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# South Plainfield Observer

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JANUARY 8, 2010

## Petronko, Scrudato Saluted for Service



Joe Scrudato



Ray Petronko

Outgoing Democratic Councilmen Ray Petronko and Joe Scrudato were honored with plaques and certificates of appreciation for their service to the council at the Borough's annual reorganization meeting held last Saturday at the Senior Center.

Petronko has spent the last 12 years on the council and most recently, in 2009, served as council president. During his tenure he was chair of the Recreation, Senior Advisory and Housing and Community Development committees from 1997-2007. Last year he served on the Administration and Finance committees. Prior to running for elected office, Petronko served on the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee from 1989 to 1997. He is also a 10-year member of the volunteer fire department, currently serving as vice president and has worked as a float technician for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City for the past 17 years.

Looking back, Petronko remembers a call he received 13 years ago from the Democratic Campaign Committee asking him to represent the party and run for council. "It was April Fool's Day," said Petronko, who hadn't expected the request and believed it might be a joke.

"One of the things I am most proud of," said Petronko, "is that we always had short term and long term goals. Even though you saw things done every year, there were plans in place for the future and when grants became available, they were used towards those plans, such as the expansion of the PAL building and Memorial Park. What I'm most proud of is the senior center."

Petronko does not intend to return to politics. "It wasn't my dream to be a councilman. They came to me and I'll come back to borough hall as a homeowner," said Petronko.

Prior to being elected to the borough council in 2006, Scrudato

was actively involved in the community. He is a longtime member of the Knights of Columbus and a past Grand Knight. He is a member of Our Lady of Czestochowa Church and a member of the finance committee there.

Scrudato is also a manager and coach at the Junior Baseball Club and active in the various recreational sports in which his children participate. He is a CERT team member and serves on the Public Celebrations Committee. He most recently chaired the Public Safety Committee and served on the Administration and Finance and Economic Development committees and the Planning Board.

When Scrudato first took office he was instrumental in providing 20 new

(Continued on page 10)



## Republicans regain control of the council

Bengivenga, Anesh sworn in at Reorganization Meeting on Jan. 2



Matt Anesh (top) takes the oath of office administered by Congressman Leonard Lance while his wife, Kim, and boys, Harrison and Joseph, look on. Above, Robert Bengivenga, Jr. takes the oath of office while his parents, April and Robert Bengivenga, Sr. look on.

## Mayor Asks Council to Revise Appointment

Concerns for Impartiality Influences Mayor's Decision

By Jane Dornick

At Monday evening's Borough Council meeting, Mayor Charles Butrico asked the council to reconsider their decision to appoint Board of Education member and former Republican Party Chair Bob Jones to the Zoning Board of Adjustment Committee instead of reappointing longtime chair Bill Thomas, whose three-year term had expired. Committee and commission members are appointed by the mayor and voted on by the council each year.

Although the appointments were discussed by both parties prior to the Reorganization Meeting on Saturday, Butrico had Jones' name pulled at the last minute and asked that it be put on the agenda for Monday's council meeting instead.

According to a statement read by Butrico during Monday's meeting, Jones had called him in response to his decision, saying that "he would do whatever possible to strip me of my mayoral duties and powers." The mayor also went on to say that Jones has harassed other Democratic supporters and is concerned about his ability to deal with the public if appointed. "Now, if that is how he treats me, a fellow resident, and the mayor of this town, I can only imagine how he might treat other fellow residents who might not agree with him," said Butrico.

Councilman Ray Rusnak asked why the mayor had previously agreed to the appointment. Butrico said the phone call "really steamed me and it was wrong." Councilwoman Chrissy Bureas felt Jones' actions were "politics by intimidation."

"Politics can get ugly sometimes," said Councilman Rob Bengivenga, who felt that the mayor's statements were slanderous, and pointed out that Jones has done a lot for this town. Butrico replied, "I'm not going to stand for it. I've had enough."

Jones, who did not respond to Butrico's comments during the meeting, later said, "This is another example of Charles Butrico engaging in the politics of personal destruction. He can't defend his failed policies; therefore, he attacks the character of others. His actions show why he is not fit to be mayor of South Plainfield, and as I told him, I will do everything within my means to see that he is not re-elected and that he no longer wields the power that he so flagrantly abuses." He also feels that it is, in fact, the mayor who likes

(Continued on page 5)

## Enjoy Local Talent at Saturday Coffeehouse

By Patricia Abbott, Almost Famous Players

The South Plainfield Almost Famous Players (AFP) will present a musical event featuring many local musicians this Saturday, Jan. 9 at a coffeehouse at the PAL building on Maple Avenue

from 6 to 9 p.m.

The musical event features many South Plainfield residents. The goal is straightforward: introduce the audience to the many talented local musicians/vocalists and make up for losses over the past two years due to bad weather

and vandalism during the annual Halloween Putnam Park Haunted Woods Tour.

Relax in a coffeehouse atmosphere; low lights, decorated tables and assorted refreshments will be available for purchase. Emcee for the evening is South Plainfield's own Jason Jackson. Follow-

ing is a partial rundown of some of the amazing talent offered to the audience on Saturday night.

South Plainfield residents Lory Jackson and her son, Joshua Jackson: Lory has most recently appeared on the Edison Valley Playhouse

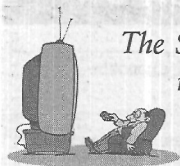
(Continued on page 11)



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







The South Plainfield Reorganization meeting can be viewed on Comcast Channel 96 next Tuesday, January 12 at 9 p.m.

Regular Council meetings air on Mondays at 7 p.m.

#### councilmeetings

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

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

Agenda Meeting ..... Public Meeting

January 19 (Tuesday) ..... January 19

February 1 ..... February 1

February 16 (Tuesday) ..... February 16

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.

#### planningboard

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

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

Reorganization meeting Tuesday, Jan. 12 6:45 p.m. Business Meeting & p.m.

#### zoningboardofadjustment

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

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

Reorganization meeting Thursday, Jan. 14 6:30 p.m. Business Meeting & p.m.

#### boardofeducation

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

#### BOEcurriculum/technology/student activities

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

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

#### BOEbuildings & grounds

Meets second Monday of the month at 7 p.m., 2nd floor conference room,

Roosevelt Administration Building-Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 8

#### recreationcommission

Meets once a month on the second Tuesday of the month, except July and August

PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7716

#### taxpayersadvisorygroup

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.

#### siteplansub-committee

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

#### environmentalcommission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday) Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m.

Questions? 908-226-7621

January 13

#### businessadvisorygroup

Meets once a month (first Wednesday) Borough Hall Council Chambers, 5 p.m.

Questions? 908-757-8100



Six South Plainfield High School Heartsavers CPR Training Team teachers received certificates of appreciation from the mayor and council at the December 21 meeting. Training team teachers are Leslie Rippon, Matthew Connell, Victoria Uniacke, Tammy Zurka, Maria Leonardis and Dana Curcio. Also receiving certificates for their work on the CPR course were Superintendent of Schools Jose Negron, SPSHS Principal Dr. Ken May and Athletic Director Michael Buggiey.

## In My Opinion

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

#### To the Editor:

Another holiday season has drawn to an end. It was the worst year for families in our community for job losses. When all was said and done, the South Plainfield Social Services Department assisted 115 families for both Thanksgiving food and Christmas gifts. It goes without saying, that without the generosity of our community, this would have been an impossible task.

The community, as always, pulled together and donated more than enough food and gifts.

Every school, every church, and almost every organization in town pulled together to help. It is an impossible task to acknowledge everyone who made this a wonderful holiday for so many. No matter what your contribution might have been, it is truly appreciated.

Thank you again and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2010.

**MARGARET ACKERMAN**  
DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

#### To the Editor:

The South Plainfield Meals on Wheels program would like to give special thanks to Girl Scout Troop #678 and sixth grade students at Grant School for making special holiday cards for the seniors on the meal program.

Also special thanks to Shirley Thompson and family for making and bringing very special hot dinners to the seniors that are homebound on Christmas. They all really enjoyed the dinner and the cards.

#### MEALS ON WHEELS

#### To the Editor:

This really should be addressed to the BOE. Shame on you!! How do you justify spending more of taxpayer money on salary increases, longevity increases, etc? Shame on the two board members who voted for it and a bigger shame on you to the two weaklings who abstained from voting. You want to give these outrageous raises; maybe you should put the money out for them.

Again, shame on you—people are still losing jobs, worrying about paying their mortgages, and supporting their families. How can those people negotiate for raises and, more importantly, how can this BOE sanction it?

Perhaps it is time that financial matters be taken out of the hands of the BOE and put to the voter for approval. Perhaps it is time to place spending taxpayer dollars in the hands of the taxpayer, not a few select individuals. Perhaps it is time that a BOE be concerned with only school matters, such as curriculum and being

concerned whether or not school employees are performing their duties as educators, which should shake up those employees who are not.

