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South Plainfield Observer

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Member New Jersey Press Association

60 CENTS

FEBRUARY 5, 2010

Police Seek Information on Home Invasion/Stabbing

The South Plainfield Police are asking for help and any information about the two suspects who allegedly forced their way into a home on the 100 block of Amboy Avenue and bound, gagged and stabbed a 62 year-old man before fleeing the scene.

According to police, the assailants approached the house sometime after

6:30 p.m. and rang the doorbell. The exact time of the attack, as well as other details about the crime, are being withheld because it might hinder their investigation.

The victim, Chinapa Virasawmi, 62, said that he responded to the front door of his residence in response to the doorbell. Once at the door the assail-

ants forced their way inside the home. They bound, gagged and stabbed the victim numerous times before leaving him helpless inside the house and then fled the scene by exiting the rear of the residence.

The victim described his assailants as two males wearing dark clothing. No further description is available at

this time.

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad responded to the scene and transported the victim to Robert Wood Johnson Hospital, where he was admitted. He was listed in fair condition as of Monday according to a hospital spokesman.

The New Jersey State Police K-9 unit

responded to the scene to assist with the investigation. A search of the area did not find the suspects.

According to Police Chief John Ferraro, "A theft did occur."

Anyone with information is urged to contact Detective Vincent Campagna of the South Plainfield Police Department at (908) 226-7660.

Planning Bd. Hears Revised Application

By Libby Barsky

Developer Jack Morris's firm, Edgewood Properties LLC, returned to the Planning Board on January 26 to seek approval to build 340 multi-family residential market-rate units on the former Tingley Rubber property on South Avenue and Coolidge Street.

The application comes almost four years (March 2006) after the board rejected plans for a 484 age-restricted senior housing community named Celebrations to be built on the same site. In 2005, at the recommendation of the board, a special ordinance was approved by the mayor and council to change the status of the site from its previous M-3 zone industrial use to establish zoning to permit housing for senior citizens. By providing age-restricted residential housing, the borough would not have had to add services such as schools.

"We could have reapplied with the same plans," commented State Senator Bob Smith, Edgewood Properties attorney, when he presented an amended application which eliminates 144 housing units from the original plan.

The new plan includes 272 condo units—18 units with one bedroom and 254 units with two bedrooms. The condo units are housed in eight, four-story buildings with elevators containing 32 units each, and one building with 16 condo units. There are also 68 townhouse units contained in seven townhouse buildings with eight units and two townhouse buildings with six, three-bedroom, units.

The amended plan would devote 68 condo units to provide for COAH affordable housing requirements. These would be rented as age-restricted units and would be spread throughout the condo buildings.

The amended plan proposes 721 parking spaces—which eliminates 325 spaces—and underground parking, which was included in the earlier plans. A smaller clubhouse and outside swimming pool are also being proposed.

The amended application also requests two variances, one for a reduction in the buffer area around

(Continued on page 6)



More than a dozen solar panels have been installed on PSE&G utility poles along Clinton Avenue.

Solar Panel Installation To be Completed by 2013

By Jean Fultz

Perhaps you noticed the "solar panels" that have appeared, almost overnight, on utility and light poles throughout the borough. Clusters have sprung up in certain areas, including Clinton, Lane and New Brunswick avenues and Metuchen Road. A recent letter to the editor in the *Observer* called the panels "solar trees" and complained they are an unattractive addition to the landscape of the borough.

According to a press release issued by Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE&G) in December, the solar panels are being installed as part of a \$515 million Solar 4 All project, which they say should be completed by 2013. "The solar panels bring the benefit of clean, renewable energy to all our customers, and the electricity generated from them helps us combat climate change," said Al Matos, vice president for renewables and energy solutions for PSE&G. "The units are being installed in a safe, reliable manner consistent with our normal practices."

PSE&G received regulatory approval in July 2009 to install 200,000 solar units in towns they service, including South Plainfield,

in exchange for federal tax credits and solar renewable energy credits.

A contract worth \$200M was awarded to Petra Solar, Inc. of South Plainfield, which is supplying their SunWave intelligent photovoltaic solar units for installation by PSE&G contractors Riggs Distler & Company. The installation area includes six cities, as well as 300 rural and suburban areas, in New Jersey.

"This new initiative will effectively double the size of New Jersey's installed solar capacity," said Ralph LaRossa, president and COO of PSE&G. "That is more solar capacity than exists in any state other than California. This latest program is an important step in PSE&G's commitment to promote energy efficiency, develop renewables, reduce greenhouse gases and create new green jobs."

Each 40-watt solar panel, weighing approximately 60 lbs., is installed in a southerly direction on poles that are owned by PSE&G. In addition, only poles that can support the weight of the panel and do not already have more than one transformer installed on it, are considered acceptable for installation. The electricity generated by all 200,000 units will be returned

(Continued on page 8)

High School Tiger Wrestlers Win GMC Tournament

For the twelfth time in the past 14 years, the South Plainfield High School Wrestling team again dominated the Greater Middlesex Conference and won the tournament championship on January 30. Eight Tiger wrestlers competed in the finals and all eight won their matches. In addition, two Tiger wrestlers placed third.

South Plainfield won the first four bouts, with freshman Scott DelVecchio (130) scoring a pin, senior Nick Heilmann (135) winning his fourth straight title, freshman Corey Stasenko (140) beating his opponent by one point and senior Ryan Sacco (145) winning his first championship by a fall.

Senior Mike Wagner (189) was named Outstanding Wrestler of the Upper Weights after winning 4-2. Seth Yocum (215) beat his opponent

5-4 and freshmen Anthony Ashnault (103) and Troy Heilmann (112) also posted wins. Heilmann was also named Outstanding Wrestler of the Lower Weights.

The Tigers ended up with 284 points, to Perth Amboy's second place finish with 136.

During a quarter final match earlier in the day, Rich Szeliga (125) had to forfeit when he suffered a head injury after being slammed to the mat in a legal move by Woodbridge's Aaron Landy. Szeliga may have suffered a concussion.

Tyler Hunt (119) won by disqualification after he was hand punched in the nose by Monroe's Kyle Jensen. Jensen was disqualified and Hunt went on to finish third.

Also taking third was Bobby Sacks (285), who won for most pins in the shortest amount of time.



(L-R) first row: Riley third graders Gwenth Jones, Luke Niemeyer, John Timmerman, Lian Frederick, (back row) Exalted Ruler Barbara Muller, member Joe Rauh, PER Artie Sabino, Chaplin Celeste Ginder, Youth Activities Chairman Sharon Reuter, PER John Muller and Central District Vice President Debra Czech.

Elks' Dictionaries Donation Promotes Writing, Reading

By Patricia Abbott

The South Plainfield Elks Lodge #2298 recently participated in the Dictionary Project, a program that provides third grade students with dictionaries to help further their education. On January 29, members of the Elks Lodge distributed 189 dictionaries to the third grade students at Franklin, Kennedy, Sacred Heart and Riley schools. The project

was headed by Sharon Reuter, the South Plainfield Elks Youth Activities chairperson.

"The goal of this program is to assist the students in becoming good writers, active readers and creative thinkers by providing students with their own personal dictionary. This dictionary will be useful to the students for years to come, and the members of the Elks are happy to

(Continued on page 6)



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



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.

councilmeetings

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

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

Agenda Meeting Public Meeting

February 16 (Tuesday) February 16

March 1 March 1

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

Feb. 9, Feb. 23, Mar. 9, Mar. 23, Apr. 13, Apr. 27, May 11, May 25, June 8, June 22, July 13, July 27, Aug. 10, Aug. 24, Sept. 14, Sept. 28, Oct. 12, Oct. 26, Nov. 9 Dec. 7.

zoningboardofadjustment

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

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

Feb. 11, Feb. 25, Mar. 11, Mar. 25, Apr. 8, Apr. 22, May 13, May 27, June 10, June 24, July 8, July 22, Aug. 12, Aug. 26, Sept. 9, Sept. 23, Oct. 14, Oct. 28, Nov. 11* and Dec. 9.*

boardofeducation

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: 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.

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-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.

Feb. 16, Mar. 16, Apr. 20, May 18, July 20, Aug. 17, Sept. 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 16, Dec. 21

environmentalcommission

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

businessadvisorygroup

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

ad hoc alternative truck route committee

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

South Plainfield Observer

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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.

In My Opinion

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

Dear Editor,

I was thrilled when I read the letter by Alison Katla in the January 22 edition sharing the wonderful act of kindness that her husband displayed. I was the recipient of this act and I am so grateful to the *Observer* for making it possible for me to thank Mr. and Mrs. Katla! As in the words of Francis Bacon, "If a man be gracious and courteous to strangers, it shows he is a citizen of the world, and that his heart is no island cut off from other lands, but a continent that joins to them."

In today's society, especially, it is gratifying to know that there are people who will go out of their way, even put themselves (or their wives, ha, ha) in danger to be of service to others.

I am extremely thankful that Mr. Katla noticed my husband's mistake! Thank you for your benevolence. You saved us a lot of headaches and heartache!

MARY PIEKARSKI

Dear Editor,

Last week's letters by Bill Thomas and Mike English overlooked important facts. Let's set the record straight.

Bill complains that he and another appointee to the Dismal Swamp Commission had their appointments rescinded by the 2010 council. True enough. He fails, however, to say why.

The council by-laws forbid new appointments between Election Day and the annual re-organization unless it's an emergency. After losing the election, the Democrats disregarded this regulation and appointed two supporters to five-year terms on the commission anyhow. It was another case of arrogant politicians who think the rules don't apply to them.

The Democrats also ignored a borough ordinance that requires advertising these positions to the public. The idea behind advertising is to open up the process and make sure everybody gets to apply (not just a favored few). Ironically, it was Bill Thomas's wife, a former councilwoman, who introduced this ordinance. Apparently, though, Bill sees no problem ignoring it when it's in his best interest. Since Bill is an attorney, I'm surprised how he blithely ignores these mandates, and I'm equally surprised that his letter failed to reveal them to the public.

As far as Mike English goes, he also fails the candor test. He made it sound like Republicans appointed two of their own to the committee. Not true. After the spots were properly advertised, Republicans appointed the only two people who applied, neither of whom are registered Republicans. In

fact, both were previously appointed to spots by the Democrats. One heads the environmental commission, and the other recently sat on the planning board.

