

South Plainfield Observer

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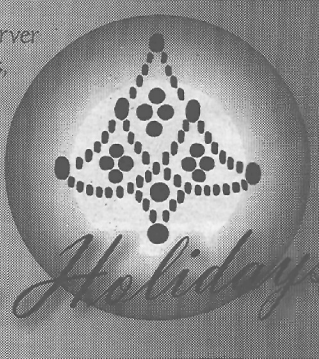
VOL. 14, NO. 16

Member New Jersey Press Association

60 CENTS

DECEMBER 24, 2010

The South Plainfield Observer wishes all of our readers, advertisers, contributors and the South Plainfield community a very Merry Christmas.



BOE Appoints Interim Asst. Superintendent

By Libby Barsky

The Board of Education appointed Dr. Frank Cocchiola, Jr. as interim assistant superintendent of instruction and operations at the December 15 meeting.

Cocchiola began work on December 16 at a rate of \$575 per day. He replaces Dr. Lorraine Cella,

who will leave the district on December 30 to take the position of Edgewater superintendent of schools.

A graduate of Seton Hall University, Cocchiola holds a B.S. degree in math and education, a master's degree in administration and supervision from Montclair State University and a doctorate in the same subject from Fordham University

in New York.

Cocchiola was a teacher and then an administrator in Wallington for 42 years, 20 of which were in the position of superintendent, where he oversaw two elementary schools and the junior-senior high school.

Cocchiola is currently an adjunct professor at both Felician and Caldwell colleges.



Dr. Frank Cocchiola

Annual Tree Lighting Honors Fallen Soldiers



South Plainfield Eagles Midget Cheerleaders have the honor of flipping the switch to light the McCriskin Christmas tree.

When the McCriskin Family made the decision 26 years ago to decorate the huge evergreen tree on the lawn of the McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals, they were unaware that the small gesture would lead to an enduring memorial.

The original plans called for a lighted Christmas tree, but the events of December 12, 1985, would serve as the catalyst for a tradition that would unite a community for years to come.

(Continued on page 10)



Local veterans gather to honor the members of the 101st Airborne who died on December 12, 1985.

Children's Author Visits Grant School

Author Valerie Thomas visited Grant School students on December 13 as part of the new "Meet the Author" program. Thomas discussed her experience as a writer and read excerpts from *Karma Bites*, a book that she and co-author Stacy Kramer recently published.

The Meet the Author program is sponsored by the South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission (SPCAC). The concept was initially discussed by longtime SPCAC board members, Audrey and Ken Reisch. The Reisches, who are literacy volunteers, wanted to provide a decisive way to engage students with the written word.

In the fall, the new district-wide writing curriculum, *Being a Writer*, was implemented, and it became a reality for Grant School students after SPCAC board members and Grant School Principal Leo Whalen developed the two-part program.

During the first visit, the author introduces him or herself and reads from his or her book; the next month the author returns to sign the books that were donated to each student who pledged to read the book in its entirety.

In two separate sessions, Thomas spoke to fifth, and then to sixth, graders. She discussed with the classes how she became a writer after majoring in the classics—Latin and Ancient Greek—at Reed College in Oregon.

"I didn't know what I wanted to do when I was growing up. Some people know what they want to do, but I didn't," Thomas said.

Deciding to move to Europe right after college, Thomas took jobs as a waitress and a cook, and she sold t-shirts. In Germany she started her own brownie business. After a few years of living in Europe, she returned to the United States and moved to New York City where she only knew one person. That friend helped her make a connection which set Thomas on a career path as an editorial assistant to a film director in a movie production company where she worked with writers who wrote screenplays.

"For 10 years I was reading a lot of scripts, and at the same time working with the people who wrote movie scripts," she said. "I worked on the films, *The Avenger Part 3*, a really horrible movie—and later on *The Silence of the Lambs*. Then I left to write my own script. It was sold to 20th Century Fox, but never made



(L-R): Grant School Principal Leo Whalen with author Valerie Thomas and South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission members Pam Stefanek and Audrey and Ken Reisch.

into a movie."

Thomas began to think of writing a book after her daughter was born. "I wanted to write a book she could read one day, but not a picture book," she explained.

Karma Bites was published in August of 2010. The humorous story is about a young girl named Franny, who survives the year she started seventh grade with two best friends who can't stand each other, parents who are divorcing, twin eight-year-old brothers who are difficult to live with and a hippie grandmother who

gives her a large box of recipes that may fix her problems, but warns her not to use them. "Franny is about to learn that magic and karma aren't to be played with. When you mess with the universe, it can bite back in unexpected ways," according to a book review on amazon.com.

Thomas also said that the Disney TV Channel is considering the book for a TV movie. She also is writing another young adult novel that will be published next year.

"When I was your age, I didn't

(Continued on page 11)



Middle School Student Council members Gianna Marcovecchio and Brianna Boyce pack donations from the annual Gifts for Children toy drive that took place from November 29 through December 15. Students and staff were asked to bring in one new toy; they collected more than 20 bags filled with items for needy children of all ages. The gifts were distributed to middle school and borough families; the remaining toys were donated to the United States 1st Marine Division (retired, N.J. Chapter) and other families in Middlesex County.



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

FYI

Borough Council

Council meetings air on Comcast Channel 96 Mondays at 7 p.m. BOE meetings air on Thursdays at 7 p.m.

To purchase a complete copy of a council or BOE meeting, contact the Observer.

