

JAN 15 2010

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SOUTH PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

South Plainfield Observer

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JANUARY 15, 2010

Library Begins Negotiations for Larger Facility

The South Plainfield Free Public Library Board of Trustees took the first step at Tuesday night's meeting towards a new library. The Board of Trustees, in an 8-1 vote, authorized the commencement of negotiations for a long-term lease to house a new library. If negotiations are successful, it is anticipated that formal approval of the lease would occur at the board's February 16 meeting.

The proposed 14,500 square foot property, located at 901 Montrose Ave., is the same size as the new library building proposed about five years ago and voted down in a Democracy Week vote in May of 2008. The landlord would "fit-out" the building to the board's specifications.

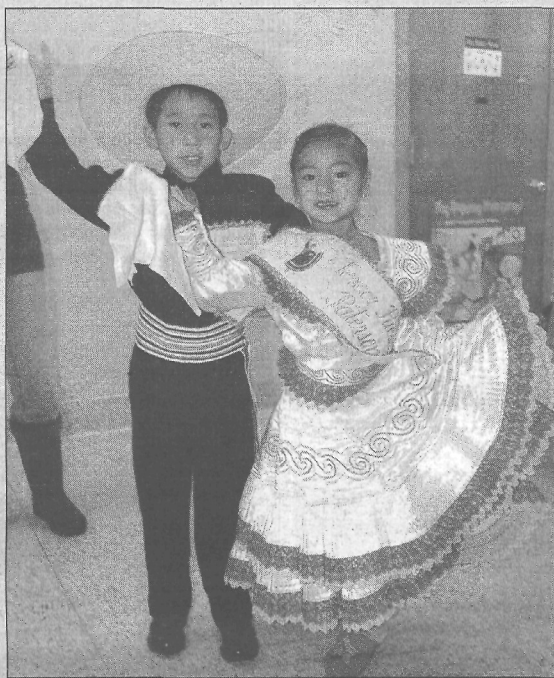
Commenting on the vote, Board President Eric Aronowitz stated, "We have been working on a new library for almost six years. The current building, which is 6,400 sq.ft., is 45 years old and totally inadequate. In fact, an independent study done in 1992 determined that the building was 50% too small when it was built." Aronowitz went on to say, "It became clear, based on the Democracy Week vote, that the taxpayers did not want their taxes increased, even by a small amount, to pay for the new library. The board needed to come up with a Plan B."

Nina Rohrer, chairperson of the board's budget and finance committee, agreed saying, "The board had to find a way to get a new library which had no impact on the taxpayers. We believe that we have done just that. The library has never received more than the minimum amounts which the borough, by law, is required to give us. The trustees have been extremely frugal in managing the fiscal affairs of the library. We have and will continue to operate the library within the minimum funding level."

Newly elected Board Vice President Cheryl Nagel-Smiley, a strong supporter of the move, stated, "The new library will give South Plainfield a state-of-the-art facility. It will enhance the experience for all residents, from children to senior citizens and it will be a place of which we can all be proud."

Board members Pat Massey and Donna Egan, both South Plainfield High School educators, agreed that the new library will benefit students. "As a librarian, I understand how important it is to have a modern, user-friendly

(Continued on page 10)



Camilla Martinez and Richard Quish will perform in the festival.

Celebrating DIVERSITY

Annual Festival of Cultures Celebrates Diversity, Pays Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The South Plainfield Coalition of Cultural Diversity (SPCCD) will present the third annual Festival of Cultures and Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday, Jan. 18 at 5 p.m. in the auditorium of Riley Elementary School, 100 Morris Ave. A donation of \$5 per family will be requested at the door to help cover 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.

Council Announces Plans To Cut and Combine Jobs

The Republican Majority announced at the January 4 Borough Council meeting that they intend to save approximately \$150,000 in this year's budget as a result of Department of Public Works (DPW) employees retiring, the recent renegotiated union contract lowering the starting salaries of new hires and the use of part-time employees.

A portion of the savings will also come from consolidating positions and other cost saving measures currently under review by the Administration and Finance Committee, according to Council President Matt Anesh. "We are targeting 10% savings from all department heads. Where we can achieve greater savings, we intend to do so, and where it's not prudent to cut so deep, we will not. We are reviewing 2009 overtime spending and are looking to enact a strict overtime policy to limit overtime in the borough without impact to public

safety," said Anesh.

As a part of this measure, senior center bus driver Michael Kurlew, will take a new position with the DPW as a Laborer II at \$17 per hour. He will be replaced by Bill Cochrane in a part-time capacity as the senior center bus driver at \$15 per hour. Recent retiree Paul Brand was also hired back as a part-time mechanic for the DPW at \$23 an hour. Five DPW employees retired in 2009 and three more are eligible for retirement this year.

DPW Superintendent Joe Glowacki, who retired after 35 years on December 31, was rehired as a consultant during what Anesh termed a "transitional" period for the next six months in order to train his replacement. Glowacki will remain with the DPW for the first 30 days at his former salary of approximately \$8,750 a month without paid benefits and then receive another

(Continued on page 10)

Audit Shows \$7.2M Total BOE Surplus

By Jane Dornick

Vicente Montanino of V.M. Associates discussed the Board of Education financial audit of the fiscal year July 2008 through June 2009 at the December 16 BOE meeting. He told board members that there was a "vast improvement" over the previous year's bookkeeping practices, and reported a \$1.2M excess surplus in the budget.

According to Business Administrator Rich Guarini, the \$1,199,784 is over and above the 2% surplus allowed by law for schools to have on hand. "I don't want to increase taxes," said Guarini, who at this point

intends to add the surplus into next year's budget. However that might not be possible, with talk of outgoing Governor Jon Corzine's new budget, which includes cutting state aid to schools by \$260M and requiring districts with surpluses to use the excess surplus to replace part of the aid they would normally get. The action still requires legislative approval, which should come in February.

Governor-elect Chris Christie is planning to announce his proposals for the state in mid-March, which leaves little time for the district to prepare for its budget deadline of

(Continued on page 7)

Charity Begins at Home

Giving is second nature to local resident

On one hand, it is evident that the economic downturn has hit home here in South Plainfield; the increase in the number of families needing assistance this Christmas proved that. On the other hand, the outpouring of generosity has shown that there are still many individuals who are willing and able to help others.

Each year, Shirley Thompson begins her holiday project shortly after Thanksgiving. This year, she began even earlier to get a head start with the larger than ever number of

people needing help in the way of gifts for their children and hot meals for Christmas Day.

With over 90 children to buy gifts for, Shirley had her work cut out for her. As in each of the past five years, Shirley organized the list of children and began her December adventure. With the help of many individuals and businesses, Shirley was able to provide gifts for all of the children on her list. With donations of gifts from their wish lists plus gift cards, both to be

(Continued on page 7)



Firefighters respond to a house fire on the 3300 block of Clark Lane.

Home Damaged by Fire

No One Injured in Clark Lane Blaze

Firefighters from South Plainfield and Plainfield responded to a fire on Clark Lane that tore through the dwelling late Tuesday afternoon. There were no occupants in the structure when firefighters arrived. The owner of the residence was home, but managed to escape.

According to Police Chief John Ferraro, the fire appeared to have started on a couch inside an enclosed porch.

Firefighters had difficulty battling

the flames because of high wind conditions and the materials stored in the attic. Utility crews turned off gas and electrical service to the home.

The fire was brought under control around 5:30 p.m. The home was left with significant smoke, water and fire damage. One firefighter was treated at the scene for a minor injury.

The Bureau of Fire Prevention will conduct an investigation to determine the cause and origin of the fire.



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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

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.

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: Feb. 10, March 10 and March 31

Regular Public Meeting: Jan. 20, Feb. 16, March 17 and April 14

NOTE: Special Executive Session Thursday, Jan. 21 at 10:30 a.m. Regarding Negotiations.

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.

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—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

business advisory group

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

In My Opinion

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

To the Editor:

I would like to let the people of South Plainfield know about my experience at Big Lots on Oak Tree Avenue on December 17.

I was in the store with my three year-old when she suddenly needed to use the restroom. I rushed her over to the restroom only to see that they were both padlocked. I hurried over to the checkout to ask a cashier to unlock them for us. She told me that they were out of order. I stated that there is no sign indicating that and she gave me a look like she didn't care. I asked again if she would please allow my child to use the restroom and she refused.

I rushed out of there as I didn't have time to argue with her. I rushed my daughter over to Wendy's, but we did not make it in time.

I contacted Big Lots customer service by E-mail and phone and was told that the district manager would be contacting me within 48 hours. Since it was right before the holidays I gave them more time since I figured they must be very busy. However, in my subsequent attempts to speak with them, I have received no response.

I believe that it is at the very least unethical to not display a sign outside of such a large retail store that the restrooms are not available to the public. I also do not believe that the restrooms are "out of order." I believe that they have chosen to not allow access. In this case, it was extremely upsetting to my child who was unable to hold it long enough to make it to another location.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME,
JENNIFER RUIZ

To the Editor:

I would like to commend the South Plainfield Emergency Management team, police department, fire department, rescue squad, Mayor Buttrico and the borough council, the South Plainfield Schools nursing unit and county nursing team, the support of the South Plainfield Board of Educa-

tion and Superintendent of Schools Jose Negron, Kevin Hughes and the PAL staff, CERTS members and all of the volunteers who helped make the Middlesex County H1N1 Vaccination Clinic successful. This was a tremendous effort by all involved, and enabled a smooth and effective operation in which everyone utilized their knowledge and expertise.

