

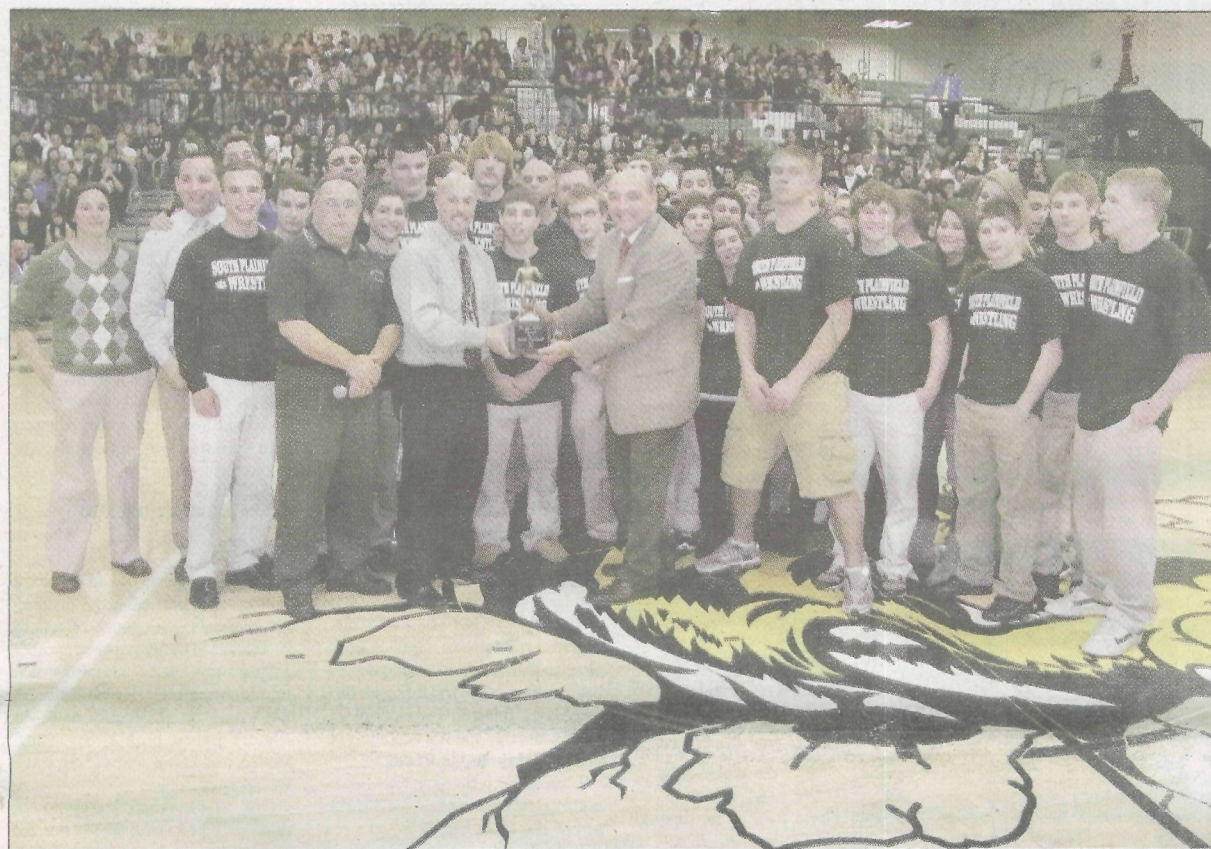
# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 13, NO. 29

Member New Jersey Press Association

60 CENTS

MARCH 26, 2010



The Star-Ledger sports writer Bob Behre presented SPHS Principal Dr. Ken May, Athletic Director Mike Buggy and the N.J. State Champion wrestling team and coaches with The Star-Ledger Top 20 Trophy on Monday.

## BOE Grappling With 27.8% Cut In State Aid

The Board of Education has been planning for a worst case scenario after Governor Christie appropriated the districts \$1.6M surplus. He also said he would be cutting the 2010-2011 state aid to the schools another 15%. On March 17, the board learned a few hours before the meeting that the cut in state aid would be 27.8%, or \$2,798,651 less than last year. Last year the district received \$10,058,141 in state aid. This year the district will receive \$7,259,490 for the 2010-2011 school budget.

The \$1.6M BOE surplus was initially going to be used to provide tax relief to residents. With the surplus absorbed by the state, instead of introducing a lower tax rate, the board is in the process of fashioning a budget expected to increase the school tax rate by four percent, or 11 tax points, to offset the \$2,798,651 reduction in state aid.

At the March 18 budget workshop, board members Debbie Boyle and Bob Jones objected to the possibility of a four percent increase and voted against the tentative budget. The two board members had worked together to uncover line items that would yield

(Continued on page 26)

## Education Reserve Open House Features Guided Nature Walks



Displays at the Highland Woods Education Reserve include a new Ice Age exhibit and geologic time scale.

Nature lovers-Spring has arrived! See what's new at Highland Woods Environmental Education Reserve on Saturday, March 27 from 1 to 4 p.m. The Friends of the Woods are hosting an open house and guided nature walks free of charge.

Take a stroll with a Friends of the Woods nature guide in search of spring migratory birds and the delicate and beautiful native wildflowers along the trails.

Wildflowers setting blooms in late

March include White Wood Anemone, Dwarf Ginseng, Trout Lily, Mayapple, Spring Beauty and several varieties of violets. Bring a camera to capture their beauty.

The birds are now arriving from southern climates where they have over-wintered. Many will stay in the area and breed. Others will stop to feed and rest before moving on to northern breeding grounds. Visitors can observe many bird species chowing down at the wild bird feeding station behind the nature center. The birds can also be seen from the observation windows inside the center where there are bird field guides to

help with identification.

Inside the nature center are two new displays. A geologic time scale with fossil examples that helps to explain the evolution of life. The Ice Age exhibits helps explain what South Plainfield looked like 20,000 years ago when a gigantic ice sheet stopped along Woodland Avenue. Take the EQ Challenge and see how savvy you are about energy conservation in your own home.

Other inside exhibits include: The Native Americans, animal tracks, birds, rocks of New Jersey, animal skulls and recycling.

Highland Woods Environmental Education Reserve is located at 115 Sylvania Pl., off South Clinton Avenue.

For further information, E-mail spnaturetrails@verizon.net.

Donations of bird seed would be greatly appreciated.

## Borough Seeks Ways to Cut Budget

By Libby Barsky

Since February 1, when Councilman Raymond Rusnak announced a shortfall of \$600,000 that amount has grown to \$2.3M. The added expenses for two snow removals and extra overtime and cleanup costs due to the recent rain storm, as well as a \$700,000 cut in state aid, have added to the shortfall. The budget was a topic of discussion at a special council meeting held

Monday evening.

Council members examined ways to plug the budget gap and discussed the following possibilities:

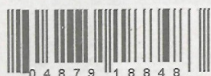
- Asking those who provide professional, legal, engineering and other services to cut their fees;
- Reduce the full time position of tax assessor to part-time;
- Develop an overtime cap for borough employees;
- Eliminate fireworks and parade

(Continued on page 26)



The Grant Elementary School Student Council sponsored a Coins for Haiti fundraiser, and within two weeks were able to raise \$1,023 to donate to the American Red Cross. Students placed their loose change in water jugs in the cafeteria and teachers donated \$5 to be able to wear jeans to school. Presenting a check to Michael Prasad, director of emergency services, Tri-County Chapter, American Red Cross are Assistant Principal Rob Richkus, Student Council Secretary Katherine Dolinski, President Brian Csohor, Vice President Nicholas Spadavecchia and Principal Leo Whalen.

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

## FYI

### Borough Council & BOE

Council meetings and Board of Education 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. The BOE budget hearing can be seen on Tuesdays at 9 p.m. and Saturdays at 1 a.m. and 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**

April 5 ..... April 5

April 19 ..... April 19

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**

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/adjustment

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

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

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 31; Regular Public Meeting: 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.

(April to be announced)

### BOE buildings & grounds

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

### 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.

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**

April 14, May 12, June 9, July 14, Aug. 11, Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 10, Dec. 8, Jan. 12 2011.

### business advisory group

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

### ad hoc alternative truck route committee

Monday, March 29, Senior Center 7 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7605

## In My Opinion

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

To the Editor:

In 2007 when Deborah Boyle ran for the BOE, her premise was: "It is all about the kids." Her extensive involvement and achievements have proven her commitment to this motto. I would like to take it further, however, expanding it to: "It's all about making life better for everyone in South Plainfield."

It is a rare function that has not benefited from the leadership and support of Debbie Boyle. Her sense of civic responsibility has impelled her to work hard for the improvement of South Plainfield. Her ideas are acted upon and she motivates others to work their hardest to get results. She is a force to be reckoned with—the kind that South Plainfield needs to be the town we all can be proud to call home.

As an advocate for education, she is a current member of the BOE, has been the president of the Middle School PTO, a trustee on the South Plainfield Education Foundation, tapes the council and BOE meetings for the community Comcast Channel 96 and serves on a multitude of projects for all of the schools. She co-authored a grant to acquire security cameras, works on Project Graduation, and is the chair of Shared Services. She is the epitome of service and giving.

Debbie is a leader whose dedication has brought advancements and has fostered a sense of township pride in many people. For instance, for years many families hoped to establish a high school swim team. This dream had never been realized until Debbie led the drive, along with me, my husband and several other parents. Through personal support and hard work, and by providing financial assistance from the Boyle Foundation, Debbie Boyle was able to secure a high school swim team.

All townships and school systems will be experiencing ever more difficult economic challenges in the coming years. We need someone like Debbie Boyle to lead us through them.

MARY PIEKARSKI

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Dear Editor,

It has been our great privilege and honor to have served with Mayor Charlie Butrico. With utmost integrity, unyielding strength of character, and compassion for the people he serves, Mayor Charlie Butrico sets the standard for public service. We wish him nothing but the best because nothing but his best is what he has always given to us.

We have been proud to call him our mayor and we will always be proud to call him our friend.

**SINCERELY,  
FORMER COUNCIL PRESIDENT  
RAY PETRONKO, FORMER  
COUNCILMAN JOE SCRUDATO  
AND COUNCILWOMAN  
CHRISSE BUTEAS**

Dear Editor,

Everyday we drop off our children at school and turn the care of our little ones over to the teachers and staff. We expect them to teach our children because that is their job. We expect them to watch over our children and keep them safe during the day because that is their job. We expect them to communicate with us when there is a disciplinary problem or if our child is struggling with a lesson because after all, that is their job.

At Franklin Elementary School our teachers and staff do so much more than their job. The commitment and support they show everyday to the families of our community is amazing.

Franklin Elementary School holds an annual Lenahan Family breakfast in March. The cafeteria is decked out in its St. Patrick's Day finest, Irish music is played and Franklin families are invited to share a breakfast of green bagels, muffins, cereal and fruit with their loved ones. It is truly a wonderful way to start the day and has become a beloved tradition at the school.

Unfortunately this year, due to some unforeseen circumstances, the chairperson of the event had to cancel a few days prior to the breakfast. As our annual auction was quickly approaching the PTO was unable to arrange the breakfast on such short notice. It was decided that the breakfast would be cancelled for March and hopefully be re-

Submit Your Letters to the Editor:

Send your letters to South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax to 908-668-8819, or via E-mail: [spobsobserver@comcast.net](mailto:spobsobserver@comcast.net). Deadline is Monday, 5 p.m. Letters must be accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. Limit letters to no more than 200 words. We reserve the right to refuse a letter, to edit for clarity or length, and to limit the number of letters submitted on the same subject. Submission is not a guarantee of publication. We do not accept anonymous letters. Letters are strictly opinion.

scheduled for later in the year.

When the announcement was made, without even missing a beat, the teachers and staff sprung into action. They graciously volunteered to chair the entire event which is a big undertaking. This of course is not their job. However, they shopped for all the food, setup after school and early in the morning, served and cleaned up all with a smile. The breakfast was a huge success and enjoyed by all who attended. This contribution helped all concerned by allowing the PTO to continue working on the auction while still giving the families one of their favorite events.

On behalf of our Franklin families and the PTO, we want to say thank you for all that you do every day to enrich our lives and for reminding us what commitment, pride and community is all about.

**SINCERELY,  
FRANKLIN SCHOOL PTO**

Dear Editor,

Not long ago, at one of our local schools, two kids (neither one of mine) got in a fight. Not much of a fight really. One kid sucker punched another and ran away. The kid who was struck did not strike back. He took the hit like a man. In accordance with our school's policy, both kids are suspended, and I think that a grave injustice has been done.

First, why has the kid who did not strike back been suspended? For the sin of getting hit, he's suspended? Understand that in today's ultra competitive environment for acceptance into the better colleges, this kid just lost a great deal of opportunity. With this

(Continued on page 27)

## South Plainfield Observer

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

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The South Plainfield Observer (U.S.P.S. 018253) is published weekly, except Thanksgiving week. Second class postage paid at South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080-9998. Postmaster: Forward change of address orders to G&G Graphics Inc. 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080-2004. Subscription rates \$29.95/year in South Plainfield; \$34.95 year out of town.

### 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,  
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The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

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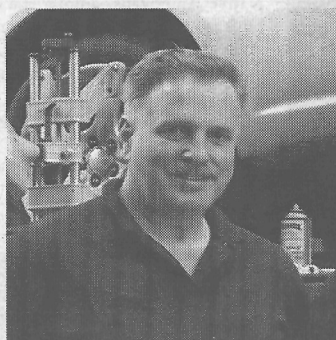
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## D.A.R.E. Officer Talks to Students About Personal Safety



Officer Sherlyn Courtney with Roosevelt School students.

By Patricia Abbott

In light of the recent rash of burglaries and break-ins, the South Plainfield Police Department has strived to increase public awareness of safety at

home in our town. Their efforts include those who are potentially the most vulnerable, our elementary age children.

D.A.R.E. Officer Sherlyn Courtney visited Roosevelt and Franklin schools where she gave a D.A.R.E. presentation stressing personal safety on March 12.

The first issue covered was the importance of not answering the door to strangers or someone unexpected, even if they are known to the children. She elaborated that it is important not to answer the phone as well, and explained when to call 911 and the information the caller should provide. She told the youngsters that if someone not expected should come to the door, they should be quiet and stay away from windows. Students nodded their heads in agreement when she told them that doors should be kept locked at all times. Courtney told them that a bad person will sometimes

use tricks to get a child to open a door such as, "My car broke down and I need to use your phone," "Your mother sent me," or "I have a puppy for you." Even with the knowledge of the tricks it might be difficult for a child to determine when it is safe to open the door to someone they know.

Courtney suggested that the youngsters and their parents agree on a secret password or code to let the child know that it is safe for them to let the person in. After the presentation they held a brief question and answer session. Before leaving each child received a D.A.R.E. pencil.

Courtney noted that she will be visiting all the elementary schools, Future Stars and grades K-4 at Sacred Heart. A notice was sent home to parents listing the issues to be discussed. If parents have any questions or concerns, they can reach Officer Courtney at (908) 226-7717.



Officer Courtney talks to Franklin School students about safety.

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The Tiger Den of Cub Scout Pack 207 was given a tour of Wendy's Restaurant on Oak Tree Road on March 2. Store Manager Dan Kiernan took the scouts through the whole restaurant, showed them how they prepared the food, and answered all their eager questions. The best part for the scouts was making their own Frosty sundaes! Pictured are Wendy's Restaurant Store Manager Dan Kiernan, Cubmaster Tom Berry, and scouts Jason DelPaoli, Patrick Berry, Tanner Price, Christopher Lee and Danny McLeod. All the scouts wish to thank Mr. Kiernan and the Wendy's Restaurant staff for their patience and hospitality!

## Linda Surks Speaks to Eighth Graders About Drugs

By Libby Barsky

When the doctor told Linda Surks that her son Jason, 20, had overdosed taking prescription drugs it was the first time she learned Jason had used drugs.

"I was blindsided," she told the 220 eighth graders at her presentation on March 12. For 20 years, Surks has been a presenter for the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of Middlesex County, teaching about the dangers of drugs.

Middle School Guidance Counselor Denise DeMello and Health Teacher Sheryl Hughes invited Surks to speak to the students.

The NCADD flyer notes, "Prescription drugs are the drug of choice among 12- to 13-year-olds." In her presentation, Surks didn't mention the other facts of prescription drug abuse in the flyer, including the fact that "one-third of all new abusers of prescription drugs in 2006 were 12- to 17-years-old," or that "the number of Americans who abuse over-the-counter (OTC) and prescription drugs has more than doubled from 7.8 million to 16.2 million between 1992 and 2006" and "abuse among teens has more than tripled during that time." Instead of statistics, she spoke only of her son, Jason, who was 20 when he died six years ago.

"I have a personal story to share with you of my son Jason so you know who Jason was," Surks said.

Jason was attending college pursuing a degree in pharmacology when the overdose occurred. An ambulance

was sent when his college roommate couldn't rouse him.

At the hospital Surks saw that a tube had been inserted into Jason's throat, but the doctor said the pills he had taken overwhelmed his ability to breathe.

Throughout the presentation attention was focused on pictures of Jason as the first grandchild for both families and shown as a youngster with his sister enjoying family occasions and vacations with his parents and grandparents. He also found time to try out for drama and was a lead in the production of *Grease* several times.