Thomas and English can bluster all they like about "politics," but what they don't realize is that it's their party, the Democratic Party, that's playing politics. When the Democrats made this illegal appointment in December it wasn't about appointing the best people for the job; it was about refusing to accept the results of an election and thinking they could ignore the law because they are above it.

Instead of trying to obstruct and harass the 2010 council, maybe Thomas and English should try working for a better South Plainfield. The game playing is blatant. Come on guys, your act is getting old.

COUNCILMAN ROB BENGIVENGA

To the Editor:

The announcement was almost three weeks ago now. I'm amazed by the lack of response. My family and I have discussed the library's plan to move to a building on Montrose Avenue several times. We agree with the objectives, the additional space and the capabilities that come with it will only add to the library's form and function. But this particular location leaves a lot to be desired.

Our main concern is for the children. The proposed building is, for lack of a better term, "off the beaten path." It is over one mile from the current location, putting it out of reach for anyone that walks now. There are no sidewalks and traffic control for pedestrians is almost nonexistent. Situating the library far from the center of town is not in the best interest of the main user groups, students and seniors. The new location will require a new experience for many parents giving children a ride to the library. I'll bet that goes over real big, in the middle of the big game.

The library's board has worked on this problem for several years. It's a real shame the town hasn't provided more support, but the times being what they are, it's not unexpected. Perhaps the board should continue to wait for a more "ideal" situation. In the meantime, the complaints about the lack of parking might be addressed by

Submit Your Letters to the Editor:

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more discussion with the borough council. Maybe more grassy areas around borough hall, the library and rescue squad buildings can be converted to parking. Sounds bad, but we are not privy to what has been discussed, we're sure more outlandish proposals have been made.

Our letter is not meant to impede progress. It is an expression of our concern for everyone's safety—particularly children. We use and enjoy the library and only want what is best for the town.

SINCERELY,
THE HARKINS FAMILY,
ROBERT, ANNE AND EMILY

To the Editor:

We still live in tough economic times and local government is no exception. Our local government must look for ways to save money. At the start of the new year, the mayor offered suggestions to the new administration to save money: administer a hiring freeze of all new borough employees, ask for a five percent cut in professional service contracts and renegotiate existing union contracts, as he successfully accomplished the previous year with our department heads and DPW workers.

Within the first two meetings of the new year, however, the current Republican administration has hired back our retired DPW superintendent as a consultant, a former DPW employee as a consultant and hired a new employee.

Under normal economic times, I would not have an issue with the hires, but during a time when the borough is experiencing a \$600,000 deficit, I question the judgment of hiring in the first month of the calendar year, knowing state aid would most likely

(Continued on page 14)

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Donations Needed for Project Graduation Auction

This year will mark the South Plainfield High School PTA's 22nd year of providing our graduating seniors with a Project Graduation celebration. The main purpose of Project Graduation is to provide an all night, safe, substance-free environment, where our graduating seniors can celebrate together. It is a night they will remember forever.

However, the cost for this event is quite substantial and is rising every year. To help support this important event the SPHS PTA is sponsoring our annual auction/raffle fundraiser to be held on Saturday, March 6 from 7 to 11 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.) at SPHS. All profits will go towards Project Graduation. To obtain tickets please see below for details.

We need your help! This important event will not be a success without the help and support of SPHS families, especially senior class families, community/educational organizations and our local businesses.

Although we have received many generous donations, we are still in need of much more if we are to make Project Graduation happen for the Class of 2010. Please support this worthwhile cause by making a donation. Donations can be in the form of a gift card, a single gift item, a theme gift basket or it can be a monetary donation.

Send your donations to: South Plainfield HS, 200 Lake St., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080, Attn: SPHS PTA. Please make checks payable to: SPHS PTA-Project Graduation.

Donations—need to be received ASAP in order to be used for our auction. All families, businesses, and community/educational organizations will be acknowledged in our program for your contribution.

Outside Business/Corporate Donations—please ask the business or cor-

poration you work for if they will make a contribution, or if you know of someone who can obtain a donation from a business or corporation, please ask them for their help.

Donation Arrangements/Auction Volunteers—To arrange for items to be picked up directly from your home or business, or to be an auction volunteer (set-up, ticket sales or clean-up) please contact SPHS main office at (908) 754-4620, ext. 248 or Sharon Miller at (908) 754-6461.

Auction Ticket Sales—For ticket information, please contact Tracey Hartmann at (908) 755-4349. Please provide her with your name, phone number and the number of people you would like at your table.

SPHS Parent/Teacher Conferences February 17—Tickets will be on sale and donations will be accepted. Please visit the PTA table outside of the cafeteria for tickets or to make a donation.

The Class of 2010 and the SPHS PTA sincerely appreciates your support! Together we can make this event a success for our graduating seniors. Together we can make a difference!

*Submitted by Sharon Miller,
President, SPHS PTA*



The South Plainfield PBA Local #100 raises money throughout the year to donate to and/or sponsor local charities and youth activities. In December the PBA donated \$750 to social services. Pictured (L-R) are South Plainfield PBA Treasurer Frank Fusaro, Social Services Coordinator Marge Ackerman and PBA President Peter Magnani. The money was used to purchase grocery store gift cards to be distributed to local families in need during the holidays.

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a special meeting of the South Plainfield Borough Council will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 16 on the following matter:

Community Development Block Grant Public Hearing

The purpose of the hearing is to provide information on the CDBG program and the scope of eligible activities and to solicit comments, ideas and recommendations for proposed municipal projects. The Governing body will select proposed projects based on public input. Said meeting will be held in the Council Chamber at the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 at 6:45 p.m. Questions should be directed to the Clerk's Office at (908) 226-7606. Notice of this meeting has been posted on the borough Web site and duly advertised according to law.
Joann L. Graf, Municipal Clerk

BOROUGH NOTES

- The council authorized the formation of a By-laws Review Committee to determine if the by-laws need updating or amending. Members are Councilmen Tim McConville, Frank Salerno and Rob Bengivenga.

- The council authorized the creation of a special Council Committee on Affordable Housing (COAH). Serving on the committee are Councilmen Rob Bengivenga, Ray Rusnak and Matt Anesh.

- Scott Smith was hired as a laborer for the Department of Public Works.

- Robert Spiegel was approved as the Edison Wetlands Association representative to the Dismal Swamp Preservation Commission.

- Appointed Dorothy Miele and Pete Smith to the Dismal Swamp Preservation Commission as South Plainfield representatives.

- Approved a letter urging the NJ DEP to take prompt action in response to the borough's alternate truck route pre-application submission in August 2009.

- Waive fire permit for South Plainfield Football Eagles awards party at Riley School on January 15.

- Marie Smith was promoted to principal payroll clerk/principal personnel clerk, effective immediately.

- Renew the liquor licenses for Red Robin and the VFW for 2010.

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events

Around Town

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.

VFW Country Breakfast

February 7

The South Plainfield VFW located on Front Street is holding a country breakfast on Sunday, Feb. 7 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Public is welcome.

100th Anniversary of Boys Scouts of America

February 8

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America, scouts around the world will be holding a Spirit of Light Candle Ceremony between 7:30 and 8 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 8.

The South Plainfield Scouting Community will be gathering in Spring Lake Park at the gazebo at 7:15 p.m. on that day. All former cub scouts, boy scouts and leaders should contact Jeff Pauls at (908) 279-4684 or E-mail Jeff.Pauls@hoffmanequip.com if you are going to attend.

Women's Bone and Heart Health Lecture

February 9

A free lecture on women's bone and heart health will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 9 at 7:30 p.m. at Curves, located at 27 South Plainfield Ave. The lecture, in honor of Curves sixth anni-

versary, is free and open to the public.

Non-members will receive a free week at Curves to help them get started strengthening their heart and bones.

For more information and to register, please call (908) 757-4422.

Historical Society Monthly Meeting

February 9

The South Plainfield Historical Society will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. at the History Center in the BOE building. Parking and entrance are on Jackson Avenue. Dues for 2010 may be paid at that time. New members are welcome.

Sacred Heart Charity Basketball Game

February 11

Sacred Heart School, located at 149 South Plainfield Ave., will hold 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 Mountainside.

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

For more information, call Lisa at (908) 756-0633, ext. 10.

Girl Scouts Candy Bar Bingo Fundraiser

February 12

The South Plainfield Girl Scout Community's Candy Bar Bingo will be held at Sacred Heart School cafeteria on Friday, Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. Admission is \$5 per person in advance, \$6 at the door plus one regular-sized candy

bar per person. Bingo games and a make-your-own ice cream sundae bar is included with admission price.

For tickets and information, please call Christa at (908) 510-4089 or Heidi at (908) 391-0134.

Pet Dental Fair

February 14

Plainfield Animal Hospital, 2215 Park Ave., is holding a pet dental fair on Sunday, Feb. 14 from 2-4 p.m. Bring your pet for a free dental examination and learn about the importance of pet dental health. Giveaways, contests, tours, tooth brushing demos, door prizes, refreshments.

RSVP by Wednesday, Feb. 10 to (908) 755-2428.

Lenten Fish Dinners at Sacred Heart

February 19, 26, March 5, 12, 19 and 26

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 and Sacred Heart Church will again be sponsoring Lenten fish dinners on Friday, Feb. 19, 26, March 5, 12, 19 and 26. Dinners will be served in the Sacred Heart School cafeteria, 149 South Plainfield Ave., from 5 to 7 p.m. Menu: fillet of fish (fried, broiled, parmesan), pasta (cheese ravioli, manicotti or linguini) or pizza; fresh garden salad, rice pilaf, French fries or macaroni and cheese, cole slaw, coffee, tea or cold drink, plus dessert. Take out orders are also available. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors and \$4 for children. Pay at the door. Stations of the Cross will be held in the church at 7 p.m.

Comedy Show at Grant School

February 27

Grant School is holding a comedy night fundraiser on Friday, Feb. 27 at the Senior Center featuring national touring comedian Dave Reilly. 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 p.m. 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.

SENIOR CENTER Calendar

Coming Up....