**PATRICIA MCDONOUGH**

#### Dear Editor,

Once again, Marge Ackerman has outdone herself. Each year Marge, who has worked for the borough for 26 years, coordinates a project through the Social Services Department to gather donations of holiday gifts for the needy children of South Plainfield. She makes a difference in so many lives with her hard work and dedication, not to mention the extra hours she works to make this project a success. Marge makes sure she is available to anyone who needs her assistance at night and on the weekends throughout the holiday season to ensure all donations are received and gifts are distributed to all families in need.

Of course, her project could not be a complete success without the many generous donors who adopt families and buy gifts for them; but Marge is the force behind the project and is truly the Mrs. Claus of South Plainfield. Our hats off to you, Marge!

Thank you for all of your efforts and dedication.

**SINCERELY,**  
**SHIRLEY THOMPSON**

## South Plainfield Observer

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

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#### SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

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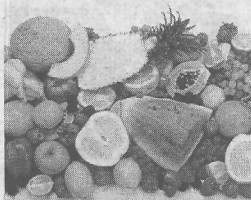
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South Plainfield Police Officer Kenneth Parada (center) with mom Margaret Lapetina, fiancé Shannon Flannery, sister Jackie Cupo, nephew Fernando Sanduval and Erika Quisilaya.

## Kenneth Parada Joins South Plainfield Police Department

South Plainfield's newest police officer, Kenneth Parada, was sworn in at the December 21 council meeting. The police department currently has 55 sworn officers.

Parada is a 1991 graduate of South Plainfield High School. He attended Lehigh University for three years majoring in material science and engineering.

Prior to being hired, he was employed by an international banking corporation and a health care company as a desk top tech.

Parada will replace one of two officers who recently retired. He will be attending the Somerset County Police Academy in January for six months of basic recruit training.

## Library Board of 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. 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.

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

## BOROUGH NOTES

- The council approved the temporary budget for CY2010 in the amount of \$6,931,381.50.

- Robert Capparelli was promoted from supervisor to acting general supervisor at public works department.

- Rescind resolution #09-339 and authorize the municipal clerk to advertise the board positions on the Dismal Swamp Preservation Commission to interested residents.

- Rescinded resolution #09-366 and awarded the barrier free bathroom renovations project to RJR Engineering Co. of Califon at a rate of \$55,450.

- The following refund checks were authorized: \$60 to Peter Calderone of Ranger Street for weight room membership refund; \$1,665.48 to HSBC Mortgage Corp USA on Block 137.02, Lot 19; \$1,511.47 to HSBC Mortgage Corp USA on Block 137.02, Lot 19; \$6,272.50 to Ricochet Props., 218 St. Nicholas Ave.; \$2,774.95 to Richard DeAndrea, Sr. of 420 Tremont Ave.; \$913.28 to Marco Villagomez and Paul Chimbo of 617 Spicer Ave. for a 2009 tax judgment.

- Appointed Pam Stefanek as recreation commission secretary.

- Transfer of Michael Kurlew from omnibus driver for the Office on Aging to Laborer II at the Department of Public Works and hired William Cochrane as a part time omnibus driver for the Office on Aging.

- Execute a professional service agreement with Joseph Glowacki as a consultant to assist in the transition of the public works department from January 5 through July 2, 2010.

- Hired Paul Brand as a part time mechanic for the department of public works.

- Appointed Robert Jones to the Zoning Board of Adjustment, term to expire December 31, 2013.



Dominic Demico III, pictured with Superintendent of Schools Jose Negron (left), was recognized for his heroic actions of March 10, 2009 by Mayor Charles Butrico (right) at the December 21 council meeting.

## Student's Quick Response Earns Kudos from Council

Dominic Demico was in his middle school science class on March 10, where his teacher was conducting an experiment. A chemical reaction as a result of the experiment resulted in a small explosion and subsequent fire in the classroom.

Dominic, acting quickly and without concern for his own safety, ran past the fire to retrieve a dry chemical fire extinguisher that was mounted on the wall. His fast response to extinguish the fire prevented injury to his fellow classmates, or damage to the classroom.

The science teacher, however, received superficial burns to her face.

After a review of the investigative reports, Police Chief John Ferraro determined that without Dominic's heroic efforts, the fire would have spread and students could have been exposed to injury. He recommended that Dominic be formally recognized by the mayor and council.

At the December 21 council meeting Mayor Butrico presented Dominic with a certificate of appreciation for his outstanding efforts.

## Christmas Tree Pick Ups Underway

All Christmas trees in the borough should be placed at the curb for collection until January 31.

Trees will be picked up throughout the entire borough during this period, regardless of the district in

which you reside.

If so desired, residents may bring their trees to the borough's compost facility located on Kenneth Avenue.

Please remove all ornaments, lights and stands from trees.

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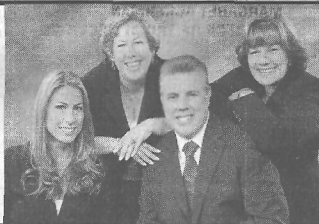
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# events

## Historical Society Meeting

January 12

The next meeting of the South Plainfield Historical Society will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 12 at 7 p.m. in the history center at the Roosevelt Administration building on Jackson Avenue. New officers will be installed. Annual dues will be accepted there and can also be mailed to: South Plainfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 11, South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

New members are welcome. Come learn some of the history of your town.

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January 12

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facilities. It will also serve as the annual reorganization meeting, involving the appointment of board members and assignment of duties. The public is invited to attend; no pre-registration is required. There will be a public comment period early in the meeting.

## Pancake Breakfast At American Legion

January 17

The American Legion Chaumont Post #243, located on Oak Tree Road will hold a pancake breakfast on Sunday, Jan. 17 from 8 a.m. to noon. All you can eat; everyone welcome. Adults-\$5, children \$3, under six free. All profits go to scholarship fund.

## Festival of Cultures

January 18

The South Plainfield Coalition of Cultural Diversity will present the third annual Festival of Cultures and Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday, Jan. 18 in the auditorium of Riley Elementary School, 100 Morris Ave. A fee of \$5 per family will be collected at the door for expenses.

For information, or if you are a professional cultural performer, contact SPCCD president Dr. Nehemiah Thompson at (908) 251-3992 or E-mail thompson3000@verizon.net.

## Share Your Good News.

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Milestones!

Email: spobserver@comcast.net

## — Out of Town —

## Middlesex East WOWs Open Dance

January 8

Middlesex East Widows Or Widowers, Carteret Chapter, will hold an open dance on Friday, Jan. 8 from 7:30-11:30 p.m. at The American Legion Hall, 1155 Roosevelt Ave. in Carteret. Live music and refreshments. Admission: \$10 members; \$12 guests. For more information, call (732) 541-2174 or (908) 757-0515.

## Adopt a Pet

January 10 & 11

Lost Paws Animal Rescue, a non-profit animal welfare organization, will sponsor pet adoption events on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 10 and 11 from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the PetSmart store in Bridgewater's Promenade Mall, intersection of Rtes. 28 and 287.

To adopt or for more information, visit [www.lpar.petfinder.com](http://www.lpar.petfinder.com).

## Woodbridge WOWs Meeting

January 13

Woodbridge Widows Or Widowers will conduct a business meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 13 at 7 p.m. in the children's room of the Woodbridge main library, George Fredrick Plaza, Rt. 35 in Woodbridge. Light refreshments to follow.

For more information, call (732) 381-3255 or (908) 757-0515.

## SENIOR CENTER Calendar

### Coming Up....

Jan 21 - Showboat Casino

### 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.

Call (908) 754-1047 for more info or visit [www.southplainfieldnj.com](http://www.southplainfieldnj.com)  
Senior Center 2010 dues are due-\$10 membership

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

### 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

Bingo ..... 10 am-2 pm

## Traditional Klezmer Music Program

January 13

On Wednesday, Jan. 13 from 7 p.m., the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission will present The Hester Street Troupe in an age-old Yiddish folk music tradition known as "Klezmer" at the Anshe Emeth Memorial Temple, 222 Livingston Ave. in New Brunswick. The program is free, but advance registration is required.

For more information and to register for this free Folklife program, please call (732) 745-4489.

## NAACP Presents "The Meeting"

January 14

The Metuchen Edison Area Branch of the NAACP and the New Jersey Office of Faith Based Initiatives will present the critically acclaimed play, "The Meeting," on Thursday, Jan. 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the Piscataway High School Auditorium in Piscataway.

Space is limited; please RSVP by January 13 via E-mail to [info@naacpmeab.org](mailto:info@naacpmeab.org). The event is free.