On August 22, 2004 the Jason Surks Memorial Prevention Resource Center was dedicated in his memory at the NCADD of Middlesex County located at 152 Tices Lane in East Brunswick. It houses reference reports, a video lending library and free bro-



Linda Surks

chures on drugs.

Jason's father, Mark Surks, wrote these words about his son Jason.

"Jason was a person people gravitated towards. He was good-looking and smart and humorous. He had a buddy list a mile long and a cell phone bill that required a part-time job. I told him often that he had a social life that I only dreamed of when I was his age. He had something within that made life click along seamlessly for him. This gave him a sense of invincibility. That, coupled with a lack of risk, imbued Jason with what he felt was a Teflon veneer. Jason, like most teens, really did not have a proper gauge with which to measure risk."

To counter the pressures put on kids to try drugs Surks urges students to value their life.

"You have the choice to put down the pill, drink or smoke if tempted. Taking drugs make you feel good but in the end they will change your life. You need healthier ways to cope and find a healthy way to deal with life so you don't use drugs," she said.

## Widows Group Forming

Are you a widow beyond the initial grief stages (two plus years) who is ready to transition and reconnect to life after loss? If so, please join the WINGS (Widows in Great Spirits) group. A place to find new friendships, explore new directions, laugh and learn together.

This grassroots effort, created by Nancy Juman and Nancy Jones, and

supported by the Metuchen Edison Woodbridge YMCA, seeks to create an environment for learning and socializing during the transition and reconnection to life after loss of a spouse or significant other. Group meets Sunday, March 28 from 2-4 p.m. at the Metuchen Library, 480 Middlesex Ave.

Please RSVP to Nancy Juman at (732) 549-7622.

## Councilwoman Sponsoring Essay Contest

In order to provide high school students with an opportunity to recognize the importance of Women's History Month, Councilwoman Chrissy Buteas is sponsoring a Women's History Month Essay Contest. A committee comprised of South Plainfield residents will select a student that recognizes the importance of women's history and the continuous struggle to provide equal rights for all women.

Contest participants should discuss a specific event or accomplishment of National Woman's Party founder Alice Paul's life that is significant, and if

given the opportunity to create a project to continue Alice Paul's legacy here in South Plainfield, what would that project be and how would it be implemented?

Essays should be between 500-750 words and be submitted by Friday, March 26, and is open to any South Plainfield resident in grades 9-12. The winner will receive a \$250 American Express gift card, a copy of *Past and Promise, Lives of New Jersey Women*, and will be recognized in local media. The winner will be announced on or before Sunday, March 28.

The following Web sites may be helpful in research: The Alice Paul Institute: [www.alicepaul.org/](http://www.alicepaul.org/); NJ Women's History: [www.scc.rutgers.edu/njwomenshistory/](http://www.scc.rutgers.edu/njwomenshistory/); and The National Women's History Project: [www.nwhp.org/](http://www.nwhp.org/).

Submit essays to: Councilwoman Chrissy Buteas, Borough of South Plainfield, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080 or E-mail essay to [christinebuteas@comcast.net](mailto:christinebuteas@comcast.net). Include name, address, grade, phone number and E-mail address.

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# District Hosts 41st Annual District Music Festival

The 41st annual District Music Festival and Art Exhibition took place at the high school on March 11. Baritone John Delacruz opened the program singing *The Star-Spangled Banner*, followed by welcoming remarks by Jose Negron, superintendent of schools. Board of Education members Bill Scesselberg and Debbie Boyle also attended the show.

The evening began with the Grant School Orchestra, conducted by Diane Lee and accompanist Joan Stasio, playing *Indian Dance, Fiddlin' to Boston and Caper Capriccioso*.

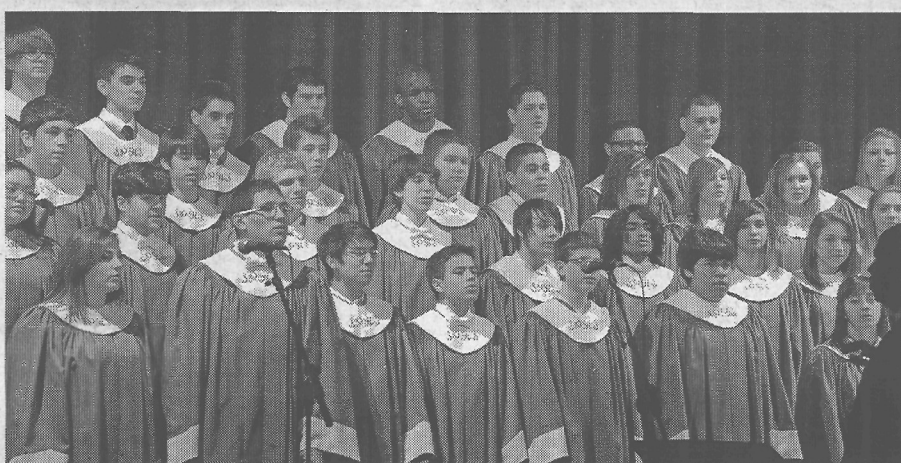
The middle school Onyx, Donna Markiewicz-conductor and Frank Jacobson-accompanist, sang *The Phantom of the Opera*. The Middle School Orchestra with Sarah Livechi conductor, played *Emerald Point Overture and Surprise Symphony*.

The high school Jades, conducted by Tracy Murray, sang *Duke of Earl* and the orchestra, conducted by Bruce Mikolon, performed *Three North Highland Tunes and Asokan Varwell*.

Grant School Chorus with Joan Stasio directing and Paul DiDario accompanist sang *The Star-Spangled Banner, I've Got a Song to Sing, Hear That Fiddle Play* with Diane Lee on violin, and *Peanut Butter Jam* with bass xylophones-Shanaya Martinez, Bianca Murcelo, Michaela Theratit, alto xylophones-Dion Pender, Kim Sheedy, Nicole Timmerman; soprano xylophones-Vincent Cano, Paige Ewing, Adanna Ibeku and drums-Nick Spadavecchia, Sam Cosby, Kirsty Sperr and Reina Patel. Middle School Concert Choir, Donna Markiewicz conductor and Frank Jacobson accompanist sang *Angels and Lean on Me*. Both the middle school and high school chorus sang *Man in the Mirror*. The high school chorus, Tracy Murray conducting, sang *Thriller*.

The band portion began with soprano Kathleen Vincent singing the *Star-Spangled Banner*.

Grant School Band, with Joan Stasio and Mark Tweed conducting, played *Low Rider, Firebird Suite and Russian Sailor's Dance*. The jazz band, Mark Tweed conducting, then performed various selections. The middle school concert band, Andrew Weiss conducting, played *Chorale: It is Well with My Soul and Michael Jackson: Through the Years*. The high school jazz band, Roger Vroom conducting, played *Blue Rondo a la Turk*.



Choir members perform at the 41st annual District Music Festival.

featuring Justin Lesky on trumpet and Emily Roseo on alto saxophone. The high school concert band, Roger Vroom conducting, performed *Serenata and Pirates!*

In between performances the high school Winter Guard, directed by Mary Ecklund and Lauren Hartong, interpreted the musical selection *Those Who Stayed*.

Student honors 2009-2010 were Rutgers Children's Choir Roosevelt School: Alyzah Ziga, Kyle Gallardo;

Central Jersey Music Educator's Association Region II: Wind Ensemble: Justin Lesky, trumpet; New Jersey Music Educator's Association All State Symphonic Band: Justin Lesky, trumpet; All-State Orchestra: Justin Lesky, trumpet and National Art Honor Society: Tara O'Day, Jillian Cortese, Jacqueline Conte-Ainsworth, Michaela Fore, Sarah McCarthy and Jessica Scarpitto, Allison Dressler, advisor.

In 1969 Peter Franks, high school

choral director, and Davin Haining, high school band director, arranged a combined junior-senior high school concert. The next year, 1970, the elementary schools were invited to participate. Students from each of the elementary schools were chosen to form a select chorus and band for the event. The performance on March 14, 1970 was named the South Plainfield District Music Festival and laid the foundation of the present festival.

For several years the festival took

place in the middle school, which at the time was South Plainfield High School. With the opening of the new high school in 1975, the event was held on a Friday night in the Joseph A. Mondoro Auditorium. In that same year, the elementary string ensemble was added to the program.

In the early 1980s, the Music Educators' National Conference instituted Music in Our Schools Week. Within a few years, this grew to be the Music in Our Schools Month. The festival became the district celebration in recognition of music and its impact on the lives of students.

For 11 years the festival was held in the auditorium and in 1986 it was moved to the gymnasium.

Since 1991, the District Art Exhibition has been included in the festival. It gives public exposure to the works of many talented young artists from all grade levels.

In 2004, the concert was moved back to the auditorium to accentuate a higher level of performance for the students and to provide a superior concert experience for the students as well as parents.

When the first district festival took place in 1970, 349 student musicians participated. This year the district festival had over 600 students performing.

## Hall of Fame Seeks 2010 Nominees

The South Plainfield High School Hall of Fame Committee is again holding their search for candidates for induction into the Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame was established at South Plainfield High School to recognize outstanding graduates as leaders in their fields who could serve as role models for current and future students.

To be eligible, all Hall of Fame candidates must have graduated from SPHS at least 15 years prior to nomination, and they must have achieved a prominent position in their careers or made a significant contribution to the world/community.

Those candidates selected will be honored at a luncheon and will be inducted into the Hall of Fame at the high school's annual Academic Awards Program on June 2. The nominees will also have their photographs and biographies displayed on a "hall of fame" at the high school.

Community members interested in obtaining a Hall of Fame nomination form should call Dr. May at (908)754-4620, ext. 248 or 249 or stop by the high school for an application. The application deadline is Friday, April 16.

# MARCH MADNESS MARKDOWN

## PunchDubDays

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**New '10 VW CC SPORT**

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| <p>'02 Hyundai XG350<br/>Black, Auto, 4 Cyl, Pwr Str/Bks, Ac, a/b, Stk#P2114, Vin# 2A213A56, 65,541mi</p> <p><b>\$7595</b></p> | <p>'06 Toyota Corolla LE<br/>Silver, 4Dr, Auto, 4 Cyl, Pwr Str/Bks, Ac, a/b, Stk#100414, Vin# 6C705374, 56,649mi</p> <p><b>\$9995</b></p> | <p>'05 Volkswagen New Beetle GLS<br/>VW Certified! Black, Coupe, 4 Cyl, 5 Spd Man Trans, Pwr Str/Bks, Ac, a/b, Stk# P2259, Vin#SM12587, 36,114mi</p> <p><b>\$10,995</b></p> | <p>'07 Volkswagen Rabbit<br/>VW Certified! Black, 4Dr, Auto Trans, 4 Cyl, Pwr Str/Bks, Ac, a/b, Stk# P2272, Vin# 7W041495, 57,320mi</p> <p><b>\$13,995</b></p> | <p>'06 Volkswagen Jetta<br/>VW Certified! Auto, 4Cyl, Pwr Str/Bks, Ac, a/b, Alloy, Stk# P2258, Vin# 6M623440, 51,150mi</p> <p><b>\$13,995</b></p> | <p>'09 Toyota Matrix S AWD Wagon<br/>Silver, Automatic Trans, 4 Cyl, Pwr Str/Bks, Ac, a/b, Stk#100414, Vin#9C009145, 14,130mi</p> <p><b>\$15,995</b></p> | <p>'06 Volkswagen GTI<br/>VW Certified! Red, 2Dr, Auto, Pwr Str/Bks, Ac, a/b, Stk# 7661, Vin#06078637, 21,391mi</p> <p><b>\$18,595</b></p> |
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# Around Town

## Annual Easter Egg Hunt

**March 27**

The South Plainfield Recreation Department is proud to announce the annual Easter egg hunt on Saturday, March 27, 1 p.m. at the PAL Memorial Field. Residents ages one to 10 are welcome to join in the fun. Bring a bag for the eggs and a camera and take a picture with the Easter Bunny. Call (908) 226-7657 after 9 a.m. in case of inclement weather.

## Lenten Fish Dinners

**March 26**

The Knights of Columbus Council #6203 and Sacred Heart Church last Lenten fish dinner will take place on Friday, March 26 in the school cafeteria, 5 to 7 p.m. Fillet of fish (fried, broiled, parmesan), pasta (cheese ravioli, manicotti or linguini) or pizza; garden salad, rice pilaf, French fries or macaroni and cheese, cole slaw, coffee, tea or cold drink, dessert. Take out available. Stations of the Cross in the church at 7 p.m.

## Cedarcroft Drama Club Free Play

**March 26**

The CBC Drama Club at Cedarcroft Bible Chapel, 1715 Kenyon Ave., will present *Esther: The Chosen Queen* on Friday, March 26, 7:30 p.m. The play, written by Nora Stasio and co-directed by Nora and Joan Stasio, will feature children in grades two through five, with skits by middle school and high school students. Admission is free. Refreshments.

## SPHS Athletic Booster Club Comedy Show

**March 27**

SPHS Booster Club presents "An Evening of Stand-up Comedy" on Saturday, March 27 at the PAL. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Three comedians. BYOB and food. Raffle prizes and 50/50. Reservations highly recommended. \$25 per person in advance. For more information, call Ann Marie at (908) 756-7543.

## Republican Org. Victory Dinner

**March 27**

The South Plainfield Republican Organization will host a victory dinner dance at the Crowne Plaza in Edison on Saturday, March 27. For information or tickets, call Cynthia at (908) 447-6980.

## Lions Annual Palm Sunday Breakfast

**March 28**

The South Plainfield Lions Club will hold their annual gourmet breakfast on Palm Sunday, March 28 in the SPHS cafeteria, 8 a.m. to noon. Pancakes, omelets to order, French toast, sausage, bacon and orange juice. \$6 per person. Come support your local Lions club. Monies raised are used by the Lions club to assist local residents in need, Camp Marcella (camp for the blind), eye banks and seeing eye dogs.

## Knights Annual Comedy Night

**April 10**

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203, 334 Hamilton Blvd., will hold their annual comedy night on Saturday, April 10. Doors open at 6 p.m.; comedy starts at 7 p.m. Tap beer, soft drinks and light snacks included. BYO bottle. Cash bar for mixed drinks. Show will be PG-13 to Rated R. No one under 21 permitted to drink. Tickets (\$25) will be sold in advance. Reserve a whole table for family and friends. To purchase tickets, call Bob Barone at (732) 266-7144.

## UNICO Community Blood Drive

**April 10**

The UNICO Community Blood Drive will be held on Saturday, April 10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the South Plainfield Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Ave. Free refreshments. Walk-ins welcome. Local collection for FISH; bring non-perishable foods or canned goods.

## SPHS PTA Meeting Rescheduled

**April 12**

The next SPHS PTA meeting originally scheduled for Monday, March 29, has been changed to Monday, April 12 in the SPHS Tiger's Den at 7 p.m. We will be discussing and making plans for the upcoming 2010 Project Graduation celebration. If you would like to help out, please try to attend this meeting. If unable to attend the meeting, contact Sharon Miller (908) 754-6461 to find out how you can volunteer.

## Dept. of Public Works Open House

**April 17**

The South Plainfield Department of Public Works will be holding an open house on Saturday, April 17 between the hours of 9 a.m. and noon. All residents are invited to stop by and check out the trucks and equipment as well as the facilities. The mayor and council will also be available to answer any questions you may have.

## SENIOR CENTER *Calendar*

### Coming Up....

April 25-27-Tulip Festival  
May 13-15-Washington, DC  
June 7-10 Niagara Falls  
Oct 11-15-Indian Head Resort  
(Call the senior center for more info)

**MONDAYS**  
Silver Sneakers ..... 8:45 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 (308) 754-1047 for more info or visit  
www.southplainfieldnj.com

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

**WEDNESDAYS**  
Aerobics ..... 8:45 am  
Computer 10 am, 11:30 am, 1 pm  
Crocheting ..... 1 pm  
Tai Chi ..... 2 pm

**THURSDAYS**  
Active Seniors ..... 8:45 am  
Shopping Trip ..... 9 am  
Crafts Class ..... 10 am  
Computer 10 am, 11:30 am, 1 pm  
Exercise Class ..... 11 am

**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.

## — Out of Town —

## Indoor Easter Egg Hunt

**March 27**

Parker Gardens, located at 1325 Terrill Rd. in Scotch Plains will hold an indoor Easter egg hunt on Saturday, March 27 for kids ages three to six at 2 p.m., kids ages seven to 10 at 2:45 p.m. Thousands of eggs hidden beneath the hay in one of our greenhouses. Call (908) 322-5552 to register.

## Baykeeper Wild & Scenic Film Festival

**March 28**

The NY/NJ Baykeeper Wild and Scenic Film Festival will be held on Sunday, March 28 from 4-6 p.m. at Marion Huber Theater at the Two River Theater Company, 21 Bridge Ave. in Red Bank. Light refreshments. For tickets, contact Christopher at Christopherbarrett@nynjbaykeeper.org or call (732) 888-9870.