Also, commendations to the police and fire department, rescue squad, emergency management, Kevin Hughes and the PAL staff, Mayor Buttrico and councilmembers, the BOE and Superintendent Negron, Business Administrator Richard Guarini and the entire administration, principals and teaching staffs of Kennedy and Franklin School and the attentive student bodies of both schools for the expedient manner in which the emergency evacuations were handled on the same day at the same time. How wonderful it is to know that our teams, without panic, were able to cover both evacuations.

Again, it is wonderful to be a part of South Plainfield and to know that we are safeguarded by all our special teams of officials. Thank you for being there for all of us.

SINCERELY,
DEBBIE BOYLE

To the Editor:

February will mark the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scouts of America. The 'scouting' movement was started in England a few years earlier by Lord Baden Powell, after serving in the British army in Africa. On a trip to America, he met up with some longtime friends and told them about how he had organized boy scouting units at home that would maybe be useful to the army in the future. Here they learned "survival in the field" as one of the main activities of the time—the time

being in the 1890s.

In these 100 years, millions of youth have gone through the Boy Scout program, a few becoming President of the United States. Many boy scouts have reached high political ranking across the country. One Eagle Scout even went to the moon (look him up!)

In the 1950s and into the 1980s, there were five scout troops and seven cub scout packs in South Plainfield. As a boy, I spent two years in scouting. As an adult, I've spent 22 years in 'cubbing' and scouting. I served in many capacities, even as a co-leader of a patrol to travel to the Scout Ranch-Philmont in New Mexico at age 51.

There are many units still active in town. Boys age six can join the Tiger Cubs and work their way up. About one boy out of 12 is the par for those who make it all the way through to earn the Eagle award. That award shows the "stick-to-it"-ness of a job that is required to make it. That Eagle badge can open many doors later in life for that person.

We used to have a saying, "There has never been an Eagle in Sing Sing Prison." I think it might be a good idea if we (both past and present scouts) could get together to tell stories of their scouting days (and nights).

WILLIAM TUTHILL

View Borough Codes, Regulations and More On Line

Residents can now access the borough bylaws, regulations and codes on line by logging on to: www.ecode360.com/?custId=SO0812. Once there, you can search for specific topics of interest to you. Visit the borough's Web site at www.southplainfieldnj.com and follow the link on the top left of the page.

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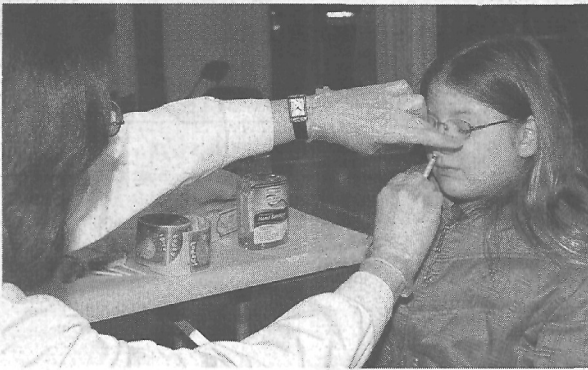
1,500 Attend H1N1 Clinic in South Plainfield; County to Hold Next Clinic at MCC

□The Middlesex County Public Health Department sponsored a H1N1 clinic in South Plainfield on January 7. The free H1N1 vaccination was available for anyone six months and older. The clinic was one of several being held in the county.

According to John Dowd, public health emergency systems coordinator, the South Plainfield clinic comprised a staff of more than 100 South Plainfield and Middlesex County volunteers, police and medical corps personnel and local CERTS members. Emergency Management Coordinator Michael Zushma, alongside the Middlesex County Health Department, was responsible for setting up the PAL and recruiting local volunteers.

The free clinic, which ran from 2 until 8 p.m., saw a steady stream of people all afternoon. Volunteers helped to keep the vaccine recipients moving along and were available to answer questions. Visitors did not encounter long lines and were in and out in a short time.

The PAL building was completely revamped to accommodate the H1N1 clinic. When participants ar-



Natalie Lizak (right) of Dunellen receives a H1N1 nasal injection at last week's vaccination clinic in South Plainfield.

either nasal spray or injection.

Middlesex County College will be holding a regional H1N1 vaccination clinic on the college campus in Edison in Cafeteria C on Friday, Feb. 5 from 2-8 p.m. The free nasal and injectable vaccinations are available for all county residents, students and faculty who are six months of age and older.

Clinic participants are strongly encouraged to visit the Middlesex County Public Health Department Web site at www.co.middlesex.nj.us/publichealth/flu-clinics.asp to download, print and fill out the required consent form prior to attending. Filling out forms in advance reduces waiting times. H1N1 priority groups, vaccine information statements and other regional vaccination sites can also be viewed on the Web site. Parking is free. Driving directions to the clinics can be found at www.middlesex.co.edu/aboutmcc/control.cfm/ID/2256.

Middlesex County Freeholder Deputy Director Ronald G. Rios, chair of the county's Public Health and Education Committee, 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 op-

portunity. We encourage residents from any of our 25 municipalities to come to this regional clinic."

David A. Papi, director of the Middlesex County Public Health Department, stated, "A goal of this initiative is to encourage individuals to receive their influenza vaccination. This flu season our department is encouraging residents, especially at-risk individuals, to receive their H1N1 vaccine. You can protect yourself and others from the H1N1 flu and improve community immunity by getting vaccinated."

Residents who have questions about H1N1 or the vaccine may call the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services' toll-free information hotline 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Sunday at 1-866-321-9571.



Observer reporter Libby Barsky (left) receives the H1N1 vaccine.

rived, they were directed to the registration table. If they were preregistered, they went directly to where the medical personnel were ready to administer the shots. Others were asked to complete the forms. There were coloring books and games for the children to occupy their time while their parents were filling out the forms. H1N1 vaccines were administered by

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Danielle Aronowitz

Greetings from the library.

Brrr... it's cold outside, so it's the perfect time to curl up with a good book or watch a great movie, and here at the South Plainfield Library we have something for everyone. Be advised that the library will be closed Sunday, Jan. 17 and Monday, Jan. 18 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. We will reopen on Tuesday, Jan. 19.

Why pay for movie rentals? Come to the library where renting movies is free! We have a great selection from hot new releases to television shows to classics. Some recently released movies we own are: *All About Steve*, *500 Days of Summer*, *District 9*, *The Hangover*, *Angels and Demons*, *The Ugly Truth*, *Four Christmases*, *GI Joe: The Rise of Cobra*, *Food Inc.*, *Taking of Pelham 123*, *Funny People*, *Public Enemies*, *Terminator Salvation* and *My Sister's Keeper*. For the kids, we also have new releases such as: *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs*, *G-Force*, *Aliens in the Attic*, *Wizards of Waverly Place: The Movie*, *Up, Night at the Museum: Battle for the Smithsonian*, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* and *Jonas Vol. 1*. Some new television shows we have on DVD are: *Glee: The Road to Sectionals Vol. 1*, *Castle Season 1*, *Lost Season 5* and *Rescue Me Season 5 Vol. 2*. We also have new music such as: *The Beatles Stereo Box Set*, *Fearless: The Deluxe Edition*—Taylor Swift, *Kris Allen*, *Kris Allen*, *She Wolf—Shakira*, *Glee the Soundtrack: Vol. 1 and 2*, *For Your Entertainment*—Adam Lambert, *Play On*—Carrie Underwood and many

more, as well as new books on CD. You can go to our Web site or call us to place any of these items on hold. Be advised that there is a \$.50 charge per item for putting it on hold.

Tax season is upon us and we now have the Federal tax forms. The New Jersey Division of Taxation is not distributing NJ State Income Tax Forms to libraries for the 2009 tax season. Find forms online at state.nj.us/treasury/taxation or call 1-800-323-4400.

We are unable to give tax advice, but we do have plenty of materials to aid in filling out the forms and getting information. We have *JK Lasser's Your Income Tax: 2010 Edition*, *How to Pay Zero Taxes: 2010 Edition*, *1001 Deductions & Tax Breaks 2010*, *New Rules for Estate and Tax Planning Revised and Updated*, and *Easy Ways to Lower Your Taxes: Simple Strategies Every Taxpayer Should Know* and many more.

We will be following our regular schedule for the children's programs except for Monday, because we will be closed for the holiday. The Storytime program for children ages three and up is held Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday night at 6:30, and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. The Time for 2s & 3s program for children between the ages of two and three is held Wednesday and Thursday mornings at 10:30. The Babytime program for ages up to two years is held Friday morning at 10:30. We are also doing an afternoon film on Fridays at 3:30 for school age children. The story programs last about an hour and include stories, songs and a craft for older kids. These programs do not require registration.

For more information about the programs call (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda or Miss Mija.

To find out more, call (908) 754-7885 or visit us at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

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events Around Town

Pancake Breakfast At American Legion

January 17

The American Legion Chaumont Post #243, located on Oak Tree Avenue, 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.