## Temple Sholom to Hold Pray 'N Play

January 16

On January 16, Temple Sholom of Fanwood/Scotch Plains invites families with children ages four and under to an interactive Shabbat Pray 'N Play featuring music, maracas, puppets and

parachutes. The 30-minute service begins at 10 a.m. and will be followed by a free bagel brunch.

Temple Sholom is located in the Fanwood Presbyterian Church at the corner of Martine and LaGrande Avenues in Fanwood. For more information, call (908) 889-4900.

## Red Cross Family Fitness Challenge

January 16

The Tri-County Red Cross and Cranford Chamber of Commerce are partnering to help local families get and stay healthy in the New Year, while at the same time raising funds to provide local disaster relief. On Saturday, Jan. 16, the kick-off to the Red Cross Resolutions Gym-A-Thon will include educational presentations from local businesses, boot-camp style fitness activities and a chance to sign up to support the Red Cross. Program starts at 11 a.m. at 220 Walnut Ave. in Cranford.

Information and sign up forms at [tricotredcross.org/gymathon](http://tricotredcross.org/gymathon).

## 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 Mass is sponsored by the diocese's Commission for Black Catholic Ministry. A reception will follow the Mass.

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36 MO LEASE\*\*  
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**\$325**  
36 MO LEASE\*\*  
**New '10 VW CC SPORT**  
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Cub Scout Pack 207 had a special visit from Santa at a recent pack meeting held on December 22. Santa presented each scout with a kit for their cars for the Pinewood Derby which will be held on February 12.

## School Board Announces Candidacy Info

The South Plainfield School District has information available for citizens interested in running for a vacant seat on the Board of Education (BOE).

The South Plainfield Board of Education will have three vacancies in the April 20 annual school election, according to Richard A. Guarini, spokesperson for the BOE. A full term on the school board runs for three years.

Candidates must file a nominating petition with the local school board in order to get their name on the ballot for the annual school election. The current deadline to submit the nominating petition is 4 p.m. on Monday,

March 1. The election is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20.

A change in the annual school election date and candidacy deadline has been proposed in the Legislature. The New Jersey School Boards Association will notify local school districts of such a change, if enacted.

Prospective school board candidates can obtain a "School Board Candidate Kit" online at [www.njsba.org](http://www.njsba.org). Published by the New Jersey School Boards Association, the kit includes a nominating petition, information about legal qualifications for school board candidacy and the role of the school board

member. Information about the New Jersey School Ethics Act and important dates in the school election process are also included in the kit.

"One of the most meaningful contributions that a citizen can make to their community is serving on their local board of education," said Harry J. Delgado, NJSBA president. "I encourage all interested citizens to consider school board membership. It doesn't require a degree in education, or a background in politics. However, it does require a sincere interest in the community, its children, and their education."

## Mayor Asks Council to Revise Appointment

(Continued from page 1)

to "bully, intimidate and threaten people" and "uses lies, distortions and mischaracterizations to demonize anyone who dares disagree with him."

Thomas, 16-year veteran of the Zoning Board of Adjustment and its chair for the last 14 years, felt that the appointment was not personal and the new Republican Majority is entitled to make their appointments. He did, however, say, "The zoning board is not a place for politics," and that Jones "lacked the temperament, character

and integrity" for the position and he was "the wrong choice."

"This is the same person [Thomas] who referred to a member of the audience during a zoning board meeting as a 'petulant child,'" said Jones, who found "irony" in Thomas' statements. "He directed this disrespectful name calling at a member of the public simply because the gentleman was expressing opinions with which Thomas disagreed."

Thomas was appointed to the Dismal Swamp Preservation Commission

a couple of weeks ago, along with Jeffrey Williams. Both had their appointments rescinded by the new council that plans to advertise for the positions.

"A representative of the Board of Adjustment needs to work with the public in a positive way whether they agree with the individual or not. For this reason, I am not convinced in any way that Mr. Jones is the best candidate," said Buttrico.

The council voted 4-1 along party lines to appoint Jones that evening. Franky Salerno rescinded himself.

## JUNIOR JOURNALIST

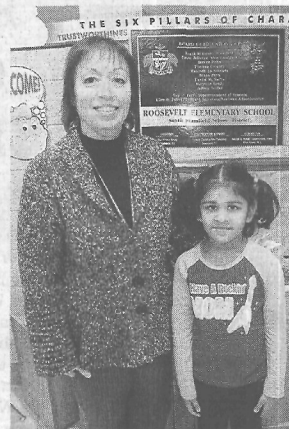
### Amirtha Bharathan Named Junior Journalist

Roosevelt School first grader Amirtha Bharathan has been named a winner in the Junior Journalist contest. Her submission of "Tiger and the Monkey," has earned her dinner for her 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 Amirtha Bharathan with teacher Michelle Santelli.

### Tiger and the Monkey

By Amirtha Bharathan, First Grade

Once upon a time there lived a tiger and a monkey. The monkey and the tiger were friends. One day the monkey and the tiger had a fight. The tiger planned to eat the monkey. The monkey had a plan to trick the tiger. Monkey took the tiger to the cave. When the tiger slept at the cave the monkey went to another place.

The moral of the story is: Be smart.

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# Borough Council Reorganizes

## Republicans Gain Control at January 2 Reorganization Meeting



Taylor Kurlew

The balance of control of the Borough Council was swayed for the third year in a row on January 2 at the annual reorganization meeting held at the Senior Center. With Republicans Matt Anesh and Rob Bengivenga securing two seats in last November's election, the Republicans now control the council by a 4-2 margin.

The meeting began with a performance of *The National Anthem* by Taylor Kurlew and Rev. Charles Mingle offered the invocation. Congressman Leonard Lance administered the oath of office to Councilmen Matt Anesh and Rob

Bengivenga, both who previously served on the council from 2005 through 2008.

Councilman Matt Anesh was the unanimous choice to serve as council president. Former New Jersey Governor Donald DiFrancesco, a partner in the borough's new legal firm, administered the oath of office to Anesh.

Councilmen Ray Petronko and Joe Scudato, who served 12 and three years on the council, respectively, were presented with plaques and certificates of appreciation.

The members of the council voted

unanimously on all contracts awarded, as well as all the mayoral and council appointments to committees and commissions; a departure from the past two years when most votes went along party lines.

Mayor Charles Butrico gave his annual message and Council President Matt Anesh gave the majority report.

Contracts awarded were to: Paul Rizzo (from the firm of DiFrancesco, Bateman, Coley, Yospin, Kunzman, Davis, Lehrer)-borough attorney, T & M Associates-

(Continued on page 10)



Reverend Charles Mingle

### Reorganization Message – Mayor Charles Butrico

JANUARY 2, 2010

Thank you all for joining us today to kick-off an exciting new year. Before we talk about where we're going in 2010, let's take a minute to reflect on 2009 and the accomplishments that were made.

I don't have to tell any of you about the devastating effects of the worldwide financial crisis. Whether it was foreclosures or reduced property values; unemployment or expanded job descriptions; salary freezes, or furloughs; fewer benefits or higher costs, we have all been affected at some level in some way. Government is not immune to those effects and, just as each of you maintains a household to shelter and feed your families, we, too, must maintain the vital services we provide to our residents. And, just like you, we have had to share the burden and find ways to do more with less.

That is our ongoing commitment to you because we understand that you work hard to contribute to your community and you deserve a government that gives you the greatest possible value for every tax dollar.

Our mantra for 2009 was doing more with less and with that goal in mind we started off 2009 with a full review of our budget. Council President Petronko and I met with all department heads and, working together, we reduced departmental budgets by 10% across the board. We strongly encouraged participation in shared services programs and partnerships with other entities, such as the county and the BOE.

In addition to reducing operational costs, we took significant steps to bring down costs in one of our highest budget expenditures: salaries and benefits. In 2009, the administration overturned a decision of the previous council to increase the salaries of department heads by 3.75% a year. We felt it was too high a burden to place on our taxpayers, many of whom were sacrificing their own cost of living raises just to hold on to their jobs. We went back to the ne-

gotiating table and brought that down to an average of 2.5%. And it's not just the department heads, but all Borough employees are pitching in to help us reduce the cost of payroll and benefits. In another victory for our residents, we were able to renegotiate the existing contract with the DPW, further reducing the impact on our taxpayers.

We looked at our energy costs and in an effort to ensure that we are getting the best value for our energy dollar, we conducted a comprehensive audit of every borough facility with regard to energy efficiency. The results of that audit indicate that there is a potential for significant savings. Likewise, in meetings with efficiency experts from the water and utility suppliers, we identified additional cost-cutting opportunities, such as eliminating a number of unnecessary streetlights. That, alone, will save our taxpayers \$50,000 annually.