## Depression/Bipolar Educational Meeting

**March 31**

On Wednesday evening, March 31, the Depression and Bipolar Support

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At: The South Plainfield Senior Center  
On: Saturday April 17th 67pm  
Contact: Ray 908-304-3634  
Joe 908-251-2172  
Permit #10006747



## Around Town

Alliance will feature at its monthly educational meeting Howard Rudominer, M.D., board certified in child, adolescent and adult psychiatry and psychoanalysis. The meeting will take place at 7:45 p.m., using the facilities of the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, 21 Normandy Heights Road in Morristown. The public is invited.

For further local information, call (973) 994-1143.

### Adopt a Pet

April 3

People for Animals, a nonprofit animal welfare organization serving New Jersey, will sponsor a dog adoption event on Saturday, April 3 from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the PETSMART store in Bridgewater's Promenade Mall, intersection of Rte. 28 and 287.

To adopt or for more information, go to [pfa.petfinder.com](http://pfa.petfinder.com) or call (973) 282-0890.

### Upscale Singles Dance Party

April 3

Steppin' Out Singles is hosting an upscale singles dance party at the Woodbridge Hilton, 120 Wood Ave. South in Iselin on Saturday, April 3 at 8 p.m. Admission: \$15; ages 40 and up; no jeans/sneakers.

For more information call (732) 656-1801.

### NAMI-Middlesex Monthly Mtg.

April 5

NAMI-Middlesex, an affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, will hold their monthly meeting and discussion on Monday, April 5 from 7 to 9 p.m. at University Behavioral HealthCare, 671 Hoes Lane, room D201 in Piscataway. Speaker topic: "Personality Disorders: What Are They?" Everyone is welcome.

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

### Flea Market

April 10

Connecticut Farms Church, Stuyvesant Avenue and West Chestnut Street in Union, is holding a flea market on Saturday, April 10 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Table rentals: \$35 for 8' table or \$30 for 6' table. Proceeds from this event are used for mission projects of the Women's Association.

For more information, call (908) 245-0562.

### Hope For Home Dog Adoption Event

April 10

Best Friends Pet Care with the Associated Humane Society presents an event to introduce homeless dogs to potential adopters at Best Friends Pet Care Center, 825 Route 22 West, North Plainfield on Saturday, April 10, 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Bring any dog food items and get raffle tickets and a chance to win many great prizes. Enjoy free food, goodies, music, face painting and maybe even save a life. Please come by and rescue your new best friend!

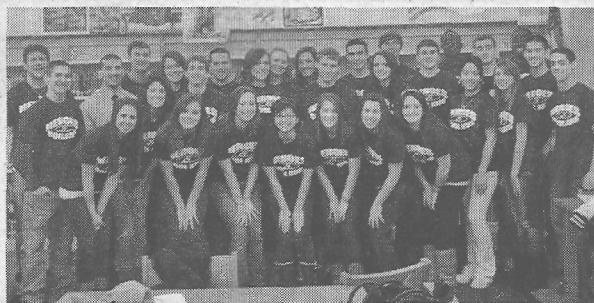
For more information, call (908) 614-7835.

### Catholic Charities Bread & Roses Ball

April 17

The Diocese of Metuchen will honor Carmel M. Gettings at its 20th annual Bread and Roses Ball on Saturday, April 17 beginning at 6 p.m. at the Bridgewater Marriott, 700 Commons Way in Bridgewater. Proceeds will benefit the Diocese's Catholic Charities programs in Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren counties. This black tie optional event includes dinner, dancing, silent auction, live auction, Monte Carlo style gaming and a 50/50 raffle. The cost to attend is \$150 per person.

For information, call (732) 562-2438 or visit [www.diometuchen.org/](http://www.diometuchen.org/) development.



Heroes & Cool Kids Peer Leadership members with advisor Tony Encinas and former Giants player Keith Elias.

## Heroes and Cool Kids Visit Grant

The South Plainfield High School Peer Leadership brought their Heroes & Cool Kids program to Grant Elementary School sixth grade students on February 24. The athlete mentor assisting the peer leaders was former NFL Giants running back, Keith Elias. An enthusiastic group of students participated in discussions on "Bullying, Facebook and Cyber Bullying" and "Leaving People Out of Invitations, Parties, Get Togethers."

Heroes & Cool Kids, which began operating in 1998, is a not-for-profit organization based in New Jersey. The program utilizes the services of current and former professional athletes whose personal life experiences have enabled them to train high school student leaders. The athletes train high school students to mentor students on important life skills including sportsmanship, conflict resolution and positive lifestyle choices highlighting drug, alcohol and tobacco prevention.

Heroes & Cool Kids is currently implemented in nine counties and the athletes and high school students make three site visits to the schools each year.

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## Volunteers Needed For Litter Clean up Week, April 17-24

Yes, we are losing count of snow storms, but the birds have started singing in the morning. It's time to put Volunteer Litter Cleanup Week on your calendar.

The South Plainfield Clean Communities Advisory Board will sponsor a borough-wide cleanup the third week in April. The main clean-up event will be on Saturday morning, April 17. Volunteers will meet from 9 to 10 a.m. at the municipal building at 2480 Plainfield Ave., to collect equipment and clean-up assignments. We will target roadsides, parks, streams and vacant lots. Residents are welcome to organize a crew, or to come on their own. All volunteers are invited back to borough hall at noon for a free pickup picnic.

Call Dr. Alice Tempel, the clean communities coordinator, at (908) 226-7621, or E-mail her at [atempel@southplainfieldnj.com](mailto:atempel@southplainfieldnj.com) for more information.

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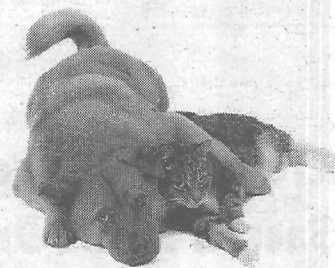
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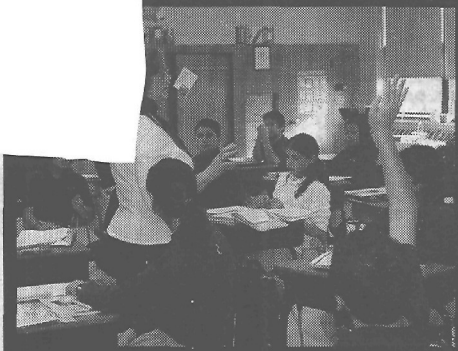
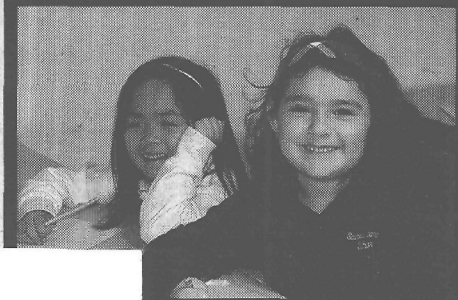
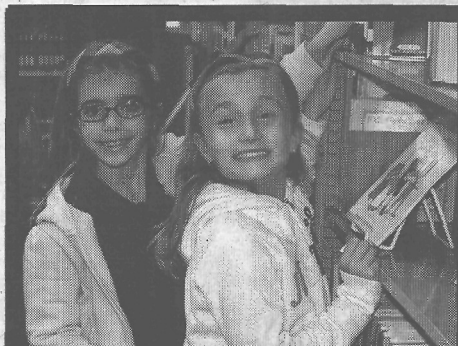
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## Fine Wine, Spirits and Craft Beer Tasting Fundraiser

The South Plainfield Education Foundation (S.P.E.F.) and the Oak Tree Buy Rite of South Plainfield will be hosting the second annual Fine Wine, Spirits & Craft Beer Tasting Fundraiser. The Education Foundation, which has been in existence since 1994 and originally named Vision 2001, is a non-profit tax exempt organization. The foundation promotes numerous educational and incentive programs such as the Gold Card and scholarships for South Plainfield students. To date, the Education Foundation has awarded over 50 Scholarships totaling over \$283,150, and awarded over \$130,000 in endowments. The Education Foundation has also given back to the students of South Plainfield over \$41,000 in curriculum programs, over \$33,000 in academic incentive programs, and over \$18,000 for school equipment.

The second annual Fine Wine, Spirits & Craft Beer Tasting Fundraiser will be held on Friday, May 7 at the Italian American Progressive Club of South Plainfield, 1001 Garibaldi Ave., from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30 each, or buy four for only \$100. The night of the event tickets will be \$35. At this time, we have at least nine vendors (subject to change) and food donated by Hometown Heros and Flanagan's Restaurant.

For more information, please visit our Web site at [www.vision2001.org](http://www.vision2001.org) and click on the "Events" link or contact the foundation president, Marge Reedy, (908) 561-5800, ext. 302.

No person under 21 permitted. State of N.J. Division of A.B.C. Special Permit #09006993.



Each month, from October through June, middle school teachers choose one student from each of the three teams in each grade to receive the honor of being named student of the month. They are chosen based on their overall attitude and hard work. In addition to having their picture displayed in the school lobby, Students of the Month also receive a keychain, pen, lanyard and a handmade plaque from Jeffrey Spezio's industrial arts class with their picture on it as a memento. Pictured (L to R) are Imrin Goraya-Avalanche, C.J. Dudek-Monsoon, Mike Olano-Thunder, Chris Fowles-Tsunami and Matt Belanger-Cyclone. Not pictured is Kristy Percario from Team Lightning.

## Arts in the Garden Tour Tickets on Sale

The Edison Arts Society is pleased to announce the date for the fifth Annual Arts in the Garden Tour.

On Saturday, July 17, (rain or shine) five beautiful and unusual residential gardens in Edison and Metuchen will be open to the public. The gardens will all showcase various styles and themes used for gardens.

A special added feature for the event will be a tour of two local Historical sites. The Thomas Alva Edison Museum in Edison, which is the original site for the first research and development laboratory in the United States, and the Franklin School which is a one-room school house circa 1807 which was built by local residents and is listed in the New Jersey Historical Registry.

Sponsored by the Edison Arts So-

cety, a group of dedicated local artists in a variety of disciplines whose goal is to enhance and delight our community, together with the Terra Nova Garden Club, a group of gardeners whose main concern is to beautify as much of our community as humanly possible. Tickets are now available at \$20 per adult and going fast. Teens ages 13 to 18 years are \$10 per person and children under 12 years are free; tickets at the door are \$25. The tour starts at 10 a.m. and ends at 5 p.m.

The various disciplines of the arts will be included in the Tour and will be coordinated by our Artistic Executive Director, Anne Redlin.

For additional information and to purchase tickets, contact either the Edison Arts Society.

## Number of Homes Sold Increase 56%, Selling Price Softens 3.5%

According to Guy Moretti, Broker Owner of Century 21 Moretti Realty, the number of homes sold in South Plainfield has increased by 56% in the last five months as compared to the same period of time last year. This same increased market activity in South Plainfield posted a 3.5% decrease in the median sale price for the same period of time, according to Moretti.

When asked to explain the softening of the prices, Moretti suggested the softening can be attributed to the increase in distressed properties to hit the market recently as compared to short sales and bank foreclosures posted last year. "The current market is also experiencing a strong increase in first time home buyer activity," said Moretti. This recent increased buyer demand is pushing prices up on the traditionally deep discounted prices associated with housing short sales and bank foreclosures.

Specifically mortgage programs offered to the consumer are changing daily

along with the underwriting standards a buyer must comply with. The lender appraisal process, as dictated by Congress, continues to challenge the recovery process. Other recovery obstacles are genuine concerns surrounding employment. As positive economic data and employment numbers improve the housing market will rebound and Moretti expects both prices and interest rates to increase. Real estate experts suggest the current housing statistics point to a bottoming of the market as stability returns.

Current 30 year fixed rate mortgages are hovering around the 5% mark and are at historic lows. Housing inventory remains strong and IRS tax credits are available to both first time home buyers and trade up buyers. The timing appears to be right to buy for many considering the purchase of real estate. Many of these incentives are slated to go away as soon as April of this year.

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# Hundreds of Prizes Awarded at Annual Project Graduation Auction

By Patricia Abbott

South Plainfield High School PTA sponsored their 13th annual Project Graduation Auction/Raffle in the high school gym on March 6. Volunteers spent many hours decorating, setting up the tables and chairs, as well as the huge task of organizing the hundreds of prizes to be auctioned off.

A large crowd formed outside the door prior to the doors opening. Auction-goers armed with trays, bags and coolers of food and beverages chatted as they awaited the opening. Most had purchased their tickets in advance; however, many people opted to buy them at the door. Once inside, they quickly found their tables and began the job of selecting and bidding on a wide array of prizes. Many made numerous return trips to purchase extra tickets.

The auction began with the lesser valued items and quickly worked up to the most sought after prizes—the grand prizes and mega raffle prizes. There were 20 grand prizes, including Jonas Brothers items, an assortment of gift cards, sports, dinner and theater tickets, Wii game system and more. The mega raffle offered two prizes: a Samsung 52" LCD HDTV and a Dell Studio 15" laptop loaded with extras.



In addition to the donations made by businesses, families and individuals, there were many by educational groups and community groups.

Work on the auction begins early and involves many people filling a multitude of jobs, from soliciting businesses, shopping, putting together the baskets, advertising, ticket sales and more.

The event relies on the help of student runners. Mostly seniors, the students were kept busy non-stop gathering prizes and delivering them to winners.

While the current economy may have caused a reduction in attendance, the auction committee was thrilled

with the turnout and noted that the event was a definite success. The committee consists of Susan Barry, Mary Cargill, Renee Daubert, Pat Fabino, Tracey Hartmann, Donna Kasmer, Barbara Mennutti, Sharon Miller, Teri Pileggi and Patricia Porzio.

This year marks the PTA's 22nd Project Graduation, the all night substance free party for graduating seniors. Held at The Club at Ricochet, the event offers food and non-stop activities, entertainment, sports and games. The SPHS PTA is always in need of volunteers for Project Graduation and its associated fundraisers. For more information contact PTA President Sharon Miller at (908) 754-5461.

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|---|--|

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
6:30a • Ecumenical celebration at Spring Lake Park  
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## CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART, SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NJ



### Holy Week & Easter Schedule

**PALM SUNDAY - March 28**  
Saturday Vigil 5 PM; Sunday 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM

**MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK - March 29**  
7:30 PM - Chrism Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral  
(No Adoration and evening Mass here at Sacred Heart)

**TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK**  
March 30-31  
9:00 AM - Morning Mass

### The Sacred Triduum

**HOLY THURSDAY - April 1**  
9:00 AM - Morning Prayer

7:30 PM - Mass of the Lord's Supper, Eucharistic Procession and Adoration  
11:30 PM - Closing Night Prayer

**GOOD FRIDAY - April 2**  
9:00 AM - Morning Prayer  
2:00 PM - Stations of the Cross  
3:00 PM - Liturgy of the Lord's Passion & Death  
7:30 PM - The Sorrows of Mary  
(Presented in Song, Prayer and Meditation)

**HOLY SATURDAY - April 3**  
9:00 AM - Morning Prayer  
12 Noon - Blessing of Easter Food

8:30 PM - THE SOLEMN EASTER VIGIL

**EASTER SUNDAY - April 4**  
MASS OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD  
9:00 AM and 11:30 AM

6:30 AM - Ecumenical Sunrise Service  
Spring Lake Park Gazebo  
(Rain: 6:45 AM at Wesley United Methodist Church)





By Ronald G. Rios, Chairperson,  
Committee of Public Health & Education

## To Promote and Protect Public Health & Welfare

MIDDLESEX COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

### Colorectal Cancer Awareness Campaign

The Middlesex County Public Health Department's Cancer Coalition and its Cancer Education and Early Detection (CEED) Program sponsored a colorectal cancer awareness campaign on March 23 at the Seventh Day Adventist Church in New Brunswick and on March 24 at the Metuchen Senior Center in Metuchen.

Funding for the events was provided by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services Office of Cancer Control and Prevention. The Public Health Department also has partnered with the Cancer Institute of New Jersey to provide outreach and education for County residents.

Middlesex County Freeholder Deputy Director Ronald G. Rios, chair of the county's Public Health and Education Committee, said: "I urge residents to talk to their doctors about this disease and ask them about screening tests. Education and early prevention are always the keys to healthy living. I encourage all residents to attend one of these events because the information you receive may save a life."

Colorectal cancer is cancer that occurs in the colon or large intestine/bowel. Commonly there are no early symptoms. If symptoms are present, they may include: blood in the stool; a change in bowel habits; unexplained stomach pain; frequent gas and/or in-

digestion.

Colorectal cancer is most often found in people age 50 or older, both men and women can get it, and the risk increases with age. Your risk of the disease may be higher if you or a close relative had colorectal polyps or colorectal cancer, you have inflammatory bowel disease, you have a genetic syndrome, or hereditary nonpolyposis colorectal cancer.

Regular colorectal screening is important since patients do not show symptoms in the early stages, when the cancer is more curable. Screening begins at age 50 except in high-risk individuals, who should begin screening at age 45.

David A. Papi, director-health officer of the Middlesex County Public Health Department, stated: "You can reduce your risk of colorectal cancer by getting screened. It is also important to maintain a healthy weight, eat a healthy diet, exercise more, and know your family history."

Early detection is the best way to diagnose colorectal cancer. The Middlesex County Public Health Department has a state and federally funded program to provide colorectal cancer screening for Middlesex County Residents who meet eligibility requirements. Please call our office for more information: (732) 745-3127 for English or (732) 745-3107 for Spanish.

