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South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 13, NO. 25

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FEBRUARY 26, 2010

Police Chief, Three Others to Retire

Code Enforcement to be Downsized

By Libby Barsky

The retirement notices of four borough employees were officially accepted at the February 16 Borough Council meeting.

Those retiring are Police Chief John Ferraro, effective October 1; Police Officer Karl W. Schuetz, effective December 31; Code Enforcement Officer Michael Zushma, effective May 1 and Code Enforcement Officer Mario Abbruzzese, effective June 1.

The full-time position of code enforcement officer is being downsized to a part-time position. According to Council President Matt Anesh, the salaries for the position far exceed what other municipalities spend and the zoning officer could possibly take over enforcement of zoning issues; for example, the overseeing of unauthorized parking on vacant lots. The

position is currently held by two men, full-time by Abbruzzese and part-time by Zushma.

Although Zushma is retiring May 1 from the part-time code enforcement position, he will remain Emergency Management coordinator.

Abbruzzese is retiring on June 1, but will be re-hired as part-time code enforcer with a salary not to exceed \$15,000 from June 2010 to May 31, 2011.

During the public portion of the meeting, former mayor Michael English asked if Abbruzzese, who has been code enforcement officer for 23 years and a volunteer fireman, would receive full retirement benefits usually provided after 25 years of service. English warned the council of setting a precedent by extending benefits to Abbruzzese as if he had worked for 25 years. "The idea of what you are doing can be used in the future," said English.



Eighth grade students from Team Lightning-Yellow compete in the Middle School's Battle of the Teams.

Middle School Students Battle it Out

By Patricia Abbott

While some continued to shovel out from under the most recent onslaught of snow, the South Plainfield Middle School student body braved their own storms indoors on February 12. The event was the school's annual Battle of the Teams.

At the onset of each school year the students in each grade are divided into three teams, each with their own color-Avalanche-white, Cyclone-red and Monsoon-gray in grade seven, and Lightning-yellow, Thunder-black and Tsunami-blue in grade eight. The event pits the teams against each other in a series of relay races and other team-oriented games of skill and speed.

Principal Steve Novak welcomed the crowd and the afternoon began with *The Pledge of Allegiance* and *The National Anthem*. As each team was introduced, the students jumped to their feet cheering and yelling, anxious to begin the games. Despite being a friendly competition, the students were determined that their team would be victorious.

Prior to the big day, students were allowed to sign up for the different games. There were five events in which the youths participated.

Event one was called "Over and Under" and had 10 students per team. A basketball was passed over the head of one student and then between the legs of the next student. After passing the ball, the person at the head of the line would dash to the back. The first team to have the original order restored and be seated were declared the winners.

Event two was "Hula Hoop Circles" with 20 students per team. Joining hands in a circle, students had to pass through a hula hoop without breaking the circle. The first team to reach the beginning again and be seated was the winner.

Event three event was the "Baton/Hoop Relay" and consisted of 10 students per team. Though difficult to describe, it was a hysterical race. The easy part was the running; the hard part was getting the baton to stay standing. If it fell over, the student had to return to upright it. This relay resulted in a great deal of laughter, cheers and moans.

Event four was basketball "Foul

Shooting," with eight students per team. Points for this timed event were determined by the number of baskets the students made.

Highlight of the afternoon and final event was the "Tug of War," with 18 students per team. Each and every battle was fierce. In between games the teams were given a chance to show their team spirit, each attempt-

(Continued on page 7)

Officers Sustain Injuries After Responding to Call

South Plainfield Police responded to the 400 block of Norwood Avenue on February 19 on the report of an unwanted guest on the property. Upon the officers' arrival the incident turned violent and Officers Michael Molinaro and Garrett Cassio sustained injuries which required medical attention. Both officers were transported to Muhlenberg Hospital where they were treated and released.

Jeanne Ulacia, 18 of South Plainfield, was arrested and charged with aggravated assault and resisting arrest, and a 17 year-old juvenile was also taken into custody as a result of the incident. Ulacia was transported to the Middlesex County Correctional Facility in lieu of \$50,000 cash bail.

The juvenile was remanded to the Juvenile Detention Center.

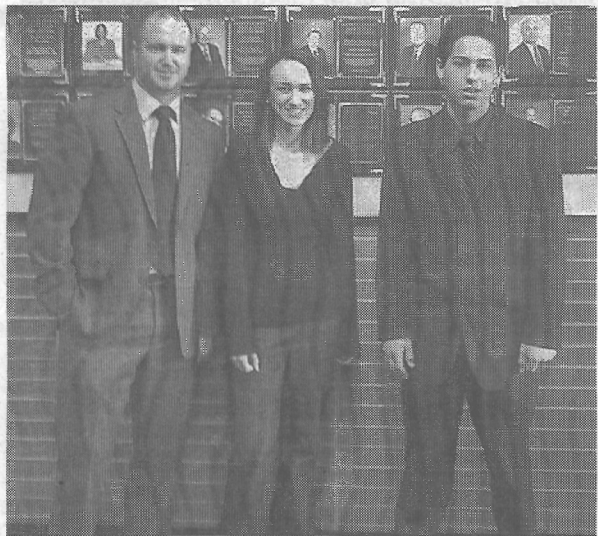
Mayor Urges BOE Action

Faced with balancing the current state budget and making up for a \$2 billion deficit, Governor Chris Christie issued an executive order withholding state aid to school districts with an excess surplus. For South Plainfield, it means \$1.2 million of its reported excess surplus identified in a recent audit of the past fiscal year must be used to cover expenses for the remainder of the current fiscal year which ends in June. The excess surplus is money that the board accumulated over and above the 2% state surplus cap allowed by law. In essence, because the board was able to accumulate the extra cash, the funding that would normally come to the borough from state aid through borough taxpayer contributions will

now be deferred to other towns that have not amassed an excess surplus. The state is currently foregoing the bi-monthly state aid payment to the district and instead using it to balance the state's budget.

At the February 16 Borough Council meeting, Mayor Charles Butrico asked each council member to consider signing a resolution urging Governor Christie to reconsider his decision and encourage the Board of Education to consider filing a lawsuit to have the money returned.

(Continued on page 7)



SPHS Assistant Principal Joseph Cirigliano, Nicole McDonough and Christopher Gualano.

Rotary Students of the Month Recognized for Their Service

Dr. Kenneth May, principal of South Plainfield High School, announced seniors Nicole McDonough and Christopher Gualano are the April Rotary Students of the Month.

Nicole is a member of the National Spanish Honor Society, has taken honors courses throughout her high school career and currently has a 4.76 GPA. She has volunteered her services to the community through school and her church. She tutors after school and assists teaching CCD classes at Sacred Heart Church. Nicole plans on attending college in the fall and continuing her community service

activities with student leadership and vacation Bible school.

Christopher Gualano is a member of the National Honor Society, Boys Cross Country Team and Boys Spring Track Team. He has been volunteering with various organizations such as the Elks, VFW, churches, boys and girls clubs and children's summer camps. Christopher volunteers with NWS, organizing community events in New Jersey and Delaware with pro-wrestlers. In addition to his volunteer work, he holds a part-time job. Christopher plans to continue his volunteer work with NWS after graduation.



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Want to be informed about the business of your Council and BOE?

FYI Borough Council & BOE

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.

council meetings

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

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

Agenda Meeting Public Meeting

March 1 March 1

March 15 March 15

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

planning board

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

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

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.

zoning board of adjustment

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

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

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.*

board of education

Meets Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. at Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave.

*except where noted.

Committee of the Whole: March 10 and March 31

Regular Public Meeting: March 17 and April 14

BOE curriculum/technology/student activities

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

March 3 (April to be announced)

BOE buildings & grounds

Meets second Monday of the month at 7 p.m., 2nd floor conference room, Roosevelt Administration Building—March 8

recreation commission

Meets once a month on the second Tuesday of the month, except July and August PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7716

taxpayers advisory group

The Taxpayers Advisory Group (TAG) meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave. at 7 p.m. Questions? 908-769-0786.

site plan sub-committee

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m. Mar. 16, Apr. 20, May 18, July 20, Aug. 17, Sept. 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 16, Dec. 21

environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday) Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7621
Mar 10, Apr 14, May 12, June 9, July 14, Aug. 11, Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 10, Dec. 8 and Jan. 12 2011.

business advisory group

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



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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,

Re: Our Local Storm Angel

A huge thank you to our local Storm Angel, Sandy Connelly, who volunteered to cook hot meals for our hard working public works crew.