(Check Comcast community bulletin board for last minute time changes.)

council meetings

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

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

Reorganization Meeting January 2 at 1 p.m. At the Senior Center—All are Welcome

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

planning board

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

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

zoning board of adjustment

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

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

board of education

Meets Wednesdays at Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave.

Committee of the whole meetings (begin at 6:00 p.m.)

2011: Jan. 12, Feb. 9, March 2 and March 30.

Regular Public Meeting (begin at 7:30 p.m.): Jan. 19,

Feb. 16, March 16, April 6.

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.

BOE buildings & grounds

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

library board of trustees

Meets once a month on the second Tuesday, at the library at 7 p.m.

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.

environmental commission

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

business advisory group

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

ad hoc alternative truck route committee

(To be announced) at 7 p.m. in the Senior Center Questions? 908-226-7605

**For home delivery of the Observer, call 908-668-0010
or email spobserver@comcast.net.**

South Plainfield Observer

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.



The borough held a breakfast with Santa last Saturday morning at the Senior Center. Pictured are the volunteers who helped make the breakfast a success. They are: (L-R) kneeling Mike Buteas, Nina Rohrer and Mayor Charles Butrico; standing: Ken Cavanagh, Kathy Buteas, George Buteas, Joe Scudato, Councilwoman Chrissy Buteas, Max Waldrop (Santa), Joe McGeehan, Bill Butrico and Debbie Boyle. More than 100 adults and children enjoyed scrambled eggs, French toast, pancakes, bacon, sausage, juice, coffee and tea. The cost of \$6 included a picture with Santa taken by a professional photographer. The \$750 profit made at the breakfast will be donated to Social Services to help local families this holiday season.

Photo courtesy of Ken Cavanagh

In My Opinion

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

To the Editor:

The South Plainfield Business Association would like to thank everyone who attended last week's annual holiday breakfast and installation of officers.

We would also like to thank Peter and John at Sherban's Diner for hosting our holiday breakfast. As usual, the food was very good and the service was excellent. Everyone had a great time, which has a lot to do with the quality of service that Sherban's provides.

The South Plainfield Business Association would also like to wish everyone a happy holiday and prosperity for the New Year.

**SINCERELY YOURS,
THE SOUTH PLAINFIELD
BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

To the Editor:

At Monday's council meeting, the Republican leadership decided to give the taxpayers of South Plainfield a double punch to the gut.

Out of the blue, they announce that they are increasing our taxes by raising the sewer tax. I'm confused

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Send your letters to South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax to 908-668-8819, or via email: spobserver@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.

about the timing of this change. Didn't the Republican members of the Administration and Finance committee know this was coming? I guess it was easier for them to get reelected by keeping this secret until after the election. Then, in the same meeting, they decide to borrow a half million dollars to cover tax appeals. I'm sure they were well aware of this before the election as well. How many more of

these surprises can we expect?

Even before taking over in the new year, the Republican majority has already started to show their inability to manage our town's budget. They have opted to put their reelection bid before honesty and being forthright about the status of the budget. I hope this isn't a replay of the early 90s when the Republican Party borrowed for everything and put South Plainfield in a fiscal mess. I will be watching closely.

JOE SCRUDATO

**The South Plainfield Elks
Veterans Committee is
selling the Entertainment
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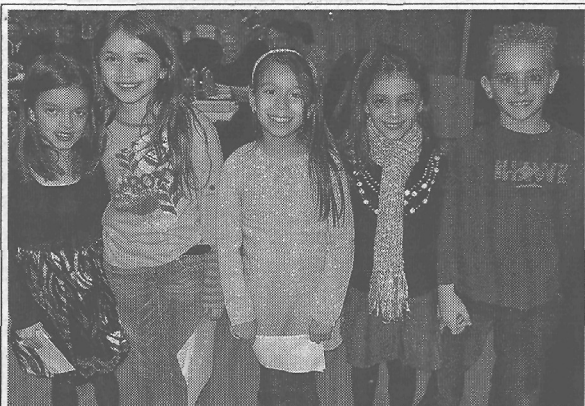
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Roosevelt School students Olivia Santos, Gianna Ruzika, Katalina Bedoya and Deanna and Dylan Delisa read their poems at the December 15 Board of Education meeting. Most of these students have been honored in the *Observer* as Junior Journalist winners. Their teachers are Margaret Celentano, Michael Bertram and Danielle Chiera.

BOE Awarded Grant for Safety/Security Improvements

The New Jersey School Boards Association Insurance Group (NJSBAIG) awarded the Board of Education (BOE) a safety grant in the amount of \$35,506.

The grant rewards the BOE for its commitment to risk management and will be used to invest in further safety and security-related improvements within the district.

The school district applied for the grant funding in the summer of 2010 and was recently notified that their application had been approved.

Nicholas Puleio, interim business administrator/board secretary, was in attendance and accepted the grant check on behalf of the BOE. He announced that the grant money will be used to fund security upgrades at Grant School and possible enhancements to other locations.

In keeping with its mission to protect New Jersey schools and keep district dollars in the classroom, NJSBAIG established the Safety Grant program to help public schools purchase safety

and security related items that ever tightening school budgets may not have allowed for. The grant program provides funding that schools otherwise may not have, to invest in safety and security-related projects that will make their schools safer for students, employees and the communities they serve.

In total, in 2010 NJSBAIG is awarding \$5M in safety grants to public school districts across the state.

The NJSBAIG, located in Burlington, is a non-profit entity providing property, casualty and workers' compensation insurance at competitive rates to NJ public schools. It is the only statewide, member-owned school district joint insurance fund. This year NJSBAIG celebrates 28 years helping member districts to stabilize insurance costs with comprehensive insurance coverage, competitive rates, in-house claims management and a host of risk management and loss control services. To learn more about NJSBAIG, visit their website at www.njsbaig.org.