### Cultural Arts Commission Holding Open Auditions for Talent Showcase

South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission will present their second annual talent showcase on Saturday, May 1, and they are inviting any interested South Plainfield residents to audition for the show.

Auditions will be held at Fellowship Hall at Wesley Methodist Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave. on Saturday, April 10 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sunday, April 18 from 3 to 5 p.m.

All ages and types of acts are welcome to audition. Come and share your unique talent with the community. Bring your own instruments, or any materials you may need for the audition.

For more information, call Ken and Audrey Reisch at (908) 769-5938 or E-mail spac.nj@gmail.com. You can also find us on Facebook.

## policereport

On March 2 Francisco D. Rivera, 32, of Newark was arrested for fictitious plates and an outstanding warrant.

On March 3 Joseph M. Attanasio, 21, of South Plainfield was arrested for possession of a controlled substance.

Lance T. Louison, 30, of Scotch Plains was arrested for speeding and an outstanding warrant.

Francheska Lopez-Lozano, 26, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.

On March 5 Thomas L. Payton, 46, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated and careless driving.

A Fairmount Avenue resident reported the theft of loose change from their unlocked vehicle and a decorative evergreen tree from the rear of their yard.

On March 6 Oguchi S. Amaechi, 24, of Plainfield was arrested for obstruction, driving on a suspended license, no insurance and three outstanding warrants.

A Piscataway resident reported the theft of Nike running shoes from

the locker room at LA Fitness.

On March 7 Esau Corrales-Cespedes, 28, of Scotch Plains was arrested for driving on a suspended license, speeding and failure to wear a seatbelt.

Erika McGill, 26, of Somerset was arrested at Sears Essentials for shoplifting two packages of diapers and a shirt worth \$29.

Jamal Yahkir Joseph, 29, of Plainfield was arrested for failure to inspect and an outstanding warrant.

On March 9 Omar Y. Harris, 37, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, careless driving, failure to observe a traffic signal and possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle.

Terric Anne Honeycutt, 34, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license and two outstanding warrants.

A Morris Avenue resident reported that their credit card had been used to make fraudulent purchases.

A Piscataway resident reported that a male had jumped inside their running vehicle on Dominick Court

and fled the scene.

A Tompkins Avenue resident reported that their vehicle had been keyed while parked at Sal's Spirit Shoppe on Park Avenue.

On March 10 Rahjon L. Ross, 21, of Plainfield was arrested for hindering apprehension.

A South Plainfield High School student reported the theft of their wallet from the locker room at Jost Field.

A Park Avenue resident reported the theft of a Ranger mountain bike from Putnam Park.

On March 12 a New Market Avenue resident reported that the driver and passenger side doors of their vehicle had been damaged with a bat or pipe and there were pry marks on door.

On March 15 a Manchester resident reported that the door locks of their vehicle had been damaged and a metal box containing cash and state tax certificates were taken while parked at Baja Fresh on Hadley Road.

On March 116 Enrite Gas on Durham Avenue reported that a male driver left without paying for \$10 worth of gas.

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# Easter Concert

The Cedarcroft Bible Chapel Choir  
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## The Risen Christ

A Dramatic Easter Musical

**11:15 AM, Sunday, April 4**

Directed by Ken Ward  
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## NEWS FROM THE Suburban Woman's Club



Dr. Juan C. Grana, president of Sarah Care Adult Care Center located in North Plainfield, and Natalie Bergen, vice president and program chairman of the Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield.

At the March 4 meeting of the Suburban Woman's Club, Dr. Juan C. Grana presented a program along with a slide presentation and lecture about the services provided by his facility, Sarah Care Adult Care Center, including professional services in a secure and caring environment for older adults. The center employs a staff of professionals who deal with various impairments and health problems as well as provide social, emotional, physical, spiritual and creative needs and desires of every participant with a wide range of activities.

Club President Lucy Hudson advised the members that a new Special State Project will be voted on at the New Jersey State Federation convention to be held in May at the Trump Plaza in Atlantic City. Three organizations were on the table: The Jewish Family and Vocational Service of Middlesex County, Gilda's Club of New Jersey and the Displaced Homemakers Network of New Jersey. The club voted to support the bid of Gilda's Club of New Jersey for this two year project.

The current Special State Project—Autism-New Jersey—will be sharing the club's luncheon/fashion show proceeds with its scholarship fund. Chairman Natalie Bergen reported that the plans are proceeding for this event to be held at the South Plainfield Senior Center on Sunday, April 25. Fashions will be provided by the Dress Barn of South Plainfield and many raffle prizes will be available. To join the fun, please call (908) 755-5065 for tickets.

Club members attended the NJSEWFC Public Affairs Day at the Battleground Country Club in Manalapan

on March 22 where a great program honored elected officials.

Any woman interested in being a part of this organization is welcome. Please call (732) 549-9633 for membership information.

## James Tracy to Debut First Feature Film

By Jean Fultz

James Tracy has always been interested in filmmaking, but his interest was "kicked up a notch" during his college years. While at Seton Hall University in South Orange, he worked for the college radio station, WSOU 89.5, and first met Kevin Caruso, who founded the NJ Screenwriting Network of which Tracy is a member.

A 1997 graduate of South Plainfield High School, Tracy, now an attorney in Fanwood, grew up on Gubernat Drive. He holds a BS degree in marketing from Seton Hall University and a law degree from Boston University. A member of the NJ Screenwriting Network for the past 10 years, he has written more than a dozen screenplays.

His first feature film, *The Camera's Eye*, will debut on Saturday, March 27 at 9 p.m. at the eighth annual Garden State Film Festival at the Berkeley Hotel, 1401 Ocean Ave. in Asbury Park. Tickets are \$10, and can be purchased online or at the door.

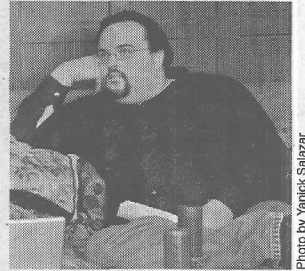
*The Camera's Eye* was directed by Wendy Shear who worked as an assistant director on such shows as *Dynasty*, *Wings*, *Sisters* and the Clint Eastwood movie, *Every Which Way But Loose*. According to the movie's

Web site, the story is about "a young troubled war photographer who is haunted by nightmares of a father she barely remembers."

"I am very excited to be debuting my first feature film in Asbury Park," said Tracy. "There will be a lot of us who were involved in the production of this film at the festival, and tickets will still be available at the door."

Tracy continues to write, and plans to stay right here in New Jersey for the foreseeable future.

For more on *The Camera's Eye*, visit [www.cameraseyemovie.com/](http://www.cameraseyemovie.com/).



James Tracy

For more about the Garden State Film Festival, visit [www.gsff.org/](http://www.gsff.org/).

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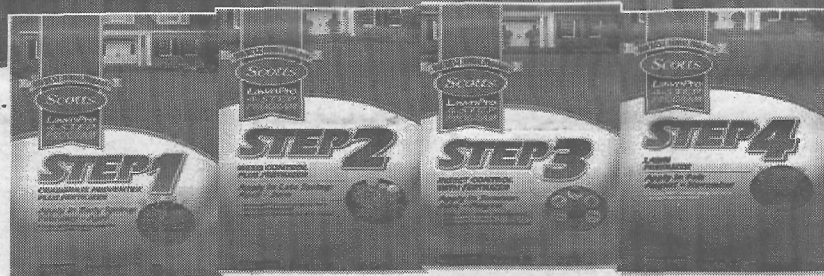
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Sacred Heart D.A.R.E. students recently enjoyed a luncheon that was donated by B&C Deli. The luncheon is hosted by D.A.R.E. Officers Dave Franchak and Sherilyn Courtney, along with Principal Terry Golden and Police Chief John Ferraro, in lieu of the end of year D.A.R.E. pool party that occurs after their school year ends. Pictured (L-R) are B&C Deli employees Mitesh Bhaget and Carlos Samayoa, D.A.R.E. Officers Franchak and Courtney, and Nisha Bhaget, owner of B&C Deli.

## County Unveils Emergency Radio Overhaul

Mildred S. Scott, Middlesex County Freeholder and chairperson of the Law and Public Safety Committee, was joined by county and local public safety officials in unveiling the county's new radio system that improves the reliability, security and effectiveness of emergency radio communications on a daily basis and in the event of any large-scale crisis.

Freeholder Scott was joined by Middlesex County Prosecutor Bruce J. Kaplan, County Fire Marshal Michael Gallagher, County OEM Coordinator Rory Zach, South Plainfield Police Chief John Ferraro and other local police chiefs, and fire and emergency medical services personnel, who showed their support for the system upgrades at an event held at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville.

"Not only did we upgrade to an 800 MHz system to ensure reliable, secure and effective communication, we connected our three mutual aid channels into it, providing 27 police departments, 50 fire departments and 58 emergency medical service agencies the ability to talk directly and instantaneously to the county and to one another on the same channel," said Freeholder Scott. "By completing this project, we created a much stronger system which leads to a more effective, better coordinated response."

"Radio communication is the life-line for police officers, and without it, even routine tasks can be hazardous," said Prosecutor Kaplan. "There was a time when various law enforcement agencies in the county could not speak to each other because their radios were not in close proximity or were on different frequencies."

"This is why the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders and Freeholder Mildred S. Scott, chairperson



Middlesex County Freeholder Mildred S. Scott (center) is surrounded by police chiefs from throughout the county at a press conference unveiling the county's new emergency radio system.

of the county's Law and Public Safety Committee, realized the importance of the emergency radio overhaul, which will help to ensure the safety of police officers and the public for many years to come," he continued.

Scott said the 800 MHz system and its municipal connections address the concerns raised in the report from the 9-11 Commission, which found that radio communications failed during and immediately after the terrorist events of September 11, 2001.

Scott said the work was completed at no cost to the towns. She explained that \$4 million in county capital funding and about \$1 million in Federal Homeland Security grants paid for the projects.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has mandated that by January 1, 2013 all non-federal public safety licenses must migrate to narrowband channels, meaning most systems currently in use in Middlesex County towns will have to be modified or replaced. Individual towns are facing replacement costs of more than \$1 million each.

"We see this as a great shared service opportunity," Scott said. "By joining our system, our municipal public safety agencies can expand their radio coverage, increase their capability, comply with the pending regulations and save money."

South Plainfield is the first town transitioning to the county system. Others are testing the system now and will be deciding over the next six months, she said.

Other advantages to joining the County's system include:

- County-wide in-building portable coverage
- No need for municipalities to maintain their own infrastructure.
- Makes agencies more attractive to receive shared services grants.
- Makes agencies more attractive to receive Homeland Security Interoperability grants.
- Although a using agency will be part of the County system, each agency can have autonomy and privacy by turning a knob. Using agencies will no longer have to lease phone lines or build microwave systems.



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## Starlight Network Searching For Local Talent

Do you watch American Idol and think you have what it takes to win? Do you have a great voice but don't know what to do with it? Are you an established band or singer who still plays local gigs and not getting the break you deserve? Then The Starlight Network is who you need to contact.

South Plainfield native Jennifer DeCosta, founder and CEO of The Starlight Network, is looking to develop up to 100 new artists in 2010. Working in collaboration with a music entertainment broadcast television show that airs in all 50 states and in 67 different countries, as well as a multi-platinum Grammy nominated producer/remixer, the company transforms musicians into valuable artists.

"The music industry has changed dramatically over the past five to 10 years," DeCosta explains. "Unless you have original music mixed and mastered for radio play, a great image, and most importantly a strong following, a record label won't even look at you. There are so many incredible undiscovered artists out there, but the truth is, in this business it's not how good you are, but who you know. I wanted to build a company that helps artists at every level and puts them on the right path to success. The Starlight Network discovers talent, develops them, and then puts them in front of A&Rs, managers, booking agents, entertainment attorney's, ASCAP members, and other industry executives who can make dreams come true."

Those musicians who The Starlight Network takes on will have the opportunity to work with a renowned producer/remixer with over 200 label credits including Beyonce, P. Diddy, Lady Gaga, Taylor Swift and Mary J. Blige, and also can take advantage of the in-house distribution company. "By

having our own distribution company, we can promote our artists in over 40 different countries and 600 different outlets such as iTunes, Emusic, Rhapsody and many others. People don't realize that when you upload a song to iTunes, you only get it in the U.S.A. and the only push is from the artists. Being under an official distribution company will help push your product and look a lot better on your resume."

The Starlight Network also includes interviews on all of our artists that will air nationwide on an industry leading TV show that interviews celebrities from George Clinton to Pitbull, as well as get them online interviews with credible Web sites to give artists great exposure.

The Starlight Network is also working with Wyclef Jean to help support the Yele Haiti Foundation to benefit victims of the devastating earthquake.

The Starlight Network is currently preparing for their next seminar this summer. If you're an established band or musician looking to take the next step, or if you just have a great voice and a dream, you should attend this event. Artists are only accepted after an interview.

"My company has a great reputation to uphold and the guests at our seminars expect to see artists that are ready for stardom. It is hard work to be a successful musician and I can only present those artists who are talented and not afraid to work hard. That is who the labels and managers want to see," said DeCosta.

If you are interested in becoming part of this amazing company, contact The Starlight Network by going to the Web site at [www.thestarlightnet.com](http://www.thestarlightnet.com) and filling out the "Contact Us" form, or E-mail [gianna@the-starlightnetwork.com](mailto:gianna@the-starlightnetwork.com).

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## GOP to Hold Open Screening for Candidates

South Plainfield's Republican Organization will be holding an open screening for candidates interested in running on the party's ticket in the next general election. Up for election this year are the mayor's seat and two seats on the borough council.

### CORRECTION

In the March 12 issue of the *Observer* in the story, "Library Board Approves Move," the vote was 7-1 not to delay a vote and to authorize the lease agreement. We regret the error.

"We want to once again open the screening process to all borough residents," said Republican Chairman April Bengivenga. "We're eager to talk to people who want to help us to continue to bring good government back to South Plainfield, and an open screening allows us to pick from a wide assortment of talent—something our town has no shortage of."

Those interested in interviewing should submit a letter of interest or resume by E-mail to [aprilnbob@aol.com](mailto:aprilnbob@aol.com) or by mail to SPGOR, P.O. Box 371, South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

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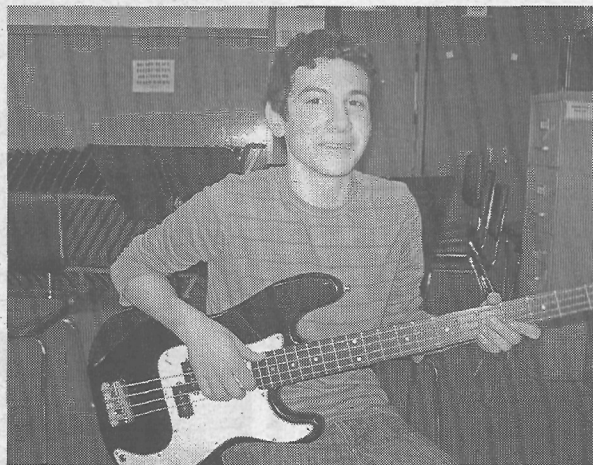


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### Milestones



Marc Stasio

### Stasio to Participate in Regional Jazz Band

The Central Jersey Music Educators' Association and the New Jersey Chapter of the International Association of Jazz Educators held their Region II Jazz Band auditions on March 15. There were jazz band and orchestra students from Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Somerset and Union counties vying for spots.

The children had to learn a solo,

memorize scales and perform some sight reading to compete for an opportunity to perform with the Region II Jazz Ensemble.

Marc Stasio, an eighth grade student at the middle school, made the Jazz band playing bass guitar. The concert for Jazz ensemble will be at Montgomery Upper Middle School in Skillman on Sunday, April 18.

### Keri Gould Named to Dean's List

Keri Gould of South Plainfield has been named to the fall 2009 dean's list at Buffalo State College. Gould, an art education major in the School of Arts and Humanities, is a 2009 graduate of South Plainfield High School.

To qualify, students must earn a minimum term GPA of 3.5 and complete a minimum of 12 credit hours. Founded in 1871, Buffalo State is

the largest comprehensive college in the SUNY system. Buffalo state offers more than 135 undergraduate and 63 graduate programs in the arts, sciences, professions and education. Each year more than 11,000 students choose Buffalo State for its superb academic programs, applied learning opportunities, affordable tuition, and metropolitan location.

### Boyle Named to Dyson College Dean's List

Michael Boyle of South Plainfield was named to the dean's list of Dyson College of Arts and Sciences. Michael received a 4.0 GPA, earning him first honors for the Fall 2010 semester. Michael, a freshman majoring in pre-medicine, is a member of the Pfor-

heimer Honors College and a member of the Pace Setter's Division II Swim Team.

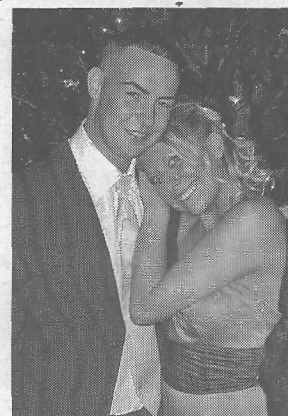
For 103 years Pace university has produced thinking professionals by providing high quality professional education resting on a firm base of liberal learning, amid the advantages of the New York metropolitan area. A private university, Pace has campuses in New York City and Westchester County, New York, enrolling more than 13,000 students in bachelor's, master's, and doctoral programs in its Dyson Colleges of the Arts and Sciences, Lienhard School of Nursing, School of Education, School of Law, and Seidenberg School of Computer Science and information systems. For more information about Dyson College of Arts and Sciences, visit [www.pace.edu/dyson](http://www.pace.edu/dyson).