The crew had a big task in front of them and they continuously worked around the clock to make our community and residents safe.

Sandy, assisted by Marie Smith, Glenn Cullen, Darlene Pinto, Ray Rusnak, Tim McConville, Linda Fiore and Dottie Paradiso, cooked hot lunches and dinners so the workers could take a break and have a hot meal. Our thanks and gratitude go out to Sandy and her helpers for a great job.

FROM PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES

To the Editor:

I would like to tell you what a plow driver did to my sidewalk a week after the snowstorm.

I came home from work at 5 p.m., and to my surprise I looked at the side of my house and the sidewalk. I found the whole sidewalk plowed over.

I called the mayor that night. It took me two hours to move all the snow boulders, and clean the sidewalk. For the life of me I cannot imagine why a plow driver would angle the plow toward the side of the walk when that person could have pushed the snow into the woods right in front of them. If this person is a DPW worker they need a lesson in plowing. They are there to help people, not hurt them.

THANK YOU,
PETER DE SARNO

Dear Editor,

Since the Republicans took the majority in the city council, suddenly letters to the Observer Editor seem to abound, much like the last time they took control. It seems to be the strategy of disgruntled Dems to continuously complain instead of looking out for the good of the community. Now, it's much worse.

In the latest issue of the Observer,

Democrat Assemblymen Patrick J. Deignan Jr. and Peter J. Barnes III rail out at newly elected Governor Chris Christie for acting 'unilaterally.' May I be so bold as to scream at these two members of the assembly, "How dare you!?"

The Democrats have been in charge of the assembly for nearly a decade (and probably 90% of my life). New Jersey has the highest per capita tax rate in the country. And now that someone is about to do something about the problem, these people criticize? Better yet, without offering any solutions. Again, how dare they?

And lest it be read that I'm a Republican, let me point out the letters to the editor that I've sent deploring the votes of Leonard Lance, our GOP representative in Washington.

KEVIN (THE ELDER) O'BRIEN

Dear Editor,

By Executive Order Governor Christie has withheld \$1.6 million in state aid to the South Plainfield Board of Education to offset what he considers to be an excess surplus in our school budget. That \$1.6 million surplus was raised through property taxes. The governor is using property taxes paid by our hard working families to offset the state budget deficit. The \$1.6 million represents a reduction of about 18% in state education aid to South Plainfield and equals about 12 tax points. Without a doubt the governor's action will result in an enormous increase in our property taxes and is simply unfair.

At our council meeting last week, I asked the council to support a resolution urging the governor to reconsider this unwise decision and encourage the Board of Education to consider filing suit to get our money back. Councilmembers Buteas and Salerno moved and seconded the resolution after which Councilmembers Anesh, Bengivena and Rusnak voted to table it. They didn't even allow for a vote to be taken on this outrageous plan which will cost each of our homeowners hundreds of dollars in property taxes. Does the Republican majority on the council consider this leadership?

By comparison the Board of Edu-

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cation passed the identical resolution with only one "no" vote, which was cast by board member Bob Jones, who is the unofficial head of the local Republican Party and was an unsuccessful office seeker on the Christie ticket last year. Citizens across our nation are sick and tired of partisan politics. It is clear that our local Republicans are more interested in currying favor with the governor than protecting the interests of our hardworking families. When your new property tax bill arrives next year remember their cowardly approach.

MAYOR CHARLES BUTRICO

To the Editor:

With New Jersey's \$2B budget deficit getting all the ink in the papers recently, an equally important story may have gotten lost, even though it has huge repercussions here in South Plainfield. That story was Governor Chris Christie's announcement that he's formed a task force to dismantle regulations by the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) that force towns to add absurd amounts of low-income housing.

Why is this important? Back in December, in an attempt to meet COAH's requirements, the council was set to approve a contract to allow 700 apartments on New Brunswick Avenue. Councilmen Ray Rusnak and Tim McConville objected to the contract, pointing out how Christie had promised if elected to "gut" the COAH regulations that were forcing these apartments down our throats.

Oddly, Mayor Butrico pushed the council to move forward with the contract, even though it was clear COAH would be changed. Even more per-

(Continued on page 10)

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Cat in the Hat Visits Roosevelt School



Dr. Seuss's character, The Cat in the Hat, visits students at Roosevelt School to help promote Read Across America program.

By Libby Barsky

Roosevelt School kindergartners, first and second graders sat quietly on the floor listening carefully to Librarian Christine Brandenburg reading *The Cat in the Hat* by Dr. Seuss on February 19. As Brandenburg finished the last sentence and was about to close the book, the door opened and the main character of the book—The Cat in the Hat—strolled into the room. A collective gasp erupted from the stunned children. They couldn't believe what they were looking at.

Roosevelt School Principal Robert Diehl introduced the Cat in the Hat character to the children. The Cat's assistant presented Brandenburg a new book for the library, *The Cat in the Hat Comes Back*, as a gift from the New Jersey Education Association.

The National Education Association recognizes the March 2 birthday

of author Theodor Geisel who wrote as Dr. Seuss and celebrates the occasion with programs emphasizing reading from his books during the first week of March in the "Read Across America Program." The Cat in the Hat came early this year due to the efforts of Roosevelt School Reading Specialist Patricia Blackadar. She requested the visit of the Cat in the Hat back in November after noticing an item in the NJEA monthly magazine offering the visit to schools.

"I didn't know if Roosevelt School would receive a visit. There are so many requests made," said Blackadar.

Borough officials and high school students will be reading to Roosevelt School students from the books of Dr. Seuss during the first week of March in celebration of the 106th birthday of Dr. Seuss. Each school in the district is also planning to participate in the Reading Across America program.



Miss Turrise's Kindergarten class celebrated their 100th day of school at Kennedy Elementary on February 17. Teacher's aide Mrs. Uffer helped with the celebration.

Residents Reminded About Parking Restrictions On Designated Roads During Snowstorms

The South Plainfield Police Department would like to remind residents and businesses of the borough's policies and ordinances, which prohibit parking on certain roads when snow has fallen.

On April 5, 2004, the mayor and council approved Ordinance #1652, which prohibits parking on certain roadways when they are snow covered. The ordinance prohibits parking on these roads whenever snow has fallen and accumulates enough to cover the street or roadway. The parking restrictions remain in effect after the snow has stopped and until the streets and roadways have been plowed and cleared to the extent that parking would not impede the snow removal process and the normal flow of traffic.

The following streets are covered

Founders' Day at Wesley Church

Wesley Methodist Church will observe Founders' Day on Sunday, Feb. 28 at the 10:30 a.m. service with special liturgy and Holy Communion. The Rev. Bob Scott, district superintendent will preach. The congregation will also remember Walter Harris, who built the church in 1960, and whose family built Harris Steel which employed many South Plainfield residents.

In 1960 Wesley was moved from Monroe Avenue in Plainfield to 1500 Plainfield Avenue in South Plainfield. Past and present members of the church and the members of the community are invited to attend the service. A luncheon will follow. If a past member would like to share a memory, they are welcome to do so at the luncheon.

For more information, call Pastor Nehemiah Thompson at (908) 251-3992.

by this ordinance: Amboy Avenue, Cedarbrook Avenue, Central Avenue, Chamber Street, Clinton Avenue, Cromwell Place, Durham Avenue, East Crescent Parkway, East Fairview Avenue, East Golf Avenue, East Hendricks Boulevard, Evona Place, Fairmount Avenue, Field Avenue, Foster Avenue, Franklin Avenue, Front Street, Garibaldi Avenue, Grant Avenue, Hamilton Boulevard, Joan Street, Kenyon Avenue, Lake Street, Lane Avenue, Maple Avenue, Merchants Avenue, Murray Avenue, New Brunswick Avenue, New Market Avenue, Norwood Avenue, Oak Tree Avenue, Oakland Avenue, Park Avenue, Plainfield Avenue, Rahway Avenue, Randolph Avenue, Sampton Avenue, South 9th Street, South Clinton Avenue, South Plainfield Avenue, Sprague Avenue, Stelton Road, Tompkins Avenue, West 7th Street, Wexler Place and Woodland Avenue.

Furthermore, residents on all borough streets are asked to refrain from parking on the street when snow is forecast, so that the Department of Public Works can safely clear the roads. Residents are also reminded to clean snow off their vehicles before driving on any public roads.