Knights Youth Free Throw Championship

January 17

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus #6203 is sponsoring their annual youth free throw championship on Sunday, Jan. 17. All boys and girls ages 10 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition. Registration: 8:30 a.m. at the Sacred Heart School Gym; competition starts at 9 a.m. for boys and girls ages 10 and 11. Girls 12, 13 and 14 years old will be from 10-11 a.m. Boys 12, 13 and 14 years old will be from 11 a.m. to noon. Proof of age (birth certificate) and written parental consent is required.

For more information, call Robbi Matusz at (973) 534-6447.

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 at 5 p.m. 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.

Soccer Club to Host Pasta Dinner

January 22

The South Plainfield Soccer Club will hold a pasta dinner in the Middle School cafeteria on Friday, Jan 22 from 5 to 8 p.m. Dine-in buffet/take out available.

Dinner includes penné pasta with a choice of marinara or vodka sauce,

choice of meatballs or sausage, bread, salad and lemonade or iced tea. Desserts available, at an additional cost. Adults 13 and over/\$7.50, seniors/\$6.50, children under 12/\$5.

Come on out and get a great, fresh cooked hot meal. Stay and enjoy, or take it home!

VFW Spaghetti Dinner

January 30

The South Plainfield VFW will hold a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, Jan. 30 from 5 to 8 p.m. The public is welcome. Cost is \$6.

For information, call (908) 668-9751.

Knights "Don't Cook Friday" Dinner

February 5

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 is conducting their annual "Don't Cook Friday" spaghetti dinner on Friday, Feb. 5 at the council hall located at 334 Hamilton Blvd. from 4-7:30 p.m. Price: \$8/adults, \$7/seniors and \$4/children.

All proceeds will be donated to the Alzheimer's Caregivers Fund.

Sacred Heart Charity Basketball Game

February 11

Sacred Heart School is having their annual charity basketball game on Thursday, Feb. 11 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the school gym. 100% of ticket sale proceeds to benefit Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountinside.

Admission is \$5 per person, children three and under are free. (Children must be accompanied by an adult). Come join in on the fun, games and lots of laughs, as the Sacred Heart School basketball teams compete against the adults, all for a worthy cause.

For more information, please call Lisa in the Parish Center at (908) 756-0633, ext. 10.

Comedy Show at Grant School

February 27

Grant School is having a comedy night fundraiser on Friday, Feb. 27 at

the senior center featuring national touring comedian Dave Reilly. Gather your family and friends for a night of laughs. Seats are limited-reserve now. Tickets are \$25 each. Show starts at 7:30 p.m. Bring your own food and drinks. Doors open at 6:30 pm. 100% of all profits to be used for Stokes trip.

For tickets and information, call Debbie at (908) 227-7834, E-mail dpete1851@comcast.net or call Christine at (908) 705-4201.

— Out of Town —

Temple Sholom to Hold Pray 'N Play

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 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

Tri-County Red Cross and Cranford Chamber of Commerce are partnering to help local families get and stay healthy in the New Year, and at the same time raise funds to provide local disaster relief. The Saturday, Jan. 16 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 tricountyredcross.org/gymathon.

Dinner Dance

January 16

The Plainfield Gesang-und Turn-Verein, Inc. will hold a dinner dance on Saturday, Jan. 16 at Singer Hall, 220 Somerset St. in North Plainfield. The new board will be installed for 2010. Tickets are \$17 for members and \$19 for non members.

For reservations, call Joan at (908) 647-0819 or Victor (908) 276-8572.

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 Cath-

SENIOR CENTER Calendar

Coming Up....

Jan 21 - Showboat Casino

MONDAYS

Closed January 18-Martin Luther King Jr. Day

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

Bingo 10 am-2 pm

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

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

olic Ministry. A reception will follow the Mass.

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

Woodbridge WOWs Open Dance

January 17

Woodbridge Widows Or Widowers will hold an open dance on Sunday, Jan. 17 from 7 to 11 p.m. at The Knights of Columbus Hall, Morrissey Ave., Avenel. Light refreshments. Everyone is welcome. Admission \$10 members, \$12 guests.

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

Adult Forum at Willow Grove

January 17 and 24

Join us at Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Rd. in Scotch Plains for an adult forum based on reflections on the book *Broken Open: How Difficult Times Can Help Us Grow* by Elizabeth Lesser led by Jill Segulin on Sunday, Jan. 17 and 24 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Ostomy Assoc. Mtg.

January 19

The Ostomy Association of Somerset County will hold their next meet-

ing on Tuesday, Jan. 19 at 7:30 p.m. in conference rooms A & B at Somerset Medical Center, Rehill Ave. Featured speaker. All are welcome. Refreshments.

For further information, contact Ed Wheeler at (908) 534-7897.

Christmas Concert At Willow Grove

January 20

The Imperial Brass in Christmas concert was rescheduled due to inclement weather and will be held on Sunday, Jan. 20 at 3 p.m. at Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Rd. in Scotch Plains. Tickets are \$15 in advance; \$10 seniors and students; 12 and under are free. Reception with light refreshments will follow.

For tickets or info, call (908) 232-5678, visit www.willowgrovechurch.org or www.imperialbrass.org.

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 information, call the 24-hour hotline (732) 656-1801.



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The South Plainfield Health Department Is Conducting Its Annual RABIES CLINIC
At the
South Plainfield Borough Garage
(corner of Spicer and Belmont Ave.)
Dog and Cat Owners are urged to bring their pets for inoculation.
2010 Dog & Cat Licenses Will Be Available
Please Note: Cats must be in a carrier
DATE:
Saturday, January 23, 2010
9:00 am - 12:00 noon
PLEASE NOTE: The Health Department will no longer mail license or rabies clinic reminders. Please check the Borough Web site (www.southplainfieldnj.com) for current license/late fees and clinic information.
For More Information Please Call
226-7631

JUNIOR JOURNALIST



Junior Journalist winner Sarah Sajid with teacher Maureen Wilson.

Sarah Sajid Named Junior Journalist

Roosevelt School second grader Sarah Sajid has been named a winner in the Junior Journalist contest. Her submission of "Looney a Cookie" 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.

Looney a Cookie

By Sarah Sajid, Second Grade

Gingerbread cookies are so yummy
They're tasty and delicious
I would eat them all the time
They fill me with goodness
And a bit of sweetness
They are soft as a bunny
The icing is so creamy
That's why I like them
Mmmmmmm

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LEGAL NOTICE

**BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Steven Bukovec and Eileen Ulrich requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit 1) addition requires 20' rear yard setback; 10' proposed; 2) Enclosure requires 30' front yard setback; 24'-26' proposed; 3) Attached 12' wide by 21' deep garage requires 20' rear yard setback; 9' proposed; 4) 50' side yard setback required; 8' required; 6' proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 307 W. Crescent Parkway, Block 220, Lot 13; Zone R-7.5 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, February 11, 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 January 15, 2010

Middle School Announces First Quarter Honor Roll

7th Grade High Honor Roll

Philip Aquilina, Matthew Belanger, Danielle DeVizio, Moriah Garcia, Imrin Goraya, Christopher Graves, Rosalind Heim, Matthew Maher, Gianna Marcovechio, Mecca Morrell, Giovanna Nolan, Deep Patel, Caroline Ratti, Arshjot Singh

7th Grade Honor Roll

Hannah Abrego, Kevin Abreu, Katie Addario, Andrew Akpan, Evelin Alvarado, Mansi Amin, Rebecca Armand, Wiktorja Blazejowicz, Wesley Bowe, Taylor Brinks, Melanie Budhan, Mark Butrico, Vincent Butrico, Alyssa Capone, Azalah Carter, Nicholas Castagno, Gabriela Castillo, Melanie Cheng, Diego Chumplitaz, Bianca Colon Hernandez, Hunter Czarnik, Christina Deepan, Holly DeLair, Lauren Dicellis, Kyle Dickerson, Hayley Dow, CJ Dudek, Tommy Dunn

Anthony Eggert, Ian Elliot, Alyssa Esposito, Morgan Evans, Kayla Fisher, Karina Gaitan, Jeremy Garcia, Jalyssa Garvin, Cynthia Goyes, Kyrsten Grabinsky, Carlos Granados, Ashley Gruver, Jose Guardado, Jordan Handwerker, Casidhe Holoboski, Chelsea Housel, Erin Jones, Sara Kamal, Dominika Kapolka, Ajani Kenyatta, Claudia Lachana, Matthew Lind, Charlotte Macchia, Taylor Maistickle, Robert Mammone, Jordan Mandel, Kayla Massaro, Elizabeth

McCormick, Steven Merrill

Nina Nunez, Kelley O'Brien, Richard Pangborn, Het Patel, Vincent Pellegrino, Nathaniel Persad, Emma Piedilato, Kara Podlovits, Kenneth Quin, Melanie Rajpal, Sara Reineke, Brandon Rickett, Sarmad Rizvi, Elizabeth Rodriguez

Alexis Salazar, Anthony Santone, Allison Scarinci, Leonard Scaripitto, Brian Schillaci, Amanda Scofi, Laynie Serro, Kelly Shea, Mary Simmonds, Kelly Simpson, Karishma Singh, Shannon Smith, Nicole Sottirou, Gina Tartza, Jennifer Teece, Samantha Tereck, Jennifer Truong