Teen Driver Charged With DWI

Adrian Hilton, 19, of Plainfield lost control of her 2009 Nissan Versa while driving northbound on New Brunswick Avenue on December 18. As she approached the intersection with Tyler Place, the car left the roadway and struck a fire hydrant causing it to roll over several times. The car came to rest in a field on the east side of New Brunswick Avenue.

Hilton was taken to Robert Wood Johnson Hospital and treated for minor injuries.

The other passengers in the car were Danielle Hoff, 18, Anika Beckford, 19 and Tennesha Brown, 20, all of Plainfield. The passengers all reported minor injuries and complained of pain but declined medical attention.

After an investigation police determined that they had left The Harbor Restaurant on Stelton Road in Piscataway, where Piscataway Police had just dispersed a large disorderly crowd of approximately 300 people. Police agencies from South Plainfield, Edison and Middlesex had responded to assist Piscataway Police.

Officer Michael Hoppe charged Hilton with the following offenses: driving while intoxicated, driving while intoxicated under the age of 21, reckless driving and no insurance.

The investigation is still continuing and additional charges may be filed.



Dan and Jen Ratti with winemaker John Gibson (center).

Buy Rite Liquors Hosts Winemaker John Gibson

Buy Rite Liquors hosted a wine tasting event on December 11. Special guest for the evening was John Gibson, a legendary winemaker from the Napa Valley region with a reputation of over 30 years of winemaking who spent the evening talking about his winery and career.

Preview wines for the evening, crafted by John and his wife Ann, were Salexis Wines named after his daughter, Sarah Alexis.

Gibson talked about his winery, his career and explained how wine is made.

He also answered questions about each of his preview wines.

Customers were invited to taste three of his featured wines, Salexis Carneros Lake Vineyard Chardonnay, Salexis Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon and Salexis Napa Valley Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon.

Owners Dan and Jen Ratti were on hand to introduce Gibson to their customers. The featured wines are now on the shelves for purchase.

Stop by and purchase these great wines to add to your collection. Buy Rite Liquors is located at 902 Oak Tree Ave. in South Plainfield

Christmas, New Year Schedule at Recycling Complex

The South Plainfield Recycling Complex will be closed on Friday, Dec. 24 and Saturday, Dec. 25 for Christmas. The complex will also be closed on Friday, Dec. 31 and on Saturday, Jan. 1 for New Year's Day. The recycling center and the yard waste site on Kenneth Avenue will be open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 30.

Curbside recycling collection will not be affected by the holidays.

Regular hours at the recycling center

are 12 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. The yard waste site will be on its winter schedule, open 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays, from December 16 through March 15, 2011.

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

Correction

In last week's *Observer*, the SPHS seniors who helped wrap gifts at Borough Hall were not correctly identified. They were Thalia Lopez, Richard Rotella, Veronica Ruiz and Carly Ashnault.

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4:30pm Vigil Mass (with Children in Attendance)
9:30pm Caroling with the Choir
10:00pm Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Birth

Saturday, December 25th: Christmas Day

9:00am Christmas Shepherds' Mass
11:00am Solemn Christmas Day Mass
(There will be no evening Mass on Christmas Day.)

Saturday, January 1st 2011: Mary, Mother of God

(There will be no evening Mass on Friday, December 31)
8:00am Mass for the Feast of Mary, Mother of God
11:00am Mass for the Feast of Mary, Mother of God
4:30pm Vigil Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany

Sunday, January 2nd 2011: Feast of the Epiphany


8:00am Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany
11:00am Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany

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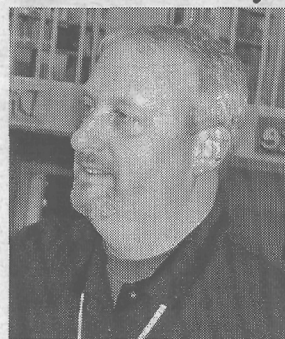
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Same Job, New Title for Retired Det. James Darby

By Libby Barsky



James Darby

Retired South Plainfield Police Detective James Darby was appointed residency investigator/school security employee by the Board of Education at the December 15 meeting. The responsibilities of the job are to investigate and monitor pupils attending or seeking to attend district schools, and to patrol school facilities and grounds (mostly at the high school) to "prevent disruptive or illegal actions, access to restricted areas, theft and vandalism and to ensure the safety and security of school students and staff," according to the job description.

The job is almost the same as the position he held before he retired from the police force during the 2009/2010 school year. That position, School Resource Officer, was created as a shared service between the BOE and the Borough of South Plainfield with both entities splitting the salary and benefits costs. When the 2010/2011 school budget was defeated in April, the position of resource officer was one of the first positions eliminated by the BOE.

Darby, a decorated officer, retired from the police force in June after 25 years of service (16 in South Plainfield). He subsequently expressed a desire to continue working for the BOE, patrolling the high school grounds and buildings and checking out the residency of students whose parents were difficult to contact.

On October 27, the BOE re-hired

Darby as full-time residency officer at a salary of \$42,000. At the December 15 meeting, the board officially cancelled the position of residency officer and officially appointed Darby to the position of residency investigator/school security employee.

Darby no longer wears a uniform nor carries a gun, and patrols the halls and grounds of the high school and middle school in street clothes.

"But the kids know who I am," he explained. "And for the most part, they keep their distance," except those he knows from coaching baseball.