All residents and businesses within the borough are also reminded that in the event of snow, the sidewalks, driveways and entrances must be cleared of snow and ice within 12 hours after the snow has stopped. It is also against the law to push or place snow on the roadway when clearing the snow.

With these restrictions in place and the cooperation of all residents and business, the roads and sidewalks of the borough will be a safer place.

For additional information, contact the Traffic Safety Unit at (908) 226-7678 or visit the borough's Web site at www.southplainfieldnj.com.

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Car Veers Out of Control, Damages Property on Greenwich Street

A 2002 Ford Expedition, owned and operated by South Plainfield resident Andy Vajda, 48, was involved in a crash on Greenwich Street on February 23 at approximately 4:45 p.m.

Vajda was traveling westbound on Geary Drive and as he entered the

Greenwich Street intersection, he struck the curb in front of 2032 Greenwich St., then a fire hydrant and continued across the lawn of the property. Vajda continued back across the street and entered the yard at

2031 Greenwich St. As the vehicle traveled through the property, it struck several concrete landscaping features as well as a brick archway. The car finally came to rest facing east in the rear yard of 2031 Greenwich St. causing minor damage to the garage.

Vajda was treated at the scene for minor injuries. He was charged with reckless driving.

The crash is being investigated by Officer Michael Redden and Lt. Kevin Murtagh.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

February 21
Happy Birthday to Joan Abbott!

Love from Patricia and Chris

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Around Town

Lenten Fish Dinners At Sacred Heart

Fridays through March 26

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 and Sacred Heart Church are sponsoring Lenten fish dinners on Friday, Feb. 26, March 5, 12, 19 and 26. School cafeteria, 149 South Plainfield Ave., 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, dessert. Take out available. \$8 adults, \$7 seniors, \$4 children. 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 Saturday, Feb. 27 at the Senior Center featuring national touring comedian Dave Reilly. 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.

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, 3 to 8 p.m. Spaghetti and meatballs, salad, bread, drinks and dessert. Take out available. \$5. The money raised will be used for summer camp.

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

Blackrose to Perform

February 27

Blackrose, a band performing classic rock and roll music and today's hits, will perform at Tim Kerwin's Pub, 353 Bound Brook Rd. (Rt. 28) in Middlesex on Saturday, Feb. 27 at 10 p.m. No cover charge.

Founders' Day at Wesley Church

February 28

Wesley Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave., will observe Founders' Day on Sunday, Feb. 28 at the 10:30 a.m. service with special liturgy and Holy Communion followed by a luncheon. If past members would like to share a memory they are welcome to do so at the luncheon.

For information, call Pastor Nchemiah Thompson at (908) 251-3992.

Project Graduation Auction Tickets on Sale

March 6

The South Plainfield High School PTA will be hosting its annual auction/raffle on Saturday, March 6 from 7 to 11 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.) in the high school gym. All profits go towards Project Graduation for the Class of 2010. Price per ticket is \$12.

For tickets, contact Tracey Hartmann at (908) 755-4349. This event has sold out in past years, so please call as soon as possible for tickets.

For information or to make a donation, contact Sharon Miller (908) 754-6461.

Girls Scouts to Hold Pancake Breakfast

March 7

The South Plainfield Girl Scout Community, in conjunction with the South Plainfield Elks, will host a pancake breakfast on Sunday, March 7, 8 a.m. until noon. The all-you-can-eat menu will feature pancakes, eggs cooked to order, French toast, bacon, sausage, home fries, toast, juice and coffee. \$7 for adults; \$5 for seniors; \$4 for children 3-12; two and under are free. The Elks lodge is located at 1254 New Market Ave.

For more information, please call Sharon at (908) 791-1214.

Night of Recollection At Sacred Heart Church

March 8

Sacred Heart Rosary Altar Society presents a one woman play featuring Gina Smith as St. Anne on Monday, March 8 following the 7 p.m. Mass at Sacred Heart Church, 149 South Plainfield Ave. Admission is a free will offering. Light refreshments will be served after the play. All are welcome.

41st Annual District Music and Arts Festival

March 11

The 41st annual District Music and Arts Festival will take place on Thursday, March 11 at South Plainfield High School.

The concert will be divided into three sections: orchestra at 6:30 p.m., chorus at 7:30 p.m. and band at 8:40 p.m.

Tickets for each portion of the concert will be \$2 each before March 5; \$5 each after March 5. Tickets will be available at all borough schools or at the door.

Little Treasures Open House

March 13

Little Treasures, 2177 Oak Tree Rd. in Edison, will hold an open house on Saturday, March 13, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. They provide infant care through preschool and summer camp for children ages five to eight. Low child-teacher ratios and daily parent-teacher communication. A state-of-the-art atmosphere, warm and inviting as home, and providing each child with the experience to open their minds and expand their abilities.

For more information, call (908) 769-3224 or visit www.LTLC.net for a virtual tour.

Boy Scout Troop 309 Clothing Drive

March 13

Boy Scout Troop 309 will be holding a clothing drive fundraiser on Saturday, March 13 from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the parking lot of Wesley Methodist Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave. We are collecting usable clothing, shoes (please bag separately), accessories (dolls, cars, etc.), children's activity sets and small and medium bikes.

If you need items to be picked up, call Nancy Pauls at (908) 917-4700.

Elks Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner

March 13

The South Plainfield Elks Veterans Committee is sponsoring their annual corned beef and cabbage dinner at the Elks Lodge on New Market Avenue on Saturday, March 13 from 4:30 to 9 p.m. Adults \$12, children \$5. All

SENIOR CENTER *Calendar*

Coming Up.....

April 25-27 Tulip Festival
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

WEDNESDAYS

Call (908) 754-1047 for more info or visit
www.southplainfieldnj.com

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

THURSDAYS

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

FRIDAYS

Bingo 10 am-2 pm

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

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

you can eat, includes soda, dessert and cash bar.

For more information, call Lou Peralta at (908) 756-6406.

Send Your Events to:
spobserver@comcast.net

For info on submitting your event,
visit www.spobserver.com

— Out of Town —

Bishop Ahr High School Tricky Tray

February 26

Bishop George Ahr High School, One Tingley Lane in Edison, is holding their 31st annual tricky tray, "Welcome to the Jungle," on Friday, Feb. 26. \$20 admission includes door prize ticket and light refreshments. Guests are welcome to bring their own snacks. Doors open at 5 p.m.; prize calling at 8 p.m. Prize baskets, 50/50s and various other prizes. 18 and over. Purchase tickets in advance only.

Call (732) 317-9425 or 732-423-2206 for tickets.

Steppin' Out Singles Dance Party

February 27

Steppin' Out Singles is holding a "dress down" dance party on Saturday, Feb. 27 at 8 p.m. at the Woodbridge Hilton Grand Ballroom, 120 Wood Ave. South in Iselin. Ages 40

and up; neat jeans; \$15 admission.

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

Youth Day at Mt. St. Mary's Academy

February 27

The Diocese of Metuchen sponsored "Youth Day: Transformer" will be held Saturday, Feb. 27, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Mount Saint Mary Academy, Watchung. Music, games, workshops and liturgy mass. The sacrament of reconciliation will be available before Mass to be celebrated at 6 p.m. Cost: \$35 per teen (8th-12th grades).

For more information, call (732) 562-1990, ext. 1635 or visit www.diometuchen.org.

NAMI Monthly Meeting

March 1

NAMI-Middlesex, affiliate of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, monthly meeting will be held on Monday, March 1, 7 to 9 p.m. at University Behavioral HealthCare, 671 Hoes Lane, Rm. D201 in Piscataway.

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

Journey Through Grief Lecture Series

March 2-23

Center For Hope Hospice & Palliative Care is offering a four week lecture series entitled, "Journey Through

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South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul Alvarado, Pastor

Mass Schedule:
Saturday Mass 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 9:00, 11:30 a.m.
Daily 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday
7:00 p.m. Monday (Church), Thursday (Parish Center Chapel)

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

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

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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Danielle Aronowitz

Greetings from the library.

Brrr... it's cold outside. So it's the perfect time to curl up with a good book or watch a great movie, and here at the South Plainfield Public Library we have something for everyone.