Feb. 10-Sands Casino
Feb. 18-Showboat Casino
April 25-27-Wheeling, WV
May 13-15-Washington, DC
June 7-10-Niagara Falls
(Call the senior center for more info)

MONDAYS

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

TUESDAYS

Bingo 10 am-2 pm
Ladies Group 10 am

Call (908) 754-1047 for more info or visit
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WEDNESDAYS

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

THURSDAYS

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

FRIDAYS

(Closed February 12 Lincoln Birthday)
Bingo 10 am-2 pm

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

Boy Scout Troop 125 Spaghetti Dinner

February 27

Boy Scout Troop 125 is hosting a spaghetti dinner at the VFW Post #6763, 155 Front St., on Saturday, Feb. 27 from 3 to 8 p.m. Menu includes: spaghetti and meatballs, salad, bread, drinks and dessert. Take out available. Price per person is \$5. The money raised will be used for summer camp.

For more information, call Maria at (908) 303-8314

— Out of Town —

Medical Qi Gong Meditation Class

February 6

Free and open to everyone, Medical Qi Gong is a course of meditation exercises being offered at Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains on Saturday, Feb. 6 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Please be on time; once class begins we will not be able to interrupt the session. Join us and become energized from the inside out

and experience a more physically and emotionally balanced self.

For more information call (908) 232-5678.

Upscale Singles Dance Party

February 6

Steppin' Out Singles will hold a dance party on Saturday, Feb. 6 at 8 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Clark ballroom, 36 Valley Rd. in Clark. Ages 40 and up; no jeans/sneakers. \$15 admission.

For information and directions, call (732) 574-0100.

Monmouth Symphony Orchestra Concert

February 7

The Monmouth Symphony Orchestra will present a concert of scenes and areas from the operas of Puccini conducted by Roy Gussman on Sunday, Feb. 7 at 3 p.m. at the Count Basie Theatre, 99 Monmouth St. in Red Bank. A preconcert talk about the day's event will be presented in the

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theatre at 2:15 p.m.

Ticket prices are adults \$30, seniors \$25, students \$5. For ticketing, call (732) 842-9000. To learn more about the MSO, visit their Web site at www.monmouthsymphony.org.

Fish, Inc. 40th Annual Meeting

February 8

The annual meeting of Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area, an all volunteer non-profit organization, will be held on Monday, Feb. 8 at 7:30 p.m. in The First Presbyterian Church, 218 Dunellen Ave. The meeting is open to the public. Refreshments will be served. Programs include food and clothing distribution, holiday meals and Christmas gifts. Volunteers always needed.

For more information, visit our Web site at www.fishdunellenarea.org, or call (732) 356-0081.

Woodbridge WOWs Business Meeting

February 10

Woodbridge Widows Or Widowers will conduct a business meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. in the Children's Room of the Main Library, located at George Fredrick Plaza, Rte. 35, Woodbridge. Light refreshments to follow. All widows and widowers are welcome to attend.

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

Through the Night at Crossroads Theatre

February 11-21

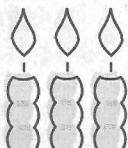
A powerful and provocative play that brings to life an urban community—one male at a time, *Through the Night* will be presented at Crossroads Theatre, 7 Livingston Ave. in New Brunswick, beginning Thursday, Feb. 11 through Sunday, Feb. 21. Tickets: \$40-\$65.

For tickets and showtimes, call (732) 545-8100.

FEBRUARY 9

Happy Birthday
From Tramutola!

From Pattie, Chris and the Almost Famous Players gang



Front Street Farmer's Market Grand Opening

Front Street Farmers Market held a grand opening celebration on January 30. Owned by Tramontano Produce, the store is managed by Bob Tanganelli. On hand for the ribbon cutting ceremony were (L-R) Linda Tanganelli, Mary Tramontano, Mary Jane Finnerty, Bob Tanganelli, John Tramontano, Mayor Charles Butrico, John Stalakis of Sherban's Diner and Restaurant, John Tramontano, Jr. and Peter Ganiaris, also from Sherban's. The new produce market, located across the parking lot from Sherban's on Front Street, is open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays. Beginning February 2, senior citizens receive a 10% discount every Tuesday.

Haiti Relief Donations Qualify for Immediate Tax Relief

People who give to charities providing earthquake relief in Haiti can claim these donations on the tax return they are completing this season.

"Americans have opened their hearts to help those affected by the Haiti earthquake," said IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman. "This new law provides an immediate tax benefit for the many taxpayers who have made generous donations."

"Taxpayers who itemize deductions on their 2009 return qualify for this special tax relief provision, enacted January 22," said New Jersey's IRS spokesperson Gregg Semanick. "Only cash contributions made to these charities after January 11, and before March 1, are eligible. This includes contributions made by text message, check, credit card or debit card."

Taxpayers can benefit from their donations, almost immediately, by filing their 2009 returns early, filing electronically and choosing direct deposit. Refunds take as few as ten days and can be directly deposited into a savings, checking or brokerage account, or used to purchase Series I U.S. savings bonds.

The new law only applies to cash (as opposed to property) contributions. The contributions must be made specifically for the relief of victims in areas affected by the January 12 earthquake in Haiti. Taxpayers have the option of deducting these contributions on either their 2009 or 2010 returns, but not both.

To get a tax benefit, taxpayers must itemize their deductions on Schedule A. Those who claim the standard deduction, including all short-form filers, are not eligible.

Taxpayers should be sure their contributions go to qualified charities. Most organizations eligible to receive tax-deductible donations are listed in a searchable online database available

on IRS.gov under "Search for Charities." Some organizations, such as churches or governments, may be qualified even though they are not listed on IRS.gov. Donors can find out more about organizations helping Haitian earthquake victims from agencies such as USAID.

The IRS reminds donors that contributions to foreign organizations generally are not deductible. IRS Publication 526, Charitable Contributions, provides information on making contributions to charities.

Federal law requires that taxpayers keep a record of any deductible donations they make. For donations by text

message, a telephone bill will meet the recordkeeping requirement if it shows the name of the donee organization, the date of the contribution and the amount of the contribution. For cash contributions made by other means, be sure to keep a bank record, such as a cancelled check, or a receipt from the charity showing the name, date and amount of the contribution. Publication 526 has further details on the recordkeeping rules for cash contributions.

This year's special Haiti relief provision is modeled on a 2005 law that allowed taxpayers to deduct donations they made during January 2005 as if they made the donations in 2004.

Suburban Woman's Club NEWS

The Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield has finalized plans for a luncheon fashion show for the benefit of Autism New Jersey, the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs Special State Project and the club's scholarship fund.

The event will be held on Sunday, April 25 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the South Plainfield Senior Center, 90 Maple Ave. The fashions will be provided by Dress Barn of South Plainfield.

Tickets will be \$20. Door prizes, gift and basket raffles and a 50/50 raffle will be featured.

Contact Chairperson Natalie Bergen at (908) 756-8679 for further information.

SPHS Music Boosters

MUSIC NOTES



South Plainfield High School Winter Guard, led by Instructors Mary Ecklund and Lauren Hartong, have started their season. The Winter Guard took first place with a score of 46.3 on January 23 at West Orange High School and on January 30 they took fourth place out of seven in their category with a score of 57.9 at Hillsborough High School.

The guard's next competition will be on Saturday, Feb. 13 in Mincola, N.Y.

Our canning drive will be held on Saturday, March 20 and Friday, March 26.

Submitted by Tracey Hartmann

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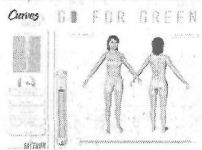
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Elks' Dictionaries Donation Promote Writing, Reading

(Continued from page 1)

be able to make this donation to the children of our town," Reuter explained.

"The Dictionary Project is a wonderful literacy project. Providing dictionaries to these youths goes far beyond the basics that come to mind; spelling, pronunciation and definitions. It increases self confidence and self-reliance helping children with problem solving skills they will need with writing, creative thinking and more. The phrase 'look it up' will no longer seem a tedious chore," she added.

The dictionaries presented to the excited children have numerous additional features such as fun facts, multiplication tables, the planets, and the 50 United States, along with the American Flag, Declaration of Independence, maps of the world, sign language and biographies of the U.S. presidents. The last page of the dictionary held a surprise for the children, the longest word in the English language which contains 1909 letters.

Debra Czech said, "The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is dedicated to the youth in our community. Our youth activities programs are among the finest in the nation and the Dictionary Program ensures our youths have the tools necessary for a quality education—after all, they are our future leaders of tomorrow!"

Riley Principal Al Czech and third grade teachers looked on as the chil-

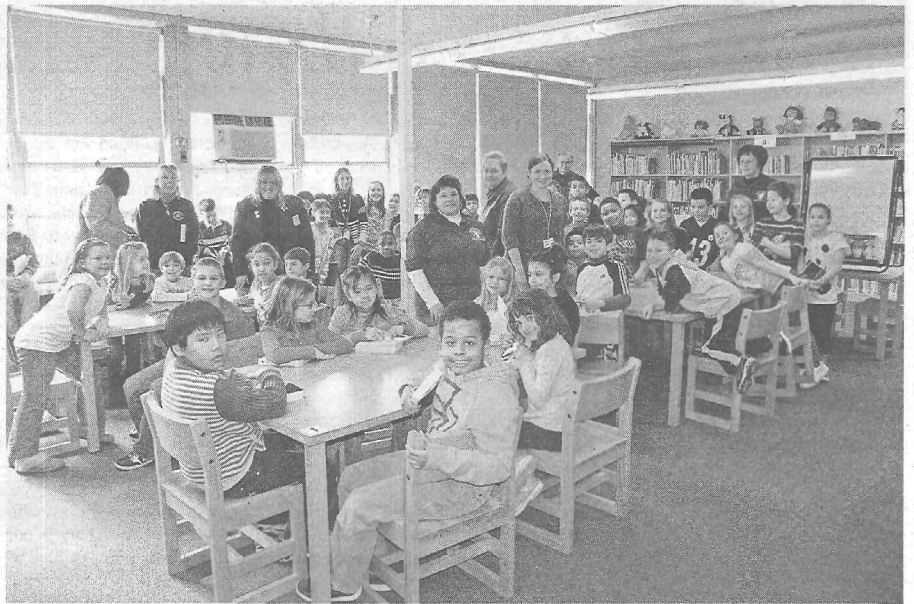
dren delved into their new books, chatting and exclaiming over the contents. Al Czech said, "The Riley School third graders are very grateful to the Elks for their generosity in providing our children with new dictionaries. It is because of organizations like the Elks that make South Plainfield a special place. Thank you from the faculty and staff of Riley School."