Darby says he is busy in his job. "We have had eight students transferred out of the district, resulting in a savings of \$87,000 in tuition," he said.

If you are concerned about a student attending classes who may not live in the borough, contact Darby at (908) 754-4620, ext. 425.

SPHS Music Boosters MUSIC NOTES



Important Dates to Remember:
The Music Boosters next general meeting will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 4 at 7 p.m. in the chorus room.

Current Fundraisers: Snackin' in the USA—all orders must be handed in with payment by January 4.

When You Wish Upon a Star dinner dance will be held on Friday, Feb. 11. For more information, contact the Music Boosters.

Canning Dates: Friday, Feb. 25, Saturday, Feb. 26; Friday, March 4 and Saturday, March 5.

On behalf of the SPHS Music Boosters we would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

UNICO 2011 Calendar on Sale

Afficionados of Italian culture are urged to help support the great accomplishments of this incredibly rich culture through the 2011 Italian American Heritage Calendar, available through UNICO National.

"The UNICO National Italian American Heritage Calendar is a daily celebration of the brilliance of a culture that continues to transform the world," said DiMattio.

The calendar highlights 365 Italians and Italian-Americans who have had an impact in our world, past and present.

For information or to join UNICO National, call (973) 808-0035 or visit www.unico.org.

events Around Town

Coats for Kids Drive Through December 30

There are too many children right here in New Jersey who do not have a coat to keep them warm this winter! Let's join together and help these children in need! Donate a new or like new coat for a child. The collection box is located at Red Robin Restaurant, 6200 Hadley Road in South Plainfield.

All donations will go to the Kids Closet division of the Community Food Bank of New Jersey.

Candlelight Services At First Baptist Church December 24

Christmas Eve candlelight services will be held from 7:30 to 11 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of South Plainfield located at 201 Hamilton Blvd.

Send Your Events to:
spobserver@comcast.net

For more information, call (908) 753-2382 or visit www.fbcsouthplainfield.com.

Christmas Services At Wesley Church December 24 through 26

The holiday schedule for Wesley United Methodist Church is as follows:

Friday, Dec. 24, 7:30 p.m.—Christmas Family Service, Children's Pageant, Lessons and Carols, Candlelight Singing.

Friday, Dec. 24, 11 p.m.—Lessons and Carols, Holy Eucharist.

Sunday, Dec. 26, 9 a.m.—Contemporary Service.

Sunday, Dec. 26, 10:30 a.m.—Worship Service.

SPHS Class of 1995 15 Yr. Reunion April 2, 2011

The South Plainfield High School Class of 1995 is planning a 15 year reunion for Saturday, April 2, 2011. It will be held at Maggiano's Bridge-water from 7 to 11 p.m. Ticket price is \$85 per person.

For more information, email sphsclassof1995@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page: SPHS class of 1995.

— Out of Town — Christmas Eve at Willow Grove Church December 24

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church invites everyone to attend the annual Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols on Friday, Dec. 24 at 7:30 p.m. Aside from the traditional lighting of the Advent and Christ Candles, sing-

SENIOR CENTER Calendar

Coming Up..... (Closed New Year's Eve)

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

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

THURSDAYS
Active Seniors 8:45 am
Shopping Trip 9 am
Crafts Class 10 am
Computer 10 am, 11:30 am, 1:30 pm
Exercise Class 1:15 pm

FRIDAYS
Bingo 10 am-2 pm

Daily Activities: Morning coffee, pool, cards, board games, computer classes, exercise, art, Tai Chi, yoga and crafts.
Lunch Served Monday-Friday.
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Senior Center is open daily 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays & Sundays.

ing of carols, readings from scripture and hearing a special choir anthem, view images depicting the birth of Jesus in artwork from cultures around the world projected during the service.

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) is located in Scotch Plains at 1961 Raritan Rd. Visit our website for other ministries at www.willowgrovechurch.org or call the church at (908) 232-5678.

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Third and Fourth Graders Perform in Winter Concert