### Rebecca Snyder, Andrew Fyffe To Wed

Mr. and Mrs. Scott Snyder announce the engagement of their daughter, Rebecca Snyder, to Andrew Fyffe, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Fyffe.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of North Plainfield High School and a 2005 graduate of the University of Delaware with a major in psychology. She is currently employed with The Hillside Cemetery Association of Scotch Plains.

The groom-to-be is a graduate of South Plainfield High School, and also attended Middlesex County College, majoring in education. He is currently employed with the Somerset County Bridge Division.



Rebecca Snyder and Andrew Fyffe

The couple met in 2003, and have been dating for seven years. They enjoy spending time with each other, and friends and family, no matter what they are doing. They are the type of couple who will try almost anything once. And the two just adore their puppy, Isabelle, and spoil her rotten.

The wedding is planned for October 8, 2010.

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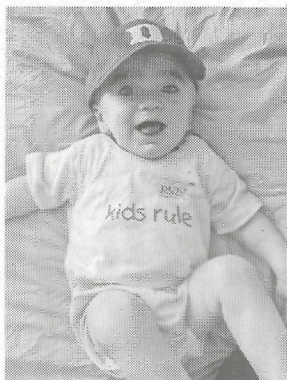
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## Please Open Your Hearts To Help Joey Angiolino



Joey Angiolino

Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer Foundation, Inc. is asking for help for Joey Angiolino, a 10-month-old suffering from Mucopolysaccharidosis (MPS), a genetic lysosomal storage disease (LSD) caused by the body's inability to produce special enzymes.

In individuals with MPS, the missing or insufficient enzyme prevents the proper recycling process, resulting in the storage of materials in virtually every cell of the body. As a result,

cells do not perform properly and may cause progressive damage throughout the body, including the heart, bones, joints, respiratory system and central nervous system. Affected individuals often have mental retardation, cloudy corneas, short stature, stiff joints, incontinence, speech and hearing impairment, chronic runny nose, hernia, heart disease, hyper activity, depression, pain and a dramatically shortened life span. There is currently no cure for MPS.

Joey has recently begun treatment, and his family will face significant financial challenges in the days, months, and years ahead. This hardworking, educated and loving family need help and support.

Please help an infant and his family by making a donation to Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer. Mail checks to: Century 21 Moretti Realty, c/o Mike Pfeifer, 225 Maple Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080. Please clearly mark "Joey" in the memo field of your check.

For further information, visit [www.mpsociety.org](http://www.mpsociety.org) or view a video at [www.caterinamarcusfoundation.org](http://www.caterinamarcusfoundation.org) to see the long road Joey has ahead of him.

**Send your donations for Joey to  
Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer  
c/o Century 21 Moretti Realty.**



Stormcaller performs at the Save Darfur Now concert.

## Concert Raises Funds for Save Darfur Now

South Plainfield High School Save Darfur Now Club held their fourth annual concert at the PAL on March 18.

The club was founded by teacher Fran Flannery and students enrolled in her Genocide class.

The 35-plus members of the club set up concessions, ticket booths and games. A line of people began to form outside the door as musicians set up their equipment.

The evening began with perfor-

mances by the band Stormcaller, and a poem by SPHS senior Holly McDede. A slideshow depicting some of the horrific scenes of the holocaust ran continuously on the back wall during the concert.

The club offered a variety of refreshments for sale. They also offered Darfur t-shirts, bracelets, stickers and pins for purchase.

The second band, Feels Like Saturday, was followed by Flipcyde, Illstars and Play With Fire.

The evening ended with performances by the bands, The Battle Begun and A Clear Blurr.

The Save Darfur Now Club was founded in 2006. Fran Flannery noted that graduate Steven Tietjen provided much of the research that the organization was founded upon.

Among some of the early members are Ryan Miller, Sarah Holbrook, Gauri Joshi and others. The first concert was held in March of 2007.

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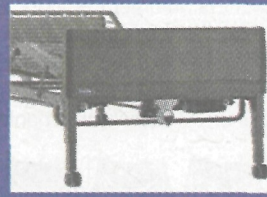
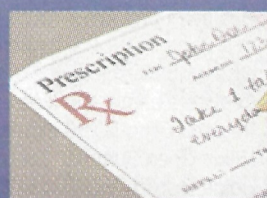


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# Sports

By Gary Lampasona

## JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

Last weekend's wonderful weather and a great turnout for field duty made for great progress in preparing the fields for opening day. Thank you to all the parents who spent arduous hours cleaning and grooming the complex. The new foul poles for Field 2 were installed.

There is still a tremendous amount to get done before the big day. Regular field duty for 11, 12 and 14-year-old parents is this weekend; please report to the clubhouse at 8 a.m. We welcome anyone else who can spare a couple of hours to help out.

**Reminder #1:** The Rutgers Certification Class is Tuesday, March 30 in the SPJBC clubhouse beginning at 6:45 p.m. You must be registered in order to attend the class. The fee will be waived for South Plainfield residents. If you are interested in participating on the field with your child's team you must have a SPJBC membership card and Rutgers Certification.

**Reminder #2:** Snack stand sign-up is Wednesday, March 31 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the clubhouse. All parents must complete a snack stand duty for each child playing in the SPJBC. Dates and times are on a first come, first served basis, so come early. You can only sign-up for yourself. If you cannot attend, your snack stand duty date

and time will be assigned.

**Reminder #3:** The deadline for receipt of applications for the SPJBC Scholarship Program is Thursday, April 1. All applications received after that will be disqualified from consideration.

**Reminder #4:** The deadline for placing a sponsor ad in the opening day program is Tuesday, March 30. Cheer your player or team on. Check the Parents Handbook or download the form from the handouts section of our Web site.

Take the family to TD Bank Park on Sunday, April 18 and support our South Plainfield High School Baseball Team when they play JFK (Iselin), the 2009 Group 3 State Champions. The game starts at 11 a.m. and tickets are available now. Tickets are \$10 each and if you buy three, you get one free. Call the clubhouse to purchase tickets. They will also be available at the snack stand once games begin.

You can find all this and more information on our Web site, [www.leaguelineup.com/spjbc](http://www.leaguelineup.com/spjbc).

**Opening Day Countdown:** April 10 is only two weeks away!

*"Baseball, it is said, is only a game. True. And the Grand Canyon is only a hole in Arizona. Not all holes, or games, are created equal."*

—George F. Will



## SPHS BOWLING

By Ralph Fech



Bowling Team Wins GMC White Division "Sportsmanship Award"—Kneeling (L-R): Brianna Kizmann, Nicole Benwell, Michelle Hernandez, Allison Yuschik and Huyen Tran. Standing (L-R): Assistant Coach Vicky Boley, Rebecca Moskal, Nicole Disch, Stephanie Sherwood, Allyson White and Coach Ralph Fech. Missing from the photo are Assistant Coach Lori Gersil, Allison Gorman and Kelly Pauls.

## RECREATION WRESTLING

By Joe Sacco

## Niemeyer Leads the Way at Kids' States

This past weekend, the South Plainfield Recreation Wrestling Team completed its season at the New Jersey Kid's States Wrestling Tournament. Placing this year for the young Tigers was: Luke Niemeyer, Tommy Fierro, Kyle Bythell, Danny Hedden, Ryan Walsh, Ray Jazikoff, Inan Sikel, Antunee Adams and Luigi Gerardi.

Luke Niemeyer led the way with his second place finish in the 85 lb. Bantam division. Luke scored a pair of decisions before dropping a 2-0 overtime match in the finals to Drew Bowker from Wrecking Crew. In the 60 lb. weight class, Tommy Fierro finished his season in sixth place scoring

two wins while in the Novice 90 lb. weight class, Kyle Bythell finished in eighth place scoring a hard fought 6-5 decision over Zachary Herbert of Sparta to earn his place in the medal round.

In the Junior division, Danny Hedden finished in fifth place at 90 lbs. and Ryan Walsh in eighth place at 80 lbs. Middle school teammates Ray Jazikoff and Inan Sikel finished in seventh place and Antunee Adams and Luigi Gerardi in fifth place.

Boys, congratulations on this great achievement. Your coaches and the South Plainfield Wrestling Club are very proud of you.

## Junior Baseball Club Accepting Scholarship Applications

South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club is now accepting applications for our college scholarships. The applications can be picked up at the Guidance Department of the South Plainfield High School or by contacting the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club at (908) 754-2090. The applicant must be a graduating high school student this June; must be a resident of South Plainfield; and must have participated in the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club for a minimum of five years.



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For info on submitting your event, visit [www.spobserver.com](http://www.spobserver.com)

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**April 17th**-Taste of So. Plainfield- Wine, Spirit & Craft Beer Tasting @ the Senior Center. (Benefits S.P. Fire Dept)

**May 7th**-Education Foundation Wine, Spirit & Craft Beer Tasting Fundraiser @ Italian American Club. (Benefits Student Scholarships)

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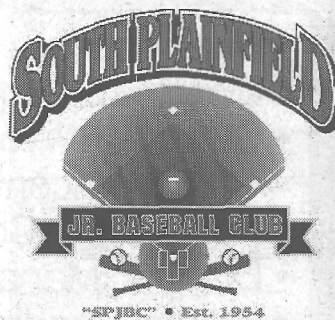
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# Sports

U-10 WANDERERS

By Janet Wizda

SOCCER CLUB NEWS

By Dawn Hutchison

## Wanderers offense overpowers tornadoes 7-1

The 2010 Spring season kicked off this past Sunday as the U-10 Wanderers took on the Woodbridge Tornadoes. The weather was beautiful, the fields were in great shape and the Wanderers offense picked right up where they left off last season, scoring seven times on 14 shots.

The pressure started minutes after the first touch. The young wanderers had two-quick shots on goal, both blocked by the Tornado keeper. Forward Brianna Noriega worked the ball up the right side of the field, executed a quick pass to Brandon Wizda who deposited the ball in the Tornado goal for the first score of the season. Within minutes of their first score Brandon Wizda passed the ball to midfielder Billy Keane who slammed the second goal of the first quarter. Woodbridge quickly got back in the game; firing four shots on goal all saved by goalie Mike Lapolla. In the second quarter the Tornadoes continued to challenge the Wanderers, and eventually scored to pull within one. Goalie Mike Lapolla was injured mid way through the second quarter while making a diving stop to preserve the lead. Billy Keane now in goal made three more saves to close out the first half.

The momentum shifted quickly back in favor of the Wanderers, the newest member on the team, Donnie Grabinsky, scored his first goal increasing the lead 3-1. Forward Joey Venitelli would score his first goal of the season on a great pass from Eric Akpan. The Tornadoes were held to one shot on goal in the third quarter. The "Wiz Kid" would add his second goal of the game on a well executed pass from Mike Lapolla. Damani Nelson now in goal for the Wanderers would add two saves in the fourth period. Brandon Wizda added his third goal of the game as he snaked past the outstretched Tornado goal keeper. A powerful offense and great goal tending were the highlights of the afternoon for the U-10 Wan-

derers. Catch the Wanderers this weekend at home on Saturday at 1 p.m. and Sunday at 4 p.m. Congratulations to all the Wanderers on their first of many victories this season. The 2010 Wan-

derers are: Eric Akpan, Chelsea Alers, Jackie Battista, Nick Farinella, Donnie Grabinsky, Billy Keane, Mike Lapolla, Damani Nelson, Brianna Noriega, Ben Sanko, Joey Venitelli and Brandon "Wiz Kid" Wizda.

U-8 SHARKS

By Nicole Plate

## Sharks Win Season Opener by a Shark Bite

The Sharks played their first game of the season on a beautiful Saturday afternoon. Their opponents were the Torpedoes of Millburn. The Sharks played very hard and kept the momentum to their advantage.

As the first quarter was coming to an end, Ashwin DeGroot scored the first goal of the game. With only a couple minutes into the second quarter, Ashwin scored his second goal. The score was 2-0 starting the third quarter. The Torpedoes answered in the third quarter with a goal. The Sharks

won the game by a score of 2-1.

The Sharks had great defense and offense from the rest of the team. The Sharks are: Justin Plate, Cooper Smith, Cameron Marks, Ashwin DeGroot, Samir Daoud, Nicholas Smiljanic, Tav Baldassarre, Gabe Mont, Nicholas Atehortua and Sebastian Hughes. Goalies Alexis Curtis and Joey Walker did a fantastic job in goal as well as on the field. The coaches and parents are very proud of the Sharks.

The Sharks next game is home on Saturday, March 27 at 3 p.m.

## Season Opens Under Sunny Skies

Well, that's more like it... beautiful weather and a great weekend of soccer. All of our teams finally got the chance to get that first game under their belts and you couldn't have asked for a better weekend.

The South Plainfield Soccer Club Board would like to thank all of our volunteer parents who came out for the field day last Saturday. We had 26 people show up to assist in getting our fields and facilities ready for a busy weekend. With eight games on our home fields, there was much to do to get the fields ready after the previous weeks rain and wind wreaked havoc. But you would never know what existed the week before if you saw the beautiful condition of our fields at game time. Great job to all of our parents, coaches and board members in making it all happen. I know I heard several parents and coaches from out of town comment how nice our fa-

cilities and fields were... it was because of your hard work.

Club clothing samples are now on display at the snack stand. Be sure to check out the merchandise available. This is a great way to show your pride in the club and your team.

As always, order forms can be found and downloaded at our Web site: [www.soplfdsoccer.com](http://www.soplfdsoccer.com). Please bookmark this site and visit it often for team and club information.

Snack stand assignments will be assigned to each team and distributed by the coaches this coming week. We are also working on securing a food cart for our turf games and shifts will be available there as well.

We hope the kids enjoyed getting out there and playing their first games. Here's to blue skies, sunny days and great games. See you at the fields.

### LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
LEGAL NOTICE  
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FOR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS LOCATED AT  
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LOT: 13-01 BLOCK 177

A public meeting has been scheduled by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield to hear objections, if any, to the release of a Performance Guarantee posted by Saint Stephen The Protomartyr Antiochian Orthodox Church for public improvements at 609-701 Lane Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 known as Lot: 13.01 Block 177 listed on the official maps of the Borough of South Plainfield. Said public hearing will be held 7:00 PM Monday, May 3, 2010 in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

Saint Stephen The Protomartyr  
Antiochian Orthodox Church  
609 Lane Avenue  
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

\$38.50 March 26, 2010

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
LEGAL NOTICE

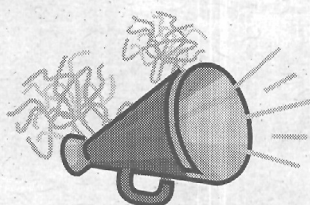
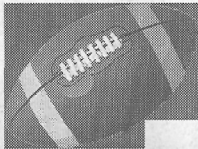
Notice is hereby given that the South Plainfield Office on Aging, has made application to NJ Transit for one (1) Extended Minibus 16 Amb with 2 Wheelchairs to assist in providing transportation to senior citizens and/or people with disabilities in Middlesex County, New Jersey. This project will be partially funded with FTA 5310 funds under a grant submitted to the Federal Transit Administration.

Any interested party who has a significant social, economic or environmental interest is invited to provide comments within 30 days to:

Borough of South Plainfield  
Office of the Municipal Clerk  
2480 Plainfield Avenue  
So. Plainfield, NJ 07080  
908-228-7806

Joann L. Graf  
Municipal Clerk

\$29.92 March 26, 2010



## WELCOMES THE FAMILIES OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, WESTFIELD, SCOTCH PLAINS & FANWOOD

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Potential opportunities in football and cheer as our children get older  
outweigh most other sports in the United States.

## 2010 REGISTRATION

For Boys and Girls ages 5 to 14 as of 7/31/2010  
**Saturday, April 24, 2010, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM**  
at the Eagles Field House  
832 Kenneth Avenue, South Plainfield

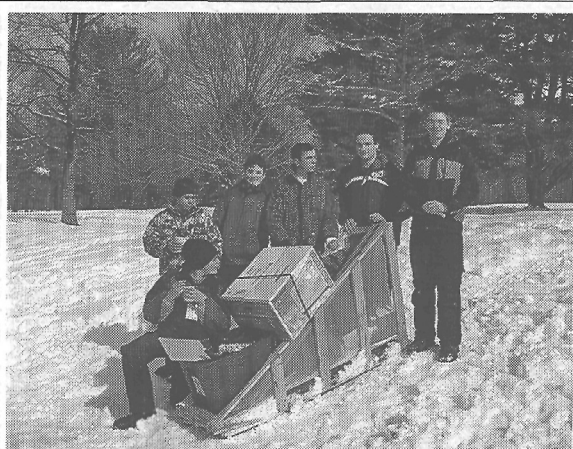
\$110 registration fee plus \$100 work bond  
Discount for more than one child in a family  
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Season starts ~ August 1<sup>st</sup>  
Visit our website at [www.leaguelineup.com/speagles](http://www.leaguelineup.com/speagles)

Should you have any questions, please contact the following board members:  
General and administrative - Anthony Cangialosi, [acangial@gmail.com](mailto:acangial@gmail.com), Cell 908-285-0462  
Football specific - Kevin Dunn, [kdunn1@verizon.net](mailto:kdunn1@verizon.net), Cell 973-219-0731  
Cheer specific - Abra Hodge, [spmajor@aol.com](mailto:spmajor@aol.com), Cell 732-803-5780





Boy Scout Troop 309 attended the annual Klondike Derby for the Patriots Path Council on February 27 at Watchung Reservation in 15 inches of snow! Troop 309's patrol of six scouts had to pull a sled loaded with supplies through a course and demonstrate the skills of fire starting, knot tying, cooking, first aid and orienteering. The scouts came in fourth place out of 18 patrols. Pictured from front to back are: Edward Sheaffer, Jorgen Holtermann, William Walsh, Chris Duffy, Patrick Foy and Matt Frank. They were led by Scoutmaster Jeff Pauls and Asst. Scoutmaster Lou Duffy.