Third grade teacher Lara Kenssey said, "The third grade students of Franklin School were delighted to receive the dictionaries from the Elks Lodge. Excitement filled the room after a brief presentation by the members of the Elks to familiarize them with the book. They loved that the book was more than just a dictionary, but also filled with many sections related to current topics being studied. The students have been given a gift that will enrich their lives."

Also in attendance were Elks members Barbara Muller, exalted ruler; Debra Czech, Elks central district vice president; Joe Rauh, member South Plainfield Lodge #2298 and Art Sabino, Sr., past exalted ruler.

The Dictionary Project was founded in 1995 by Mary French of Charleston, S.C. The sole mission of this non-profit organization is "to distribute dictionaries to as many third graders as possible in the 50 United States and our environs."

The students at Roosevelt School will receive their dictionaries on Friday, Feb. 12.



Kennedy School third graders receive dictionaries donated by the local Elks.

Assemblyman Diegnan Named Chair Of Assembly Education Committee

Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver has named Patrick Diegnan chairman of the Assembly Education Committee for the 214th session of the legislature.

In learning of the appointment Assemblyman Diegnan said, "It is an honor to be named chairman of this important committee. As President Obama said in his State of the Union address, the best anti-poverty program is a good education! Nothing has a more positive effect on the lives of

our citizens than the opportunity to achieve a quality education. Education is the key to opportunity and achievement in this greatest of democracies, the United States of America.

"I look forward to working with Governor Christie and all members of the Senate and the General Assembly in addressing both the cost and quality of providing pre-K through 12 education to our children. I was heartened to hear the governor, in his inau-

gural address, identify education as one of his top priorities. I am eager to get to work on addressing the myriad of challenges which face our state. I welcome the input of not only the residents of the 18th District but all of those who care about the future of our kids. My legislative office is located at 908 Oak Tree Ave. in South Plainfield. The phone number is (908) 757-1677 and the E-mail address is AsmDiegnan@njleg.org."

Planning Board Application

(Continued from page 1)

the property edge (a 25-foot buffer is required). The second affects the setback from the parking areas. The requirement is a 20-foot setback and Edgewood Properties is seeking to reduce it to 9 to 12 feet.

When the planning board rejected the initial plans for age-restricted units by a vote of 5-4, the case was referred to the courts in June of 2006. In October 2007 the court found for the developer. But before Morris could build, the recession had hit.

In 2009, to promote business and building, the New Jersey State Legislature voted for the Economic Stimulus Act, eliminating the restricted age provision.

The planning board will continue to hear the application on Tuesday, March 9.

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James P. Belz, CPA, MBA

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Red Peppers	Tomatoes	Oven Gold	Amer. Cheese	2/3 lb. Honey Ham	
99¢ lb.	99¢ lb.	Turkey	\$3.99 lb.	1/3 lb. Swiss Cheese	
		\$5.99 lb.		\$5.99 lb.	

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SCHOOL BOARD Briefs

The following occurred at the January 20 Board of Education meeting:

- A musical presentation was given by the middle school students.

- The following high school students and staff were recognized for 2009/2010 fall sports: Field Hockey Coach Cheryl Hughes and players Kaitlin Muglia, Michelle Gustafson and Joelle Butrico; Boys Soccer Coach Anthony Perfilio and players Stephen Coppi, Sam Tejada, Christian Villalva, Bryant Villamarin, as well as Joseph Gonzalez and Michael McHugh, both All Area-Courier News; Girls Soccer Coach Dana Curcio and player Jenna Heckel and Blue Division Sportsmanship Awards to Dana Curcio, Jessica Wilson and Danielle D'Ambrosio; Girls Volleyball Coach John Ferguson and players Brittany Alvarado and Bianca DiDolce; Gymnastics Coach Meredith Garofalo and members Alexis Alba and Gina Longo; Football Coach Philip McGuane and players Malcolm Austin, Troy McNair, Jeffrey Praul and Brandon Downes; Boys Cross Country Coach Mike Capizola and members Conner Keane, Richard Szeliga and Christopher Marrone; Middle School Boys Cross Country County champions second consecutive year with a 15-0 record: Coach Kevin McCann and members Philip Aquilina, Wesley Bowe, Adam Butrico, Ryan Bythell, Nick Castagno, Diego Chumplitaz, Javier Cruz, Adam Daubert, Chris Fowles, Bryan Gillen, Jordan Mandel, Justing Marks, Steven Merrill, Cody O'Connor, Michael

Olano, Isaiah Reels, Edward Sheaffer, Ryan Walsh and Adam Butrico-GMC Middle School Cross Country County champion.

The board approved the following:

- A resolution in support of local boards of education; tuition-free for graduate courses for staff members; middle school eighth grade trip to Washington, D.C. and Baltimore, Md. and the high school Model United Nations Club trip to Washington, D.C.;

- The Grant School drama co-advisor's resignation; appointment of Erica Hapstak as high school guidance counselor, Joretta Strayhorn as Kennedy/Franklin School student assistance counselor, and Kathleen Morgan as high school physical education long term substitute teacher;

- 2009/2010 extra curricular appointments: David Knarr-National Honor Society co-advisor; Taryn Decker-National Honor Society co-advisor I; David Knarr-Project Acceleration co-teacher; Taryn Decker-Project Acceleration co-teacher; Christine Briskin-musical vocal director; Jessica Kubek-musical choreographer; Andrew Cassano-yearbook advisor; Colleen Ranney-yearbook co-advisor and

Michelle Thompson-middle school homework club co-advisor;

- 2009/2010 residency investigator appointment of James Darby;

- H1N1 clinic nursing assistants/bus drivers' payments to be reimbursed by Middlesex County;

- 2009/2010 substitute appointment/reappointments: Nirmala Patel as substitute instructional support aide; 2009-2010 related services appointment to special education students; sick day payment to the estate of Mary Ellen Douras; appointment of Juliann Bickunas as Future Stars Preschool aide;

- 2009-2010 adult and continuing education appointments: Joy Havens-basket weaving and Linda Cheshade-belly dancing;

- Appointment of William Hybeneth, Jr. to serve as the board's negotiator for collective bargaining;

- Rescind resolution regarding residency hearings;

- Approve professional development workshop-First Aid Training, travel expenditures, services agreement with Pactec Communications, Inc. for telephone and data services and Corrective Action Plan of 2008-2009 school year audit.

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

Christina LoBosco Named Junior Journalist

Kennedy School fourth grader Christina LoBosco has been named a winner in the Junior Journalist contest. Her submission of the poem, "Candle, Candle," has earned her a 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. Junior Journalists also have the opportunity to win the Ruth Kurland Memorial \$1,000 savings bond which will be awarded at the banquet.



Junior Journalist Christina LoBosco with teacher Cynthia Severino.

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

Candle, Candle

By Christina LoBosco, Fourth Grade

Candle, candle shining bright,
You're always there throughout the night.
Candle, candle shining bright,
Don't go out without a fight.
Candle, candle smelling sweet,
You're always there to comfort me.
Candle, candle burning fast,
Don't let one of your drips be your last.

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BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 1873

#1873 entitled: AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A CODIFICATION AND REVISION OF THE ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; PROVIDING FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF SAID CODE; REPEALING AND SAVING FROM REPEAL CERTAIN ORDINANCES NOT INCLUDED HEREIN; ESTABLISHING A PENALTY FOR ALTERING OR TAMPERING WITH THE CODE; AND MAKING CERTAIN CHANGES IN PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED ORDINANCES AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FEES FOR THE SOUTH PLAINFIELD COMMUNITY POOL FOR THE YEAR 2010 was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield on Monday, February 1, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

ATTEST:
Joann Graf/Municipal Clerk

\$31.34 February 5, 2010

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 1874

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, THAT: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 136 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD ENTITLED: "ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES", SPECIFICALLY, ARTICLE 136.2, "FEES", FOR THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield on Monday, February 1, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

ATTEST:
Joann Graf/Municipal Clerk

\$28.97 February 5, 2010

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Children's Author Visits Franklin School



Author Marcie Aboff addresses Franklin School students.



Third grader Magda Tarnawaska with author Marcie Aboff

By Patricia Abbott

Franklin School students received a special treat, a visit from children's author Marcie Aboff on January 20. Aboff, an Edison resident, is the author of more than 50 picture books, chapter books, magazine stories and activity books. Some titles include *The Giant Jelly Bean Jar*, *Hootie Joins In* and *Raising Pilot*. The student

body was divided into two groups, K-2 and grades three and four. The K-2 program was called "Story Fun." The youngsters had the opportunity to act out her stories. "What's Your Story?" was presented to grades three and four to encourage the students to get excited about writing.

Librarian Kim Alongi coordinated a contest with Marcie's book, *The Giant Jelly Bean Jar*. Each student had a chance to guess the number of jelly beans in a jar. The closest guess per class narrowed down the winners. The grand prize was having lunch with the author. A very excited Magda Tarnawaska, a third grade student, was thrilled to be chosen. She said, "I'm so lucky and can't wait to meet Marcie Aboff!"

The Franklin PTA awarded two randomly chosen students with free autographed copies of Aboff's books. Winners were fourth grade student David Adams and first grader Sophie Contreras.

"It was a pleasure having Marcie Aboff present her program, 'What's Your Story?' to our third and fourth graders. Her enthusiasm and expertise about writing truly left our students inspired," commented Alongi.