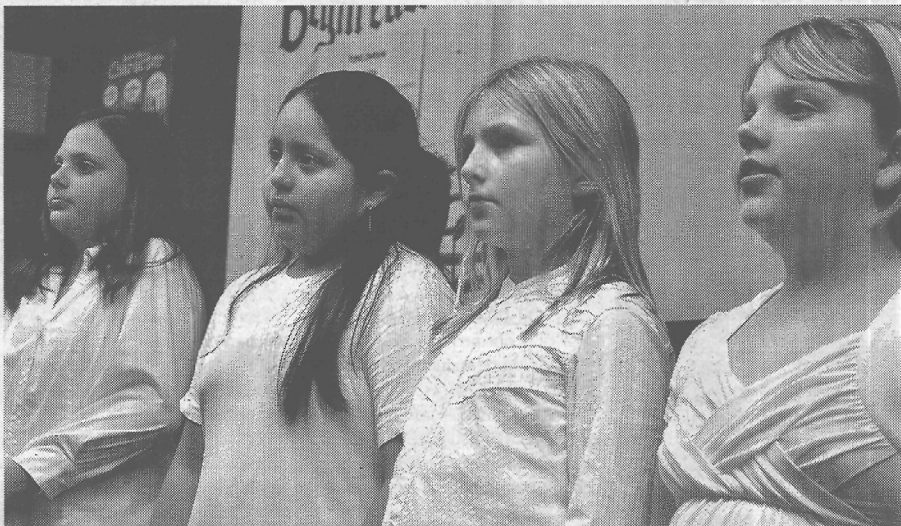


Choral Director Tobie Baldwin

By Patricia Abbott

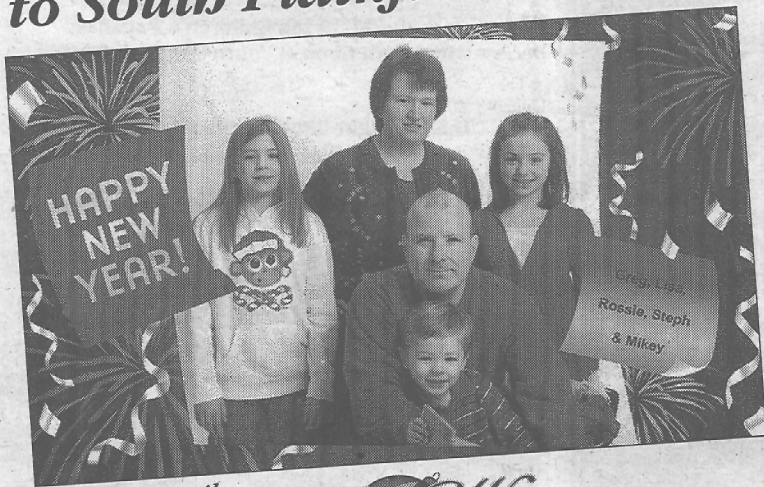
The students at John E. Riley Elementary School presented their annual winter concert on December 6. It was the first of many school concerts to be presented in coming weeks. As parents, friends and family filled the gym, students dressed in black and white warmed up for their performance. Principal Al Czech introduced Choral Director Tobie Baldwin and the third and fourth grade chorus. The chorus performed four numbers, *Peace Round*, an Old English Cannon, words by Jean Ritchie; *For the Winter* by Mike Wilson, *Peaceful* by Teresa Jennings and *Pumpkin Pie Polka* by John Riggio. There were 30 fourth grade students and 31 third grade students perform-

ing. The youngsters were awarded with enthusiastic applause from the audience after each number and at the concert's conclusion. The winter concert lacked the usual accompanying band and orchestra due to school district budget cuts. Fourth grade students performing were Sarah Abrego, Joshua Bruff, Olivia Carone, Julianne Chavez, Vanessa Cifuentes, Kiley Dameron, Kate Duhamel, Alanna Esporin, Xiann Guzman, Tiana Hooks, Exine Ibeku, Gwenyth Jones, Cassidy Leonardis, Gabby Lippel, Martha Lopez, Nour Lowich, Kaliyah McBride, Quelsy Mercado, Diana Montiel, Jonathan Munilial, Nina Nguyen, Olucchi Nwankwo, Ashley Olson, Tiffany Parajon, Raylene Payne, Divon Pender, Jefferey Rosario, Jaydah Ruiz, Jaclyn Timmerman and Jessica Wicziwicz. Third grade students were Victoria Akpan, Harrison Anesh, Kaylee Bases-Lierena, Isaiah Berrios, Allyson Betyman, Kaitlyn Block, Danielle Bythell, Kayla Cooper, Desani Daniels, Danielle Decarlo, Sara Double, Julianne Ferraro, Nicole Freire, Kelly Gorman, Shailynn Martinez, Isabella Mastroianni, Nichelle Mercado, Brianna Notino, Brianna Padovano, Alyssa Palmeri, Angie Perez, Sergey Prokofiev, Elizabeth Ranmarine, Christina Romano, Emily Soden, Makenzie Surowiec, Sherlyn Tomayo, Aleks Us, Puja Vengadasalam, Alexx White and Samantha Zelek. In attendance at the concert were Board of Education members Debbie Boyle and Bill Scesselberg, as well as Interim Superintendent of Schools Dr. Gary Bowen.



Chorus students await direction from their director.

A Word of Thanks to South Plainfield Residents & Surrounding Areas



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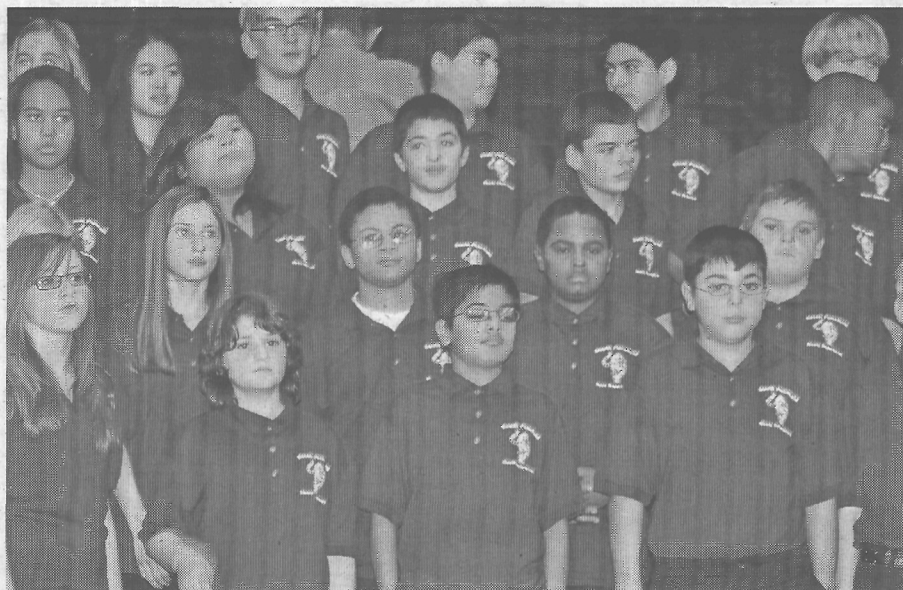
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The Middle School Concert Choir



Christopher Ciekiewicz warms up for the orchestra's performance.

