information, please call (908) 889-4900, E-mail sholom@sholomnj.org or visit www.sholomnj.org.

BOE Cancels Jan. 20 Special Meeting

Please be advised that the public hearing to discuss and/or modify contract terms and conditions for non-affiliated employees, which was sched-

uled as a part of the Regular Public Meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 20 at 7:30 p.m., has been cancelled.

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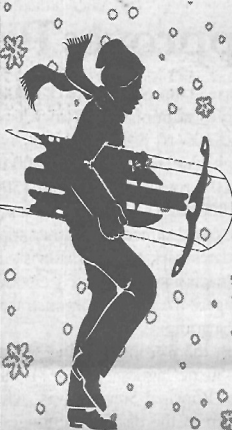
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Kennedy Elementary School teachers filled 120 Christmas stockings and wrapped small gifts to be distributed by New York City Relief (NYCR) which services the Elizabeth, Newark and New York City areas. The staff collected candy, books, toys, mittens and money, and spent time after school putting together items for the worthy cause. NYCR's mission is to mobilize compassionate outreach to bring a lifeline of hope to the homeless, poor and oppressed by connecting them to community resources to meet their needs; provide a platform that equips churches and people of faith to personally engage in the struggle against poverty, hopelessness and oppression and partners with other outreaches, churches and organizations to serve the poor, addicted and abandoned.

School Board Approves Principals' Raise

(Continued from page 1)
for mail-in. Remaining the same are co-pays for doctors visits. Participants will continue to pay \$2 for doctors services for those in the "traditional" insurance plan, \$5 for a "point of service" plan and a \$5 dental co-pay with a \$500 deductible. These are the only contributions the employees make toward their benefits.

Also on the agenda that evening was a payout of \$4,810 to some members due to an error dating back to 2000 between the board and the insurance company in the plan selection that resulted in members overpaying the previous contracted amount for prescriptions by \$5.

In addition to overall pay increases of 3%, 3.25% and 3.75% over the next three years, principals unit members will also receive a percentage increase in base pay depending on the number of years in the district and job title. This is known as a "step payment" and raises base pay each year, from the first year of service through year eight.

In addition to regular base and "step" pay, unit employees also receive stipends for degree credits, number of college courses completed, as well as longevity ("time in the district" and "time as administrator") categories. "Time in district" compensation in years five through nine will increase from \$250 to \$500; in year 10 through 14, the increase will be from \$500 to \$1,000; and 15+ years will

increase from \$1,000 to \$2,000. "Time as administrator" increased from \$200 to \$400 in years five through nine, from \$300 to \$600 in years 10 through 14, and from \$500 to \$1,000 for 15+ years of service.

The establishment of contract stipends dates back to 1993. Revisions were made once in July of 1996, according to Business Administrator Rich Guarini.

With the 3% increase and attainment of the highest "step," Middle School Principal Steve Novak, who has been in the district the longest, now earns a base salary of \$116,099, plus \$3,100 for "time in district" and \$800 for "time as administrator." High School Principal Dr. Ken May earns \$132,968 base salary, with the "step" at its highest level, plus an extra \$3,000 per year for earning a doctorate degree; \$2,250 for "time in the district" and an additional \$1,250 for "time as administrator."

When the board took a final vote on the contract, board members Bob Jones and Bill Seesselberg voted against it. "I think, given the economy and the prospects of state aid cuts, it's not a reasonable settlement," said Jones, who commented that it sets a bad precedent for future contract negotiations. He also went on to note that the "step" pay is an additional increase in the unit's salary, costing taxpayers an average of 1.4% per employee. "So instead of costing 3%, the increase this year will really cost

4.4%, and in this economy, it's not in the best interest of the taxpayer," said Jones.

"This settlement is too rich for the town budget," said Seesselberg, who foresees potential program cuts for students and staff layoffs.

"Compared with other towns, I believe it was fair," said Debbie Boyle, the leader of the board's negotiating committee. She took over heading up the committee only two months ago after Steve Bohn stepped down. Grant School Principal Leo Whalen, a bargaining representative for the principals unit, felt it was "the best agreement for both sides" and is similar to agreements in other districts.

Board members Steve Bohn and Tim Morgan both abstained from voting; however, Bohn "commended the committee" and felt that "their negotiations were positive."