Project Graduation Auction/Raffle Tickets On Sale

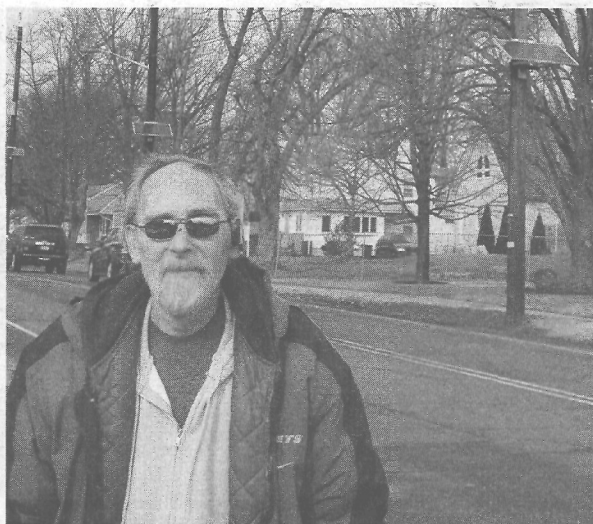
The South Plainfield High School PTA will be hosting the annual auction/raffle on Saturday, March 6 from 7 to 11 p.m. in the SPHS gym. (Doors open at 6 p.m.). All profits benefit Project Graduation for the Class of 2010. Ticket price is \$12. To obtain tickets, contact Tracey Hartmann at (908) 755-4349. This event has sold out in past years, so call as soon as possible for tickets.

For additional information or to make a donation, please contact Sharon Miller at (908) 754-6461. This is a great event for a very worthwhile cause. We look forward to you joining us in support of the Class of 2010. Together we can make a difference.

Get Involved! Run for Your Local School Board

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

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.



John L. Rutowski, III thinks the solar panels are "a great thing."

Solar Panel Installation

(Continued from page 1) directly to the distribution system, enough to power approximately 20,000 homes while eliminating more than 76 million pounds of carbon dioxide emissions.

"In addition, we have made a commitment to hiring locally. Unlike some companies that choose to outsource much of their work, we provide jobs to complete the manufacturing process here in New Jersey, where our products are being installed through the PSE&G contract," said Dr. Shihab Kuran, Petra Solar's CEO and president. The company has added 75 employees since last March and expects to employ a total of 165 people by the end of this year.

Ruke Ndara, owner of Rushali's Little Store on Clinton Avenue said, "It is a great idea. They should promote this

house to house. It's natural energy; you can save a lot of money [on energy bills]."

Another neighbor, John L. Rutowski, III, who has lived on the corner of Cherry Street and Clinton Avenue for the past 18 years, also said it was a great idea, and is not bothered by the dozen or so solar panels now lining his street. "They can come and put them on my house and in my backyard, if they want. I think it's a great thing; we are saving money. I think there should be a law that any new house that is built should have at least one [solar panel] per house."

For more information regarding the solar energy project, visit www.pseg.com/solar4all/. For information on Petra Solar, Inc., visit their Web site at www.petrasolar.com. View more photos at www.sposerver.com.

police report

• On Jan. 19 Theophilus Melvin Ammons, 41, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, failure to stay right and driving on a suspended license.

• On Jan. 20 Robert A. Mitchell, 45, of Edison was arrested for driving while intoxicated, speeding, careless driving and reckless driving.

• On Jan. 22 Ishmael S. Sesay, 26, of Somerset was arrested for possession of a controlled substance.

• Geoffrey J. Pridgeon, 50, of South Plainfield was arrested for maintenance of lamps, driving on a suspended license and two outstanding warrants.

• On Jan. 25 Alvin Barthe, 51, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated and careless driving.

• Estes Express Lines on Hollywood Avenue reported the theft of two trailers from their yard.

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BOE Fills Two Counselor and Other Positions



Erica Hapstak

By Libby Barsky

The Board of Education filled two counselor positions, a residency investigator, continued the term of a long-term substitute, and hired a negotiator to represent the board in collective bargaining with the NJEA at their January 20 meeting.

Erica Hapstak, who graduated in June with a master's degree in counselor education and school counseling from Kean University and a B.A. from Rutgers, will replace Cheryl Fox as high school guidance counselor. Hapstak interned at Carteret High School and three elementary schools in Carteret. She began her new position on January 25.

Joretta Strayhorn, who holds a master's degree in health education from East Carolina University and a B.S. degree in biology from Winston-Salem State University N.C., had been appointed as the temporary student assistance counselor at Kennedy and Franklin Elementary schools in August, replacing Kristen Soos who was on a leave of absence. The word temporary was removed from Strayhorn's title when she was appointed student assistance counselor for Kennedy and Franklin Schools. Prior to coming to South Plainfield, most of Strayhorn's 16 year experience had been with health education and substance abuse education/consulting.

Kathleen Morgan, a member of the South Plainfield High School Class of 2005 and a 2009 graduate of The College of New Jersey with a BS degree in health and exercise science, was appointed as high school physical education long-term substitute for teacher Natalie Zeno-Carr, who has been on parenthood leave since November 9.

Zeno extended her unpaid leave of absence to June 30. Morgan will continue as long-term substitute through February 28.

James Darby, school resource officer, was appointed residency investigator to work a maximum of 10 hours a week at an hourly rate of \$30. The position also provides Darby with a cell phone and camera to be used for investigation only, identifying and monitoring the residence of pupils attending school in the district. The board has a strict policy requiring proof of family residency for pupils to attend any school in South Plainfield. If the paperwork is inadequate or not given, Darby investigates further so the board can act to remove that pupil from attending district schools and claim tuition repayment. Darby received police certification from Middlesex County Police Academy in 1986, served eight years as a police officer/sergeant for the Green Brook Police Department and 15 years at the South Plainfield Police Department as a juvenile detective.

The board unanimously appointed William E. Hybbeneth, Jr. of Taylor Whalen and Hybbeneth in Howell to be their negotiator for the NJEA collective bargaining contract. He will receive \$160 an hour.

The board approved seven high school and one middle school extracurricular appointments: David Knarr and Taryn Decker as National Honor Society Co-Advisors at \$914.50 each, David Knarr and Taryn Decker as project acceleration co-teachers at \$960 each, Christin Briskin as the musical's vocal director at \$1,586, Jessica Kubek as the musical's choreographer at \$943, Andrew Casano as yearbook co-advisor at \$821 and Colleen Ramney as yearbook co-advisor at \$2,463.75. Michelle Thompson was appointed middle school homework club co-advisor at \$358.75.

The board added five additional high school extracurricular activities whose advisors will receive stipends. Previously, the advisor positions were held by teacher volunteers. The following activities were included with a stipend amount, but no teachers were officially appointed: drama club-one advisor at \$492; Heroes and Cool Kids-two advisors at \$491 each, Model United Nations-one advisor \$982, Spanish Honor Society-one advisor \$982 and Student Leadership-Peer Leaders-two advisors at \$491 each.



TEAM UT members are (L-R) Chris Borns, Genna Pinto, Sean Hensley, Professor Fritz Polite, Lauren Wey, Darren Stoltzfus and Elizabeth Pangle.

Pinto, TEAM UT in Miami for Pro Bowl and Super Bowl

Six students, including Genna Pinto of South Plainfield, and one faculty member from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, left for Miami last weekend (January 30) to work behind the scenes at the Pro Bowl and Super Bowl XLIV.

The students, all of whom want careers in sport management or journalism, will spend 10 days learning how a large-scale sporting event is prepared and carried out by working directly with the National Football League at various Pro Bowl and Super Bowl events. This is the fourth year that a team from UT Knoxville has gone to the Super Bowl. The team has been asked back each year by the Super Bowl Host Committee.

"TEAM UT has set a high standard for working these types of elite mega-events and adds tremendous brand equity to our university and respective programs," said faculty adviser Fritz G. Polite, a professor of sport management who is founding director of the Institute for Leadership, Ethics & Diversity (I-LEAD) and director for community outreach and global engagement in the College of Education, Health and Human Sciences.

"Working at the Super Bowl is a one-of-a-kind leadership experience for these students," Polite said. "Many former TEAM UT members cite this experience on their resume as a reason for being employed today."

Members were selected after writing essays about their career plans and being interviewed.

At the conclusion of the Miami trip,

TEAM UT members must write a reflection paper on their experiences with TEAM UT and Super Bowl XLIV.

Genna is a senior in journalism and electronic media with a concentration in news and sports journalism and broadcasting. She currently is interning with the Lady Vols media relations department and serves as a Partners in Sports game day student assistant. She is an anchor and news writer at WUTK radio.

The other team members are Sean Hensley of Knoxville, Lauren Wey of Brentwood, Chris Borns of Greenbrier, Elizabeth Pangle of Loudon and Darren Stoltzfus of Johnson City.

"The Super Bowl project combines all the elements that constitute successful teaching and learning," said Bob Rider, dean of the College of Education, Health and Human Sciences at the University of Tennessee. "The TEAM UT students have spent hours preparing for this experience and will spend many more hours of on the job training. Experiential learning is authentic learning and contributes significantly to the overall educational experience for the student."

TEAM UT pays its own way to Miami. Team members have been raising funds to help defray their expenses.

LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

January 27, 2010

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Planning Board at its meeting held on January 26, 2010.

- A. Case #08-07-Ryan 100 Holdings, LLC, Block 477; Lot 1; 100 Ryan Street. The applicant's request for preliminary & final site plan approval was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Beth Khidre
Recording Secretary-Planning Board

\$27.58 February 5, 2010

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

February 1, 2010

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on January 28, 2010.

- A. Case #02-10-Cedric & Sandra Johnson, Block 137; Lot 112 Hill Hollow Road. The applicant's request to allow an existing shed to remain in its present location was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.
- B. Case #03-10-Tim MacPherson & Jeanette Pena, Block 438; Lot 2.05; 222 Woolworth Avenue. The applicants' request to allow an existing shed to remain in its present location was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.
- C. Case #34-09-Jacquelyn MacLean & Kimberly Kenny, Block 229; Lot 31; 3148 Park Avenue. The applicant's request to allow an existing shed to remain in its present location was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Beth Khidre
Secretary-Board of Adjustment

\$31.34 February 5, 2010

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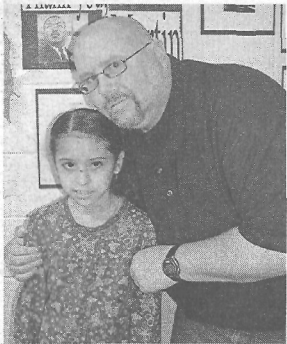
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JUNIOR JOURNALIST



Junior Journalist winner Calista Modernel with teacher Michael Bertram.

Calista Modernel Named Junior Journalist

Roosevelt School third grader Calista Modernel has been named a winner in the Junior Journalist contest. Her submission of the poem, "I Have a Dream" has earned her a 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.