Middle School Concert Features Gems, Onyx, Concert Choir and Orchestra

By Patricia Abbott



Middle School Choral Director Donna Markiewicz introduces the Concert Choir as they assemble on the bleachers.

Over the past few weeks the sweet sound of music has filled the air as the school district's band, orchestra and choral groups presented the community with their annual holiday concerts. On December 16 the Middle School performed its winter concert.

The evening featured the orchestra conducted by Sarah LiVecchi, the elite girls chorus, the Gems; and the boys chorus, Onyx; and the Concert Choir conducted by Donna Markiewicz accompanied by Frank Jacobson.

The Concert Band was conducted by Andrew Weiss, who noted that the

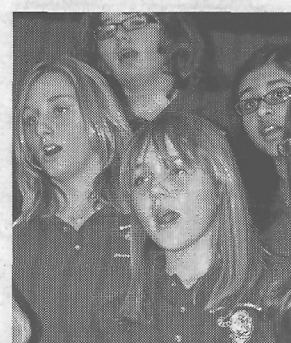
band had 104 members. "This is the largest band we have had in a while. The students worked extremely hard for this concert and delivered a stellar performance," commented Weiss. The chorus and orchestra were also larger than usual.

It was standing room only as the audience filled all the bleachers, some finding areas along the sideline to enjoy the concert. The full house crowd responded enthusiastically to each number performed by the students.

Principal Kevin Hajduk said, "The Middle School winter concert was everything that you can expect from hard work and preparation. The students were certainly at their best, and I am

truly proud of each of them for preparing a concert that ranks as one of the best ever in the Middle School. Mrs. LiVecchi, Mrs. Markiewicz and Mr. Weiss are to be commended for maintaining high expectations for the Middle School Music Program and advancing their students to meet and succeed the high level of performance that is expected from all students within the Middle School."

Also on hand for the concert were Interim Superintendent Dr. Gary Bowen, BOE member Debbie Boyle and former principal, Steve Novak.



Members of the choir.



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CHRISTMAS EVE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

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4:20 PM for the Children's Pageant
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and

The Midnight Choral Prelude at 11:15 PM
with the Adult Choir

CHRISTMAS DAY SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

Masses at 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 1

Mass at 9:00 AM

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2

Masses: Saturday - Vigil 5:00 PM,
Sunday - 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

Masses: Saturday - Vigil 5:00 PM,
Sunday - 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM

policereport

• On November 28 Charles A. Barbieri, 49, of Howell was arrested for driving while intoxicated, careless driving, driving on a suspended license and possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle.

• On December 1 a Hancock Street resident reported the theft of a lighted snowman from their property.

• On December 2 Zu Z. Yang, 31, of Brick was arrested for an illegal left turn, failure to report a change of address and an outstanding warrant.

• On December 4 Aniq Ali, 18, of Edison was arrested for failing to produce an insurance card and an outstanding warrant.

• On December 7 Lorenzo Herrera, 35, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated.

• On December 8 Reginald Van Valen, 36, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license, driving an unregistered vehicle and an outstanding warrant.

• On December 10 a Thomas Street resident reported that a reindeer lawn ornament on their front lawn had been damaged.

• On December 11 Isaac Chulcarojas, 31, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, careless driving, driving on a suspended license and failure to exhibit a valid registration.

• Jersey Oil on Hamilton Boulevard reported that a hole had been made in the outside bathroom wall and \$4,000 in cash was taken.

• On December 13 the Board of Education reported a window was broken at the Roosevelt Adm. Building.

• On December 15 a Carmine Avenue resident reported the theft of a package left at their front door by UPS.

• On December 16 Henry Walker, 33, of Plainfield was arrested at CVS on Plainfield Avenue for the theft of five cans of Simlac baby formula.

• A Pomponio Avenue resident reported the theft of a Tom Tom GPS from their unlocked vehicle.



Interim high school principal, Tony Massaro, pulls the winning raffle tickets along with South Plainfield Education Foundation President Marge Reedy at the drawing held at the conclusion of the South Plainfield Education Foundation telethon. The winning tickets were drawn on December 9 in the high school library, and present were foundation members Shannon Jeffreys, Frank Mikorski and Debbie Boyle. Raffle prize winners were Frank Mikorski, Dawn Wallis, Debbie Boyle, Charles Koestner and Steve Agrista. The raffle netted \$2,000 which will go toward the foundation's scholarship fund.

JESCO Expands Emissions Services

JESCO, one of New Jersey's leading construction equipment dealerships, has expanded its services to include emissions solutions. This service encompasses retrofitting of off-road construction equipment with diesel particulate filters (DPFs) and catalytic converter mufflers (CCMs) as well as consultation services to end-users on emissions regulations.

"Throughout the last few years we've been working closely with John Deere and a number of aftermarket emissions filter companies in an effort to provide our customers with the best emissions service and technology available," states Jon Robustelli, president of JESCO. "This service will help end-users meet the strict emissions regulations we are facing in the construction industry, as well as help them win bids on non-attainment projects."

Within the last year, JESCO added Cleaire and DCL International brands to their product offerings, giving them the ability to retrofit a variety of construction equipment brands.

"Our rental fleet is a very important part of our business and that is why we've made the investment in retrofitting a number of units with emissions filters," says Robustelli. "We plan to expand our rental fleet with emissions filters in order to meet the growing need for emissions compliant equipment in non-attainment areas."