In 2009 we teamed up with Jackie Jackson, a local resident and public advocate who guided us on our first ever handicapped accessibility tour of the public buildings in the borough. Thanks to Jackie, we gained a better understanding of challenges some of our residents may face just going about their daily lives. We determined to make the bathrooms at borough hall accessible and secured a grant in the amount of \$80,000 to get the job done. As a result of this very successful effort, South Plainfield received the annual Community Partnership Award from the Multiple Sclerosis Society of NJ.

In 2009, we oversaw the launch of an innovative internship program that offers our high-school students the chance to serve the community while getting real-life experience in the daily work of local

government and learning practical skills. Additionally, our Police Department worked with school officials to train and certify every high-school junior in life-saving CPR. These are but a few examples of the ways in which we are not only looking for ways to make use of the abundant talents of our community members, but also creating new opportunities for utilizing shared services programs.

In 2009, we demonstrated our strong commitment to public safety. We partnered with Middlesex County to equip our law enforcement, fire, rescue services and

emergency management personnel with state of the art technology that allows them to respond to emergencies more quickly than ever. When seconds can mean the difference between life and death, the return on this investment is beyond measure. We replaced our aging communication dispatch console and 911 system and we approved the purchase of new radios for our emergency services personnel. The new equipment will also allow us to connect to a county-wide communication system that will enhance our ability to access critical support services outside our borough. In addition, we installed a community-wide telephone notification system. I'm sure many of you appreciated the reminder to get your cars off the street before last week's snow storm. This system can also be used to alert our residents to many different situations.

From a quality of life perspective, I know that traffic, and particularly truck traffic, is a real issue for so many of you. During 2009, we completed

(Continued on page xx)



Mayor Charles Butrico

### Council Committee Assignments

#### ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE & PUBLIC INFORMATION

Raymond Rusnak, Chairman

Committee Members: Matthew Anesh & Robert Bengivenga, Jr.

#### PUBLIC WORKS

Timothy McConville, Chairman

Committee Members: Franky Salerno & Raymond Rusnak

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Franky Salerno, Chairman

Committee Members: Chrissy Buteas & Timothy McConville

#### HEALTH, WELFARE & ENVIRONMENT

Chrissy Buteas, Chairwoman

Committee Members: Matthew Anesh & Raymond Rusnak

#### PUBLIC SAFETY

Matthew Anesh, Chairman

Committee Members: Chrissy Buteas & Robert Bengivenga, Jr.

#### RECREATION

Robert Bengivenga, Jr., Chairman

Committee Members: Franky Salerno & Timothy McConville

### 2010 Mayoral Appointments With Advise And Consent Of Council

Be it resolved by the governing body of the Borough of South Plainfield, New Jersey, that:

NAME	BOARD	EXPIRES
Kenneth Reisch	Cultural Arts Committee	12/31/12
Eleanor A. Reisch	Cultural Arts Committee	12/31/12
Pam Stefanek	Cultural Arts Committee	12/31/12
Jacqueline Jackson	Cultural Arts Committee	12/31/12
Walter Kalman	Health Advisory Board	12/31/12
Happy Hylkema	Health Advisory Board	12/31/12
Dr. Anthony Loomis	Health Advisory Board	12/31/12
Gary Jones	Library Board of Trustees	12/31/14
Virginia Popik	Library Board of Trustees	12/31/14
Eleanor Haines	Library Board of Trustees	12/31/14
Patricia Massey	Library Board of Trustees BOE	12/31/10
John Sorrentino	Public Celebrations	12/31/12
Debbie Boyle	Public Celebrations	12/31/12
Christine Buteas	Public Celebrations	12/31/12
Timothy Morgan	Traffic Safety Advisory-BOE	12/31/12
Lt. Kevin Murtagh	Traffic Safety Advisory	12/31/10
Bobby Capparelli	Traffic Safety Advisory-DPW	12/31/10
Peter Richkus	Traffic Safety Advisory Com.	12/31/12
Cathy Feeney	Traffic Safety Advisory Com.	12/31/12
Robert Bengivenga, Jr.	Youth Guidance Council	12/31/10
Officer Christopher Colucci	Youth Guidance Council	12/31/10



The 2010 Borough Council (L to R)-Sitting: Raymond Rusnak, Mayor Charles Butrico, Council President Matt Anesh; standing: Franky Salerno, Rob Bengivenga, Timothy McConville and Chrissy Buteas.





Members of the community take the oath of office after their appointments.

2010 Mayoral Appointments

By virtue of the power vested in me as mayor of the Borough of South Plainfield, and pursuant to ordinance #728 and N.J.S.A.40:55D, I, Charles F. Butrico, Jr., I do hereby appoint:

BOARD	APPOINTEE	EXPIRES
Environmental Commission	John Koelble	12/31/2012
Environmental Commission	Chrissy Buteas, Council Liaison	12/31/2010
Environmental Commission	Dorothy Miele, Chairperson	12/31/2010
Environmental Commission	Franky Salerno, Pl Bd Liaison	12/31/2010
Mayor's HCD Representative	Jeffrey Williams	12/31/2010
Mayor's Representative to the		
Library Board of Trustees:	Kathy Thomas	12/31/2010
Planning Board - Class II	Mary Beth Khidre	12/31/2010
Planning Board Class IV	Daniel Gallagher	12/31/2013
Planning Board Class IV	Paul Grzenda	12/31/2013
Planning Board Class IV	John Mocharski	12/31/2013
Planning Board - Alternate I	Jon Dean	12/31/2012
Planning Board - Alternate II	William Thomas	12/31/2013
Recreation Commission	William Cochrane	12/31/2014
Recreation Commission Alternate I	Salvatore Severini	12/31/2014
Traffic Safety Advisory Committee	Matthew Anesh, Liaison	12/31/2010
Mayor's Representative - Middlesex	Matthew Anesh	12/31/2010
County Transportation Coordinating Committee		



Members of the community take the oath of office after their appointments.

2010 Council Appointments

Be it resolved by the governing body of the Borough of South Plainfield and pursuant to ordinance #728 and N.J.S.A. 40:55D that:

NAME	BOARD	EXPIRES
Raymond Rusnak	Affordable Housing Committee Liaison	12/31/2010
Jack Pedersen	Business Advisory Group	12/31/2012
Debbie Leporino	Business Advisory Group	12/31/2012
Don Duffy	Business Advisory Group	12/31/2012
Mary Beth Khidre	Business Advisory Group (Zoning)	12/31/2010
T & M Asso	Business Advisory Group (Engineer)	12/31/2010
Chrissy Buteas	Environmental Commission Liaison	12/31/2010
Franky Salerno	Environmental Comm/Planning Bd Liaison	12/31/2010
Dr. Alice Tempel	Greenbrook Flood Control	12/31/2010
T & M Asso	Greenbrook Flood Control - Alt I	12/31/2010
Tim McConville	Greenbrook Flood Control - Alt II	12/31/2010
Robert Bengivenga, Jr.	Council's HCD Representative	12/31/2010
Franky Salerno	Planning Board - Class III	12/31/2010
Robert Bengivenga, Jr.	Office on Aging Advisory Board Liaison	12/31/2010
Wally Schuff	Office on Aging Advisory Board	12/31/2012
Linda Fiore	Office on Aging Advisory Board	12/31/2012
Matthew Anesh	Traffic Safety Advisory Comm Liaison	12/31/2010
Matthew Anesh	Truck by Pass Committee Liaison	12/31/2010

- From the -  
Council President Matt Anesh



Council President Matt Anesh

I'd like to extend a sincere welcome to everyone here today. South Plainfield is a unique place. While trying to decide what to say today, I was reminded just how unique it really is. For decades, families searching for the perfect place to raise their families came to South Plainfield because they knew it was a safe, affordable community where their children would enjoy unrivaled opportunities.

There are so many things for which South Plainfield can be proud-among them its fine schools, its abundant and tireless volunteers, its rich history, and its sense of community.

I know of no other place where so many young people choose to stay and build their lives in the same hometown in which they themselves were raised. In fact, if you doubt South Plainfield's uniqueness, just look up here. Five of the six council members actually grew up in the borough and then chose to stay.

We can take great pride in our community. But along with that pride comes great responsibility and the duty to keep it the safe, affordable, and close-knit place it's been for decades.

In 2010, honoring this responsibility means facing difficult challenges. We want to preserve what we have, and we also want to take South Plainfield to the next level. Like many communities, though, we face the reality of the recession, the need to control costs, and the obligation to hold down property taxes. At the same time, the pressures of over-development force us to defend the small-town atmosphere that makes South Plainfield unique.

Given these challenges, I've carefully considered the council's priorities for 2010 and would like to discuss the top three:

First, we need to work toward a more cost-effective local government. In an era of looming deficits, there is a great chance that state aid may be cut and grant pools significantly reduced. We need to do more with less, and that means looking for new ways to solve old problems. Rather than find creative ways to spend money, let's be creative in how we conserve the hard-earned money entrusted to us.