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

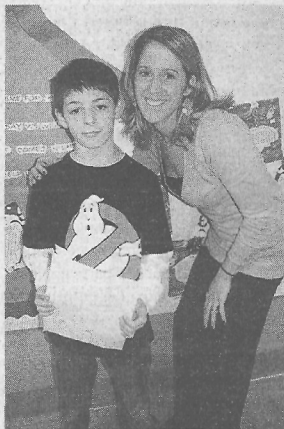
Alex Amato Named Junior Journalist

Kennedy School third grader Alex Amato has been named a winner in the Junior Journalist contest. His submission of the poem, "Feels Like Christmas Day," has earned him a dinner for his family courtesy of Hometown Heros.

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

Winners will receive a catered dinner for their families from Hometown Heros and will be honored at a year-end banquet in May of 2010. Junior Journalists also have the opportunity to win the Ruth Kurland Memorial \$1,000 savings bond which will be awarded at the banquet.

For more information, call the Observer at (908) 668-0010.



Junior Journalist winner Alex Amato with teacher Colleen Hook.

Feels Like Christmas Day

By Alex Amato

While lying in my bed Christmas Eve
I hear Santa's sleigh bells ringing and jingling.

In the morning I smell pancakes and hot chocolate
streaming from the kitchen.

I dash to the Christmas tree, touch my presents and
wonder what's inside.

I take a peek through my front window and see
snowflakes falling from the sky.

For dinner I taste a delicious roast beef meal and
then eat some candy from my stocking.

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LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Jelami Piah requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to allow an existing 8' x 14' wood shed (112 square feet) to remain in its present location; encroaching into secondary front yard setback on Arlington Avenue; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 701 Garibaldi Avenue, Block 342, Lot 1; Zone R-10 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, January 28, 2010 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey at 7:00 p.m.

The files and documents pertaining to this appeal are available for public inspection in the Planning/Zoning Office in Borough Hall between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

\$38.50 December 25, 2009

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Cedric and Sonia Johnson requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to allow an existing 12' x 16' wood shed (192 square feet) to remain in its present location; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 112 Hill Hollow Road, Block 137, Lot 20; Zone R-10 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, January 14, 2010 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey at 7:00 p.m.

The files and documents pertaining to this appeal are available for public inspection in the Planning/Zoning Office in Borough Hall between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

\$38.50 December 25, 2009

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE # 1760A

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

Ord. No. 1760A entitled: An ordinance to amend Ordinance #1760 entitled an Ordinance providing for the compensation of employees of the Borough of South Plainfield and the method of payment of such compensation for the year 2010 & 2011 was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield on Monday, December 21, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

BOND ORDINANCE STATEMENT AND SUMMARY

The bond ordinance, the summary terms of which are included herein, has been finally adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey on December 21, 2009 and the twenty (20) day period of limitation within which a suit, action or proceeding questioning the validity of such ordinance can be commenced, as provided in the Local Bond Law, has begun to run from the date of the first publication of this statement. Copies of the full ordinance are available at no cost and during regular business hours, at the Clerk's office for members of the general public who request the same. The summary of the terms of such bond ordinance follows:

Title: BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS CENTER AND THE ACQUISITION OF VARIOUS EQUIPMENT FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, FIRE DEPARTMENT AND OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, BY AND IN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY (THE "BOROUGH"); APPROPRIATING \$475,000 THEREOF AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$450,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

Purpose: Various Improvements to Central Com-

munications Center and Acquisition of Various Equipment for the Police Department, Fire Department and Office of Emergency Management

Appropriation: \$475,000
Bonds/Notes Authorized: \$450,000
Grants Appropriated: None
Section 20 Costs: \$10,000
Useful Life: 6.72 years

ATTEST:
Joann Graf/Municipal Clerk

\$84.40 December 25, 2009

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Jeanette Pena and Tim MacPherson requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to allow an existing 12' x 8.5' wood shed (102 square feet) to remain in its present location; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 222 Woolworth Avenue, Block 438, Lot 2.05; Zone R 1-2 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, January 14, 2010 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey at 7:00 p.m.

The files and documents pertaining to this appeal are available for public inspection in the Planning/Zoning Office in Borough Hall between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

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Junior Journalist 2009-2010

Congratulations Kyle!

Charlie and Debbie Kurland from Hometown Heros deliver dinner to Junior Journalist winner Kyle Gallardo (center) pictured with his mom JoJo and friend Megan.