Why pay for movie rentals? Come to the library where renting movies is free! We have a great selection, from hot new releases to television shows to classics. Some recently released movies that we own are *Couples Retreat*, *Time Traveler's Wife*, *Bright Star*, *Zombieland*, *Love Happens*, *The Stepfather*, *Whip It*, *500 Days of Summer*, *District 9*, *The Hangover*, *Food Inc.*, *Public Enemies*, and *My Sister's Keeper*. For the kids, we also have new releases, such as *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs*, *G-Force*, *Aliens in the Attic*, *Wizards of Waverly Place: The Movie*, *Up, Night at the Museum: Battle for the Smithsonian*, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* and *Jonas Vol. 1*. Some new television shows we have on DVD are *Glee: The Road to Sectionals Vol. 1*, *Castle Season 1*, *Lost Season 5* and *Rescue Me Season 5 Vol. 2*. We also have new music, such as *The Beatles Stereo Box Set*, *Fearless: The Deluxe Edition*—Taylor Swift, *Glee: The Soundtrack: Vol. 1 and 2*, *Play On*—Carrie Underwood, *The Fame Monster Deluxe Edition*—Lady Gaga, *Need You Now*—Lady Antebellum and many more, as well as new books on CD. You can go to our Web site or call us to place any of these items on hold. Be advised that there is a \$.50 charge per item for putting it on hold.

On Sunday, Feb. 28 from 2-3 p.m., 16-year-old Matthew Fishteyn who has been playing guitar and piano for over 10 years, will perform rock, jazz, ragtime and classical music. Presented free; pre-registration is not required.

The Middlesex County Recycling Program is no longer accepting alkaline batteries and automobile batteries for recycling. Batteries accepted include rechargeable batteries (C, D, AA, 9-volt, etc.) and the button cell batteries found in watches, calculators and other small electronic items, and larger batteries, such as those found in

cell phones, laptops and camcorders. Alkaline batteries should be disposed of in the trash.

Tax season is upon us and here at the library we now have the federal tax forms. The New Jersey Division of Taxation is not distributing N.J. State Income Tax forms to libraries for the 2009 tax season. You can find forms online at state.nj.us/treasury/taxation or call 1-800-323-4400. We are unable to give tax advice, but we do have plenty of materials to aid in filling out the forms and getting information. We have *JK Lasser's Your Income Tax: 2010 Edition, How to Pay Zero Taxes: 2010 Edition, 1001 Deductions & Tax Breaks 2010, New Rules for Estate and Tax Planning Revised and Updated*, and *Easy Ways to Lower Your Taxes: Simple Strategies Every Taxpayer Should Know* and many more.

We will be following our regular schedule for the children's programs. The Monday Morning Movie is shown on Monday morning at 10:30 for preschool age children. The movie usually runs for about 40 minutes. The Storytime program for children ages three and up is held Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday night at 6:30, and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. The Time for 2s & 3s program, for children between the ages of two and three, is held on Wednesday and Thursday mornings at 10:30. The Babytime program, for ages up to two years, is held Friday morning at 10:30. We are also doing an afternoon film on Fridays at 3:30 p.m. for school age children. The story programs last about an hour and include stories, songs and a craft for older kids. These programs do not require registration. For more information, call (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda or Miss Mija.

We are open seven days a week except on holidays. Our hours are as follows: Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays we are open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Tuesdays and Fridays we are open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays 1:30 to 5 p.m.

To find out more, or if there are any questions, call (908) 754-7885 or visit us on the Web at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

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southplainfieldpeople Milestones



Gene and Joanne Bloomwell on their wedding day in 1960.

Gene and Joanne Bloomwell Celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary



Gene and Joanne Bloomwell

Gene and Joanne Bloomwell will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Sunday, Feb. 28. A reception will be held with family and friends at the Pilgrim Covenant Church Fellowship Hall immediately following the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Special guests from the original wedding party will include bridesmaid Judy (Davis) Haynes and groomsmen Richard Davis and Robert Dubois.

Gene is originally from Erie, Pa. and

Joanne is from Galax, Va. They met and were married with a full military sword ceremony at the Williamsburg, Va. Methodist Church. After a honeymoon to Key West, Fla., they made their first home in Danville, Pa. After four years there and five years in Elkton, Va., they moved to South Plainfield in 1969.

Gene worked for Merck & Co., Inc. as a chemical engineer and a management trainer for 33 years, retiring in 1993. Joanne worked for United National Bank/PNC Bank for 15 years, retiring in 1994 as assistant trust officer.

The Bloomwells have two children. Art, living in Charlotte, N.C., is senior personal banker and loan officer for Bank of America. Julie, living near Washington, D.C., is human resources director, Town Sports International. She and her husband Chris have three children; Sarah, a sophomore at James Madison University, Mickey a senior and Charlie a sophomore in high school.

On Monday, following the reception, the Bloomwells will take a second honeymoon to Key West.

"Those whom God hath joined together, let no man put asunder."

Share Your Good News... Send us your Milestones!

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Daly Named to Dean's List at Loyola University

Marissa Daly was named to the dean's list at Loyola University in Baltimore, Md. Marissa, a psychology major, is currently a freshman.

Marissa is the daughter of Linda Beyer Daly, SPHS Class of 1983 and granddaughter of Lorraine Beyer and the late Walter L. Beyer of South Plainfield.

Barton Named to Dean's List at Syracuse Univ.

Lindsay Barton of South Plainfield, a freshman majoring in information management and technology in the School of Information Studies at Syracuse University, was named to the dean's list for the Fall 2009 semester.

Students must achieve at least a 3.4 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) during the semester to qualify for their school or college's dean's list.



Krista Malecki

Malecki Graduates From William Patterson University

Krista Malecki graduated from William Patterson University with a bachelor's degree in nursing. The graduation ceremony was held on May 19, 2009 at Wightmanfield in Wayne.

Krista was active in the organization of the nurse pinning ceremony and worked as a patient care technician at Overlook Hospital in Summit. She has accepted a position at JFK Medical Center in Edison on their cardiac/telemetry unit.

Krista, a 2005 graduate of South Plainfield High School, is the daughter of Pamela and Scott Dudak and Gerald and Donna Malecki, who all wish her the best in her future endeavors.

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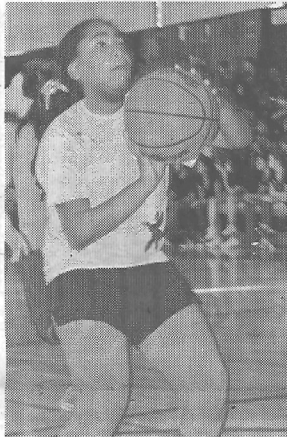
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Middle School Students Battle it Out



Cyclone with 37, Tsunami with 33, Lightning with 28 and Avalanche with 19. The most amazing part of the afternoon was not only the display of school and team spirit, but watching the students support each other cheering on friends and other teams.

The Battle of the Teams is the culmination of School Spirit Week,

which began on February 8. Green and white day was Monday, Tuesday was sports apparel day and Wednesday and Thursday, tie day and hat day, were lost due to the snowstorm. Friday students were back in school when they enjoyed team color day.

Judging the games were Suzanne Butrico, Jen Falcone and Marie Butrico. Emcee and deejay were teachers Jim Makowski and John Lymansky, respectively. PTO members served cold water to the contestants. Board of Education member and Middle School PTO President Debbie Boyle was on hand to support the students.

The Battle of the Teams has been raging for about 17 years with a new group of students every year. The final results remain the same; students having fun while supporting their school, their team and ultimately each other.

Mayor Urges BOE Action

(Continued from page 1)

to borough taxpayers. In Butrico's opinion, "The board should never have had the \$1.6 million surplus to begin with" and he feels it should be "put in our taxpayers' pockets and shouldn't go to another town." Council President Matt Anesh said he had some concerns and wanted time to look at the wording. "I don't think anybody disagrees with the resolution," said Councilman Ray Rusnak, but he would like to "take two weeks to digest it." Councilwoman Chrissy Butreas added, "I know the state is in dire need of the money, but our taxpayers paid that thinking the money was going to the schools." The Republican Majority voted 3-2 not to add the resolution to the evening's agenda. Councilman Tim McConville abstained from voting.

Mayor Butrico brought his resolution to the board of education meeting the following evening and urged the BOE to adopt a similar resolution. It included the statement, "Excess surplus of \$1.6 million was raised from property taxes paid by hardworking families of South Plainfield, and by reducing state aid to offset this surplus, the governor is increasing South Plainfield's property taxes by \$1.6 million which equates to almost 12 tax points." It also states

that the edict was without the consent of the legislature and suggests there may be litigation if the governor refuses to reverse his executive decision. The board voted immediately to approve the resolution 6-1. Bob Jones voted against it and Vice President Pio Pennisi and Tim Morgan were not present. The board now intends to send the resolution to the governor and to other school districts affected by the order.