For over 37 years, JESCO has been supplying contractors and municipalities with a wide range of quality construction equipment.

JESCO's headquarters are located in South Plainfield on St. Nicholas Avenue. For more information, call 1-800-241-7070 or visit www.jesco.us.plainfield.

2010-2011

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

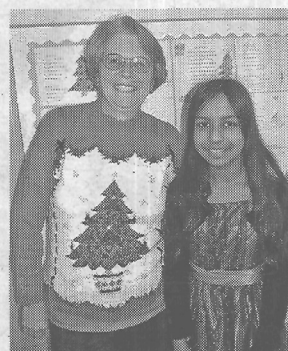
Sarahann Singh Named Junior Journalist

Sarahann Singh, Kennedy fourth grader, is this week's winner in the Junior Journalist program. Her poem entitled, "Santa," has earned Sarahann dinner for her family, courtesy of Hometown Heros.

Students should submit their original written works to their teachers, Hometown Heros or to the Observer at 1110 Hamilton Blvd.

Winners and their families will receive a catered dinner from Hometown Heros and will be honored at a year-end banquet in May of 2011.

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



Junior Journalist winner Sarahann Singh with teacher Cynthia Severino.

Santa

By Sarahann Singh

Santa is the man with all the gifts.
He knows what to get by reading your list.
Through the night he rides his sleigh.
All of his reindeer lead the way.
The jolly old man travels all around.
He puts gifts under your tree without making a sound.
We all know Santa is real.
Now go put out his Christmas meal.

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Sports

SPHS Bowling

By Ralph Fech

BOYS BOWLING

Tigers Swept by Hot-Shooting Colonia

SPHS	770	661	751-2182
COLONIA	981	1143	957-3081

The boys bowling team trailed from the start as state ranked Colonia was off and running in a three game sweep.

Earning scoring honors for the Tigers was sophomore Tom Riccardi with games of 190 and 187. Sophomore Joe Parillo (180) and Andrew Yon (165) also chipped in for the young Tigers.

Riccardi (300-775), Yon (277) Sizzle

In the boys exhibition match (because Mother Seton does not field a boys team), Junior Andrew Yon fired 10 of 12 strikes enroute to a booming 277 game.

Not to be outdone by his teammate, sophomore Tom Riccardi crushed the pocket as he strung together 12 consecutive strikes and reached perfection with a perfect 300 game. Combined with his other two games of 243 and 232, Tom posted an eye-popping 775 set.

Congratulations to both Tigers for an outstanding performance.

GIRLS BOWLING

Lady Tigers Fall to Mother Seton and Colonia

SPHS	636	568	577-1781
MOTHER SETON	745	828	835-2408

The girls bowling team was no match for perennial nemesis Mother Seton Regional as the North II Sectional champions swept all three games.

Co-captains Stephanie Sherwood and Nikki Disch, with games of 158 and 157, were the only bright spots for the Tigers.

SPHS	613	662	614-1889
COLONIA	778	728	747-2248

Inability to find the pocket was the main cause as the Lady Tigers fell to a solid Colonia squad. Nikki Disch's 150 game and 436 set and teammate Stephanie Sherwood's 159 were the top efforts for the Tigers.

To Kelly and Ryan-Merry Christmas to you and your family. We miss you...



Congratulations to the SPHS wrestlers who won the Morris Knolls Tournament last Saturday.

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Students Victorious At Martial Arts Challenge

Students from Tiger Schulmann's Mixed Martial Arts of South Plainfield competed victoriously at the Challenge of Champions XXVI Mixed Martial Arts competition, held at the Raritan Exposition Center in Edison on December 12. It was the sixth time the event had been held at this world class facility.

Challenge of Champions XXVI hosted over 2,000 mixed martial arts students of all ages and belt ranks to participate in this demanding test of skill and expertise. The event took place

(Continued on next page)

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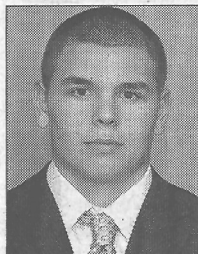
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Sports

Scott Barton Helps Mules Win



Scott Barton

Muhlenberg College Junior Scott Barton, a resident of South Plainfield, helped the Muhlenberg College football team win its second conference championship during his career.

Barton saw action in four games along the offensive line and as a blocker on field goals and extra points.

Muhlenberg finished the season 7-4, including a 7-2 mark in conference play, to clinch its record-tying ninth Centennial Conference title.

The Mules also advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the sixth time in school history.

Students Victorious at Challenge

(Continued from previous page)
in front of a sold out crowd of over 4,000 spectators and staff.

"Challenge of Champions provides the opportunity for competition amongst fellow students from throughout the five states that host Tiger Schulmann's locations. For months in advance, they train hard and focus on maximizing their skills for this demanding competition," said Joshu Jovany Alvarez, head instructor at the Tiger Schulmann's Mixed Martial Arts School in South Plainfield. "Our students gain self-confidence, focus and determination by preparing for and competing in this event. I'm very proud of each and every one of them."

The areas of competition included grappling and fighting for junior competitors (ages 15 and under) and for adults of all ages.

Grappling is the largest event in the tournament and consists of close-range and ground fighting (similar to wrestling). The submission grappling divisions also have finishing or submission techniques such as choke holds and joint locks, which can end a match quickly and are also extremely effective in real-life self-defense scenarios.