It's important to get off to a quick start, and that's why we've already identified over \$150,000 in savings we can achieve by combining jobs, cutting positions, and reducing other positions to part time. We also must begin for the first time to think about the long-term and not make decisions that reap short-term gains at the expense of costly commitments.

A great example of the creativity I'm looking for just took place last month. Councilman Ray Rusnak and our administrator, Glenn Cullen, negotiated a deal with the Teamsters that will reduce salaries for new DPW hires by 30%. The long-term savings from this deal will be hundreds of thousands of dollars. I congratulate Ray and Glenn. This is exactly the type of creativity that we need to

make our local government more cost-effective.

Our second priority centers on what people get for their tax dollars. That's why I'm challenging the council to usher in a new decade of top-notch service to residents. It's no secret that when Rob and I ran this year we talked in detail about programs that benefit our neighborhoods, families and seniors. It's important to preserve our neighborhoods through programs like road and curb reconstruction. It's also important to make sure parents have a safe place to raise their children. The popular *Safe Streets, Safe Kids* initiative and park revitalization are examples of ideas that make our town a better and safer place for these families. In a similar way, we need to constantly make sure we offer our seniors the services that meet their needs.

To achieve this second goal, we, as a council, need to make top-notch service to residents a priority. I've also asked our administrator to take a hands-on approach in managing the borough and to assess every department to see whether it is offering the top-notch service residents deserve. Our job as a governing body is not to manage the borough ourselves, but rather to see that it is well managed. To that end we, as a council, need to set high expectations.

The third priority will test us the most. In fact, when addressing our borough reorganization in 2007, I called this challenge South Plainfield's biggest. That challenge is to control over-development.

More than ever, we need to fight the unbridled growth that's threatening our town. And let me be frank: If we don't work together we could forever lose the small-town atmosphere we all treasure.

In 2010 we face the development of more than 700 new rental apartments and 338 new condos. These two projects threaten our small town. They'll bring more traffic; they'll strain our emergency services; and they'll bring hundreds of new kids into our schools-all at a time when we can least afford it.

There will be skeptics who'll argue that we should simply accept the inevitable. To them I say "Now is not the time to raise the white flag." With a new governor planning to overhaul the flawed statewide housing plan that would flood our town with multi-unit housing, now is the time to redouble our efforts-that, or say goodbye to South Plainfield as we know it.

To lead the effort, I'm asking our borough attorney, Paul Rizzo, and our planner from T&M to immediately begin work on a strategy that will allow us to thwart projects that, in the end, would add over a thousand new housing units to our town. I also challenge every council member to work together and make fighting

(Continued on page 10)



Borough Council members are sworn into various assignments.



## From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Strange, but just a few days ago it was 2009. Where does the time go, huh? Now it's barely 2010 and the year is already flying by. Well, while you're adjusting to the new calendars, here's a bit of news from the South Plainfield Library:

Don't forget about our latest antiques appraisals program on Sunday at 2 p.m. Once again, Alan Snyder will be here to lead the program. For those unfamiliar with the format, appraisals are made on a "first come, first served" basis. Participants are limited to two items each. This program is being presented free; no pre-registration is required.

Our next Library Board of Trustees meeting is set for Tuesday at 7 p.m. In addition to being the annual Reorganization Meeting, there will be discussion regarding important matters of library policy and needed improvements to library services. Members of the public are encouraged to attend this meeting; there will be a public comment and question period early in the proceedings.

We'll follow our usual schedule of children's programming next week. For those new to South Plainfield, the library or this newspaper, here's what that means: we'll have the Monday Morning Movie, featuring a movie presentation for pre-schoolers, on Monday at 10:30 a.m. Storytime for children ages four and over, is scheduled for Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday at 1:15 p.m. Time for 2's & 3's, for children ages two and three, is set for Wednesday and Thursday at 10:30 a.m. And Babytime, for children ages two and under, is scheduled for Friday at 10:30 a.m. Each program lasts about an hour and features stories, songs and a craft activity for older kids. For more details, please call us and ask for Miss Linda or Miss Mija.

The latest group of Circuit DVDs should be ready to check out by today. Unfortunately, a specific list from this group is unavailable at press time, so please check at the Circulation Desk

for more details. DVDs may be borrowed, four at a time, for two days, with free renewals when available.

Regarding the "Ides of April," just a reminder that we won't be receiving NJ State tax forms or booklets this year. Patrons may, however, print out needed forms from the NJ State Division of Taxation Web site; print-outs at the library cost 10¢ each for black and white, 50¢ each for color. However, due to our desire to spare some forest land, we will not print out the tax booklets for you; you may check the booklets on-line and note the information you need yourself. As far as the IRS is concerned, Federal forms and booklets are on the rack near the children's room. Please consider the needs of others and only take the minimum number of forms you need.

Also, please remember that it's still the middle of winter and the weather is still pretty cold outside. We'd like to keep our heating bills as low as possible this season. So, please don't overuse the semi-automatic doors; don't use the button unless you need to, and then only for as long as is absolutely necessary. Remember, every dollar we don't spend on the heat is one we can spend on books, DVDs, new equipment and certain other expenses (like the salary of your humble correspondent).

Finally, a very special thanks to all who contributed to the 2009 Books to Keep program. As of the end of last year, the total number of books donated was 369 (give or take a few), with \$78.50 worth of cash donations. Again, thanks very much; you came through with flying colors. We'd also like to heartily thank everyone who brought in baked goods and treats for us during the holiday season. Our staff enjoyed them a lot (extra pounds notwithstanding).

That's about it. For more details, please call (908) 754-7885 or visit the library's Web site at [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us). See you next Friday, and be sure to include the correct year on your important papers. It's tough this early, but it'll save hassles later on.

# Sports

## RECREATION WRESTLING

By Joe Sacco



### Tigers Roar at Fords Tournament

South Plainfield's Recreation Wrestling Team placed second in the "A" Division and first in the "B" Division at the Fords Holiday Tournament. Front row (L-R): Ryan Duhamel-2nd, Alex Amato-1st, Joe Sacco-2nd, Nicholas Loniewski-1st, David Loniewski-4th, Brenden Hedden-4th, Tommy Fierro-1st, Divon Pender. Second row: Connor Adams, Luke Niemeyer-3rd, Ben Lundy-1st, Xavier Santos, Jeff Plungis -2nd, Dion Pender-2nd, Third row: Jake Giordano-1st, Jake Hoffman-3rd, Christian Gonzalez-3rd, Anthony White-3rd, Danny Hedden-1st, Chris Born, Jordan Hamberg-2nd, Fourth row: Sebastian Santos-1st, Jake DelVecchio-1st, Zack DelVecchio-1st, Michael Marrero-3rd, Kyle Davisson-3rd, Christopher Maszczak-2nd, Josh Stasenka-4th, Last row: George Pittenger, Desmond Santos-1st, Darius Mullens, Kyle Bythell-3rd, Nick DiFrancesco-2nd, Nick Scalera-2nd, Ryan Stankan-1st. Not pictured: Jacob Painton-1st, Gabriel Painton-4th, Joey Penyak, Michael Clevenger, Dominic Faustini-4th and Ryan Marston-2nd.

-Submitted by Joe Sacco

By Gary Lampasona

## JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

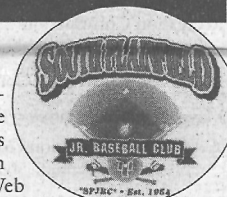
**Final Registration:** Don't miss your last chance to register for the 2010 spring season. Come on down to the clubhouse on Saturday, Jan. 9 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. At this registration a \$20 late fee will be added. First time participants must bring a copy of their child's birth certificate. Also available are sign-ups for managers, coaches, committees and snack stand captains. Call the clubhouse at (908)

754-2090 for further information. You can also download the registration form from our handouts section on our Web site at [www.leaguelineup.com/spjbc](http://www.leaguelineup.com/spjbc). Just fill it out and mail it to our address. See you there!

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# Obituaries

## Alfred C. "Chick" Dixon, 82

Alfred C. "Chick" Dixon died on Saturday, Jan. 2 at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born and raised in Plainfield, Chick resided in South Plainfield for most of his life.

For 46 years Mr. Dixon worked as a chemical engineer for National Starch in Plainfield. He was a member of the Plainfield Rescue Squad for 25 years and during that time he received several accommodations for his service. He also rode on the South Plainfield Rescue Squad for many years as well.

Chick served with the Army during the Korean Conflict and for the past 30 years he had been a member of the Friends of Bill.

In addition Chick was a member of Sacred Heart RC Church and served as an usher for several years.