Gov. Christie also stated recently in *The Star Ledger* that in his upcoming budget for 2010/2011 he intends to cut state aid to school districts by approximately 15%. According to Business Administrator Richard Guarini, between the cut in aid and the loss of the excess surplus there would be an estimated \$3.7 million shortfall in the school budget that is currently being formulated and to be voted on by residents on Tuesday, April 20. South Plainfield typically receives approximately \$10 million a year in state aid. Aside from taking away the excess surplus, the governor also ordered the district to return \$150,000 it was awarded in extraordinary aid and \$250,000 from the maintenance and emergency reserve accounts. Guarini stated that he had intended to use the \$1.2 million to help balance the 2010/2011 budget.

Fire Department Sponsoring "A Taste of South Plainfield"

The South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department will host a Wine, Spirits and Craft Beer Tasting, plus food from local restaurants at the South Plainfield Senior Center on April 17, 7 p.m.

Sponsored by Oak Tree Wine and Spirits of South Plainfield, attendees will have the opportunity to taste some of the finest spirits, wines and beers.

Many local restaurants will be on hand with samplings of a wide variety

of delicious food.


Whether you're a novice or connoisseur, you'll increase your wine knowledge and expand your palate. Tickets are \$30 per person; four for \$100. Only 150 tickets will be available. Come out and support our event and our local restaurants!

For tickets, call Ray at (908) 304-3634 or Fire Prevention (908) 756-4760.

(Continued from page 1)

ing to out yell and out cheer the next.

The final winners were Monsoon with 44 points, Thunder with 39,



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Mayor Charles Butrico (center) at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Walgreens in Middlesex Mall on February 19. Attending the grand opening celebration were Walgreens District Manager Jim F. Arej (far left), District Pharmacy Supervisor Anne Crochunis (far right), South Plainfield Business Association President Debra Anne Leporino and Police Chief John Ferraro. Store Manager Miryan Acosta and Assistant Manager Mary Jo Swatz (center) hold the ribbon, along with service clerks and pharmacy personnel.

LEGAL NOTICE

VOTE BY MAIL NOTICE TO PERSONS REQUESTING MAIL-IN BALLOTS

If you are a qualified and registered voter of the State who wants to vote by mail in the School Election to be held on April 20, 2010 complete the application form below and send to the undersigned, or write or apply in person to the undersigned at once requesting that a mail-in ballot be forwarded to you. The request must state your home address, and the address to which the ballot should be sent. The request must be dated and signed with your signature.

If any person has assisted you to complete the mail-in ballot application, the name, address and signature of the assistor must be provided on the application and you, must sign and date the application for it to be valid and processed. No person shall serve as an authorized messenger for more than 10 qualified voters in an election. No person who is a candidate in the election for which the voter requests a mail-in ballot may provide any assistance in the completion of the ballot or may serve as an authorized messenger or bearer.

No mail-in ballot will be provided to any applicant who submits a request therefore by mail unless request is received at least 7 days before the election and contains the requested information. A voter may, however, request an application in person from the county clerk up to 3 p.m. of the day before the election.

Voters who want to vote only by mail in all future general elections in which they are eligible to vote, and who state that on their application shall, after their initial request and without further action on their part, be provided a mail-in ballot by the county clerk until the voter requests that the voter no longer be sent such a ballot. A voter's failure to vote in the fourth general election following the general election at which the voter last voted may result in the suspension of that voter's ability to receive a mail-in ballot for all future general elections unless a new application is completed and filed with the county clerk.

Voters also have the option of indicating on their mail-in ballot applications that they would prefer to receive mail-in ballots for each election that takes place during the remainder of this calendar year. Voters who exercise this option will be furnished with mail-in ballots for each election that takes place during the remainder of this calendar year, without further action on their part.

Application forms may be obtained by applying to the undersigned either in writing or by telephone, or the application form provided below may be completed and forwarded to the undersigned.

DATE: FEBRUARY 26, 2010

ELAINE M. FLYNN
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APPLICATION FOR VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT

Please type or print clearly in ink. All information required unless marked optional.			
1 I hereby apply for a Mail-In Ballot for the: (CHECK ONLY ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> General (November) <input type="checkbox"/> Primary <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal <input type="checkbox"/> School* <input type="checkbox"/> Fire <input type="checkbox"/> Special To be held on _____ Date _____			
2 Last Name (Type or Print) _____		3 First Name (Type or Print) _____	
3 Address at which you are registered to vote Street Address or RD# _____ Apt. _____		4 Mail my ballot to the following address: <input type="checkbox"/> Same Address as Section 3 Please include any PO Box, RD#, State/Province, Zip/Postal Code & Country (if outside US)	
5 Date of Birth _____		6 Day Time Phone Number _____	
7 E-Mail Address (Optional) _____		8 Signature _____ Please sign your name as it appears in the Poll Book.	
9 Today's Date _____		10	

OPTIONAL - ONLY COMPLETE SECTIONS 10 THROUGH 12 IF APPLICABLE

10 Voter Options to Automatically Receive Ballots in Future Elections You may choose either option, both options, or none of the options. YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO CHOOSE AN OPTION. If you do not choose any option, you will only be sent the ballot for the election you chose in Section 1. <input type="checkbox"/> A I wish to receive a Mail-In Ballot for all elections to be held during the REMAINDER OF THIS CALENDAR YEAR. <input type="checkbox"/> B I wish to receive a Mail-In Ballot in ALL FUTURE NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTIONS, until I request otherwise.			
11 Assistor Any person providing assistance to the voter in completing this application must complete this section. Name of Assistor (Type or Print) _____ Signature of Assistor _____ Date _____ Address _____ Apt. _____ Municipality (City/Town) _____ State _____ Zip _____			
12 Authorized Messenger Any voter may apply for a Mail-In Ballot by Authorized Messenger. Messenger shall be a family member or a registered voter of this County. No Authorized Messenger can (1) be a Candidate in the election for which the voter is requesting a Mail-In Ballot or (2) serve as messenger for more than TEN qualified voters per election. I designate _____ to be my Authorized Messenger. Print Name of Authorized Messenger _____ Address of Messenger _____ Apt. _____ Municipality (City/Town) _____ State _____ Zip _____ Date of Birth _____			
12 Signature of Voter _____ Date _____		OFFICE USE ONLY Voter Reg # _____ Muni Code # _____ Party _____ Ward _____ District _____	

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February 29, 2010

Sports

FROM SP TIGER SKI CLUB

By Debbie Malecki

Ski Club Enjoys Snowy Day

The SP Tiger Ski Club went on the a full-day ski trip on February 16 to Mountain Creek Ski Resort. Due to a professional day in the school system, the students had a day off to enjoy a daytime ski trip. The bus rolled out at 7 a.m., and as soon as the students arrived at the mountain, it started to snow at a pretty good pace.

By the time the students were outfitted with skis and boards, there was a nice layer of fresh snow for them to ski/board on. This was the first time that many of the students in the club had the opportunity to ski on fresh



snow, as well as enjoy skiing/boarding while it was actually snowing. The snow continued to fall for most of the time we were there. It looked like a winter wonderland.

The students gathered back on the bus around 5 p.m. for their trip home, once again with all the bodies in the same shape that we left with. They were pretty tired, but the trip was enjoyed by all students who had a great time (as can be seen in the photo).

The students are all saddened with the fact that the last trip is scheduled for today (February 26) for another twilight ski experience.



Tommy Bowden, Shawn Gorman, Chris and Nick Kukuch, Christian Leguizman, Frank Malecki III, Danielle Pallito, Katherine Podlitz and Chris Richard

By Gary Lampasona

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES



We have completed the managers' meetings, and player evaluations are two weeks away.

Our next meeting is Monday, March 1, 7:30 p.m. in the clubhouse. Managers, coaches and parents are always invited. It is particularly important to attend these meetings as we approach the season. There is a tremendous amount of information shared, which will help make your child's experience a positive one.

Player Evaluations will be held for all SFC and SFB players at the PAL building on Saturday, March 6 beginning at 8:30 a.m. All registered children will receive a postcard with their specific time to report. Attendance is important, because these evaluations allow managers and coaches to select competitive teams, which leads to more fun for all players and parents.