Matthew Vargas, Croidy Veliz, Kasey Walsh, Laura Weinberger, Xavier Wilson, Lauren Zekas, Oscar Zubieta

8th Grade High Honor Roll

Cameron Bashner, James Boettcher, Jamie Bohn, Abhilasha Borad, Crystal Custodio, Cody Decker, Antonio Garcia, Shannon Hughes, Christy Irwaru, Veronika Jastrzebski, Rowena Kanj, Michael Olano, Anjali Patel, Raj Patel, Michael Polizzano, Monica Spooner, Olivia Tarnawska, Dakota Uhl

8th Grade Honor Roll

Jared Agee, Aspen Akunne, Josselin Barahona, Claudia Bashner, Colin Berry, Jessica Bishop, Nora Bruno, Adam Butrico, Charles Butrico

Lukas Cabanas, Kristen Calderoni, Breanna Calvin, Stania Calvin, Daisy Castro, Pamela Castro Chacon, Kimberly Corsino, Leanna Dass, John Gilbert Delacruz, Joseph Demico, Taylor Donato, James DuHamel

Robert Eggert, Kaitlyn Faustini, Sean Flanagan, Christopher Fowles, Andrew Franco, Marques Franco, Maria Funes, Thomas Ginda, Zachary Goldberg-Mota, Jonathan Grennier, Lauren Hill, Haley Hlavka, Erika Holtermann, Jenna Howarth

Eric Ivaniuc, Raymond Jazikoff, Jenalee Jenkin, Gabriella Jimenez, Shanequa Johnson, Michelle Keane, Malcolm Keith, Carly Kensey, Jordan Lackey, Heather Lee, Alyssa Liszewski, Collin Lynch

Justin Marks, Joanna Marston, Brian McCarthy, Aidan McDermott, Mamma Mehta, Yasmeen Mighty, Melissa Molano, Chloe Ng, Steven Oehler, Halmar Orellana Castro, Brittney

Papa, Harsh Patel, Tanvi Patel, Jason Pelacz, Diamond Pender, Kristy Percario, Annemarie Pezzolla, Jessica Pietschker, Heidi Pilla, Danielle Pisano

Maggie Quintanilla, Amy Ramjatan, Matthew Resende, Zara Rizvi, Lizbeth Romo, Courtney Ross, Amanda Rowlands, Dominick Scallera, Heather Scofi, Shannon Sheedy, Inan Sikel, Hannah Suhomel, Gregory Sutton, Sabersah Syed, Jessica Uhl, William Walsh, Kristen Wong, Amy Zinsky, Julia Zipp

Special BOE Meeting Cancelled

Please be advised that a public hearing to discuss and/or modify contract terms and conditions for non-affiliated employees, which was scheduled as a part of the regular public meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 20 at 7:30 p.m. has been cancelled.

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

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Milestones

Abigail Petritsch Named to Lycoming College Dean's List

Abigail Petritsch of South Plainfield was among the 406 Lycoming College students named to the dean's list for the 2009 fall semester.

To make the dean's list, a student must be full time and earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher for the semester.

Students Named to Middlesex County College Dean's List

The following students were named to the dean's list for the Fall 2009 semester at Middlesex County College:

Mauricio Acevedo, Brian Aguilar, Jennifer Aguilar, Mauricio Aguirre, Okle Annum, Paul Assad, Philip Assad, Angelina Baker, Cristian Barbu, Aedan Bayona, Lillian Blanco, John Bosse, Kiran Budhan, Jennifer Capparelli, Gregory Caruso, Kristen Ciandella, Sean Coffey, Jesse Colby, Therese D'Adezzio, Jessica Dabrio, Elizabeth Diamant, Jack Duong, Brian Edwards, Azubuike Ejiochi, Daniel Espin, Melissa Franzson, Dunia Galarza, Allen Garcia, Vincent Genova, Timothy Gray, Juliet Grobelny, David Hackett, Amanda Iavarone, Alyssa Klimek, Ashley Klimek, Jonathan Kuhlken, Larissa Kuhlken, Christopher Lipinski, Joanna Nastarowicz, Destiny Owen, Nicholas Pasquale, Dhruti Patel, Shivani Patel, Altagracia Petela, Sandra Pleeter, Jessica Ranger, Scott Rann, Kelly Remsing, Marjorie Restrepo, Anarish Rivera, Jonathan Rodger, Antonietta Ruffa, Daniel Sambat, Christina Schuetz, Michael Schuetz, Rachel Schwartz, Struti Shah, Raymond Sheedy, Kyle Smith, Hannah Stanko, John Sullivan, Kyle Thomas, Geraldine Valladares, Andrew Vasquez, Mark Warness.

School Board Candidacy Information

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

The South Plainfield BOE 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.



Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Orthodox Church Celebrates 75th Anniversary

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Orthodox Church celebrated their 75th anniversary on December 12. The celebration was attended by 34 church members. After a two hour liturgy and communion, a Lenten meal was shared in the social hall. *This article was submitted by Anita Anderson, granddaughter of Julia Sharyk, one of six founding members of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Orthodox Church.*

Timothy Keller Graduates from CBP Board Patrol Academy Border Patrol

Agent Timothy O. Keller graduated from the U.S. Border Patrol Academy in Artesia, N.M. from class number 903 on January 12.

Agent Keller, who is a graduate of South Plainfield High School, will be assigned to the San Diego sector.

Timothy is the son of Robert and Cathie Keller.

The Border Patrol Academy is recognized as having one of the most challenging curriculums in federal law

enforcement. The Border Patrol Academy is tasked with training the largest influx of new agents in the history of any federal law enforcement training Academy. Those who attend the rigorous 55 day program must pass all departments including immigration law, physical techniques, driver training and firearms.

For more information on becoming a border patrol agent, visit www.borderpatrol.gov.

Eleven SPHS Students Recognized as Bloustein Distinguished Scholars

South Plainfield High School principal, Dr. Ken May, has announced that the following students received recognition as an Edward J. Bloustein

Distinguished Scholar: Ashley Aya, Jimmy Bijlani, Matthew Brazza, Stephen Coppi, Steven Grzenda, Alexander Horn, Maher Khan, James Seyffart, Manraj Singh, Alexandra Skula and Jonathan Sukenik.

The Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA), an independent agency of the State of New Jersey, administers the Garden State Scholarship Program, which includes the Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholar and Urban Scholar awards.

Each year, more than 7,000 students statewide receive scholarships in recognition of their high level of academic achievement. Students may use these awards to continue their education at New Jersey institutions of higher education.

For more information about HESAA's programs, call 1-800-792-8670 or visit online at www.hesaa.org.

Jonathan Gaynor and Nellie Kanjo Engaged

Dr. John Gaynor and Mrs. Rita English are proud to announce the engagement of their son, Jonathan Gaynor, to Nellie Kanjo. Nellie is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marwan Kanjo of Toms River.

Nellie is a graduate of Toms River High School East and graduated from Rutgers College. In 2008 Nellie received her master's degree from the Rutgers Graduate School of Education and is presently employed as associate director of admissions at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.

Jonathan graduated from South Plainfield High School and Rutgers College. Jon is senior network engineer at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia.

Jonathan and Nellie were engaged on December 23, 2009 and will be married in September 2010 at Kirkpatrick Chapel in New Brunswick. The reception will be at the Hyatt Hotel in New Brunswick.

Four Named to Dean's List at Bucknell

Bucknell University has released the dean's list for outstanding academic achievement during the fall semester of the 2009-10 academic year. A student must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a scale of 4.0 to receive dean's list recognition. Those students from South Plainfield who met this standard are:

Samantha A. Deffler, daughter of John and Marie Deffler of South Plainfield and a 2006 graduate of South Plainfield High School.

Lauren C. Fry, daughter of Kenneth and Kathleen Fry of South Plainfield, and a 2007 graduate of SPHS.

Eric C. Nuber, son of David and GERALYN Nuber of South Plainfield, and a 2009 graduate of Saint Joseph's High School in Metuchen.

Ryan M. Smith, son of Martin and Nancy Smith of South Plainfield, a 2006 graduate of SPHS.

**Share Your Good News.
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Milestones!**

Pedersen Earns Designation to Help Homeowners

John (Jack) Pedersen, Broker Associate of RE/MAX Competitive Edge South Plainfield office, has earned the



Jack Pedersen

prestigious Certified Distressed Property Expert (CDPE) designation, having completed extensive training in foreclosure avoidance and short sales. This is invaluable expertise to offer at a time when the area is ravaged by "distressed" homes in the foreclosure process.

Short sales allow the cash-strapped seller to repay the mortgage at the price that the home sells for, even though it is lower than what is owed on the property. With plummeting property values, this can save many people from foreclosure and even bankruptcy. More and more lenders are willing to consider short sales because they are much less costly than foreclosures.

In the Central Jersey area, more than 10% of homes are in danger of foreclosing. It is happening in all price ranges. Local experts say that even high-priced homes are not immune.

"This CDPE designation has been invaluable as I work with sellers and lenders on complicated short sales," said Pedersen. "It is so rewarding to be able to help sellers save their homes from foreclosure."