Surviving are three children, Roseanna Hall Weber and husband Steve of Lake Tahoe, Nev., Catherine Dixon of Neptune City and Michael Dixon and wife Linda of Mint Hill, N.C.; four grandchildren, Sarah, A.J. and Erika Dixon and Vincent Hall; a sister, Tracey Morgan and a brother, Tom Dixon, both of California.

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

## Grace Marie (DeFazio) Fotia, 83

Grace Marie (DeFazio) Fotia died on Thursday, Dec. 31 at Haven Hospice located within JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born in Archbald, Pa., Grace lived in Raritan until 1972, moved to Plainfield for a short time and has been a resident of South Plainfield for over 35 years.

On November 26, 1958, she married Rudolph V. and they began their life together.

She was a crossing guard in Raritan until 1972; a group leader for Mattel Toys in South Plainfield; and she retired as a group leader from G&W Laboratories, Inc. over 20 years ago.

She loved dedicating her time helping out at all the local church events throughout town. She belonged to Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield and St. Ann's Parish in Raritan.

Grace leaves behind her loving husband, Rudolph V.; three beloved children, Henry Olszyk of Cape Coral, Fla., David Fotia of Pocono Lake, Pa. and Randolph Fotia of Highland Park. She will be missed dearly by four grandchildren, Rebecca, Hank, Jennifer and Victoria, and by three siblings, Dolores Dermo, Catherine Rizzo and Tommy DeFazio.

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

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, Tenn. 38105 would be appreciated.

## Dorothy A. (Chabok) DeWolf, 77

Dorothy A. (Chabok) DeWolf died on Thursday, Dec. 31 at Warren Hospital in Phillipsburg.

Born in Plainfield, Mrs. DeWolf was raised in Dunellen and lived in South Plainfield and Dunellen before mov-

ing to the Lopatcong Center in Phillipsburg a few years ago.

For several years Dorothy volunteered with the Meals On Wheels program in the South Plainfield area. She was past president of the South Plainfield VFW Memorial Post #6763 Women's Auxiliary and was a member of the Lopatcong Center Red Hat Club.

In addition, during her younger years, Dorothy worked for the former Mattel Company in South Plainfield for about five years.

She was a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

She is predeceased by a daughter, Deborah Sabik.

Surviving is a son, Charles DeWolf (Cyndi Adamczyk) of Belvidere; a daughter, Kathleen Sheedy and husband Raymond of South Plainfield; a sister, Barbara Schneeberger of North Carolina; a brother, Stephen Chabok and wife Mary Ann of South Plainfield; 11 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals.

## Dorothy (Hopta) Shevlin, 82

Dorothy (Hopta) Shevlin died on Sunday, Jan. 3 at home.

Born and raised in Newark, Dorothy resided in South Plainfield since 1950.

She worked as an operator for a few years with New Jersey Bell Telephone in Newark and later worked and volunteered at JFK Medical Center's Dietary Services.

An avid reader, Mrs. Shevlin took pride in her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She is predeceased by her husband, Franklin, who died in 1975, and by a brother, Charles Hopta.

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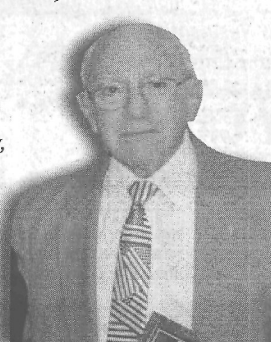
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*Sadly missed. Love you.*  
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*& Grandchildren*



Surviving are two sons, Kenneth and wife Susan of South Plainfield and Ronald and wife Michelle of Skillman; five sisters, Margaret Amon of Maplewood, Katherine Kohl of Lanoka Harbor, Maryann Tierney of Delaware, Julia Szymanski of Whiting and Virginia Fernandez of Forked River; a sister-in-law, Patricia DeAngelis of Union; four grandchildren, Brian, Keith and Ryan Shevlin and Erin Taylor and four great-grandchildren, Abigail and Benjamin Shevlin and Dylan and Conner Taylor.

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

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the VNA Hospice of Central Jersey, 141 Bodman Dr., Red Bank, N.J. 07701 or to St. Jude Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, Tenn. 38105.

## Henry J. Collins, 89

Henry J. Collins passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Jan. 5 at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born in Naticoke, Pa., he was a life-long resident of South Plainfield.

He graduated from Bucknell University and Wilkes University where he earned a degree in engineering.

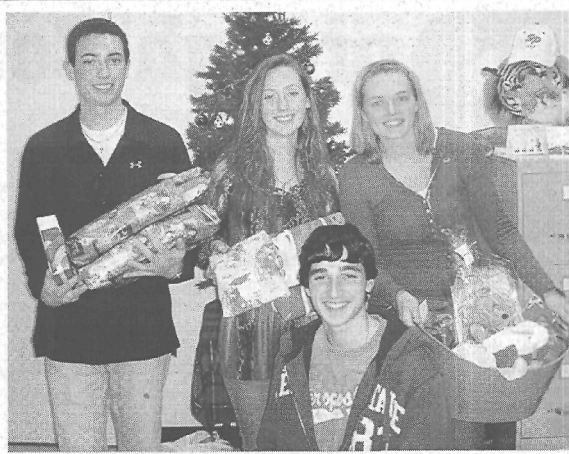
Mr. Collins worked as an engineer for General Motors in New Brunswick for 30 years prior to retiring. He also proudly served in the U.S. Army and Air Force during WWII.

Mr. Collins was a member of Holy Name Society of Sacred Heart, St. Vincent dePaul Society, a devoted member of the Knights of Columbus of Watchung where he served as past grand knight and comptroller, and also served on the South Plainfield Board of Health. He was a loving husband, father, brother, grandfather and great-grandfather who will be sadly missed.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife of 53 years, Anna, in 2005; a son, Gregory in 1979 and a brother, Clem, in 2004.

Surviving are two sons, Robert and Edward and wife Michelle, both of South Plainfield; a daughter, Carol and husband Stephen of South Plainfield; two sisters, Katie of Bristol, Conn. and Irene of South Carolina; six grandchildren, Jessica, Amanda, Michael, Heather, Ian and Kristy and two great-grandchildren, Jake and Hailey.

Funeral services were held at South Plainfield Funeral Home.



South Plainfield High School students participated in the Adopt-A-Family program with the support of Guidance Counselor Eileen Boettger, Student Council Advisor Tony Encinas, Debbie Boyle and the Boyle Memorial Foundation. Erik White, 2009 SPHS graduate, teachers, staff and students helped donate gifts to six families in South Plainfield.



## Adult School Winter Brochure Mailed

The South Plainfield Adult School's winter brochure has been mailed to area residents. If you have not received your brochure, please call the adult school at (908) 754-4620, ext. 213 and we will be happy to mail one to you.

Registration is open to everyone—you do not have to be a resident of South Plainfield to sign up for a class or a trip. Among the many classes that are being offered are computer classes, arts and crafts, CPR and first aid, yoga, reiki, tai chi, golf, tennis, exercise,

dance, dog obedience, defensive driving and baby sitters training.

The adult school has space available on the following trips: Philadelphia Flower Show—Sunday, Feb. 28, \$68; Wheeling West Virginia—Friday, April 23—Sunday, April 25, \$409 per person based on double occupancy; Brooklyn Botanical Gardens and NYC—Saturday, June 5, \$58.

Additional information on these and many other trips may be obtained by calling the adult school at (908) 754-4620, ext. 213.

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# Borough Council Reorganizes

(Continued from page 6)

borough engineers and planners, Suplee Clooney & Co.-borough auditors, Thomas Lanza and Paul Garelick-borough prosecutors, Edward Santoro-public defender, Bruce Kaplan-insurance consultant, McManimon & Scotland-bond counsel and redevelopment attorney; Sterling, DiSanto and Associates-borough appraiser; Maser Consulting-environmental engineers, Scarinci Hollenbeck-redevelopment attorney, Florio, Perrucci, Steinhardt & Fader-condemnation counsel and Remington, Vernick and Vena Engineering-truck by-pass engineers.

## - From the - Council President Matt Anesh

(Continued from page 7) over-development our number-one endeavor in the new year. Of the three priorities I've set out today, this is indeed the most crucial.

Finally, before closing, I want to offer some advice to my colleagues. Let's learn the lesson from two years ago. It serves no purpose to disagree simply for the sake of disagreement. Nothing is wrong with honest disagreement and robust debate, but the town is not served by obstruction. Rob Bengivenga and I tried to follow a single rule when we were in the minority, and I hope you'll carefully consider it. It's simple: Support what's good and oppose what's not. Tim and Ray adhered to this same philosophy in 2009 when they were in the minority, and I trust you will do the same in the coming year.