The Women's Auxiliary will be on hand to support the club. Continental breakfast and SPJBC clothing will be available for purchase.

Small Fry Draft Nights—Managers, mark your calendars: SEA draft is Tuesday, March 9; SFC draft is Wednesday,

March 10 and SFB draft is Thursday, March 11. All drafts will be held in the clubhouse beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Snow Emergency: During the last snowstorm, our fields received some catastrophic damage to batting cages, dugouts and backstops due to the tremendous weight of the heavy snow. The fencing and seven of eight batting cages collapsed. The backstop and one of the dugouts on Field 4 also collapsed under the weight. We are still determining how to rectify the situation in time for the season opener, but you can be sure that we could use the extra help preparing fields, once the snow melts. Be on the lookout for special requests for help during the next six weeks, so that our children can have a fun and safe experience come opening day.

Opening Day Countdown: April 10 is only six weeks away!

"You always get a special kick on opening day, no matter how many you go through. You look forward to it like a birthday party when you're a kid. You think something wonderful is going to happen." —Joe DiMaggio

policereport

- On Feb. 9 a Stacey Court resident reported that their rear window was broken, the house had been ransacked and passports and immigration papers were taken from a safe.
- On Feb. 10 Kevin J. Haigh, 24, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, careless driving, failure to signal and failure to keep right.
- Shanmuga S. Gunasekaran, 39, of Edison was arrested for driving while intoxicated and reckless driving.
- On Feb. 11 Kurt A. Donnell, 44, of Plainfield was arrested at Liquid Assets for robbery and assault.
- Darrell T. Rollins, 49, of Plainfield was arrested at Sears Essentials for shoplifting an MP3 player worth \$69 and possession of

- a controlled substance.
- On Feb. 13 Srinivasa G. Attili-Naga, 31, of Edison was arrested for endangering the welfare of a child.
- Paul R. Beese, 42, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated and careless driving.
- On Feb. 14 Pranav Ashwin Patel, 22, of Edison was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving, driving while suspended and speeding.
- On Feb. 15 Pierre N. Robert, 24, of Edison was arrested for driving on a suspended license, tinted windows and several outstanding warrants.
- Ruby Dean Waller, 50, of Edison was arrested for making an illegal left turn and an outstanding warrant.

Obituaries

George K. Stumm, 89

George K. Stumm died on Monday, Feb. 15 in the Haven Hospice at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born and raised in Newark, George resided in South Plainfield since 1951.

For 35 years, Mr. Stumm worked for Citgo in Linden. He started in the maintenance division prior to becoming a gauger. He retired in 1982.

An avid fisherman, George was notorious for his jokes and was always willing to lend a helping hand. He took special pride in his two granddaughters and six great-grandchildren.

He is predeceased by his wife Doris, who died in 1985, and by two sisters, Aimee Robinson and Hannah Haddow.

Surviving are a daughter, Carol Ann Haines; two granddaughters, Tracy and husband Joe Posada and Diane and husband Timmy Hruska, all of Piscataway; six great-grandchildren, Lizette, Johnny, Nikko, Gabriella Hailee and Connor; a sister-in-law, Gladys Scamorza of Jupiter, Fla. and several nieces and nephews.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Haven Hospice, c/o JFK Medical Center, 65 James St., Edison, N.J. 08818.

Thomas W. McDonnell, 69

Thomas W. McDonnell, Jr. died on Sunday, Feb. 14 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Born in Plainfield, Thomas lived in South Plainfield, Bayonne and Roselle Park before entering the service.

He faithfully and bravely served his country as a U.S. Marine, serving from 1960-1964 in Southeast Asia and during the Cuban Missile Crisis. He returned stateside and was assigned as an M.P. in Oakland, Calif. prior to his discharge.

Upon his return home, he married the former Rosemary Faso and together they resided in Plainfield for many years, settling in Bridgewater in 1996.

He was a graduate of Lincoln Tech and had been employed by various car dealerships. Thomas began his career in an entry level position and worked his way up to service manager at the time of his retirement.

Thomas had been active with St. Bernard's of Clairvaux and St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in Plainfield as the bingo caller and was a scout leader for their Cub Scout and Boy Scout troops.

In addition, he enjoyed spending

his time boating, fishing and was a fan of grand prix auto racing.

He was predeceased by his beloved sister, Gloria Benko, and his parents, Jean (Karolwski) McDonnell and Thomas W. McDonnell.

He leaves behind his wife, Rosemary; two sons, Joseph B. and Thomas W. McDonnell, III, both of Bridgewater; a brother, James V. McDonnell of Roselle; an aunt, Lillian and husband Tom O'Brien; a nephew, Michael Benko and several extended family members and friends.

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

Marshall C. Poole, 79

Marshall C. Poole of Edison passed away on Thursday, Feb. 18 after a brief illness.

Born in Plainfield, Mr. Poole was a lifelong resident of South Plainfield. Despite his handicap of Cerebral Palsy he had a long, productive life working as a milkman, chauffeur, golf caddie and delivery man.

Brother of the late Patricia Poole, he is the dear uncle of Michael J. Ogden of Basking Ridge, Pamela Ogden Negoescu of Hampton and Margaret Ogden Schumacher of Eland, N.C.

Funeral services were held at the South Plainfield Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts in Mr. Poole's memory may be made to the Matheny Medical and Educational Center, 65 Highland Ave., P.O. Box 339, Peapack, N.J. 07977.

George H. Spayder, Sr., 75

George H. Spayder, Sr. passed away on Sunday, Feb. 21 at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., he graduated from Girard College in Philadelphia. Upon graduation he lived in Newark and then Edison before settling in South Plainfield in 1958.

He had been employed at the former Cornell-Dubilier and later for the former Kentile Floors in South Plainfield as a maintenance supervisor for over 40 years before his retirement and the closing of the location. He continued with the company in an advisory capacity traveling to Chicago to assist with their transition. In addition, he served as the advisor to the new owners of the Kentile building.

When possible, George enjoyed spending time fishing and crabbing.

He is predeceased by his parents.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Frances (Meaier); two sons and their wives, George, Jr. and Sue and David and Betsy; three grandchildren, Jessie Kate, David and Christopher; three sisters, June and husband Bill, Demaris and husband Carl and Virginia; a brother, Joseph and wife Janice, as well as many nieces and nephews.

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

Victoria "Vicki" (Serago) Wojcik, 61

Victoria "Vicki" (Serago) Wojcik died on Monday, Feb. 22 in the Haven Hospice at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born and raised in Elizabeth, Vicki lived in South Plainfield since 1977.

She was loved and respected by many of her friends, especially at the Woodrow Wilson School in Elizabeth where she worked as a teacher for many years.

Family was her number one hobby and she was proud of her children and their accomplishments. Vicki also took great joy in spending time with her children and three grandchildren.

She was by all means an angel on Earth who will be missed by all who knew and loved her. To her husband of 39 years, Vicki is still "the prettiest girl at the dance."

The Wojcik Family would like to thank the wonderful staff at Haven Hospice and especially the Hartwyck Rehabilitation and Nursing Center for their loving care and attentiveness.

In addition to her loving husband Michael, surviving are two children, Michele Gonzalez and husband Raymond of Philadelphia, Pa. and Matthew Wojcik and wife Jennifer of Downingtown, Pa.; a brother, Frank Serago and wife Carol of South Plainfield and three grandchildren, Benjamin Michael, Dominic Michael, and Bowen Matthew.

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

For those wishing to make an expression of sympathy of love and support, Vicki would be honored by donations in her memory to the Sean Reilly TBI Fund Inc., c/o Ansell Health Care Products, LLC, 200 Schulz Dr., Red Bank, N.J. 07701.

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Roosevelt School Principal Robert Diehl, Christine Brandenburg, media specialist and Donna Ruhl, resource room teacher, along with author Margery Cuyler, seated, and the students who won a pizza lunch with her.

Children's Author Visits Roosevelt School

By Jane Dornick

Children's story writer Margery Cuyler visited Roosevelt School on February 5 in celebration of Author Day. Students were able to purchase some of her latest books, *The Little Pump Truck*, *Bullies Never Win*, *That's Good! That's Bad!* and *Hooray for Reading Day* and have them personally autographed. Teachers held a writing and coloring contest and the

winning students were treated to a pizza lunch with the author sponsored by the PTO.