Alex Charfen, founder of the Distressed Property Institute in Boca Raton, Fla., said that realtors such as Pedersen with the CDPE designation have valuable training in short sales that can offer the homeowner much better alternatives to foreclosure, which virtually destroys the credit rating. These experts also may better understand market conditions and can help sellers through the emotional experience, he said.

The Distressed Property Institute opened in January 2008 and provides training on-site and online. The CDPE is the premier designation for realtors helping homeowners in distress and handling short sales.

Pedersen can be reached at (908) 755-0200, ext. 124, cell (908) 922-2368 or E-mail jackp1@remax.net.

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Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Ave.
South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul
Alvarado, Pastor

Mass Schedule:

Saturday Mass 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

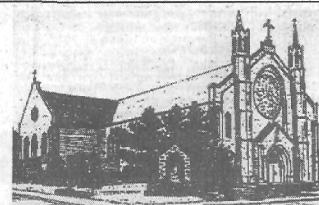
Sunday 9:00, 11:30 a.m.

Daily 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday

7:00 p.m. Monday (Church), Thursday (Parish Center Chapel)

Holy Days 6:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 7:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation-Saturday 10-11:30 a.m. and at other times by appointment



BOE Audit

(Continued from page 1)

March 29. Guarini said he will have to do a lot of "guessing" in the interim and make a lot of "last minute decisions."

During the last fiscal year the board received \$40,785,004 in tax revenue and \$12,965,126 in state aid and also received a one-time federal stimulus of \$1,186,112, for a total of \$54,936,243. The board's total expenditures were \$54,490,227, netting them an overage in revenue of \$446,016.

The auditor's report also revealed that the school board has a total of \$7,224,074 in various surplus and reserve accounts as of June 30, which includes the \$1,199,784 excess surplus. The bulk of the money is in a capital reserve account totaling \$3,475,000. Maintenance reserve holds another \$499,992 and there is \$495,000 in an emergency reserve account. Encumbrances or outstanding bills from 2008-2009 account for \$740,284 of the \$7.2M and another \$654,445 was set aside for excess surplus designated for the following year's expenditures.

Montanino stated that the only real fault found was that the treasurer's report had too many recurring adjusting items and they were not being produced for board approval on a timely basis. He suggested that there should be better communication between the treasurer of school monies and the business administrator. It was explained that Borough CFO Glenn Cullen took over the position in July and was having difficulty putting together reports as documentation has been slow in coming from the previous treasurer.

The school board is currently repaying \$16,154 in state aid as a result of a fine last year after a state audit found that they had illegally purchased lawn equipment from Sodexo instead of going out to bid. The board won their appeal of the original amount of \$26,654, and the fine was subsequently reduced.

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—Ralph A. Heiss, Author

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1110 Hamilton Boulevard or call 908-668-0010.



Shirley Thompson, far left, is pictured with some of the many volunteers who helped her to make Christmas special for those in need.

Charity Begins at Home for Local Resident

(Continued from page 1)

given as gifts and to purchase specific items, the project was a success again.

Throughout the month of December Shirley coordinated with donors and organized the mountains of donated gifts. The gifts were stored and wrapped in the basement of her neighbors, Don and Betty Herman, and with tremendous help from neighbor Cathy Herman who organized the lists and gifts, and the help of many to wrap the gifts, Shirley made sure each child had more than a few wrapped gifts to open on Christmas morning. The "elves" who helped with the wrapping were Shirley's daughter Heather, daughter-in-law Deneen, neighbor Cathy Herman, granddaughter Kasi and friends Florence Vincent and McKensie Larson. The gifts were delivered to over 30 homes by many helpers on December 23.

The preparations then began for the hot meals to be delivered on Christmas Day. As in previous years, Shirley stayed up all night long on Christmas Eve to cook over 100 pounds of turkey breasts and all the trimmings.

For the second year in a row, Shirley and her helpers headed over to Wesley Methodist Church at about 10 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Last year the number of meals to be cooked outgrew Shirley's home kitchen, so members of the church and friends of Shirley's, Bob and Arlene Richie, were kind enough to procure the use of the church kitchen as well as offer their company during the overnight cooking expedition.

The team of helpers prepared all non-perishable items for delivery, including cranberry sauce, fresh rolls, fresh fruit, nuts, pies and homemade pound cake that was donated by a South Plainfield resident. The team worked until 1 a.m., and once they left, Shirley continued her work throughout the night.

On Christmas morning, the deliveries began promptly at 11:30 a.m., and within one hour and 20 minutes, 225 hot meals had been delivered. In

previous years, Shirley's husband John was the sole turkey carver, but with additional help from her brother, Billy Weaver Sr., this year the meals were served in record time. Having done this for six years prior, Shirley, along with her team, has the project down to a science. Even Shirley's grandchildren, Kasi, Daniel and Anthony, willingly give up their Christmas Day to help with the food deliveries.

After the deliveries had been made, the volunteers shared a meal of hot turkey, stuffing, green beans, potatoes, cranberry sauce, plus many other goodies in the church hall. With a great team effort, the day was a huge success and the holiday was made brighter for those in need in South Plainfield.

Shirley would like to thank the following people and organizations for the donations, support and help during this holiday season; all was greatly appreciated.

Collis and Peggy Moore, Rebecca Moore, Ted and Ellie Stockman, Sharon D'Amico, Pat and Don Jackson, Joyce, Brian and Amanda Schweerz, Rose Trivigno, Thorn Ramirez, Dennis Scalera, Sarah and Kevin O'Brien, Charles and Jean Mingle, Sal Woods, Robert and Arlene Ritchie, Mr. and Mrs. William Ashnault, Bagel Pantry, Curves, Marie and Joseph Dolinski, Teresa Dias, Don and Betty Herman, Cathy Herman, Rosemary Petriello, Francis Elsmen, Cindy Driscoll, Dr. Richard Lunna, Plain-

field Animal Hospital and Dr. Scott Linick, Nicholas and Virginia Cocco, Frances and Virginia Cocco, Mary and Vito Ratti, OakTree Wine and Spirits, Pat and Walter Janice, Wesley Methodist Church, Marjorie and Constance Machat, Margaret Flynn, Donna and Constance Palmer, Nicholas Barone, Wendy and Robert Barone, Thomas and Diane Crino, Rosemary Orladini, Anthony, Rocco and Jordan Petriello, Mary Frindt, Nancy Pasternak, Tom and Eugenia Cassio, Sorrentino Family, Mitchell's Family, Hilkins Family, Oldam's Family, Grace Ragno, Mike and Linda Fiore, Ross Anglim, Angelini and Co. and staff, Ray Angelini CPA, Toby Prince, George and Betsy Coyne, Michelle Bartell and family, Florence and Robert Vincent, Rocco Family, Patricia and Kenneth Martin, Tom, George and Cindy Zielenbach, Dana DiMaria, Brittany Kennedy, Jarad, Doreen DiMaria, Doreen, Scott, Gianna and Olivia Lessing, South Plainfield Business Association, Danielle, Tony, Daniel and Anthony DiMaria-Sadorski, Wayne Haviland, Denise DiMaria, Devon DiMaria, Paul and Diane Brand, Colleen and Shannon Barry, Danielle Schleck, Jackie Vill, Barbara and Mike Gillen, Siobhan Burke, Debbie Leporino and son, Mark Piano, Cindy Weaver, Billy Weaver Jr., Bill, Jackie, CJ and Angelique Weaver, Marissa Judd, Constance Gonzales, the Observer and Nancy Grennier, Arch Personal Care, Mc-

Cauley Hall-Sisters of Mercy, Tom Salerno, Linda Vaughan, Marisol Martinez, Michelle and Carmen Petriello, Collette Tarsan, John Pomovits and family, JoAnne and Harry Robinson, Scott and Lisa Robinson, Pat and Anthony Cirigliano, Barry and Joan Dueker, Al and Ann Lepore, John and Maryann Eder in memory of Betty DePalo, Edward and Linda Rocca, Peggy and Dave Koury, Twin City Pharmacy, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Sacco Sr., GeorgeAnn Larsen, Mrs. Reid Senncott, Riley School Girl Scout Troop 475 and leaders, Danielle Vitale, Jersey Tank Fabricators, Alan Graziano, Pat Malia, Richard and Gloria Petrune, Dedra Reid, Mr. and Mrs. Martize, Candice and Matthew Goldstein, Mr. and Mrs. Holloran and Jane Giammarino.

"There are some people who have donated their time and money who wish to remain anonymous, and there are people I am sure to have missed. But I would just like to take the time to say thank you to these individuals and allow them to know how greatly their help was appreciated."

Last and, of course, not least I would like to thank my husband, John, who helps in every way; my children and my grandchildren, John, Jerry, Heather, Candice, Matt, Deneen, Kasi, Daniel and Anthony. Without their help this project would not be possible," said Shirley.