In closing, I want to thank the members of the council for choosing me to lead our governing body as council president. It's truly an honor and responsibility that I do not take lightly. Our borough form of gov-



ernment follows the "weak mayor/strong council" model, as such, the council is given the bulk of the responsibility for managing the town and planning its future. As members of the council, the six of us have a profound responsibility. We should not relinquish our roles as leaders, but instead, should be independent thinkers who work together to build a better South Plainfield. Each of us has the ability to do just that, and I'm optimistic that we will.

A better South Plainfield will not come easy. But with the help of our residents, our hard-working borough employees, and the volunteer members of our boards and agencies, we can be reassured that South Plainfield will not only stay the safe, affordable and close-knit community we've come to enjoy, but that we will build an even better South Plainfield for everyone.

Here's to 2010 being a year of health, happiness, and progress for the people of South Plainfield.

## Reorganization Message – Mayor Charles Butrico

(Continued from page 6)

the condemnation for the property to complete the New Market Avenue extension. The construction work is currently underway and we expect to have the roadway open soon. This will correct the traffic flow problem at the intersection of New Market Avenue and Hamilton Boulevard and allow for a better movement of trucks through the borough. In addition to the extension, we were also successful in obtaining a grant in excess of \$300,000 from the NJ Department of Transportation toward the repaving of New Market Avenue.

As I said earlier, we were working under the concept of doing more with less. I now hear this phrase "low cost/high impact" like it's a new and innovative concept, but in my administration, we just call that doing our jobs. I am immensely proud of what we have accomplished this past year and of everyone who has worked so hard to get us to this point. I can't begin to count the number of hours this team has devoted to a single purpose: making South Plainfield the very best community for you and your families.

But this is a job that never ends. In thinking about what lies ahead, I want you to know that your voices echo in my thoughts every day. And the concern that I hear most loudly and most clearly is property taxes. Our main objective is to continue to keep South Plainfield affordable. This has always been our toughest battle and the coming year will be our most challenging yet. It will demand tough choices, shared sacrifices, and our utmost commitment to keeping government lean without compromising on our service to our constituents. Reduced state aid and declining revenues will test our resolve.

I am asking the Administration and

Finance Committee to make the 2010 budget its top priority. Now that we are on a calendar year cycle, this council is fully responsible for this budget. Let's commit to getting a budget submitted for review by February 28. In crafting that budget, I encourage you to seek every possible opportunity to reduce our costs through the continuation of existing measures that have proven successful, as well as methods as creative and as innovative as you can conceive. Each line item of the budget should be reviewed and scrubbed, including looking for opportunities to consolidate staff positions. Until the preliminary budget is completed, it is my strong recommendation to enact a hiring freeze until it can be determined that the addition of new employees will not negatively impact the budget thereby placing undue burden on our taxpayers. I encourage you to begin discussions to renegotiate existing union contracts to try and reduce costs. Additionally, I recommend that the council not do any discretionary spending and even go as far as asking our professionals to reduce their fees by at least 5%.

We also need to redouble our efforts on the truck bypass route. Mike English and his committee have put considerable time and effort into this project. We need to continue to put pressure on the DEP to review the documents we submitted so the next steps can be taken. The completion of this project will serve every resident of the borough and I promise you I will give it my full support and attention.

Ray Petronko and Joe Scrudato. I know you share the belief that serving as a representative of the people is the



highest honor any citizen can receive in a democracy. You have been valuable members of this council and the borough is a better place today because of your service. Joe, your contributions to the Economic Development Committee and Public Safety have made a real difference for our residents. Ray, for 12 years, you have served this borough with distinction as a member of the Recreation Commission, the Environmental Committee and the Administration and Finance Committee. I am honored to have had the opportunity to work with both of you. On behalf of this council and this borough, I want to extend to you our deepest gratitude.

I would like to welcome back council members Matt Anesh and Rob Bengivenga. You also have achieved the highest honor anyone in a free society can claim, the position of a "public servant." I know that you will always remember that you are a representative of the people and your goal must be to do your best to listen and work hard for those you represent.

As someone who was born, raised and educated in South Plainfield I know what a special place this is to live in and raise a family. As we begin this new year, we as elected officials must remember that we are servants of the people and not of a particular political party. With that as our guiding principle, we can't go wrong. I look forward to working together with all members of the governing body.

God's blessings to you and your loved ones in 2010 and may God continue to bless and protect our wonderful town and the United States of America.

## Petronko, Scrudato Recognized

(Continued from page 1)

stop signs in the Geary Park area at the residents request. As chair of Public Safety he asked what the police and fire chiefs wanted for their departments. "The firemen wanted a new fire truck and the police wanted a new radio system that would connect to the county's system," Scrudato said. "We worked as a team with Fire Chief Del Negro and Police Det. Sgt. Jim Foran to find and apply for grants and came up with \$200,000 to partially cover the cost. I'm most proud of the radios we got. South Plainfield will be the first community to be connected to the new county system."

Scrudato commented, "It was always one of the dreams I had to be a councilman and it's been an honor to have served on the council and work with Ray and Charlie. I am so thankful for the opportunity. I would like to thank the residents for allowing me to be their councilman these past three years. It was an honor serving the town and being their public servant. It is something I will never forget. I always tried doing what was best for the town."

For Petronko the day marked the end of his fourth term, while for Scrudato it was "three years that just flew by." Both men said their time in office was a "rewarding experience" and Petronko urged others to "get involved in the community."

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## Coffee House

(Continued from page 1)

stage as Lana Sherwood in *It's a Wonderful Life, A Radio Play*. She is currently a student at Middlesex County College where she also serves as promotions director and on-air talent with Blue Colt Radio. She is vice president of Backstage Players and is proud to share the stage with her two children, Jason and Joshua.

The Ugly Club is an indie-rock-soul group erupting from the dirtiest



clubs of New Jersey. Within seven months of their formation, the band has played festivals with the likes of Third Eye Blind and Kenny Wayne Sheppard, opened at the famous Starland Ballroom alongside soul legend Sharon Jones and the Dap Kings, and internationally released their debut EP, "Sing What You Want." The unique sound is comparable to The Beatles, Jeff Buckley or Weezer, and is grabbing attention like no other band



throughout the tri-state area.

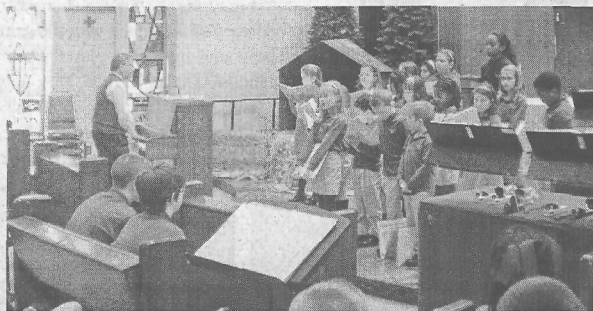
Members of the band hail from South Plainfield, Hamilton, Roselle Park, Cranford and Westfield.

The Battle Begun is a four-piece rock outfit from South Plainfield that does not let musical boundaries become a factor in their writing process.



Sacred Heart Youth Handbell and Choirs performed at McCauley Hall on December 16. Sister Nadine and Dan Mahoney traveled to McCauley Hall, an infirm and retirement home for The Sisters of Mercy located in Watchung, with the students. The choirs gave a memorable performance of holiday music that was enjoyed by all! This was the second year in a row that this concert was given by the choirs to the residents and staff at McCauley Hall.

—Submitted by Trish Ozbalik



## police report

On Dec. 30 Michael E. Jazikoff, 43, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, refusal to take a breath test, reckless driving, speeding and failure to stop and signal.

On Dec. 31 Verizon on Hadley Road reported the theft of an HTC Imagio cell phone worth \$579 from a display case.

Mobile Storage Group Inc. on Roosevelt Avenue reported the theft of a bicycle from an office trailer.

On Jan. 1 Kathryn Marie Kenny, 21, of North Plainfield was arrested

for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving and driving while suspended.

On Jan. 3 Lyle I. Dungee, 24, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving and speeding.

Tacerah S. White-Fowler, 24, of Somerville was arrested for driving while intoxicated and driving while suspended.

On Jan. 4 Getty Gas on Maple Avenue reported a driver left the station without paying for \$21 worth of gas.