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# Certificate of Appreciation Presented to Tim Morgan; Pennisi to Fill Vacancy

By Libby Barsky

Board of Education President Jim Giannakis presented Tim Morgan with a certificate of appreciation thanking him for his almost eight years of service at the March 17 BOE meeting.

Giannakis noted Morgan's tireless record of service as a two-time board vice president and a dedicated member of every committee and a "stand-out board member."

"I've grown a lot and learned a lot," said Morgan to his fellow board members, referring to his years as a board member when accepting the plaque.

With Morgan's resignation of March 1, time had already expired to place another nominee on the ball for year's election. The board received letters from residents to fill the remaining one year of Morgan's term. The board named Pio Pennisi, current vice president of the BOE, to the position at the Committee of the Whole meeting on March 10. Pennisi had decided not to run for another full term on the BOE due to his duties as superintendent of schools in Dunellen.

In other business, as an addendum to the regular board meeting, the

board approved the appointment of Kathleen Morgan as temporary replacement for high school physical education teacher Natalie Zeno-Carr, who has been on a parental leave of absence. Morgan has been the long term substitute for Zeno-Carr, who has announced she will return this September.

Morgan was the salutatorian of the SPHS Class of 2005 and graduated from the College of New Jersey in 2009 with a degree in health and exercise science.

BOE member Steve Bohn asked

why Morgan was not re-hired as a long term substitute as were Cynthia Mondoro for Franklin School teacher Tara Fusaro, Kathryn Domogala for Roosevelt School teacher Allison Ricardo and Heather Hearn for preschool special education teacher Kristin Redziniak. Bohn was told these three teachers would not begin as temporary replacements until the middle or end of April, while Morgan has been teaching since last November. The board voted 7-1 for Morgan to continue teaching high school physical education classes under the upgraded contract.

# Buteas Family Adopts-A-Spot On Belmont Avenue

Chrissy Buteas has signed an agreement with the South Plainfield Clean Business Association to adopt one of the borough's open space parcels on Belmont Avenue.

The Buteas Family, including Chrissy's mom and dad, Kathy and George, as well as her brother, Mike, will be removing litter from the lots between Jackson and Spruce avenues, near Roosevelt School. One to four

people will be picking up litter monthly. The borough preserved this land permanently several years ago as part of the open space project. It is a swampy area that cannot be built on without permits from the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection.

The borough has made progress over the last decade in preserving open space to prevent damage to environmentally sensitive areas. Preserving open space also helps control the negative effects of intensive development, such as traffic congestion and flooding; however, open space is just a vacant lot unless it is maintained. The brushy vegetation along the Belmont Avenue frontage tends to attract and hold litter, which then invites illegal dumping. The Clean Communities Advisory Board is pleased to have this spot taken on.

Buteas is a member of the South Plainfield Borough Council. As chair of the Health, Welfare and Environmental Committee, she serves as liaison to the borough's Environmental Commission as well as to the Clean Communities Advisory Board. With this adoption, she shows her genuine interest in the borough's environmental programs.

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

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**Call Deborah Kerr today (732-549-1998) for more information or for an appointment!**

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# LEGAL NOTICES

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

An appeal has been filed by Walter Wojciechowski requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit (2) front yard setback variances: add-a-level: propose 22.82; 30' required. Bedroom addition: propose 19.82; 30' required; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 131 Ten Eyck St., Block 202, Lot 30; Zone R-7.5 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, April 8, 2010 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey at 7:00 p.m.

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

\$38.50 March 26, 2010





(L-R): UNICO Past National President and Plainfields' UNICO founder Renato Biribin of South Plainfield; new members Susie Leonardis and Angela Baratta, both of South Plainfield; UNICO First Deputy District X Governor Robert Bengivenga; Sgt. At Arms Mike Colucci, Plainfields' UNICO President Anthony Bengivenga and UNICO Past National President Frank Licato.

## UNICO Swears in New Members

The Plainfields' Chapter of UNICO swore in two new members at a recent monthly meeting at Giovanna's Ristorante in Plainfield, Susie Leonardis and Angela Baratta, both of South Plainfield.

Plainfields' UNICO is a chapter of UNICO National, the nation's largest Italian American service organization with local chapters throughout the United States. It was founded in Waterbury, Conn. in 1922.

Plainfields' UNICO volunteer members work to support charitable, educational and service projects while promoting Italian heritage and combating negative stereotyping.

For more information on Plainfields' UNICO and on how to join, please visit our Web site at [www.plainfieldsunico.com](http://www.plainfieldsunico.com).

For home delivery of the Observer, call 908-668-0010 or email your request to [spobserver@comcast.net](mailto:spobserver@comcast.net).

## Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Bake Sale

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Orthodox Church, located at 400 Delmore Ave. (corner of Delmore and Belmont avenues) will be holding a bake sale on Saturday, April 24 from 9 a.m. until noon.

The bake sale proceeds will go directly to the church.

## SPHS Alumni Book Work Progressing

Work on the upcoming South Plainfield High School Alumni Directory Project is well underway. The Alumni Association is trying to reach everyone by mail and/or phone to update alumni information for the directory.

Designed to be a definitive reference for SPHS and alumni, the directory will make it easy for everyone to reconnect with former friends and classmates. Complete listings for each respondent will include academic, professional and personal information—sorted alphabetically by last name and cross-referenced by name of as a student—if different.

Alumni will also be listed by class year and city and state of residence, and a special editorial section of SPHS will give you a look at the past and a glimpse into our future.

To help make the directory as complete as possible, please be sure to respond to our appeal to update your biographical profile. If you haven't yet received a mailing or would like to verify your listing by phone, please call 1-866-678-9930.

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LEGAL NOTICE

| School District Budget Statement<br>for the School Year 2010-2011  |                            |                            |                               |                           |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Notice is hereby given to the legal voters of the school district of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, of a special meeting to be held in the Roosevelt Administration Building Gymnasium, 125 Jackson Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey at 7:30 P.M. on <b>Wednesday, March 31, 2010</b> . The Board will hold a public hearing on the following proposed budget for the <b>2010-2011</b> school year: |                            |                            |                               |                           |
| The South Plainfield Board of Education approved "tentative" budget is being presented for advertising prior to Executive County Superintendent approval. The budget will be approved by the Executive County Superintendent prior to the public meeting.  |                            |                            |                               |                           |
| Noticia de Reunion para Presentar el Presupuesto Escolar 2010-2011   |                            |                            |                               |                           |
| Tenemos una reunion especial para los votantes legales de South Plainfield, Middlesex County, New Jersey, en la gymnasium de Roosevelt Administration Building, 125 Jackson Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey, el <b>31 de marzo 2010</b> a las 7:30 de la noche. La reunion publico es para presentar el presupuesto escolar para 2010-2011:   |                            |                            |                               |                           |
| Advertised Enrollments   |                            |                            |                               |                           |
| ENROLLMENT CATEGORY  | October 15, 2008<br>Actual | October 15, 2009<br>Actual | October 15, 2010<br>Estimated |                           |
| Pupils on Roll Regular Full-Time   | 3255                       | 3280                       | 3280                          |                           |
| Pupils on Roll Reg Accr. Adult High Sch  | 95                         | 93                         | 93                            |                           |
| Pupils on Roll - Special Full-Time   | 451                        | 462                        | 462                           |                           |
| Pupils on Roll - Special Shared-Time   | 2                          | 3                          | 3                             |                           |
| Private School Placements  | 29                         | 25                         | 25                            |                           |
| Pupils Sent to Other Districts-Reg Prog  | 1                          |                            |                               |                           |
| Pupils Sent to Other Dist-Spec Ed Prog   | 15                         | 14                         | 14                            |                           |
| Pupils in State Facilities   | 4                          | 6                          |                               |                           |
| Advertised Revenues  |                            |                            |                               |                           |
| Budget Category  | Account                    | 2008-09<br>Actual          | 2009-10<br>Revised            | 2010-11<br>Anticipated    |
| OPERATING BUDGET   |                            |                            |                               |                           |
| Budgeted Fund Balance - Operating Budget   | 10-303                     |                            | 804,949                       | 1,150,000                 |
| Withdrawal from Current Expense Emergency Rsv  | 10-312                     |                            |                               | 350,000                   |
| Withdrawal from Cap Res-for Local Share  | 10-307                     |                            | 3,475,000                     |                           |
| Revenues from Local Sources:   |                            |                            |                               |                           |
| Local Tax Levy   | 10-1210                    | 39,108,513                 | 39,255,220                    | 40,688,003                |
| Transportation Fees from Individuals   | 10-1410                    | 112,190                    |                               |                           |
| Transportation Fees from Other LEAs  | 10-1420-1440               |                            | 122,175                       | 142,175                   |
| Interest Earned on Capital Reserve Funds   | 10-1XXX                    | 37,000                     | 3,000                         |                           |
| Other Restricted Miscellaneous Revenues  | 10-1XXX                    | 76,338                     | 67,375                        |                           |
| Unrestricted Miscellaneous Revenues  | 10-1XXX                    | 215,090                    | 237,575                       | 287,949                   |
| SUBTOTAL   |                            | 39,549,131                 | 39,685,345                    | 41,118,127                |
| Revenues from State Sources:   |                            |                            |                               |                           |
| Aid for Adult and Post-Graduate Programs   | 10-3191                    | 104,904                    |                               |                           |
| Extraordinary Aid  | 10-3131                    | 463,313                    |                               | 100,000                   |
| Other State Aids   | 10-3XXX                    | 20,706                     | 2,040,000                     |                           |
| Categorical Special Education Aid  | 10-3132                    | 1,964,597                  | 2,013,968                     | 261,882                   |
| Equalization Aid   | 10-3176                    | 6,702,978                  | 7,121,803                     | 6,944,806                 |
| Categorical Security Aid   | 10-3177                    | 347,310                    | 384,031                       |                           |
| Categorical Transportation Aid   | 10-3121                    | 373,874                    | 485,639                       |                           |
| SUBTOTAL   |                            | 9,977,682                  | 12,045,341                    | 7,306,690                 |
| Revenues from Federal Sources:   |                            |                            |                               |                           |
| Medicaid Reimbursement   | 10-4200                    |                            | 29,625                        | 29,627                    |
| SUBTOTAL   |                            |                            | 29,625                        | 29,627                    |
| Adjustment for Prior Year Encumbrances   |                            |                            | 740,284                       |                           |
| Actual Revenues (Over)/Under Expenditures  |                            | -1,380,825                 |                               |                           |
| TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET   |                            | 48,145,988                 | 56,780,544                    | 49,954,444                |
| GRANTS AND ENTITLEMENTS  |                            |                            |                               |                           |
| Revenues from Local Sources  |                            |                            |                               |                           |
|  | 20-1XXX                    | 25,869                     |                               |                           |
| Revenues from State Sources:   |                            |                            |                               |                           |
| Preschool Education Aid  | 20-3218                    |                            | 52,800                        | 52,800                    |
| Other Restricted Entitlements  | 20-32XX                    | 250,360                    | 202,000                       | 222,000                   |
| TOTAL REVENUES FROM STATE SOURCES  |                            | 250,360                    | 254,800                       | 274,800                   |
| Revenues from Federal Sources:   |                            |                            |                               |                           |
| Title I  | 20-4411-4416               | 235,570                    | 207,000                       | 103,000                   |
| Title II   | 20-4451-4455               |                            |                               | 61,400                    |
| Title III  | 20-4491-4494               |                            |                               | 9,500                     |
| Title IV   | 20-4471-4474               |                            |                               | 5,000                     |
| I.D.E.A. Part B (Handicapped)  | 20-4420-4429               | 863,541                    | 705,000                       | 708,000                   |
| Other  | 20-4XXX                    | 123,528                    | 100,000                       |                           |
| TOTAL REVENUES FROM FEDERAL SOURCES  |                            | 1,222,639                  | 1,012,000                     | 886,900                   |
| TOTAL GRANTS AND ENTITLEMENTS  |                            | 1,508,868                  | 1,266,800                     | 1,161,700                 |
| REPAYMENT OF DEBT  |                            |                            |                               |                           |
| Revenues from Local Sources:   |                            |                            |                               |                           |
| Local Tax Levy   | 40-1210                    | 1,210,005                  | 1,025,980                     | 1,183,120                 |
| TOTAL REVENUES FROM LOCAL SOURCES  |                            | 1,210,005                  | 1,025,980                     | 1,183,120                 |
| TOTAL LOCAL REPAYMENT OF DEBT  |                            | 1,210,005                  | 1,025,980                     | 1,183,120                 |
| TOTAL REPAYMENT OF DEBT  |                            | 1,210,005                  | 1,025,980                     | 1,183,120                 |
| TOTAL REVENUES/SOURCES   |                            | 50,864,861                 | 59,073,324                    | 52,299,264                |
| Advertised Appropriations  |                            |                            |                               |                           |
| Budget Category  | Account                    | 2008-09<br>Expenditures    | 2009-10<br>Rev. Approp.       | 2010-11<br>Appropriations |
| GENERAL CURRENT EXPENSE  |                            |                            |                               |                           |
| Instruction:   |                            |                            |                               |                           |
| Regular Programs   | 11-1XX-100-XXX             | 17,144,033                 | 18,452,570                    | 18,545,347                |
| Special Education  | 11-2XX-100-XXX             | 3,961,837                  | 4,364,735                     | 4,204,628                 |
| Basic Skills/Remedial  | 11-290-100-XXX             | 248,218                    | 306,830                       | 366,922                   |
| Bilingual Education  | 11-240-100-XXX             | 248,898                    | 265,401                       | 265,520                   |
| School-Spon. Co/Extra-Curr. Activities   | 11-401-100-XXX             | 123,737                    | 181,813                       | 134,421                   |
| School Sponsored Athletics   | 11-402-100-XXX             | 758,744                    | 880,305                       | 720,271                   |
| Support Services:  |                            |                            |                               |                           |
| Tuition  | 11-000-100-XXX             | 1,189,630                  | 1,666,587                     | 1,715,786                 |
| Attendance and Social Work Services  | 11-000-211-XXX             | 80,302                     | 92,259                        | 86,281                    |
| Health Services  | 11-000-213-XXX             | 626,321                    | 682,490                       | 683,358                   |
| Speech, OT, PT, Related & Extraordinary Services   | 11-000-216,217             | 1,057,590                  | 1,060,813                     | 1,227,014                 |
| Guidance   | 11-000-218-XXX             | 1,196,153                  | 1,281,978                     | 995,957                   |
| Child Study Teams  | 11-000-219-XXX             | 802,278                    | 831,922                       | 849,110                   |
| Improvement of Instructional Service   | 11-000-221-XXX             | 132,141                    | 124,001                       | 121,948                   |
| Educational Media Services - School Library  | 11-000-222-XXX             | 551,948                    | 591,182                       | 561,982                   |
| Instructional Staff Training Services  | 11-000-223-XXX             | 147,468                    | 187,083                       | 157,351                   |
| General Administration   | 11-000-230-XXX             | 1,028,260                  | 1,077,487                     | 1,076,601                 |
| School Administration  | 11-000-240-XXX             | 2,130,476                  | 2,226,298                     | 2,226,092                 |
| Central Svcs & Admin Info Technology   | 11-000-25XX-XXX            | 1,201,840                  | 1,109,207                     | 986,397                   |
| Operation and Maintenance of Plant Services  | 11-000-26XX-XXX            | 4,972,103                  | 5,224,330                     | 3,938,961                 |
| Student Transportation Services  | 11-000-270-XXX             | 1,804,484                  | 2,194,278                     | 1,728,857                 |
| Personal Services - Employee Benefits  | 11-XXX-XXX-2XX             | 6,604,886                  | 7,436,203                     | 9,257,906                 |
| Total Support Services Expenditures  |                            | 23,525,880                 | 25,788,098                    | 25,623,601                |
| TOTAL GENERAL CURRENT EXPENSE  |                            | 46,011,347                 | 50,237,752                    | 49,860,710                |
| CAPITAL EXPENDITURES   |                            |                            |                               |                           |
| Interest Earned on Capital Reserve   | 10-804                     |                            | 3,000                         |                           |
| Equipment  | 12-XXX-XXX-7XX             | 605,376                    | 100,131                       |                           |
| Facilities Acquisition and Construction Services   | 12-000-4XX-XXX             | 1,074,671                  | 5,921,917                     | 68,734                    |
| TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES   |                            | 1,680,047                  | 6,025,048                     | 68,734                    |
| SPECIAL SCHOOLS  |                            |                            |                               |                           |
| Summer School:   |                            |                            |                               |                           |
| Instruction  | 13-422-100-XXX             | 136,918                    | 185,512                       |                           |
| Support Services   | 13-422-200-XXX             | 38,645                     | 23,000                        |                           |
| Total Summer School  |                            | 175,563                    | 208,512                       |                           |
| Accredited Evening/Adult High School/Post-Graduate:  |                            |                            |                               |                           |
| Instruction  | 13-601-100-XXX             | 71,882                     | 47,575                        |                           |
| Support Services   | 13-601-200-XXX             | 178,500                    | 241,057                       |                           |
| Total Accredited Evening/Adult HS/Post-Grad.   |                            | 250,382                    | 288,732                       |                           |