Cuyler, who grew up in the oldest house in Princeton, says she has been penning stories ever since she learned to write. Her creative and wacky family, most of whom are artists, actors, storytellers and writers, helped her along. She has always wanted to write and edit children's books and has been doing so most of her adult life.

Musician/Composer to Perform at Library

Musician/composer Matthew Fish-teyn will perform at the South Plainfield Public Library on Sunday, Feb. 28 at 2 p.m.

While still a teenager, Matthew has been studying and performing music for many years. His repertoire in both composing and performing includes a variety of styles, from jazz to classical. He'll be performing on the guitar and the keyboard for this appearance. The program is being presented free of charge; no pre-registration is required.

The library is located at 2484 Plainfield Ave. For more information, call (908) 754-7885 or visit the library's Web site at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

Blood Drive at Grace Alliance

Grace Alliance Church, 2008 Ethel Road in Piscataway, is sponsoring a blood drive in loving memory of Sean Hanna. The New Jersey Blood Services Blood Mobile will be parked outside of the church from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sunday, March 7.

Donors receive a coupon for a free chicken sandwich from Chick-fil-A in the Woodbridge Center Mall.

For more information, visit www.gracealliance.org or www.seanhannafoundation.org.

IN MEMORIAM

Leonard C. Capraro, Sr.
July 26, 1914 - February 28, 1990

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Capraro Family

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In My Opinion

(Continued from page 2)

plexing was Councilwoman Bureas's position. She refused to take one and wouldn't join us in saying "no" to the apartments. To his credit, Councilman Salerno crossed party lines and joined with Republicans in opposing the project.

One thing is certain, if Butrico and Bureas had their way, 700 apartments would be in the works, with no possibility of stopping them. Instead, we now have a chance to avoid this nightmare. Just imagine adding hundreds of kids to Roosevelt School. Imagine the strain on our emergency services, and imagine the tax increases.

The governor's announcement is a good sign, and so is a bipartisan bill in the legislature that would abolish COAH. Are we out of the woods? No, but we now have a chance to stop this massive complex. We can't rest though. Without reform we still face the specter of hundreds of apart-

ments. That's why, as a community, we need to tell Trenton we don't want this housing crammed down our throats.

To get our message to Trenton, Councilman McConville is putting together a petition asking the state to abolish COAH and put a sensible plan in its place. We'll need people to help by not only signing the petition, but by getting others to also. The petition will be both paper and on-line, with more information coming out about it shortly.

Together we can make a huge difference in the direction of South Plainfield. Let's work together to do just that.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT
MATT ANESH**

To the Editor:

I often hear many people complain about the costs of things in our area. If you think prices are high, ask someone in New York State about theirs.

I spent this past weekend in Monroe, N.Y. at my sons' place. While talking about taxes of various types, it was brought out that they have an 8.25% sales tax on about everything, food and clothing included. As we were leaving his home I mentioned that I

wanted to stop and get a pair of "casual" shoes. A pair of these casual shoes at Walmart was \$20 plus the 8.25% tax. When I commented on the tax on clothing my son said that it was also on food.

"Regular" gas at many stations was \$2.89 a gallon in New York. When we got to Boonton, we pulled into a Hess station and regular gas there was \$2.49 a gallon.

Monroe is becoming a "bedroom" town for many "city" workers. Those people must be making very large salaries as their property taxes are going up as much as the "city" taxes. The people in some of the 1970 or 1980 style houses are in a rather fair bracket. But in the 2000s a few developments were built with prices that were in the \$400,000-\$500,000 bracket. Many of those houses were not sold, or are being repossessed with lower price tags.

Monroe is a spread-out kind of town also, about the size of Piscataway or Bridgewater. My son is five miles from "downtown."

WILLIAM TUTHILL

To the Editor:

I attended the February 16 library board meeting and I am opposed to

renting the building on Montrose Avenue. Mr. Aronowitz and Ms. Nagel-Smiley are trying to sell this as the best of all alternatives. Apparently, moving the library to an industrial area of town without sidewalks is not a safety issue to them. Well, it is to me. I think it puts our children at risk.

Their other point is that this move can be done at no additional costs. This may be so if they gut the library budget. The town owns the current library building and it is provided rent-free to the library board. No one on the board disputed my estimated rental costs of the Montrose Avenue building at \$150,000 to \$200,000 a year. Add the build-out costs for the "state of the art" facility they described, and it will be substantially more.

When the legislature established the library system they granted autonomy to the boards. However, their authority is not absolute. They are not permitted to buy property, build buildings, or enter lease purchase agreements. Even some contracts are forbidden without having mayor and council approval. Apparently, our board has the belief that they can commit the taxpayers to a 10-year lease obligation worth millions of dollars without mayor and council approval.

This is dangerous and the mayor and council should immediately contact the Attorney General's Office and request that an opinion be rendered.

Last year the League of Municipalities proposed that the legislature pass a bill reducing library funding by 50%. It wasn't enacted—at least not yet. Each town funds their library based upon one third of a mil for every dollar of assessable property. Our library receives \$1.2 million from our town. Libraries across the state are dealing with reduced funding because of the lower property tax base. Some have consolidated. Others have curtailed services. In the past two weeks the governor instructed our Board of Education to use \$1.5 million of the surplus account because of the current state budget shortfall. At the last council meeting the council couldn't come up with funds necessary to replace a worn out backhoe.

I would love to see a new library building and municipal building too, but now is not the time. The economic circumstances in this town, state and country are dire. We need a library board that understands they have a fiduciary responsibility to the taxpayers too.

KENNETH SHEVLIN

When it's gone, it's gone.

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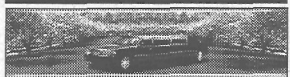
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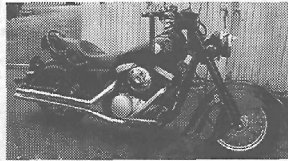
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Autographed Jonas Brothers CD Featured Prize at Auction/Raffle

SPHS PTA Gears Up for Project Graduation Raffle

Auction time is only a week away! There are so many great prizes this year. For all Jonas Brothers fans—an authentic autographed CD, as well as a 52" Samsung LCD TV, Dell laptop, Devils tickets, a night out for two in NYC (theatre tickets to any Broadway show and dinner at a top NYC restaurant), iPod Touch, Garmin navigation system, a Wii and so much more! Where can you find these great prizes? Only at the SPHS PTA Project Graduation auction/raffle on Saturday, March 6, 7 to 11 p.m. at South Plainfield High School. Doors open at 6 p.m.

Door tickets are currently being sold, so get yours before they are gone. All proceeds go towards Project Graduation. This year will mark the SPHS and SPHS PTA's 22nd year of providing our graduating seniors with a Project Graduation celebration.

Senior parents, this one is for your children, so get some of your friends together and come join us for a fun night. For those of you who have never attended, the auction/raffle functions similar to a tricky tray.

Auction Door Ticket Sales—For ticket info and to reserve a table, contact Tracey Hartmann at (908) 755-4349. Provide your name, phone number, and number of people you would like at your table.

Donations—Any donations (other than monetary) need to be received by Sunday, Feb. 28 in order to be recognized in our program. Our program will be finalized and printed in four days. Please contact Sharon Miller at (908) 754-6461 if you wish to donate.

Monetary donations can be mailed to: SPHS, 200 Lake St., South

Plainfield, N.J. 07080, Attn: SPHS PTA. Please make checks payable to: SPHS PTA-Project Graduation.

Together we can make this event a success for our graduating seniors with the help and support of our wonderful community. Please support this worthwhile cause.

Auction Volunteers—If you are interested in helping to set up noon-3 p.m., please call the high school main office: (908) 754-4620, ext. 248. All volunteers will receive a phone call next week from a PTA member as a reminder.

Solicitation Volunteers—Thank you all for your help. Please submit all completed solicitation sheets and donations to Mary Cargill. Her number is (908) 755-9717.

Auction Info—Tables will be reserved for all door ticket holders. The reservation will be in the name of one person from your group. There will be paper products on the tables (plates, cups, napkins). You may want to bring extras. You can bring anything from snacks and desserts to complete dinners. Non-alcoholic beverages only are permitted. We will have a small amount of water, soda and cookies for sale, as well as coffee and tea (at no charge). Plastic bags to hold your tickets and program will be provided at the door. Please remember no one under the age of 18 will be admitted. Please contact Sharon Miller at (908) 754-6461 for any additional auction info you may need or with any questions you may have.