I Have a Dream

By Calista Modernel
Third Grade

I have a dream
that the kids can sit
wherever they want.

I have a dream
that one day prices
will not be too expensive.

My other dreams
are that in the future
bathrooms will be nice and clean
and we won't have to pay
to go bowling.

I have a dream
that on cold days
we won't have to stand
in long lines waiting for tickets.

And my other dream
is that we can grow a garden
in front of our school.

My last dream is
that there will be no war.

Now it is time for me to go.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN MY TOWN

FROM A BUSY BUSY MOM *jd*

All schools will be closed Monday, Feb. 15 for Presidents' Day and Tuesday, Feb. 16 for a teacher's professional day.

High school parent/teacher conferences will take place the evening of Wednesday, Feb. 17.

The South Plainfield Education Foundation will host an art auction on Friday, April 30 and the third annual wine tasting event will be held on Friday, May 7 at the South Plainfield Italian American Club. Keep checking the Observer for more information.

The middle school PTO is having a Joe Corbi pizza and cookie dough fundraiser through Friday, Feb. 5. The fundraiser helps to fund the eighth grade dinner/dance, seventh grade picnic, Battle of the Teams, book fair, Poetry Slam and honor roll picnic. The PTO still needs the \$20 per student activity fee to offset the cost of sponsoring these events. The Battle of the Teams will take place on Friday, Feb. 12 at 1 p.m. and there will be a Valentine dance that evening from 7 to 9 p.m. Parent/teacher conferences will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 24, 1:15 to 3 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. The PTO blood drive, with the help of the high school student council, will take place on Tuesday, April 13 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the high school upstairs gym.

Grant School carnation sale will take place through Thursday, Feb. 11 and will be delivered to homerooms the next day. The book fair will take place Wednesday, Feb. 10 through Thursday, Feb. 12; parent/teacher conferences are Thursday, Feb. 25 from 1 to 3 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. and Battle of the Books is Friday, Feb. 26.

Future Stars parents' group meeting

is Tuesday, Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. in the yellow room. The school spirit T-shirt sale ends Friday, Feb. 12; Gertrude Hawk fundraiser ends Friday, Feb. 19 and the book fair is Monday, Feb. 22 through Wednesday, Feb. 24 in the gym.

Kennedy School Market Day orders are due Wednesday, Feb. 10 and can be picked up on Wednesday, Feb. 17; the father/daughter dance is Friday, Feb. 19 and the snow date is Friday, Feb. 26.

Roosevelt School Student Council Pennies for Patients fundraiser will be held during the entire month of February. Multi Cultural Day on January 28 was a tremendous undertaking and a huge success. The book fair is Wednesday, Feb. 17 through Friday, Feb. 19 and the PTO Earn 'n Burn Dance Revolution is Friday, Feb. 19 from 6 to 9 p.m. Congratulations to the two Roosevelt School students who were invited to join the Rutgers University Choir.

The South Plainfield High School Athletic Booster Club will be hosting a comedy night at the PAL on Saturday, March 27. For tickets and information, please contact Ann Marie Seyffart at (908) 756-7543. Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. BYOB and food.

Franklin School PTO roller skating party at United Skates is Thursday, Feb. 11; American Heart Association's "Go Red Day" is Friday, Feb. 12; Wednesday, Feb. 17 is the Go for the Stars Space Program from 9 to 10 a.m. and Friday, Feb. 19 is Bring a Teddy Bear to School Day.

Riley School Yearbook sale is underway; Gertrude Hawk Candy Sales begins Thursday, Feb. 11 and the father/daughter dance is Friday, Feb. 19 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Recycling Complex Presidents' Day Schedule

The recycling complex on Kenneth Avenue will be closed on Friday, Feb. 12 for Lincoln's Birthday. The recycling center will be open instead from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 11.

Recycling and yard waste will be open as usual from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 13. Recycling will be open as usual from 12 to 7 p.m.

on Tuesday, Feb. 16.

Regular hours at the recycling center are 12 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Regular winter hours at the yard waste site are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays.

Call the recycling hotline at (908) 226-7620 for updates.



Congratulations Het!

Charlie and Debbie Kurland from Hometown Heros deliver dinner to Junior Journalist winner Het Patel, pictured with his mom, Sunita and sister, Ruchi.

southplainfieldpeople

Milestones

Ashleigh Gaspari Named to Dean's List

Ashleigh R. Gaspari of South Plainfield was named to the dean's list at Coastal Carolina University.

To qualify for the dean's list, freshmen must earn a 3.25 grade point average, and upperclassmen must earn a 3.5 grade point average; students must be enrolled full time.

Coastal Carolina University offers baccalaureate degrees in 42 major fields of study and 37 undergraduate minors. The university also offers master's degree programs in business administration, education and coastal marine and wetland studies. Approximately 8,300 students are enrolled.

Petritsch Presents Paper at Medieval And Early Modern Studies Conference

Abigail Petritsch, a sophomore archeology and history major, was one of eight Lycoming College students who presented papers at the fourth annual Undergraduate Conference in Medieval and Early Modern Studies. The conference was held December 5 at Moravian College in Bethlehem, Pa.

Abigail presented "The Real Meaning of Chivalry." A resident of South

Plainfield, she is a graduate of Bishop George Ahr High School.

Founded in 1812 in Williamsport, Pa., Lycoming College is a national liberal arts and sciences institution dedicated to the undergraduate education of more than 1,400 students. Lycoming is one of the 50 oldest colleges in the nation. For more information, visit www.lycoming.edu.

Local Students Named to East Stroudsburg University Dean's List

A total of 1,541 students have been named to the dean's list at East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania for the Fall 2009 semester of the 2009-2010 academic year according to Marilyn J. Wells, interim provost and vice president for academic affairs.

South Plainfield residents named to

the dean's list are: Kevin C. Boyles, Nicholas A. Dorey, Stephen E. Dvorak Jr. and Nicholas Leventusky.

Students eligible for the dean's list are those who have attained a 3.50 quality point average or better. The letter grade "B" earns 3 quality points per credit, and the grade "A" earns 4 quality points per credit.

Frank J. Gaspari Named to Dean's List

Frank J. Gaspari of South Plainfield was named to the dean's list at Coastal Carolina University.

To qualify for the dean's list, freshmen must earn a 3.25 grade point average, and upperclassmen must earn a 3.5 grade point average; students must be enrolled full time.

Coastal Carolina University offers baccalaureate degrees in 42 major fields of study and 37 undergraduate minors. The university also offers master's degree programs in business administration, education and coastal marine and wetland studies. Approximately 8,300 students are enrolled.

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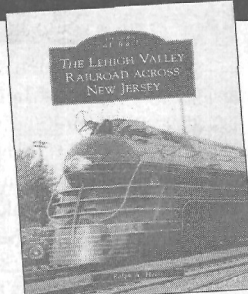
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Sports

Fundraiser Offers Taste and Fun of New Orleans

By Patricia Abbott

"Mardi Gras" usually brings visions of parties, costumes, beads, good old southern cooking and outrageous parades way down south in New Orleans. Well, get ready! The fun, food and revelry is about to find its way to South Plainfield, compliments of the South Plainfield Soccer Club (SPSC.)

Step into a world of Cajun food and fun on Saturday, Feb. 12, when the soccer club holds its first Mardi Gras party at the Senior Center. The fundraiser is a change of pace from pasta dinners and pancake breakfasts. Authentic Cajun dishes will be cooked from scratch at the senior center by soccer club board member Bill Garner, a native of Mississippi. He will be assisted by Frank Licato, Glen Obryant, Mike Surowiec and Bob Bengivenga. The mouthwatering menu features authentic Cajun food with a choice of jambalaya, shrimp etouffee and chicken gumbo, along with appetizers and desserts. Beer, wine and New Orleans style hurricane drinks will be sold as well.

Marshall's Dixieland Band will provide toe-tapping music perfect for the



MAJIGRAS

event. Mardi Gras beads and masks will be available for purchase at the door. A king and queen will also be selected.

Cajuns are the descendants of the original French settlers of the Louisiana region and French Canadians fleeing English rule. Cajun cooking is the product of the French taking up residence in the swamps of the south. Because most people have not experienced Cajun food, Garner explained a little bit about the main dishes saying, "Shrimp etouffee is shrimp cooked in a sauce that is just unbelievable. The sauce, which is based on a roux, is smooth and very flavorful but not spicy. Jambalaya is a little spicier. It contains the trinity: celery, onions and bell pepper, which are standard in a lot of Cajun dishes, and two different kinds of sausage. Chicken gumbo is king good Cajun chicken soup, sorta. It's made with a darker roux and is cooked until the chicken is falling apart. It's not hot spicy either, but it's very flavorful."

Garner, a 17 year resident of South Plainfield, is the person who suggested

a Mardi Gras party to the SPSC board. He does BBQ and Cajun cooking as a hobby. He grew up close enough to New Orleans to enjoy good food. He has previously done catering, and he operated

The Memphis Barbecue Company, but he now focuses on BBQ competitions and fundraisers. Soccer is the common denominator that brings this unique event to South Plainfield. Bill and his wife Landi have three children. The youngest, William, also known as "Catfish," is a keeper for the SPSC team U13 Storm. His sisters, Jordan and Jennifer, played soccer in high school and then later in college.

Garner is excited about the upcoming event, saying, "I grew up roaming from the hill country of Desoto County, Mississippi, to the Mississippi River Bluffs in Memphis, to the rocky hills of Crowley's Ridge in Arkansas. I really, really love Memphis and Memphis food. I can safely say that unless someone has been to New Orleans, they will have never had food like this." He noted how quickly Mardi Gras parties catch on. "We used to do the Mardi Gras parties for a church we attended. It started out with maybe 40-50 people, and by the third year, we had to limit it to 100 people," he said.

Don't miss out on the fun; experience a little slice of New Orleans and the famous annual celebration.

Order tickets now; they are expected to sell quickly. Call Bill Garner (908) 397-3936 or Chris Sanko (908) 561-5533 for information and tickets.