| Budget Category  | Account                         | 2008-09<br>Expenditures         | 2009-10<br>Rev. Approp.           | 2010-11<br>Appropriations         |                               |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| TOTAL SPECIAL SCHOOLS  |                                 |                                 |                                   |                                   |                               |
| Transfer of Funds to Charter Schools                             | 10-000-100-56X                  | 425,925                         | 498,244                           | 25,000                            |                               |
| OPERATING BUDGET GRAND TOTAL                                     |                                 | 48,145,988                      | 56,780,544                        | 49,954,444                        |                               |
| SPECIAL GRANTS AND ENTITLEMENTS                                  |                                 |                                 |                                   |                                   |                               |
| Local Projects   | 20-XXX-XXX-XXX                  | 25,869                          |                                   |                                   |                               |
| Preschool Education Aid:   |                                 |                                 |                                   |                                   |                               |
| Instruction  | 20-218-100-XXX                  |                                 | 52,800                            | 52,800                            |                               |
| TOTAL PRESCHOOL EDUCATION AID                                    |                                 |                                 | 52,800                            | 52,800                            |                               |
| Other State Projects:  |                                 |                                 |                                   |                                   |                               |
| Nonpublic Textbooks  | 20-XXX-XXX-XXX                  | 14,984                          | 24,000                            | 25,000                            |                               |
| Nonpublic Auxiliary Services                                     | 20-XXX-XXX-XXX                  | 119,430                         | 89,000                            | 93,000                            |                               |
| Nonpublic Handicapped Services                                   | 20-XXX-XXX-XXX                  | 42,440                          | 18,000                            | 21,000                            |                               |
| Nonpublic Nursing Services                                       | 20-XXX-XXX-XXX                  | 20,226                          | 30,000                            | 35,000                            |                               |
| Nonpublic Technology Initiative                                  | 20-XXX-XXX-XXX                  | 10,480                          | 17,000                            | 20,000                            |                               |
| Other Special Projects   | 20-XXX-XXX-XXX                  | 52,800                          | 24,000                            | 28,000                            |                               |
| Total State Projects   |                                 | 260,360                         | 254,800                           | 274,800                           |                               |
| Federal Projects:  |                                 |                                 |                                   |                                   |                               |
| Title I  | 20-XXX-XXX-XXX                  | 235,570                         | 207,000                           | 103,000                           |                               |
| Title II   | 20-XXX-XXX-XXX                  |                                 |                                   | 61,400                            |                               |
| Title III  | 20-XXX-XXX-XXX                  |                                 |                                   | 9,500                             |                               |
| Title IV   | 20-XXX-XXX-XXX                  |                                 |                                   | 5,000                             |                               |
| I.D.E.A. Part B (Handicapped)                                    | 20-XXX-XXX-XXX                  | 863,541                         | 705,000                           | 708,000                           |                               |
| Other Special Projects   | 20-XXX-XXX-XXX                  | 123,528                         | 100,000                           |                                   |                               |
| Total Federal Projects   |                                 | 1,222,639                       | 1,012,000                         | 886,900                           |                               |
| TOTAL GRANTS AND ENTITLEMENTS                                    |                                 | 1,508,868                       | 1,266,800                         | 1,161,700                         |                               |
| REPAYMENT OF DEBT  |                                 |                                 |                                   |                                   |                               |
| Repayment of Debt - Regular                                      | 40-701-510-XXX                  | 1,210,005                       | 1,025,980                         | 1,183,120                         |                               |
| TOTAL REPAYMENT OF DEBT  |                                 | 1,210,005                       | 1,025,980                         | 1,183,120                         |                               |
| Total Expenditures   |                                 | 50,864,861                      | 59,073,324                        | 52,299,264                        |                               |
| DEDUCT EXPENDITURES INCLUDED IN MULTIPLE FUNDS DUE TO TRANSFERS: |                                 |                                 |                                   |                                   |                               |
| Local Contrib-Transfer to Grants & Entitlements                  | 11-1XX-100-930                  |                                 |                                   |                                   |                               |
| Capital Reserve - Transfer to Repayment of Debt                  | 12-000-400-933                  |                                 |                                   |                                   |                               |
| Transfer Property Sale Proceeds to Debt Svc Res                  | 11-000-520-934                  |                                 |                                   |                                   |                               |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES NET OF TRANSFERS                              |                                 | 50,864,861                      | 59,073,324                        | 52,299,264                        |                               |
| Advertised Recapitulation of Balance                             |                                 |                                 |                                   |                                   |                               |
| Budget Category  | Audited<br>Balance<br>6/30/2008 | Audited<br>Balance<br>6/30/2009 | Estimated<br>Balance<br>6/30/2010 | Estimated<br>Balance<br>6/30/2011 |                               |
| Unassigned:  |                                 |                                 |                                   |                                   |                               |
| General Operating Budget   | 3,519,949                       | 1,523,404                       | 1,387,455                         | 237,455                           |                               |
| Repayment of Debt  | 1                               | 1                               | 0                                 | 0                                 |                               |
| Restricted for Specific Purposes:                                |                                 |                                 |                                   |                                   |                               |
| General Operating Budget:  |                                 |                                 |                                   |                                   |                               |
| Capital Reserve  | 1,552,736                       | 3,475,000                       | 0                                 | 0                                 |                               |
| Adult Education Programs   | 0                               | 0                               | 0                                 | 0                                 |                               |
| Maintenance Reserve  | 467,310                         | 499,992                         | 499,992                           | 499,992                           |                               |
| Legal Reserve  | 852,870                         | 1,854,230                       | 1,854,230                         | 1,854,230                         |                               |
| Tuition Reserve  | 0                               | 0                               | 0                                 | 0                                 |                               |
| Current Expense Emergency Reserve                                | 170,000                         | 495,000                         | 371,250                           | 21,250                            |                               |
| Restricted for Repayment of Debt                                 | 0                               | 0                               | 0                                 | 0                                 |                               |
| Advertised Per Pupil Cost Calculations                           |                                 |                                 |                                   |                                   |                               |
| 2010 - 2011  |                                 |                                 |                                   |                                   |                               |
|  | 2007-08<br>Actual               | 2008-09<br>Actual               | 2009-10<br>Original<br>Budget     | 2009-10<br>Revised<br>Budget      | 2010-11<br>Proposed<br>Budget |
| Per Pupil Cost Calculations:                                     | (1)                             | (2)                             | (3)                               | (4)                               | (5)                           |
| Total Comparative Per Pupil Cost                                 | 10956                           | 11609                           | 12520                             | 12395                             | 12428                         |
| Total Classroom Instruction                                      | 6740                            | 7072                            | 7719                              | 7630                              | 8027                          |
| Classroom-Salaries and Benefits                                  | 6532                            | 6846                            | 7454                              | 7366                              | 7835                          |
| Classroom-General Supplies and Textbooks                         | 164                             | 190                             | 195                               | 201                               | 134                           |
| Classroom-Purchased Services and Other                           | 45                              | 37                              | 71                                | 73                                | 59                            |
| Total Support Services   | 1398                            | 1469                            | 1563                              | 1545                              | 1551                          |
| Support Services-Salaries and Benefits                           | 1267                            | 1264                            | 1355                              | 1339                              | 1330                          |
| Total Administrative Costs                                       | 1175                            | 1368                            | 1382                              | 1375                              | 1405                          |
| Administration-Salaries and Benefits                             | 926                             | 1044                            | 1104                              | 1095                              | 1135                          |
| Legal Costs  | 0                               | 0                               | 54                                | 53                                | 60                            |
| Total Operations and Maintenance of Plant                        | 1278                            | 1361                            | 1428                              | 1422                              | 1075                          |
| Operations & Maintenance of Plant-Salary & Ben.                  | 0                               | 104                             | 147                               | 145                               | 97                            |
| Total Food Services Costs  | 0                               | 0                               | 0                                 | 0                                 | 0                             |
| Total Extracurricular Costs                                      | 310                             | 280                             | 334                               | 331                               | 281                           |
| Total Equipment Costs  | 17                              | 163                             | 0                                 | 27                                | 0                             |
| Employee Benefits as a % of Salaries                             | 22.0                            | 22.2                            | 22.9                              | 22.8                              | 23.0                          |

The information presented in columns 1 through 3 as well as the related descriptions of the per pupil cost calculations are contained in the 2010 Comparative Spending Guide and can be found on the Department of Education's Internet address: [http://www.state.nj.us/education/under\\_finance](http://www.state.nj.us/education/under_finance), when available. This publication is available in the board office and public libraries. The same calculations were performed using the 2009-10 revised appropriations and 2010-11 budgeted appropriations presented in this advertised budget. Total Comparative Per Pupil Cost is defined as current expense exclusive of tuition expenditures, transportation, residential costs, and judgments against the school district. For all years, it also includes the restricted entitlement aids. With the exception of Total Equipment Cost, each of the other per pupil cost calculations presented is a component of the total comparative per pupil cost, although all components are not shown.

Annual School District Budget Statement Supporting Documentation

4A. Advertised Capital Outlay Projects

Describe below, by project number, the appropriations for budgeted Capital Outlay Projects including those items related to the district's Long Range Facilities Plan. Include only construction, remodeling, renovations, installation of service systems, land and improvements, and the purchase of buildings. If the project is eligible for a grant, enter an 'X' in column 4. Do not include equipment. Include all projects budgeted on the transfer lines to capital projects fund (8326 and 8335). If the project is a request to exceed an existing referendum (Under N.J.A.C. 6A:26-4.4(a)3), enter an 'X' in column 5 and enter the funding source for the request in column 6. Complete a detailed budget for each project.

| Description/Activity               | Project<br>Number | Dollar<br>Amount | Eligible<br>for Grant | Request to<br>Exceed<br>Referendum | Funding Source<br>for Request |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Assessment for Debt Service on SDA |                   | 68,734           |                       |                                    |                               |
| Total Amount:                      |                   | 68,734           |                       |                                    |                               |

NOTICE/ADVISO

The complete budget will be available for examination by the public at the Office of the Secretary of the Board of Education at 125 Jackson Avenue, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. from March 19, 2010 to April 19, 2010, both inclusive.

The school district has proposed programs and services in addition to the core curriculum content standards adopted by the State Board of Education. Information on this budget and the programs and services it provides is available during normal business hours at the South Plainfield Board of Education, Business Office, 125 Jackson Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

En su totalidad el presupuesto se hara disponible al publico en la Oficina del Secretario de la Junta de Educacion en Jackson Avenue, No. 125 de 9:00 de la manana a las 4:00 de la tarde desde 19 de marzo, 2010 a 19 de abril, 2010.

El distrito escolar ha propuesto programas y servicios en adición al contenido esencial del curriculum modelo adoptado por La Junta de Educacion del estado. La informacion de este presupuesto y de los programas puede ser obtenida durante las horas normales de oficina, en la Junta de Educacion, Oficina de Negocios, en South Plainfield in la siguiente direccion: 125 Jackson Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

Richard A. Guarini, Secretary/Secretario  
South Plainfield Board of Education/Junta de Educacion  
125 Jackson Avenue  
South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080

CITIZENS ARE URGED TO VOTE APRIL 20, 2010  
SCHOOL BOARD & BUDGET ELECTIONS

Polls are open from 2 to 9 p.m. Check your sample ballots for polling places or call the Borough Clerk's Office, (908) 226-7606.



## Why Easter?

*Spring - a time of new life*

Spring is a season of new beginnings, and Easter is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus and the hope of eternal life. His resurrection gives. Jesus said, "My Father wants everyone who sees Me to have faith in Me and to have eternal life. Then I will raise them to life on the last day."

*So what is eternal life?*

What does it mean to have eternal life? One aspect is that the grave is not the end. The Bible tells us that our dying and decaying bodies will be transformed into bodies that will never die or decay. Death will be swallowed up in victory! We will be able to be in God's presence forever, away from all the sorrows we experience in this life.

*But wait! There's more!*

However, that is not all. The Bible also says that followers of Jesus do not lose heart since their spirits are being renewed every day even though their bodies are dying. We have hope because God is in the process of changing us daily. Those who have turned their lives over to Jesus have been set free by Him from the power of sin that leads to death.

*How about you?*

Is this your experience? If not, it is one you can have. It is offered to those who submit to Jesus as ruler of their lives and rely on His death and resurrection to allow them to have an eternal relationship with God. Surrendering to God is a sacrifice, but the result is that you will be forgiven by God and be able to begin to experience eternal life, which Jesus described as truly knowing both God the Father and Him.

*-From Christians who meet at Cedarcroft Bible Chapel*



Kennedy School McTeacher's Night was held on March 2 at the McDonald's of South Plainfield on Oak Tree Road. Kennedy School principal, teachers and staff worked with the McDonald's staff to help support the PTSTO. Kennedy School received 10% of the proceeds from that evening. Lisa Parker, Kennedy School principal, is taking orders at the register.

## Join Girl Scouts for "Uniquely Girls"

Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey will be presenting our "Uniquely Girls" monthly event. Girls ages K-12th grade are welcome to join Girl Scouts and join the fun. The cost of \$17 covers the membership and activity fee. Currently registered Girl Scouts-bring a non-member girl and the Girl Scout attends for free!

This month's theme is "Fun with Fitness." Girls will take part in fun activities, guaranteed to get their bodies moving and their hearts pumped! Girls will also discover healthy eating habits and stress relief techniques.

The program will be in the Central Service Center in Westfield and the

Eastern Service Center in Montclair on Friday, April 9 (RSVP by April 5) and the Central Service Center in North Branch on Friday, April 16 (RSVP by April 12).

Visit [www.gshnj.org](http://www.gshnj.org) for registration forms and additional information.

## Observer Web Poll Asks:

## How Do You Feel About the Locked Gate at the Middle and High Schools?

By Jean Fultz

A recent Observer Web poll asked, "How do you feel about the locked gate between the middle school and the high school?" According to the article, "Gate Closure Jams Traffic" from the February 12, 2010 issue of the South Plainfield Observer, the Board of Education made the decision to permanently lock the new gate between the middle school and the high school parking lots as ordered by SPHS Principal Dr. Ken May. According to Richard Guarini, business administrator and board secretary, May was concerned about "outsiders" playing on the fields next to each school.

The decision to lock the gates all the time has led to traffic backups on Merchants and Lane avenues, as well as on Plainfield Avenue, and has angered many parents who have been stuck in idle traffic when picking up their children from school.

The administration has stood by its decision, as has the police department, with Police Chief John Ferraro saying, "Not keeping the gates open facilitates better traffic flow as people enter and exit the parking lots."

Of the 59 percent of the people

who took part in the Web poll, 34% (20 votes) disagreed with the decision, saying the gates should be locked only when school is in session, with those who said the gate should be locked all the time at 31% (18 votes).

Eight voters, or 14% of respondents, said, "It should be open all the time" while six voters, or 10%, said, "It should be open only on weekends." Those who felt the gate should be locked only during lunch time at the schools (5) received 8% of the vote. Only two votes were received for the option, "I really don't care; I don't have children in either school," representing just 3% of the vote total. "It should be open Monday-Friday" and "I do care; I live in the neighborhood and the traffic has gotten worse" did not receive any votes.

If you have a question you would like to see featured in a future Web poll, E-mail it along with your name, address and phone number to [spobsrvr@comcast.net](mailto:spobsrvr@comcast.net) for consideration.

Check out the photo gallery on our Web site at [spobsrvr.com](http://spobsrvr.com)

## There's hidden treasure in your dresser drawers!

Gold is at an all-time high. It's a great time to get top dollar for your unwanted gold.

"Because I have no physical store, my overhead is very low and I can work on a lower percentage. Below is a list of some of the items that I purchase outright. Don't hesitate to call me with your questions." -Greg Heim, local resident & full time coin dealer

Act Now! There's no guarantee how long this will last! I buy any of these items...

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- 1935 and before Silver Dollars

- All United States Coinage, foreign coinage and United States paper money
- Gold, Platinum, Palladium and Silver Bullion
- Sterling silver (forks, knives, spoons, trays, etc.) as long as it is marked "sterling" or "0.925"
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E-mail: [gynandroidhead@yahoo.com](mailto:gynandroidhead@yahoo.com) • Website: [www.gynandroidhead.com](http://www.gynandroidhead.com)  
Through December 31, 2009, a portion of my purchases will be donated to each of the following groups:  
The South Plainfield Girl Scouts, Autism Speaks, and the Michael Pepe, Jr. Foundation."