—Submitted by Rosemary Petriello

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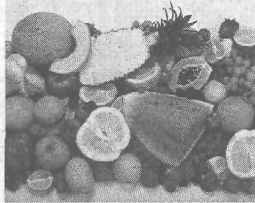
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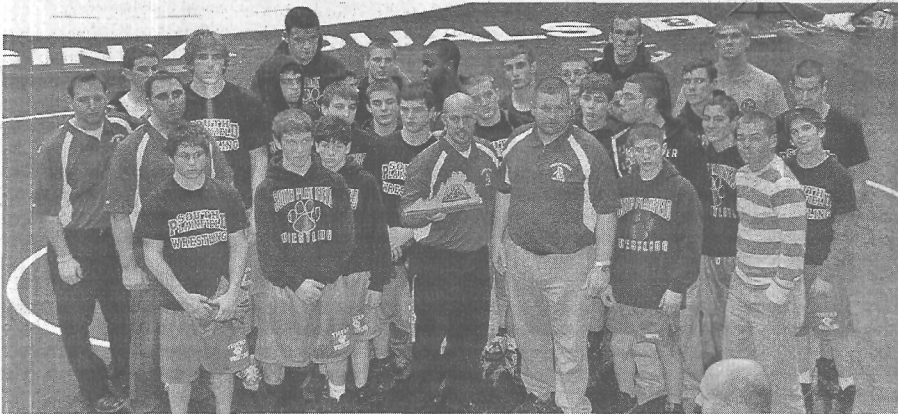
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Sports

RECREATION WRESTLING

By Joe Sacco



Nick Heilmann, Mike Wagner, Ryan Sacco, Rich Szeliga, Bobby Sacks, Seth Yocum, Troy Heilmann, Anthony Ashnault, Cory Stasenka, Scott DelVecchio, Tyler Hunt, Kyle Pompilio, Will Whitefleet, Ryan Billich, Jeff Conroy, Dylan Painton, Troy Davison, Joe Vetuschi, Joe Gonzalez, Andrew Sanchez, Bobby Kolvites, Randy Jakubik, Arnell Smith, Sam Bermudez, Marcus Garcia, Joe Pellegrino, John Sottiriou, Coach McCann, Coach Johnston, Coach Hamilton and Coach Foscolo.

High School Wrestlers Finish 3rd at VA Duals

The number three state-ranked South Plainfield High School Wrestling team traveled to Hampton, Va. to wrestle in the 30th annual Virginia Duals. This highly regarded national tournament attracts top teams from around the east coast.

The Tigers opened the tournament by beating Wantagh (N.Y.) 60-6, winning five bouts by pin. In the second round they faced top seed and number eight nationally ranked St. Marks of Delaware. The Tigers gave St. Marks all they could handle before losing 30-29. St. Marks went on to win the tournament, beating Nazareth (Pa.) 37-29.

On day two of the tournament,

South Plainfield had wins over Fort Dorchester (S.C.) 34-29, Canon-McMillan (Pa.) 34-13, Liberty (Pa.) 37-31 and Cox (Va.) 34-26 for their

third place finish.

Full tournament details and match by match results can be found at www.virginiaduals.org.

FROM SP SKI CLUB

By Chris Hubner

Skiers Enjoy Great Conditions

The SP Ski Club took its first of four trips to Mountain Creek this past Friday. According to club president Rob Breslau, "This was one of the earliest trips we have taken and it was one of our best! Although the temperature was cold, the conditions on the mountain were fantastic. We have over 50 members and based on the smiles on their faces at the end of the

night, I think everyone really enjoyed themselves."

The SP Ski Club is open to sixth through eighth graders, many of whom are first time skiers and boarders. The package deal includes three after school trips, one all day trip, four lessons, lift tickets, rentals and transportation. For more information, visit our Web site at www.spskiclub.webs.com.

SPHS Bowling

By Ralph Fech

BOYS

Tiger Bowlers Drop Tilts to State-Ranked Colonia, Undefeated No. Brunswick & Carteret

South Plainfield	666-610-676-1952
Colonia	1037-1054-1057-3148

Freshman Tom Riccardi led the boys bowling team with games of 176 and 180 for a fine, 515 set, but the Tigers were trounced by state-ranked Colonia.

South Plainfield	761-709-698-2168
Carteret	852-1066-787-2705

The boys bowling team was beaten by a hot shooting Carteret squad despite sophomore Andrew Yon who crushed the pocket with a big 246 high game and 581 set. Tom Riccardi chipped in with a 174 game.

South Plainfield	705-689-660-2054
North Brunswick	815-900-835-2550

Freshman Joey Parillo bowled games of 165-177-157 for a solid 499 set, but the Tigers fell to a strong North Brunswick team. Teammate Andrew Yon chipped in with a 485 set.

GIRLS

Lady Tigers Fall to Colonia and Undefeated North Brunswick... Edged by Monroe

South Plainfield	631-635-563-1829
Colonia	870-902-898-2670

The girls bowling team lost to division leader Colonia, but Michelle Hernandez sparked for the Lady Tigers, rolling a solid 470 set on games of 166-163-141.

South Plainfield	571-576-587-1734
Monroe	613-789-720-2112

Nikki Disch led the girls bowling team with a high game of 169 and a 416 set. Teammate Stephanie Sherwood chipped in with a 163, but the Lady Tigers were easily handled by a solid Monroe team.

South Plainfield	599-661-614-1879
North Brunswick	844-941-804-2589

State ranked and undefeated North Brunswick was too much for the young Lady Tigers as the Raiders swept all three games. Michelle Hernandez's 150 game and Stephanie Sherwood's 150 led the Green and White. Freshman Allison Yuschick also chipped in with an improved performance.

SOCCER CLUB NEWS

By Dawn Hutchison

Spring Season to Feature 13 Teams

Mardi Gras evening highlights pre-season fundraisers

Happy New Year! Hope everyone enjoyed the holidays!

Although it is freezing outside, the South Plainfield Soccer Club has been very busy preparing for our upcoming spring season. We are very fortunate to have a total of 13 teams playing this spring. We are looking forward to getting back out on the fields and having a great season.

The club has organized several fundraisers for our pre-season. These fundraisers will ensure that we have the funds to put towards our fields, operating costs and our training. Here's what we have in store:

- Friday, Jan. 22—Pasta dinner, Middle School cafeteria 5 to 8 p.m. Dine in buffet/takeout available. Dinner consists of penne pasta with choice of marinara or vodka sauce, choice of meatballs or sausage; bread, salad and lemonade or ice tea. Dessert available at an additional cost. Adults, 13 and over—\$7.50, seniors—\$6.50, children under 12—\$5.

Come on out and get a great, fresh cooked hot meal. Stay and enjoy, or take it home!

- Sunday, Jan. 31—Pancake breakfast at the Elks Lodge on New Market Avenue, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Breakfast includes eggs made to order, French toast, pancakes, bacon, sausage, home fires, toast, orange juice, coffee, tea

and hot chocolate. Adults—\$7, seniors—\$5, children 3-12—\$4, under two free.

- Friday, Feb. 12—Mardi Gras Night at the senior center on Maple Avenue at 7 p.m.

New Orleans Mardi Gras comes to South Plainfield! An evening of authentic Cajun cooking, music and fun. Enjoy the music and fun in the air as we capture the Cajun flavor of the season. King and queen of the court will be crowned. Beads and masks available for purchase to add to the fun. Leave your worries at home and come out and play like the Cajuns do. Guaranteed fun. Adults only. Seats limited to 100 guests.

Menu includes: appetizers will start with barbecued shrimp with fresh French bread, followed by stuffed mushrooms. A choice of one of three entrees: chicken gumbo, jambalaya, or shrimp etouffee. Dessert choices consist of sorbet or pecan pie with ice cream. Cash bar available. Beer, wine or soda.

Tickets—\$25 per person—include dinner and two drinks. Please call our club phone for advanced ticket sales. Call (908) 755-3550. Leave your name and number and the ticket committee will get back to you to reserve your tickets. Hope to see you all there!

As always, the club can use help from our families. If you can help in any way with any of our upcoming events, please contact Bill Garner regarding the Mardi Gras at Bill.Garner@iqor.com and Laura Readie at lreadie@verizon.net for all other events. Thanks as always for your support of the SPSC!

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All Types
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Smirnoff
Vodka
80 proof
\$19⁹⁹ 1.75L

Bacardi
Light Rum
\$21⁹⁹ 1.75L

Cavit Pinot Grigio—\$12.99 1.5L

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Franzia House Favorites—\$11.99 5L