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Sacred Heart Hawks

BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

The Sacred Heart Hawks basketball home game schedule for the remainder of the regular season is as follows:

February 6	9:00am SH 3rd & 4th grade boys vs. St. Augustine 10:15am SH 5th & 6th grade girls vs. St. John Vianney 12:45pm SH 5th & 6th grade boys vs. St. Mathias
February 13	(Grandparents day at SH - grandparents FREE admission) 9:00am SH 3rd & 4th grade boys vs. Immaculate Conception 11:30am SH 5th & 6th grade boys vs. St. Barts 2:00pm SH 5th & 6th grade girls vs. Immaculate Conception 3:15pm SH 7th & 8th grade boys vs. Holy Family
February 20	9:00am SH 5th & 6th grade boys vs. Immaculate Conception



Ponytail Softball Batters Box

By Nancy McMahon

SP Ponytail All Star Tryouts will take place on Sunday, March 7 at Inman Sports Club and on Sunday, March 14 at the PAL Building (indoors if inclement weather).

- Girls 12 years old and under, as of December 31, 2009, begin at 8:30-10:30 a.m. (Check in at 8:15 a.m.).

- Girls 14 years old and under, as of December 31, 2009, begin at 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (Check in at 10:15 a.m.).

Check out our new Web site at www.leaguelineup.com/spponytail.

FROM SP TIGER SKI CLUB

By Lisa Petriello

SP Tiger Ski Club Faced With Cold Conditions For Their Second Trip

The SP Tiger Ski Club went on their second ski trip on January 29 to Mountain Creek Ski Resort. It was a bitter cold night with a biting wind and icy snow conditions



to make an early departure for the mountain due to an early release for mid-term exams. The kids got on the mountain about 2 p.m.

Since the SP Tiger Ski Club is open to high school aged kids, we were able

The next trip is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 5 where they will be joining the younger group of kids from the SP Ski Club.

SOCCER CLUB NEWS

By Dawn Hutchison

Spring Season Around the Corner

The South Plainfield Soccer Club would like to thank everyone who came out and supported our latest fundraiser, our pancake breakfast, held this past Sunday. We served over 75 people a full breakfast, all prepared by the wonderful folks at the South Plainfield Elks. A special thank you to Sharon Reuter, who worked so hard to see that we had everything we needed and that everything was in order. To all the men and women who cooked side by side in the kitchen, we are truly indebted. A fine organization, with a truly fantastic mission to give back to the kids in our community!

Don't forget to call for your tickets for our Mardi Gras night on Friday, Feb. 12 at the Senior Center. The event, which runs from 7 to 11 p.m., will feature all that is Mardi Gras, from authentic Cajun food, live music by Marshall's Dixieland Band and real Cajun fun! Beads and masks to purchase, themed basket raffles, a 50/50 and many other treats throughout the

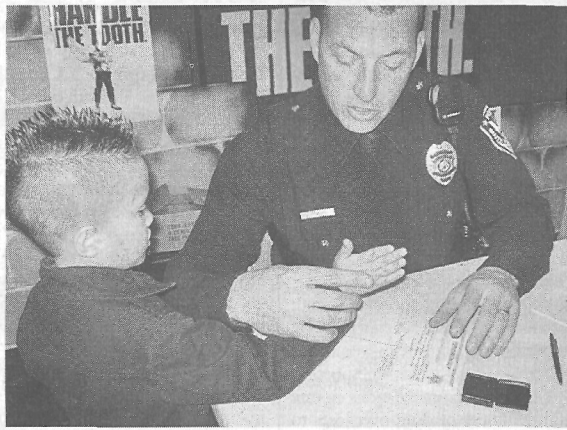
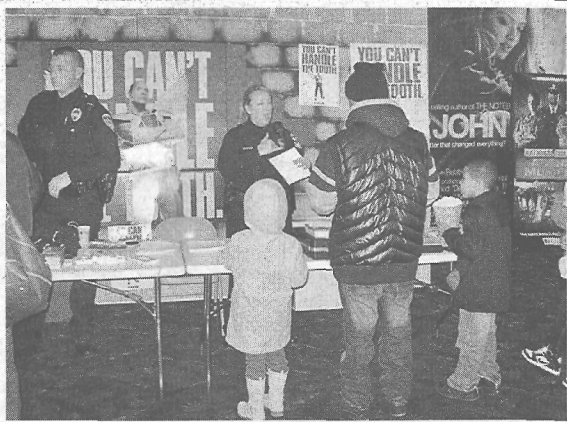
night. Tickets are \$25 per person, which includes dinner. On the menu for the evening: hors d'oeuvres consisting of barbecued shrimp and stuffed mushrooms, choice of entrees, featuring chicken gumbo, shrimp etouffee and jambalaya, and to finish off, pecan pie with ice cream or sorbet. Seats are limited, get your tickets and reserve your table by calling Chrissy at (908) 561-5533 or Bill at (908) 397-3936.

In just a few short weeks, our outdoor spring season will be underway. The club is always looking for help and new, fresh ideas from our families. Please come out and join us at our next general meeting on Thursday, Feb. 25 at 7:30 p.m. at the VFW on Front Street. Our meetings are held downstairs and are open to all in the club. Please come out and meet the coaches and board members of the club. We look forward to seeing you and having you be a part of what happens in the club!

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what's happening in
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southplainfieldnj.com



As part of Regal Cinema's "Help Us Help Haiti" collection for *Tooth Fairy's* opening weekend, guests were asked to drop off toothbrushes, toothpaste and other like necessities at the theatre. South Plainfield D.A.R.E. Officers Dave Franchak and Sherlyn Courtney helped garner attention for the drive by offering theater guests the opportunity to fingerprint their children and educate guests on drinking and driving. Also, on display were other educational D.A.R.E. resources for parents and their children, as well as the ability for guests to sign up for the Regal Crown Club-Regal Cinema's frequent shopper program.

Willow Grove Hosting Discussion on Housing Solutions, Preventing Foreclosures

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Road in Scotch Plains, is hosting a discussion on housing solutions and preventing foreclosures on Sunday, Feb. 7.

Patrice Simms, a housing counselor with the Central Jersey Community Development Corporation's Housing Assistance Recovery Program (HARP) will lead a discussion on what New Jersey families facing foreclosure can do. This is an informational session to make people aware of their options in case they or people close to them find themselves in foreclosure. HARP's mission is to rebuild communities, one family at a time by finding permanent solutions that stabilize neighborhoods through prevention, housing assistance and recovery, financial education, and advocacy.

The adult forum begins at 11:30

a.m. following the 10 a.m. worship service. Childcare and children's programs are available.

For more information about Willow Grove, call the church office at (908) 232-5678, E-mail us at info@willowgrovechurch.org or visit our Web site at www.willowgrovechurch.org.

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Obituaries

Ann T. Coppola, 76



Ann T. (Seneca) Coppola entered eternal rest on Saturday, Jan. 30 at her home with her family at her side.

She was born on the 4th of July in Winburne, Pa. to the late Michael and Mary (Plavetsky) Seneca.

Ann resided in New Brunswick before settling in South Plainfield in 1963.

Ann was a dedicated housewife and mother with a special devotion to the blessed mother. She fully enjoyed spending time in the home and managing her family. This passion led to her collecting "Department 56 Christmas Villages." In addition to managing her family, Ann worked at Brunswick Carolier Lanes and in retail at Fortunoff in Woodbridge, as well as assisted with the family business, Coppola Farms in South Plainfield.

She loved gardening, baking, and along with her husband, she was an excellent ballroom dancer. She was a faithful and longtime communicant of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield.

Ann leaves behind her devoted husband of 53 years, Frank D. Coppola, Sr.; four loving children, Frank D. Coppola Jr., Ann V. Coppola, Rev. Anthony G. Coppola and Michael J. and wife Dawn M. Coppola; she will be missed by her mother, Mary Seneca; three grandchildren, Joseph, Samantha and Briana; two sisters, Mary Jones and husband Chester and Ginny Phillips and husband George and by many extended family and friends.

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

Donations in her memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association Northern N.J. Chapter, 400 Morris Ave., Suite 251, Denville, N.J. 07834.

Daniel J. Nehila, 75

Daniel J. Nehila died on Tuesday, Jan. 26 at home in Monroe.

Born and raised in Perth Amboy, Mr. Nehila lived in Hopelawn and South Plainfield before settling in Monroe 12 years ago.

He worked for Commerce Clearing House in Westfield in the maintenance division and is a former member of Sacred Heart RC Church.

Dan is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. During his enlistment he played on the baseball team.

Being a sports enthusiast, he was an avid Giants football fan and enjoyed golf, bowling and basketball. In addition, Dan also participated as an assistant coach with the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club.

He is predeceased by his first wife, Janet (Abbruzzese).

Surviving are his current wife, Patricia A. Kofka Nehila; a daughter, Pamela Mazro and husband Mark of Piscataway; two stepchildren, Pamela Lacina of Spotswood and Jay Kofka and wife Linda of Milltown; two sisters, Margaret Nehila of Lakewood and Susan Zwolinski of Phillipsburg; two brothers, Stephen "Whitey" Nehila and wife Rose of South Carolina and Timothy Nehila and wife Sarah of Maine and five grandchildren, Heather and Michael Mazro, John and Melynda Kofka and Kyle Lacina, as well as many nieces and nephews.

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

Donations in his name can be made to the Hospice of New Jersey, 40 Bey Lea Rd., Ste. A202, Toms River, N.J. 08753, Cancer Institute of New Jersey, 195 Little Albany St., New Brunswick, N.J. 08901 or to the charity of one's choice.

Paul E. Radice, 91

Paul E. Radice died on Sunday, Jan. 31 at home.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, Paul moved to South Plainfield in 1959.

After faithfully serving his country as a staff sergeant in the United States Army during WWII, Paul was honorably discharged in 1945. He served under General Patton in the battles and campaigns of Ardennes, Central Europe, Normandy, Northern France and Rhineland, earning the American Defense Service Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Service Medal and the Good Conduct Medal.

He was the owner of DeLorenzo's Mens Clothing Store in Clifton and had a passion for tailoring. He enjoyed music, especially playing the drums and guitar, was an avid dancer and he loved his martinis.

He attended Sacred Heart RC Church and was a member of the South Plainfield VFW Post #6763. A devoted husband, father and grandfather, Paul was truly a family man.

Besides his parents, he is predeceased by three brothers.