LIFE MEMBER: American Numismatic Association, Garden State Numismatic Association, Watchung Hills Coin Club (original member).  
MEMBER: Early American Coppers Club, Numismatic Literary Guild, New Jersey Numismatic Society

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[southplainfieldnj.com](http://southplainfieldnj.com)

Mayor & Council • Borough Officials & Agencies • Meeting Dates • Police-Fire-Rescue Squad • Recreation • Senior Center • South Plainfield Business Association Listing • Community Bulletin Board • Yard, Garage Sales, Classifieds

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## County Offers Special Passport Event

The Middlesex County Clerk's Office will be open during special weekend hours from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 27 to process U.S. Passport applications.

Applications for U.S. Passports will be accepted in the Freeholder Meeting Room (first floor), Middlesex County Municipal Building, located at 75 Bayard St. in New Brunswick.

Persons applying for a passport must present:

- Evidence of U.S. citizenship in the form of a certified birth certificate with a raised seal and a file date from the registrar of vital statistics from the state, county or municipality the applicant was born in, or a previous passport for natural born citizens. (Hospital birth certificates and baptismal certificates are not acceptable.)

- Evidence of U.S. citizenship in the form of a naturalization certificate is required for foreign-born citizens who became U.S. citizens through naturalization.

- Identification in the form of a valid driver's license, a school photo ID, or an employment photo ID.

- Two identical 2"x 2" regulation passport photos taken within the last six months. If you do not already have

your photos, you can have them taken at the event for a fee of \$10.

The fee for an adult passport age 16 and over is \$100. Payment must be made via check or money order in the amount of \$75 payable to the U.S. Department of State and a separate check or money order for \$25 made payable to the Middlesex County Clerk. The passport is valid for 10 years.

The fee for a child's passport (16 years of age or younger) is \$85. Make check or money order in the amount of \$60 payable to U.S. Department of State and a check or money order for \$25 payable to the Middlesex County Clerk. The minor passport is valid for five years.

No cash will be accepted.

All applicants must appear in person. If applying for a passport for a minor under the age of 16, both parents and the minor child must be present at time of application.

Processing time is approximately four to six weeks. Expedited applications take two to three weeks. Additional \$60 fee applies.

Additional information may be obtained by calling the Middlesex County Clerk's Office at (732) 745-3404.

# Classifieds

## LOCAL CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

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**DELIVERY PERSON W/OWN CAR-BUSY** Deli, 2-4 hours during middle of the day. Ideal for mom w/school age children. Great Pay! Call (908) 755-4376.

**NEED PERSON WITH MANICURE/PEDICURE** exp. to manage this area. Call Sandy at (908) 392-0296.

**SUMMER FLOATER FOR SKYLANDS** Bank. Must be available May through August. Time will vary. For more info, call Darlene Pinto (908) 561-1279.

**RECEPTIONIST/ADMIN ASSISTANT**—Daytime receptionist/admin assistant position available at established construction management/real estate development firm. Flexible 30 hour Mon.-Fri. work week. Excellent opportunity for advancement for the right person. Job duties include: answering and directing calls, light computer work including MS Outlook, Word. Compensation: \$15/hr. Please send your resume to [scott.jack79@gmail.com](mailto:scott.jack79@gmail.com).

**SOUTH PLAINFIELD COMPANY** looking for clerical office support. Duties include but not limited to fielding telephone calls, walk in customers, taking customer orders. Call (908) 561-8231.

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Brick House Tavern + Tap opened for business on March 7 in Hadley Center.

## Brick House Tavern + Tap Opens

Just in time for March Madness, a new neighborhood gathering spot—Brick House Tavern + Tap—opened on March 7. Warm hospitality, a seemingly endless assortment of more than 70 beers, an outdoor fire pit and American foods are among the offerings that will make Brick House a favorite place for good food and good company.

Located in Hadley Center, this is the seventh overall Brick House location and the second on the East Coast.

When guests arrive at Brick House, they can take a seat at the indoor/outdoor bar or head to the Rec Room to lounge in soft leather recliners featuring built-in beer glass holders. TV trays are available for dining and drinking in front of eye-level HD TVs, making Brick House just like home—only better! With 32 TVs, every seat is a great place to watch your preferred sport! Guests can also venture out-

side to unwind around the fire pit on the covered patio.

"We could not be more excited to be opening our doors in South Plainfield," said General Manager Jerry Gumbrecht. "Brick House Tavern + Tap will be an entirely unique gathering spot for people looking to enjoy a beer and wonderful food while relaxing with friends or watching the game."

Serving up ice cold brewskies and Doublewide Sloppy Joes are the Brick House Girls, an all-female, girls-next-door service team. Brick House Tavern + Tap will employ about 120 full and part time employees determined to provide guests with the ultimate dining and drinking experience.

More than 70 beers are available at Brick House—served as many ways as you can imagine! Whether you are looking for an affordable can of PBR or a no-nonsense 40-ounce bottle

nested in a stainless steel pail, there is an option for every beer lover.

Brick House is the place where locals and imports unite! Those who prefer a local taste can enjoy flavors from community breweries, including Dogfish Head and Cricket Hill, while others savor a Belgian brew. Craving something other than a traditional beer? Brick House will tempt taste buds with beer cocktails. Signature beer-infused drinks include the Milwaukee Margarita and other beers with a kick.

In the end, Brick House Tavern + Tap is all about having a relaxing good time. "We hope to become a sanctuary for community firefighters, corporate executives, little league coaches and other local heroes," said Gumbrecht.

For more information about Brick House Tavern + Tap, visit [www.brickhousetavernandtap.com](http://www.brickhousetavernandtap.com).

## BOE Facing 27.8 % Less in State Aid

(Continued from page 1)

additional revenue and prevent the necessity of cutting teachers. Some of those items were included in the tentative budget, but they are continuing to try to come up with more funds to prevent a scenario where 15 teaching positions would be eliminated.

Over 400 people, consisting mostly of teachers, attended the second budget workshop on March 23 at Roosevelt School.

The teachers were informed that the New Jersey Assembly had passed a bill that would have public employees contribute 1.5% of their total salary towards their own benefits. This would result in an estimated \$400,000 the district would be able to use to keeping teachers and programs according to Board Administrator/Secretary Richard Guarini.

Because the district is negotiating a new contract with its teachers, Guarini

is also seeking a savings of \$200,000 in health benefits from an insurance carrier which will provide equal or better services than their current provider. The combined amounts (\$600,000) would allow the district to keep 10 teachers, he said.

However, nothing definite was said on what programs would be reduced or teachers affected by the cuts in the budget. Superintendent of Schools Jose Negron stated, "The cuts would be across the board."

Board member Debbie Boyle asked to have another workshop next Tuesday, Wednesday, March 30, "when all the figures are in." The meeting will be held at Roosevelt School.

At the Committee of the Whole meeting on March 31, the public will learn what the changes and cuts will be before the board votes to approve the 2010-2011 budget. The public will vote on the budget on April 20.

## Borough Seeks Ways To Cut Budget

(Continued from page 1)

Having both events on one day creates a situation where every police officer is on duty and receives overtime pay.

- Hold bulk pick up once a year;
- Eliminate the cost to borough of \$30,000 for leaf bags by having Home Depot sponsor. Have residents pick up bags at the store not at DPW;
- Reduce the number of crossing guards at intersections where no students have been seen crossing;
- Recalculate the amount allotted to unused vacation days recognizing

the pay scale was lower when borough employees began employment and basing unused days accordingly;

- Place a cap on unused vacation time so if time is not used within certain perimeters, it's gone;
- Bring back the volunteer special police force to cover events such as the Labor Day Parade;
- Continue shared services with Board of Education.

The council welcomes suggestions from the public on their ideas of ways to save in order to reduce borough shortfall.

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A SHOULDER TO CRY ON. IT'S KNOWING A

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SOMETHING WE EARN EVERYDAY.



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## In My Opinion

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

(Continued from page 2)

suspension on his record, he has little hope for acceptance at Tulane, Vanderbilt or Loyola. Secondly, the future of any kid who aspires to the Princeton's of the world now is at the mercy of any kid disinvested enough to punch him. That's a lot of power to put in a malcontent's hands. Thirdly, as a parent, if I know that my kid is going to be subject to suspension as a result of being assaulted, I am going to make sure that my kid knows how to defend himself. If he is going to be suspended as a result of being assaulted, there's no use in taking a beating, too. Sorry school board, my kid is nobody's punching bag.

We pay a fortune in taxes to support our school system as it prepares our kids for their future. I find it utterly ridiculous that the system we sacrifice so much to support will so casually, arbitrarily and with imperial disregard of the consequences, destroy a kid's future. This situation smells of bureaucratic convenience. For the amount of money we put into education, we have the right to expect the school administrative to safeguard our kids and their opportunities.

**BILL GARNER**

Dear Editor,

Many people have been saying that they would like to send help for Haiti. This evening (Sunday) I received a call from the doctor I worked for in Jerimic, Haiti in 1986. We have been E-mailing back and forth on this subject.

About 10,000 people from Port au Prince have been moved to the Jerimic area, to move in with friends and relatives (sometimes eight people to a three room shack).

Tonight, he told me they can use "everything," but do not send clothing as it costs too much to ship things there. He also said they can buy clothing in Haiti.

His suggestion was to send money, food and/or medicines to: Haiti Health

Foundation, 100 Sherman St., Norwich, Conn. 06360. Please do not send 'out of date' medicines; the authorities will only dump them. Aspirin, antacids, vitamins and cold remedies are "high on the list." Also, personal hygiene supplies would surely be 'second' on the list.

When they get enough items to fill a container it will be sent to Port au Prince, then out to Jerimic. It costs \$4,000 to ship the container to PaP, then another \$5,000 to truck it to Jerimic. The truck route to Jerimic is about 160 miles, mostly uphill. Gas is at least \$10 a gallon.

All international shipping has to go into PaP to Customs. The small dock in Jerimic does not have the big cranes that are needed to lift the container off the ships. As the old saying goes: "When you are in my ballpark, you play by my rules."

**THANK YOU,  
WILLIAM (BILL) TUTHILL**

Dear Editor,

Spring is once again upon us and we are all going to start enjoying the outdoors again. As we start to prepare our yards for the summer months, I ask that you lend a helping hand with keeping our borough clean of litter.

This year our borough-wide spring clean-up is on Saturday, April 17. This is a great opportunity for us all to meet our neighbors, while performing a great service for our community. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact our environmental specialist, Dr. Alice Tempel, at [atemel@southplainfieldnj.com](mailto:atemel@southplainfieldnj.com) or call her at (908) 226-7621.

**SINCERELY,  
CHRISSE BUTEAS,  
COUNCILWOMAN**

To the Riley School PTSO:

Thank you for all the thoughtfulness, attention and effort you put into every detail of the Grandparents' Day

celebration on March 17.

The kindergarten and first and second grade students gave us an outstanding performance, which they clearly spent a lot of time memorizing and practicing. All the students were great and the little red head in the first grade, stage right, was fantastic! The "waitresses" and "waiters" were very attentive, the table settings were beautiful and the breakfast was excellent. On that morning, it was the best restaurant in town! Your time and talent is greatly appreciated.

**JACK AND MAUREEN TERHUNE**

Dear Editor,

On St. Patrick's Day, the volunteer parents of Riley School hosted a fabulous Grandparent's Day. We were treated to a delicious breakfast, served by parents and students. Prizes and a 50/50 drawing followed it. Next, we enjoyed a wonderful singing performance by the kindergarten, first and second graders. After that, we visited our grandchildren's classrooms and met with their teachers. Thank you so much Stacey Pace and all the other parents, as well as Mr. Czech and of course the wonderful teachers at Riley School for making all the grandparents feel so special.

**SINCERELY,  
JOHN AND JOANNE O'SULLIVAN**

Dear Editor,

Students at Roosevelt School 2010 collected Pennies for Patients to benefit The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society during the month of February.

After three weeks of students bringing their spare change to school, the total was \$2,030.82! We would like to say a special thanks to all the families that contributed to this worthy cause. We would also like to thank TD Bank for counting all the coins. The top fundraising class was Mrs. Urrego's kindergarten class. They donated \$220.75 and won first prize, a Domino's Pizza party. Second place winner was Mrs. Wilson's second grade class. They donated a total of \$158.50 and will receive an ice cream party for the entire class. "I am so proud of our students," said Mr. Diehl, school principal at Roosevelt Elementary School. "The students learned that they can make a difference—every penny counts. They did a great job of giving selflessly to help children and others battling blood cancer."

"These students serve as an example to all of us through their commitment to helping others," said Jessica Orr, campaign manager of the Northern New Jersey Chapter. "Their efforts will help local patients and their families along with funding blood cancer research." Leukemia causes more deaths than any other cancer among children and young adults. An estimated 823,349 Americans are living with a blood cancer, and every five minutes, someone new is diagnosed. Since 1992, \$3.9 million has been raised locally by thousands of elementary, middle and high school students. For information regarding local programs and services of Northern New Jersey Chapter of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, call (908) 956-6600 or visit [www.LLS.org/nnj](http://www.LLS.org/nnj).

**SINCERELY,  
MARGARET MOSLEY, STUDENT  
ASSISTANCE COUNSELOR,  
STUDENT COUNCIL ADVISOR**

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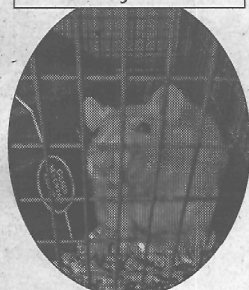
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Children and Grandchildren

Debra, Patricia, Norayr,  
Christina, Paul, Andrew,  
Brandon, Christopher, Matthew,  
Danielle and Kimberly

### In Memory of Walnut



Dearest Walnut,  
Always loved, and  
forever in our hearts.  
Love, Wyatt, Susan, Rick,  
Justin & your sister, Lily

## Obituaries

### Doris Longinotti, 94

Doris Longinotti (Weber) died on Friday, May 19 at the JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born in Syracuse, N.Y. she was a graduate of Summit High School and a resident of South Plainfield since 1957.

Beloved by relatives, friends and children for her caring nature, generosity of spirit and openness, she will be greatly missed.

Her callings from an early age were motherhood, home and family. She was an accomplished refinisher of antique and collectible furniture, excelled at needlepoint and cross stitch and baked the best Christmas cookies this side of Heaven. But nothing delighted her more than babies and children.

She is predeceased by her beloved husband of 62 years, Louis.

She is survived by a daughter, Barbara Nargi of Green Brook and partner Harry H. Wade; a son, David of Columbia, Md. and wife Yao Tang; a daughter, Cathy of Short Hills; a sister, Ansin Stepp of Bound Brook; four grandchildren, John Nargi and wife Suzanne, Sharon Merola and husband Chris, Julia and Carlo Longinotti, a step-granddaughter, Xiaojing Fan; and three great-grandchildren, Thomas and Rachel Nargi and Zoë Merola.

Funeral services were held at Mc-Criscin-Gustafson Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to the donor's favorite charity.

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## JUNIOR JOURNALIST

### Dania Mohtadi Named Junior Journalist



Junior Journalist winner Dania Mohtadi with teacher Cynthia Severino.

Kennedy School fourth grader Dania Mohtadi has been named a winner in the Junior Journalist contest for her poem, "No More Snow." She will receive a dinner for her family courtesy of Hometown Heros.

Students can submit their original written works to their teachers, principal or the *Observer* at 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Winners will receive a catered dinner for their families from Hometown Heros and will be honored at a banquet on May 12. 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.

#### No More Snow

By Dania Mohtadi, Kennedy School

NO, NO, NO  
No more snow.  
Snow used to be fun.  
Though sooner or later we need some sun.  
We've done all our sledding, snowboarding, and skiing.  
I'll call Mother Nature.  
And hope her phone will be ringing.  
It's turning March, you see.  
More snow?  
THAT JUST CAN'T BE.

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In a joint expansion plan RE/MAX Competitive Edge and RE/MAX Best have successfully merged their respective companies. RE/MAX Competitive Edge has 60 licensed agents working from three locations: South Plainfield, Warren Township and Clinton. RE/MAX Best has offices in Highland Park and Old Bridge.

RE/MAX Competitive Edge is very excited to have Maryhelen Thievon as the broker/associate/office manager of the South Plainfield branch. Thievon, an award winning professional (NJAR Distinguished Sales Club), has proven herself as a leader in the real estate industry over the past 20 years and has successfully managed the Middlesex office since its opening in 2007. She

has been a tremendous asset to the company, sharing her wealth of knowledge and experience. A resident of South Plainfield her entire life, she is a top producer along with her husband, Paul Thievon. Working side by side in the real estate industry as a team, they also raised two sons and two daughters, and now have eight grandchildren.

The South Plainfield professionals include Frank Alfano, Linda Cammarota, Stacey Gother, Sheila Hudson, Ravi Kumar, Janet Palazzi, Jack Pedersen, Darlene Whitney and Paul Verdicchio and the "V" Team—Darlene Kortvelyes, Regina Rodriguez, Sharada Mahtani and Andrew Zahler.

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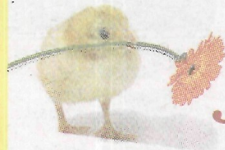
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