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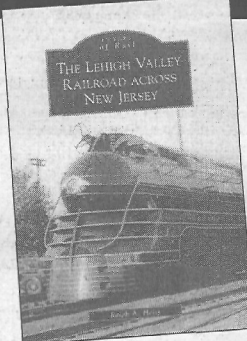
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LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 1872

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

#1760A entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FEES FOR THE SOUTH PLAINFIELD COMMUNITY POOL FOR THE YEAR 2010 was adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, January 8, 2010 and that a public hearing be scheduled for Tuesday, January 19, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

ORDINANCE NO. 1872

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING RATES FOR USE OF THE SOUTH PLAINFIELD COMMUNITY POOL FOR 2010.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield that the following rates shall be established for use of the South Plainfield Community Pool for 2010:

	On or Before 4/30	After 4/30
<b>Resident</b>		
Family	\$275 & 10 passes	\$325 & 10 passes
Individual	\$150 & 10 passes	\$200 & 10 passes
Senior Citizen	\$50 & 10 passes	\$70 & 10 passes
<b>Nonresident</b>		
Family	\$500 & 10 passes	\$500 no passes
Individual	\$240 & 10 passes	\$240 no passes
Senior Citizen	\$100 & 10 passes	\$100 no passes

DAILY ADMISSION PASSES

Everyone must provide proper identification

	Monday – Friday		Weekends/Holidays	
	Resident	Nonresident	Resident	Nonresident
All ages before 5:00pm	\$8	\$15	\$10	\$20
All ages after 5:00pm	\$5	\$8	\$5	\$8
Groups – 20 or more*	\$5		\$5	

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that this Ordinance shall become effective immediately after final adoption and publication in accordance with the law.

ATTEST:  
Joann L. Graf, RMC  
Municipal Clerk

\$54.96

January 8, 2010

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Contract Award

The Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield has awarded contracts without competitive bidding as a professional service pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a)(i). The contracts and the resolutions authorizing them are on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Municipal Clerk. The duration of the agreements are for the current calendar year. The appointments are as follows:

- 1-Borough Attorney: DiFrancesco, Bateman, Coley, Yospin, Kunzman, Davis, Lehrer, PC.  
15 Mountain Boulevard, Warren, New Jersey 07059  
Contract Amount: \$135.00 per hour
- 2-Borough Auditor: Suplee, Clooney & Co.  
308 E. Broad Street, Westfield, NJ 07090  
Contract Amount: Range \$75.00-\$150.00 per hour
- 3-Borough Prosecutor: Thomas Lanza, Esq.  
2416 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080  
and Paul Garelick, Esq.  
1862 Oak Tree Road, Edison, NJ 08820  
Contract amount: \$21,901 total per attorney annual
- 4-Public Defender: Edward J. Santoro, Jr., Esq.  
304 Maple Ave, South Plainfield, NJ 07080  
Contract amount: \$8,350 annual
- 5-Insurance Consultant: Bruce Kaplan  
12 Back Drive, Edison, NJ 08817  
Contract Amount: \$42,000 annual
- 6-Bond Counsel: McManimon & Scotland, LLC  
One Riverfront Plaza, 4th Floor, Newark, New Jersey 07102  
Contract Amount: Range: \$135-\$215/\$15,000 per bond sale
- 7-Borough Appraiser: Sterling, DiSanto and Associates  
145 West End Ave, PO Box 977, Somerville, NJ 08876  
Contract Amount: \$1,500 per appraisal
- 8-Borough Engineer: T & M Associates  
11 Tindall Road, Middletown, NJ 07748  
Contract Amount: Range \$60.00-\$190.00 per hour
- 9-Borough Planner: T & M Associates  
11 Tindall Road, Middletown, NJ 07748  
Contract Amount: Range \$60.00-\$190.00 per hour
- 10-Environmental Engineer: Maser Consulting, PA  
331 Newman Springs Road, Red Bank, NJ 07701  
Contract Amount: Range \$55.00-\$148.00
- 11-Redevelopment Attorney: McManimon & Scotland, LLC  
One Riverfront Plaza, 4th Floor, Newark, New Jersey 07102  
Contract Amount: Range: \$180.00-\$325.00 per hour
- 12- Redevelopment Attorney: Progressive Insurance project-Scarinci Hollenbeck  
1100 Valley Brook Avenue, PO Box 790, Lyndhurst, NJ 07071  
Contract Amount: \$150.00 per hour
- 13- Condemnation Counsel: New Market Ave – Florio, Perrucci, Steinhart & Fader  
218 Route 17 North, Rochelle Park, NJ 07682
- 14- Truck By-Pass Engineer: Remington, Vernick and Vena Engineering  
3 Jicama Blvd, Suite 2, Old Bridge, NJ 08857  
Contract Amount: Range \$60.00 - \$160.00 per hour

Notice of Contract Award

The Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield has awarded contracts to the lowest responsible bidders, in accordance with Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-16. The contracts and the resolutions authorizing them are on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

- 1-Awarded to: RJR Engineering Co. of Califon, NJ,  
Bid Amount of Contract: \$55,450.00  
Nature of contract: barrier free bathroom renovations
- 2-Awarded to: Foggia Trinity Electric,  
Bid Amount of Contract: \$116,972.50  
Nature of contract: Decorative Street Lighting – Plainfield & Lakeview
- 3-Awarded to: Nu-Scape Landscaping, Firmiani Construction & Stilo Excavating  
Bid Amount: \$135.00 per hour  
Nature of Contract: Snow removal services

ATTEST:  
Joann Graf/Municipal Clerk

\$92.76

January 8, 2010

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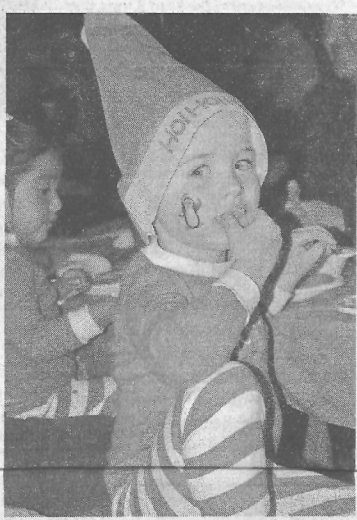
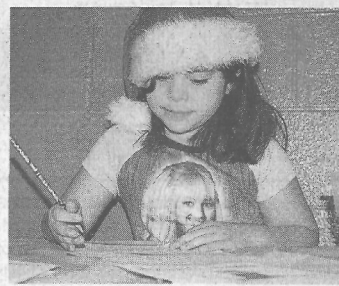
TO PLACE YOUR HELP WANTED, FOR SALE OR GARAGE SALE AD CALL 908-668-0010.



## Roosevelt Holiday Concert

On December 22, Roosevelt Elementary School held their annual holiday concert featuring the school's chorus, strings and band. The evening opened with a welcome and continued with the strings conducted by Bruce Mikolon.

The young musicians played *Open String Samba*, *Beginner/Medley*, *Dreidel Song* and *Jolly Old St. Nicholas*. Next up was the chorus directed by Sharon Perez. They sang *Hanukkah is Coming*, *Stars That Twinkle and Shine*, *Winter Holiday* and *Christmas in the Tropics*. The evening came to an end with a performance by the school band conducted by Toby Baldwin.



## Riley School Holiday Pajama Party Features Fun, Food and Santa

Riley School's annual Family Pajama Party on December 18 featured Santa Claus. The event had a record 300 in attendance. Many children and parents were pajama clad.

Attendees enjoyed dinner and desserts. Children enjoyed various crafts, entertainment by a magician and a visit by Santa Claus, who danced on stage, greeted children and posed for photos with all willing children.

LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

TAX ASSESSMENT LIST 2010

The 2010 Tax Assessment list will be available for review on Friday, January 15, 2010 in the office of the Tax Assessor located at 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. The office will be open from 8:00 until 4:00 p.m.

This notice complies with all State of New Jersey and County Tax Board directives.

Gary F. Toth  
Tax Assessor

\$27.08

January 8, 2010

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

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

the following dates are hereby approved as meeting dates for the Mayor and Council:

Agenda Meeting (Reorganization)	Public Meeting
January 4, 2010	January 2, 2010
January 19, 2010 Tuesday	January 4, 2010
February 1, 2010	January 19, 2010
February 16, 2010 Tuesday	February 1, 2010
March 1, 2010	February 16, 2010
March 15, 2010	March 1, 2010
April 5, 2010	March 15, 2010
April 19, 2010	April 5, 2010
May 3, 2010	April 19, 2010
May 17, 2010	May 3, 2010
June 7, 2010	May 17, 2010
June 21, 2010	June 7, 2010
July 12, 2010	June 21, 2010
August 16, 2010	July 12, 2010
September 7, 2010 Tuesday	August 16, 2010
September 20, 2010	September 7, 2010
October 4, 2010	September 20, 2010
October 18, 2010	October 4, 2010
November 8, 2010	October 18, 2010
November 22, 2010	November 8, 2010
December 6, 2010	November 22, 2010
December 20, 2010	December 6, 2010

All Agenda Meetings begin at 7:00pm followed immediately by the Public Meeting, unless otherwise noted.

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

ATTEST:  
Joann Graf/Municipal Clerk

\$39.37

January 8, 2010

## Junior Journalist 2009-2010



## Congratulations Jackie!

Charlie and Debbie Kurland from Hometown Heros deliver dinner to Junior Journalist winner Jackie Battista with dad Phil, mom Amy, sister Jessica and brother Nick

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