He leaves behind his wife, Angela Marie (Curreri), with whom he joined hands in marriage on April 27, 1946;

two loving daughters, Kathryn Sabino and husband Anthony of South Plainfield and Christine Zur and husband Michael of South River and a dear granddaughter, Ann Marie Zur.

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

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, 2506 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

Irma H. Tabisz, 85

Irma H. Tabisz died on Sunday, Jan. 31 at the Outer Banks Hospital, Nags Head, N.C.

Born in Germany, Irma resided in Queens, N.Y. before settling in South Plainfield in 1949. In 2005 she relocated to Martin's Point, N.C.

Irma was employed by Terminal Barbershops in New York, and later by Chevron Chemical in South Plainfield.

She was a communicant of Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in South Plainfield and since 2005 Irma has been a member of Holy Redeemer by the Sea Catholic Church in Kitty Hawk, N.C.

Betty Morella said that some people collected stamps or coins, but Irma collected people. She made a friend wherever she went, and she was noted for her wit and outgoing nature.

She was an active member of the South Plainfield Senior Citizen Center Craft Group, the Ladies by the Sea Organization and Crafty Ladies of Holy Redeemer by the Sea Parish and the Baum Center's Watercolors Class in Kill Devil Hills.

She is predeceased by her husband, Peter K. Tabisz; a son, Peter C. Tabisz, and a brother, George Harenberg.

Surviving are a daughter and husband, Marcella J. and James Martin of Southern Shores, N.C.; a cherished daughter-in-law, Dorma W. Tabisz of Nashville, Tenn.; a sister, Gertrude Block of Zephyrhills, Fla. and three sisters-in-law, Anne Tabisz Florio of Albuquerque, N.M., June Tabisz of Wheeling, Ill. and Thelma Harenberg of Chincoteague, Va.; four grandchildren, Jennifer (Randy) Smith, Matthew (Renee) Tabisz, Amanda Tabisz (Josh) Stevens, and Julia Martin; five great-grandchildren, Linda Anne Tabisz, Ryan, Reid and Ross Smith, and Brady Stevens.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Dare Home Health and Hospice, P.O. Box 1000, Manteo, N.C. 27954, or the Lungevity Foundation, 435 N. LaSalle St., Suite 310, Chicago, Ill., 60654.

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The Harlem Wizards visited Sacred Heart School on February 1 as part of Catholic Schools Week celebration. The assembly was sponsored by the Home School Association. The theme for Catholic Schools Week is "Dividends for Life... faith, knowledge, discipline and morals." After putting on engaging demonstration with lots of audience participation, the Wizards spoke about the importance of staying in school, working hard and staying healthy.

CONTACT We Care to Hold Volunteer Training Class

CONTACT We Care, Inc., the 24-hour caring and crisis hotline voted best statewide volunteer organization by the New Jersey Governor's Office of Volunteerism, will begin its comprehensive 36-hour volunteer training class on Wednesday, Feb. 17 from 7-10 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St. in Westfield. The class will meet weekly until mid-May.

Experts in active listening, grief recovery, mental health issues, spirituality, and suicide prevention will join with CONTACT's professional staff to conduct the training.

"Our recent award from the govern-

nor recognizes CONTACT's commitment to providing an enriched, rewarding volunteer opportunity," said David Owens, executive director. "We also offer volunteers the opportunity to work directly with individuals in need. To be able to have this one-on-one direct connection is a unique and rewarding volunteer opportunity."

CONTACT's training is designed to prepare prospective volunteers for the wide variety of needs and situations they will encounter on the phone line," said Sue Fasano, CONTACT's director of training. "The highly interactive training includes numerous

practice sessions to prepare the volunteers," she said.

"We have been told time and again how valuable CONTACT's volunteer training is," said Owens. "The active listening skills people learn help them in all areas of their lives—not just on the hotline."

There is a \$50 fee to cover the cost of training materials.

For more information on becoming a CONTACT We Care volunteer and making a difference in people's lives by listening actively, call (908) 301-1899 or visit the organization's Web site at www.contactwecare.org.

In My Opinion

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

(Continued from page 2)

be eliminated and ratables are down.

I urge the new administration to put a freeze on hiring until their budget is in order. We must do less with less.

**SINCERELY,
JOE SCRUDATO**

To the Editor:

Governor Christie has proposed closing the New Jersey Poison Control Center (NJPIES) in an effort to decrease spending.

I have worked at NJPIES for 12 years and can only wonder what savings will actually be achieved. We are a 24/7 hotline, staffed by nurses, physicians and pharmacists. NJPIES receives approximately 80,000 calls a year from hospitals, pharmacists, school nurses, and, most importantly, the New Jersey public, dealing with poisonings, over-dosing of medications, environmental and medical concerns, and drug information.

We are an integral part of the health care team, whether the patient be on life support in intensive care or a child at home with a Roloids ingestion.

We offer recommendations on care and treatment of drug overdoses to hospitals, as well as emotional support, guidance and education to parents. Should this service be eliminated, how will the New Jersey public, particularly the uninsured, be served in a professional and cost effective manner?

Without NJPIES as a viable resource, the only recourse left to many New Jersey residents would be to travel, perhaps unnecessarily, to the local emergency rooms, many of which are already overwhelmed and underfunded. Contact your legislators and governor, requesting that NJPIES be left intact.

DIANTHA CLARK

Dear Editor,

Last week's Planning Board meeting was an eye opener. As predicted, developer Jack Morris has applied to convert the age-restricted housing approval he obtained on the Tingley Rubber site a few years ago to regular housing. He's now talking about roughly 64 low-income senior units and 276 regular units, which brings the total units to 340.

When this project was first announced, everyone begged the council not to rezone the property from industrial to residential. People warned the Democrats that Morris would be back trying to convert it to regular housing. But just like with everything else, we were told we didn't know what we were talking about, that this would never happen. Well, it has.

Mayor Charles Butrico is the only member still on the governing body to have supported this project. Why couldn't he have listened back then? Now, because of state law, we'll likely get this project jammed down our throat by a court even if the Planning Board says "no" to it.

We're once again urging the mayor and Councilwoman Buteas to join us in opposing the massive wave of multi-family housing that's about to hit South Plainfield, which so far they've refused to do. We need to work for the residents of South Plainfield, not the developers who want to forever change our town.

Remember, these units are on top of the 700 apartments planned for New Brunswick Avenue. A thousand more housing units means hundreds of more kids in Roosevelt School, strained services, and, of course, higher taxes. It's time to say "no" to over 275 condos/townhouses and over 750 rental apartments.

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Women's Bone And Heart Health Lecture at Curves

A free lecture on women's bone and heart health will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 9 at 7:30 p.m. The lecture is sponsored by South Plainfield Curves in honor of its sixth anniversary. Certified nurse midwife Katie Greenhaugh will talk about how to keep heart healthy and increase bone density. The lecture will take place at South Plainfield Curves, 27 South Plainfield Ave. and is open to the public. Non-members will receive a free week at Curves to help them get started strengthening their heart and bones.

For more information or to register, call (908) 757-4422. South Plainfield Curves will waive the sign-up fee on our anniversary for one day only! Take advantage of this opportunity to get healthy and save money!



Riley School Cub Scout Pack 224, Den 8 visited the South Plainfield Observer this week to earn their Information Advancement award. Pictured are (L-R) Josh Eggert, Liam Glynn, Shawn Callanan, Jaclyn Timmerman, Tyler Billian, (front row) Olivia Glynn and John Timmerman. Not pictured are Jared Campos and Divon Pender.

From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Chris Grippio

We have reached that time of the year when we celebrate the birthdays of two of our greatest presidents. George Washington is called the Father of Our Country because of his selfless service both during the American Revolution and as our first president. The library has a wide variety of materials dealing with him from picture books through adult biographies plus the DVD *Founding Brothers*, which takes an in-depth look at his first term.

Fifteen presidents later Abraham Lincoln was faced with the greatest challenge any president has had to confront. Whereas Washington presided over the creation of the country,

Lincoln was faced with the task of keeping it together. Our selection of Lincoln materials is also quite broad with biographies, histories examining his role as both president and commander-in-chief during the Civil War, and videos. Of course we have materials on other presidents, but the two mentioned above have birthdays only ten days apart in February and are the reason we celebrate Presidents' Day in that month.

Furthermore, Lincoln's Birthday is a state holiday and the library will be closed on Friday, Feb. 12. However, we will be open Saturday, Feb. 13 with regular hours, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The library staff wants to remind everyone that the State of New Jersey is no longer supplying public libraries with tax forms. If you need a New Jersey tax form, you can either call the State at 1-800-323-4400 or visit their Web site at www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation.

We will have our usual children's programs next week. Story and craft programs for three year olds and up are Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday at 1:15 p.m. Time for 2s and 3s are Wednesday and Thursday at 10:30 a.m. Monday morning at 10:30 a.m. Miss Mija will be showing a movie for preschoolers. There will be no Baby Time on Friday, Feb. 12 as we will be closed. No registration is required as these are all drop-in programs.

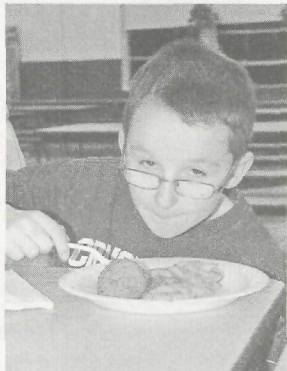
If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at (908) 754-7885 or visit us at 2484 Plainfield Ave. next to borough hall.



Soccer Club Hosts Pasta Dinner Fundraiser

The South Plainfield Soccer Club hosted a pasta dinner fundraiser held on January 22 in the Middle School cafeteria. The menu included penne pasta with a choice of vodka or marinara sauce, meatballs or sausage, salad, bread, iced tea and lemonade. A variety of desserts were offered for sale as well. A number of people opted for takeout and enjoyed the meal at home.

Approximately 60 people attended the dinner. This was the first pasta dinner organized by the new South Plainfield Soccer Club board. Board member Joe McGeehan not only assisted with organizing the dinner, but also prepared and cooked all the food.



Correction

In the January 29 front page story, "D.A.R.E. Building to Go?" we incorrectly reported that retired Police Officer Allen LaMonda was a D.A.R.E. officer for 7 years, not 17. We regret the error.

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