The Class of 2010, the SPHS PTA and the SPHS sincerely appreciate your support! Together we can make a difference!

—Submitted by Sharon Miller

Junior Journalist 2009-2010



Congratulations Aishwarya!

Charlie and Debbie Kurland from Hometown Heros deliver dinner to Junior Journalist winner Aishwarya Rajesh, pictured with her mom, Anuradha and sister, Avantika.

Junior Journalist 2009-2010

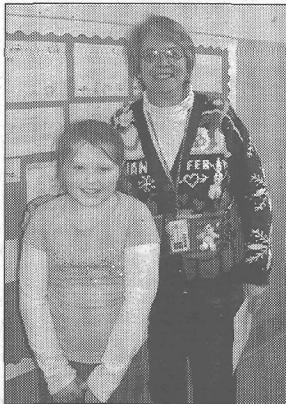


Congratulations Christina!

Charlie and Debbie Kurland from Hometown Heros deliver dinner to Junior Journalist winner Christina LoBosco, pictured with her sisters, Bianca and Angela, mom, Eleanor, and dad, John.

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

Stephanie Waters Named This Week's Junior Journalist



Junior Journalist winner Stephanie Waters with teacher Cynthia Severino.

Kennedy School fourth grader Stephanie Waters has been named a winner in the Junior Journalist contest. Her poem, "Friends," has earned her dinner for her family courtesy of Hometown Heros.

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

Winners will receive a catered dinner for their families from Hometown Heros and will be honored at a year-end banquet in May. 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.

Friends By Stephanie Waters

I rock.
You roll.
I'm awesome.
You're cool.

It doesn't matter what's the weather.
We will be always be together.
We'll be friends forever!

LEGAL NOTICE

VOTO POR CORREO

AVISO PARA LAS PERSONAS QUE DESEEN RECIBIR UN VOTO POR CORREO

Si usted es un elector que está inscrito y cumple los requisitos del Estado y desea votar por correo en la elección Escolar que tendrá lugar el 20 de Abril, 2010, complete el formulario de solicitud a continuación y envíelo al suscrito, o escriba o aplique personalmente al suscrito pidiéndole que le envíe un voto para votar por correo. Su solicitud debe indicar la dirección de su domicilio y la dirección a la cual desea que se le envíe el voto. La solicitud debe estar fechada y firmada por usted.

Si alguna persona lo ayudó a completar la solicitud de voto por correo, en el mismo formulario debe señalar su nombre, dirección y firma y usted deberá firmar y fechar la solicitud para que ésta sea válida y pueda ser procesada. Ninguna persona puede servir de representante autorizado para más de 10 electores calificados en una elección. Ninguna persona que sea candidato en la elección para la cual el elector está solicitando un voto por correo puede ayudar a llenar el voto o servir de representante autorizado o portador de éste.

No se entregará ningún voto por correo a la persona que presente una solicitud por correo, a no ser que ésta se reciba al menos siete días antes de la elección e incluya toda la información solicitada. Un elector, sin embargo, puede solicitar un formulario personalmente al funcionario del condado hasta las 3 p.m. del día anterior a la elección.

A los electores que deseen votar únicamente por correo en todas las elecciones generales futuras en las que les corresponda votar y que así lo estipulen en su solicitud, luego de su solicitud inicial sin acción ulterior de su parte, el funcionario del condado les enviará un voto por correo hasta cuando los propios electores manifiesten que ya no desean que les sigan enviando dichos votos. Al elector que no vote en la cuarta elección general siguiente a la última elección general en la que haya votado, se le podrá suspender su derecho a recibir un voto por correo para todas las elecciones generales futuras, a menos que complete una nueva solicitud y la haga llegar al funcionario del condado.

Los electores también tienen la opción de indicar en la solicitud de voto por correo que prefieren recibir los votos por correo para cada elección que tenga lugar durante el resto de este año calendario. Los electores que ejerzan esta opción recibirán sus votos por correo para cada elección que tenga lugar durante el resto de este año calendario, sin que deban ejercer acción adicional alguna.

Los formularios pueden obtenerse solicitándolos al suscrito ya sea por escrito o por teléfono o bien se puede completar la solicitud que se acompaña más abajo y enviarla al suscrito.

FECHA: El 26 de febrero de 2010

ELAINE M. FLYNN
MIDDLESEX COUNTY CLERK
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
P.O. Box 1110
NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. 08903
(732) 745-4463
TDD (732) 745-5553

SOLICITUD DE VOTO POR CORREO

Escriba claramente con letras de imprenta. Debe completar toda la información, a menos que se marque opcional.				ESTATUS ESPECIAL Haga una marca si usted es:		
Por el presente solicito un Voto por correo para: (MARQUE UNA SOLA ALTERNATIVA) <input type="checkbox"/> La elección General (noviembre) <input type="checkbox"/> Primaria <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal <input type="checkbox"/> Escolar <input type="checkbox"/> Comisión contra incendios <input type="checkbox"/> Especial _____ Que tendrá lugar el _____ Fecha _____				<input type="checkbox"/> Elector y miembro activo de las Fuerzas armadas <input type="checkbox"/> Elector que vive en el extranjero <input type="checkbox"/> Ninguna de las anteriores		
1	Apellido (escriba o use letras de imprenta)		Primer nombre (Escriba o use letras de imprenta)	Segundo nombre o iniciales	Apellido (eg Jr., Sr., III)	
2	Dirección donde se ha inscrito para votar Dirección o Nº de distrito electoral		Depto.	Envíe mi voto a la siguiente dirección: <input type="checkbox"/> La misma dirección que en la Sección 3		
3	Municipalidad (ciudad/pueblo)	Estado	Código postal	Incluya cualquier Cajita postal, Número de distrito electoral Estado/provincia, Código postal y país (si vive fuera de los EE.UU.)		
4	Fecha de nacimiento		6	Número de teléfono durante el día	7	Dirección de correo electrónico (opcional)
5	Firma Por favor, haga la misma firma que aparece en el Libro de registros de votación		8	Fecha de hoy		

OPCIONAL – SOLO COMPLETE LAS SECCIONES 10 A 12 CUANDO CORRESPONDA					
Opciones que tiene el elector para recibir votos de futuras elecciones en forma automática Puede elegir una de las opciones, ambas opciones o ninguna de ellas. NO ES OBLIGATORIO QUE ELIJA UNA OPCIÓN. Si no marca una opción, se le enviará solamente el voto para la elección que seleccionó en la Sección 1. * <input type="checkbox"/> A Deseo recibir un Voto por correo para todas las elecciones que se realizarán durante el RESTO DEL AÑO CALENDARIO * <input type="checkbox"/> B Deseo recibir un Voto por correo para TODAS LAS ELECCIONES FUTURAS GENERALES DE NOVIEMBRE, hasta la fecha en que solicite otra cosa. * Observe que: Su voto solo se puede enviar a la dirección postal que se entrega en esta solicitud; si cambia de dirección, debe notificarlo por escrito al Funcionario del condado.					
Ayudante Cualquier persona que le preste ayuda al elector para llenar esta solicitud debe completar esta sección.					
11	Nombre del ayudante (Escriba en letras de imprenta)		Firma del ayudante		Fecha
Dirección		Depto.	Municipalidad (ciudad/pueblo)	Estado	Código postal
Representante autorizado Cualquier elector puede solicitar un Voto por correo a través de un representante autorizado. El representante deberá ser un pariente o un elector registrado en este Condado. Ningún representante autorizado puede (1) ser Candidato a la elección para la cual el elector está solicitando un voto por correo o (2) servir de representante para más de DIEZ electores calificados por elección.					
Designo _____ como a mi Representante autorizado. Escriba con letras de imprenta el nombre del representante autorizado.					
Dirección del representante		Depto.	Municipalidad (ciudad/pueblo)	Estado	Código postal
Fecha de nacimiento					
12	Firma del elector: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Fecha		
PARE El representante autorizado debe firmar la solicitud y mostrar una cédula de identificación con foto al Funcionario del condado o al funcionario del condado designado. "Por el presente certifico que el Voto por correo se lo entregará directamente al elector y a ninguna otra persona, bajo apercibimiento de la ley"					
Firma del representante		Fecha			
PARA USO EXCLUSIVO DE LA OFICINA Nº de registro del votante _____ Nº de código municipal _____ Parte _____ Distrito electoral _____ Distrito _____					