Corbett Canyon all types—\$5.99 1.5L

Covey Run all types—\$7.99 750mL

Yellow Tail all types—\$11.99 1.5L

Crane Lake all types—\$3.99 750mL

Grey Fox all types—\$2.99 750mL

C.K. Mondavi all types—\$10.99 1.5L

Pepperwood Grove all types—\$7.99 750mL

Grey Goose Vodka—\$29.99 750mL

Seagrams 7 Crown—\$18.99 1.75L

Christian Bros Brandy—\$9.99 750mL

Old Smuggler Scotch—\$19.99 1.75L

Johnnie Walker Red—\$31.99 1.75L

Di Saronno Amaretto—\$21.99 750mL

Jack Daniels—\$39.99 1.75L

Sauza Gold/Blanco—\$29.99 1.75L

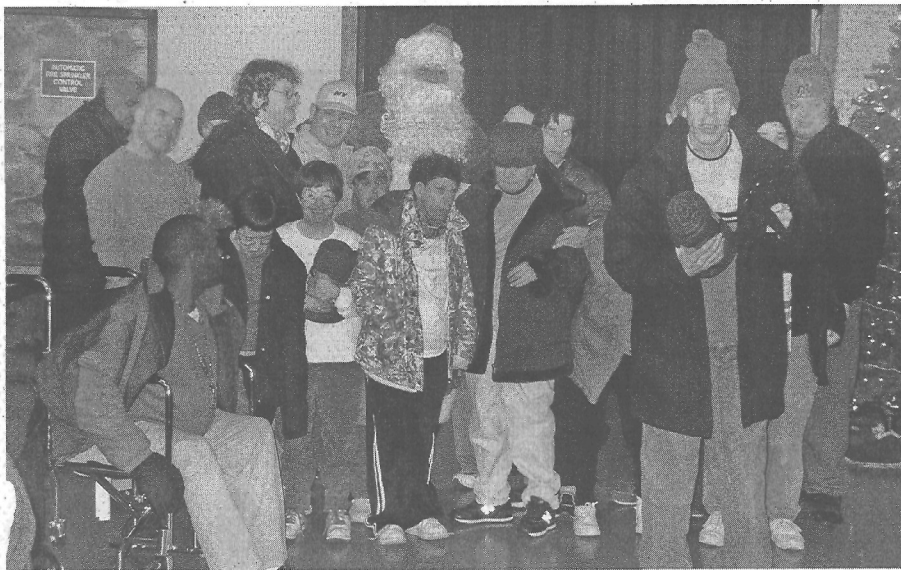
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Keystone Community residents attend a Christmas party hosted by the Knights of Columbus Council #6203.

Knights Host Christmas Party for Keystone Community

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 held their 2009 Christmas Party for Keystone Community residents on December 30. Over 70 Keystone residents arrived at the Knights Hall to enjoy a hot dinner and a visit from Santa who

delivered many gifts to the residents.

The Knights of Columbus have been hosting a Christmas party for the residents of Keystone for the past 20 years.

The Knights would like to thank all of their members and families who at-

tended and either cooked or served the residents their dinner. A special thank you to our own brother Knight Max Waldrop for his support for playing Santa. Co-organizers for this event were Bill Thomas and Past Grand Knight Joe Scudato.

Red Cross to Host Family Fitness Challenge

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. The Saturday, Jan. 16 kick-off to the Red Cross Resolutions Gym-A-Thon will include educational presentations from local businesses, boot-camp style fitness activities from The NJ Challenge, and a chance to sign up to support the Red Cross in Union, Somerset and Middlesex counties in New Jersey.

The program kicks off at 11 a.m. at the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave. in Cranford.

"Red Cross disaster prevention means more than just fire prevention, but also making sure our families are healthy throughout the year," said Nathan Rudy, the Executive Director of the Tri-County Red Cross. "The Red Cross Resolutions Gym-A-Thon provides all of us a chance to get a little healthier while replenishing the disaster fund during our most active time providing relief for home fires and other disasters."

The Red Cross Resolutions Gym-

A-Thon is a twist on the traditional walkathon. Participants get pledges from friends and family based on the distance they walk, run or bike during the week of January 16 to 24. Exercise can be anywhere they like, whether in a fitness center using treadmills, ellipticals or stationary bikes; on the road ruing a 5K; or just taking a walk downtown with the kids. As long as it is exercise, it counts.

"We're very pleased to be involved with the Red Cross, and helping to provide local disaster relief in Cranford and our neighboring communities," said Marc Kanterman, coordinator of The NJ Challenge.

More information and a sign up form are at tricountyredcross.org/gymathon. Interested participants can also sign up at more than 15 fitness centers and businesses throughout the chapter. The program includes health presentations and fitness demos. People

who want to participate in the demos should wear exercise clothes and be ready for a vigorous but easy workout.

On average, the Tri-County Red Cross spends \$65,000 each winter on disaster relief in its 22 communities. This includes shelter, food, clothing, material support, storage and other services required to respond to more than 45 home fires and other disasters from November to March each year.

While the Red Cross is mandated by Congressional Charter and the State of New Jersey to respond to disasters, it receives no budget item funding from the government. Instead, it relies on the generosity of local individuals, organizations and businesses.

Businesses relating to health, fitness and fun are welcome to participate in the Family Fitness Challenge. Just call Corinna Krauskopf at the Red Cross offices at (908) 756-6414 or via E-mail at krauskopf@usareddcross.org.

SECOND ANNIVERSARY

In Loving Memory

Tulio "Cappy" Capparelli
October 11, 1927
January 2, 2008

"If tears could build a stairway,
and memories a lane, I'd walk
right up to Heaven and bring
you home again."

Sadly missed. Love you.
Wife, Children
& Grandchildren



Obituaries

Anthony F. Ciampa, 89

Anthony F. Ciampa entered eternal life on Tuesday, Jan. 4 at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born and raised in Plainfield, Mr. Ciampa had resided in South Plainfield since 1967.

An Army veteran of WWII, he was drafted in 1942 and served in "L" Company, 111th Infantry. He was a dedicated member of the VFW Storr-Richie Post #506 in North Plainfield.

In October of 2000, Anthony was awarded a plaque for 50 years of service for his dedication and recognition as past commander of Post #506.

In 1985 he retired from Johnson and Johnson in New Brunswick where he worked in the shipping department for 41 years.

He was a longtime member of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield. Anthony loved gardening, especially caring for his own lawn. In addition, Mr. Ciampa also enjoyed bowling and photography as well as square dancing.

He is predeceased by a brother, Peter Ciampa, and by five sisters, Ann Puri, Lucy Cilano, Grace Ponzio, Geraldine Miele and Marion Urciole.

Surviving are his loving wife, Ann (Natale) of South Plainfield; two daughters, Brenda Cooper of Aberdeen and Barbara Fauver and husband Gary of Winchester, Va.; two sisters, Angie Ferrara of Scotch Plains and Mary Rubinetti and husband Larry of North Plainfield; a brother, Andrew Ciampa of Moorestown; four grandchildren, Melanie Cortese, Jennifer Pope, Tracey Ashby and Sean Pope and three great-grandchildren, Courtney and David Pope and Katie Cortese.

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

Bertha (Andresak) Kolba, 94

Bertha (Andresak) Kolba passed away on Thursday, Jan. 7 at Tallwoods Care Center in Bayville.

Born in Perth Amboy, she resided in Hillside, Union and Toms River before settling with her daughter in Lanoka Harbor.

Mrs. Kolba was employed as an assembly worker with the former Lockheed Martin in Watchung and during WWII, she was a vital volunteer helping the war efforts as a "Rosie the Riveter."

She enjoyed spending her time doing artwork and needlecraft as well as the time spent with her family.

Bertha is predeceased by her husband, Michael; a son, Phillip Sujkowski, and by three brothers, Edward, Steve and Joseph Belly.

Surviving are a daughter, Felicia Pasko; two sisters, Sally Ferrara and Helen Murphy; a brother, John Belly; four grandchildren, Kathleen Thomas, Ronald Pasko, Dawn Auerbach and Staci Furman and six great-grandchildren.

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

Dennis J. Carovillano, Sr., 61

Dennis J. Carovillano entered into eternal rest on Sunday, Jan. 10 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville surrounded by his loving family.

Born in Plainfield, Dennis grew up in North Plainfield and has lived in Bridgewater most of his life.

Dennis was a 1968 graduate of North Plainfield High School and furthered his education at Nebraska University and Kean University. He was a football player in high school and college, and was part of the first football team at Kean. He enjoyed attending movies, loved the table games in Atlantic City and liked watching the Game Show Network.

He was a general contractor, D.J. Carovillano Contractors, LLC.

He is survived by his loving wife of 33 years, Linda "Karen" Carovillano and four children, Dennis, Jr. and wife Kelly of Cranford, James and wife Mary Ann of Middlesex, Steven and wife Marci of Middlesex and Patty Carovillano of Raritan. He will be missed dearly by his six adored grandchildren, Jennifer, Matthew, Julia, Meghan, Madison and Natalie, and by many extended family and close friends, all of whom will miss him dearly.

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

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations made to the family, c/o McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals would be appreciated.

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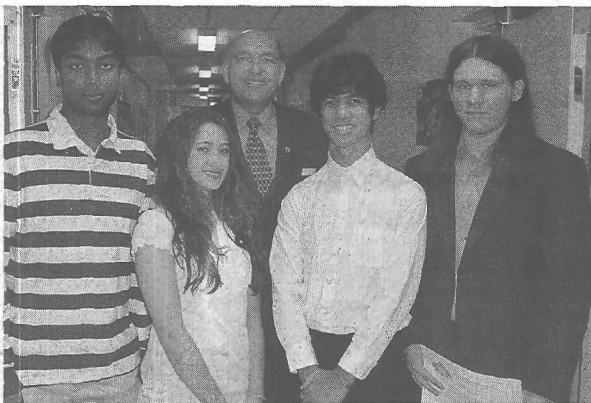
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William C. McCriskin, Dir. • N.J. Lic. No. 3382
Daniel M. Erickson, Dir. • N.J. Lic. No. 4798





SPHS students Alexandra M. Skula, Michael F. Sullivan, Maher A. Khan and Jonathan G. Sukenik, pictured with Dr. Ken May, received Letters of Commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Program.

policereport

On Jan. 5 Christshel E. Dunn, 47, Jabbar L. Figgs, 37, Anthony Sylvester Figgs, 39, all of Plainfield and Dion D. Montgomery, 39, of Irvington were arrested at Walgreens for shoplifting \$200 worth of Enfamil.

Christina Hong Kolodziej, 27, of Piscataway was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving, possession of an open container of alcohol in a vehicle and failure to maintain lane.

Jennifer Moyd, 24, and Jamie R. Scott, 29, both of Plainfield were arrested at MJM Designer Shoes on Hadley Road for shoplifting \$127 worth of boots.

On Jan. 6 a Plainfield resident reported the theft of \$20 in cash and two credit cards from their wallet that was left in an unlocked locker at LA Fitness.

On Jan. 7 Brian C. Magazine, 34, of South Plainfield was arrested for no insurance and an outstanding warrant.

A Spicer Avenue resident reported the theft of an SCT XCAL2 hand held car engine tuner and a pair of Versace sunglasses from their unlocked vehicle.

On Jan. 8 Christopher L. Desa,

28, of Fords was arrested at Rite-Aid for shoplifting four Sonic Care toothbrushes, an NWB cordless phone, five bottles of Hydroxycut Hardcore and a Conair hairbrush worth \$855.

Michael A. Brink, 50, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving, maintenance of lamps and failure to maintain lane.

On Jan. 9 Michael L. Lowery, 26, of Plainfield was arrested for driv-

ing while suspended and an outstanding warrant.

Robert W. Barnard, 20, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, driving while intoxicated under 21 years of age and careless driving.

On Jan. 10 Daniel Joseph Bisheit, 26, and Joseph M. Stanzione, 26, both of Edison were arrested at CVS on Oak Tree Road for shoplifting.

Library Begins Negotiations For Larger Facilities

(Continued from page 1)

library," Massey said. Egan stated that the new library will provide an environment in which all students will be able to study in a safe and quiet atmosphere.

Sundra Randolph, library director, was ecstatic with the board's action. "Our staff has been incredible, considering the conditions under which they have been working. Things are so cramped that when we have a children's program, the library is virtually unusable by our other patrons."

The new building will allow everyone, from young children to senior citizens, to use the library's services, without disruption. Our staff will finally have a work environment they deserve.

According to Aronowitz, the cost of leasing the new building would be tax neutral. If the lease negotiations are successful, the library could be in the new building by July 1 or sooner. The plan is to be able to run the Summer Reading Program in the new building.

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Council Announces Plans

(Continued from page 1)

\$6,200 over the next five months for phone consultations, meetings and other activities as deemed necessary by the borough administrator. Glowacki's total compensation for the six-month period is not to exceed \$15,000.

Councilwoman Chrissy Buteas questioned the council's urgency to replace retired employees, especially by hiring them back, and noted that the prior council "had agreed to examine all cost effective measures to get the job done." Anesh explained that he did not believe the prior council had planned for the superintendent's retirement and felt strongly that the department needed proper guidance in the interim. Glowacki's replacement would have been Dave Donatelli who was injured in an attack in September at Spring Lake Park during the Labor Day fireworks and has yet to return to work. Anesh feels that Bob Capparelli, acting DPW general supervisor, needs assistance in heading up the DPW at this time.

Mayor Charles Butrico said that he had discussed the possibility of advertising for the position with CFO/Business Administrator Glenn Cullen and wanted to see the borough's budget in place for the new year before making any hiring decisions. Buteas asked if any

kind of shared service opportunities with the county or the board of education (BOE) had been examined. As chair of BOE shared services last year, she said this would be a perfect opportunity to begin some cost cutting measures.

"This is not a department loaded with personnel. We are continuously asking these men and women to do more with less. A decision has to be made," said Anesh. The council voted 4-1 along party lines to approve the positions with Councilman Franky Salerno recusing himself from the vote.

Volunteers Sought For Literacy Programs

Literacy Programs of New Jersey is currently accepting registration for our Tutor Training Program. The course is for adults who would like to help other adults in need of both basic literacy and English as a Second Language instruction, by volunteering to tutor once a week.

Training sessions will be held at the Edison Main Library, 340 Plainfield Ave. in Edison on January 21 and 28 and February 4, 11 and 18 from 6-9 p.m. Registration is required; visit the Web site: www.lpnj.org, or call (732) 432-8000 and ask for Rosie.

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NEWS

Suburban Woman's Club

At the recent meeting of the Suburban Woman's Club, President Lucy Hudson welcomed a potential new member, Jean Mingle. Membership chairman Grace Bertucci will be providing Mrs. Mingle with club member materials and will be installing her into membership at the Thursday, Feb. 4 regular meeting.

Special State Project Chairman Natalie Bergen unveiled plans for a fundraiser to be held in April to support the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs special project, New Jersey Autism. She said that a fashion show luncheon will feature a basket raffle and the fashions will be provided by the South Plainfield Dress Barn.

Federation events were announced, including the NJSFWC Mid-Year Council meeting on Thursday, Jan. 28 at the federation headquarters building in New Brunswick; the Women's Heart Foundation Annual Red Dress Luncheon with a Red

Dress Trunk Show by Lord & Taylor at the Trenton Marriott Hotel on Saturday, Feb. 6 and the 102nd Public Affairs Day to be held on Monday, March 22 at Battleground Country Club in Manalapan, where key women legislators will speak.

Information was also shared on federation trips to Ireland from July 13-22; Trains and Canyons of the Southwest from May 14-22 and Northern National Parks from September 3-10.

The planned program of two speakers from the Liberty Hall Museum in Union was rescheduled due to the illness of both women. Club members made the best of the situation and enjoyed one another's company and the delicious refreshments provided by Cathy Wells and Renee Pasacrita.

Women interested in joining this service club may call (732) 549-9633 for membership information.

Special Kidcraft Program at Library

There will be a special Kidcraft program at South Plainfield Library on Monday, Jan. 25 starting at 6:30 p.m.

This will be a Valentines for Veterans program where children will be making valentines for patients at Lyons VA hospital. The library will

provide the needed craft materials. The program is for children of all ages; no pre-registration is required. It is being presented free of charge.

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



Sacred Heart Children Perform Christmas Pageant—The children of Sacred Heart Parish did an excellent job performing the reenactment of Jesus' birthday on Christmas Eve.

Stockton College Art Gallery to Celebrate Black History Month With Exhibit, Lecture

To celebrate Black History Month, the Visual Arts faculty and the School of Arts and Humanities at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey will sponsor a photography exhibition and artist lecture to commemorate the contributions of African American soldiers during the Civil War. The exhibition and lecture will feature photographer William Earl Williams.

The photography exhibition, "Unsung Heroes: African American Soldiers in the Civil War," will run from January 19 through February 19 in the Stockton College Art Gallery on the Galloway Township campus. Artist William E. Williams will present

his slide lecture, "The African American Soldiers and the Civil War Experience: Photographs Celebrating Unsung Heroes and Places," on Wednesday, Feb. 3 from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. in AS102 lecture hall. Following the lecture, a special "meet the artist" reception will be held in the art gallery from 4 to 5 p.m.

Over 60 silver gelatin photographs taken by Williams, with accompanying extended gallery notes, will be on display at Stockton's Art Gallery for a month. The images will showcase prominent sites where African American troops contributed to the final Union victory.

Laura Guth, assistant director of Light Work, a non-profit, artist-run photography organization in Syracuse said, "Just as monuments symbolize an imperative to remember, Williams' photographs serve to restore forgotten or unmaintained sites to our national memory."

In 1986, Williams began visiting Civil War memorial sites as research for one of his projects. Unexpectedly, Williams discovered a serious lack of coverage recognizing the involvement of over 180,000 African American soldiers during the Civil War. One project quickly led to another. After his extensive research, Williams was driven to document a pictorial history of the sites where the soldiers had been during the course of the war.

Williams said, "Too often the historical and artistic legacy of black accomplishments is ignored. As an artist, the memory of these soldiers has inspired my artistic imagination. The ground they fought on is sacred and an inspiration for all Americans. These sites dispel the myth that blacks were given their citizenship and rights after the Civil War without having fought for and earned them."

Williams is a professor of fine arts and curator of photography at Haverford College in Pennsylvania. Williams received his MFA in photography from Yale University School of Art. Williams' prestigious accomplishments include the following: awarded a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship for 2003-2004; participant in the Light Work Artist-in-Residence program in 2003; served on the national board of the Society for Photographic Education from 1997-2003 as a member of the executive committee; a 1997 Pew Fellow in the Arts; and he has received numerous artist fellowships from the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts. His work has been exhibited at the Smithsonian, the Cleveland Museum of Art and Smith College.

Funding for this program has been provided in part by the NJ State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and through the local arts grant program administered by the Atlantic County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs. The Stockton Art Gallery is also a member of the South Jersey Cultural Alliance. For more information, please visit the Stockton Art Gallery Web site, www.stockton.edu/artgallery.

New Social Group Forming for Ages 40+

Meetup.com would like to announce the formation of a new social group for couples age 40+. The group, "Going Out," will meet on a monthly basis for the purpose of making

friends and having fun.

Those interested should register at www.meetup.com/Going-Out/ or E-mail Francine Zelnik at francine.zelnik@yahoo.com.

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