Winners from the South Plainfield

Tiger Schulmann's Mixed Martial Arts School in grappling competition include: Giovanni Alvarez (11), Victor Calderon (11), Julianna Dancel (11), Milan Engineer (6) Leila Gainey (6), Sean Gebauer (7), Isaac Holt (8), Kamani Mobley (5), Brandon Nicholas (8), Meera Patel (9), Nicholas Robertson (6), Alex Sanchez (7), Anthony Vargas (7), Donovan Walton (7) and Greg Zambrana (6).

The fighting competition featured a variety of strikes, blocks and targeted kicks to outscore each opponent. Over 1,000 students participated in this fast-paced sparring competition.

Winners from the South Plainfield Tiger Schulmann's School in the Free Fighting competition include: Jovanni Alvarez (11), Victor Calderon (11), Julianna Dancel (11), Sean Gebauer (7), Gabriel Gerena (8), Isaac Holt (8), Brandon McNabb (7), Brandon Nicholas (8), Scott Prato (39) Anthony Vargas (7) and Greg Zambrana (6).

Challenge of Champions was introduced in 1996 to promote the values gained from the oldest sport of competition and has grown to become the largest tournament of its kind in the U.S. The next Challenge of Champions is June 5, 2011.

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Congratulations Skylar!

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

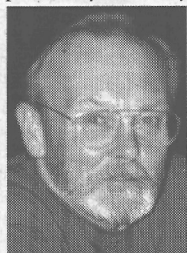
#1

Debbie and Charlie Kurland of Hometown Heros deliver dinner to Junior Journalist winner Skylar Davison, pictured with her parents Alan and Yonne, brother Kyle and dog Rocky. Not pictured is Troy, Skylar's brother.

Obituaries

Robert H. Eckenstein, 69

Robert H. "Bob" Eckenstein passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 14 surrounded by his loving family at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.



Robert H. Eckenstein

Plainfield for 33 years and the last two years in Flemington.

Bob was honorably discharged from the United States Army and was a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton RC Church in Three Bridges. He enjoyed playing darts, gardening and was a very dedicated member of the B.P.O.E. South Plainfield Lodge #2298 where he served as exalted ruler from 1989-1991; 22 years as secretary; and was active in the veterans committee and helped with Bingo at the Menlo Park Veterans Home. Bob was an avid fan of the Dallas Cowboys.

Bob is survived by his wife, Antoinette (Radnovich) of 43 years; two children; Anna Ensel and husband Sean of South Plainfield and Robert A. "JR" and wife Tracy of Flemington; and four grandchildren, Jamie, Allison, Sean and Jake. He also leaves behind two siblings, Lenore Brown and Jack of Columbia, S.C. and Jack and Ethel of Florence, S.C.; a sister-in-law, Celeste Ginder and her

companion Joseph Rauh of South Plainfield; and by many extended family and friends.

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

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations made to the family would be deeply appreciated.

The hour of eleven has arrived with sudden hearts and many tears. Bob, you will never be forgotten.

Robert W. Morton, 89

Robert W. Morton passed away on Saturday, Dec. 18 at the Rumlins Hospital in Berkeley Heights.

Born and raised in Rahway, he lived in North Plainfield before moving to Warren in 1963.

Mr. Morton proudly served an enlistment in the United States Army during WWII. He was formerly a vice president of Howell Electric in Plainfield. After retirement, he drove for Landpower in Green Brook.

Robert was on the Somerset REC Bowling League in North Plainfield. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather who was cherished by his family and will be greatly missed.

Surviving are his loving wife of 63 years, Catherine Rose Morton; two sons, Glenn Morton and wife Carol of Glen Gardner and Robert Morton and wife Lisa of Readington; a sister, Audrey Kastensmith of Arizona; four grandchildren, Melissa Morton, Justin Morton, Matthew Morton and Taylor Morton; along with several nieces, nephews, great-nieces and two great-great nieces.

Funeral services were held at South Plainfield Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Robert's name to the New Jersey Animals, P.O. Box 12, Stanton, N.J. 08885 or www.newjerseyanimals.org.

Elaine T. (Keiffer) Yorkanis, 75

Elaine T. (Keiffer) Yorkanis died on Wednesday, Dec. 15 at the Francis E. Parker Memorial Home in New Brunswick surrounded by her loving family.



Elaine T. Yorkanis

Born and raised in Newark, Elaine moved to South Plainfield in 1968. After many years of employment with the South Plainfield School District where she worked in the cafeteria, Elaine retired in 2003.

She was a member of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield, and as a people person, she will be missed by all those who knew her.

She is predeceased by two sons, Daniel P., who died October 2, 1989 and Joseph W., who died on June 23, 1995.

Elaine is survived by her husband of 53 years, Bernard; a son, Stephen of Colonia; a daughter-in-law, Cindy Yorkanis-Irevisan; four granddaughters, Heather, Jennifer, Kristen and Kerry; a brother, Joseph Keiffer and wife Jane of Connecticut; as well as many nieces and nephews.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations sent to the Alzheimers Disease Research, 22512 Gateway Center Drive, Clarksburg, Maryland 20871 would be appreciated.

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I see the countless Christmas trees, around the world below, with tiny lights, like Heaven's stars, reflecting in the snow. The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away that tear, for I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year!

I hear the many Christmas songs, that people hold so dear, but the sounds of music can't compare with the Christmas choir up here.

I have no words to tell you, the joy their voices bring for it's beyond description, to hear the angels sing.

I know how much you miss me, I see the pain inside your heart. But I am not so far

Sadly Missed, Mommy & Daddy, The Singh, Guzinski, Spohn, Rafalko, Pullen, Kurilew & Harkey Families



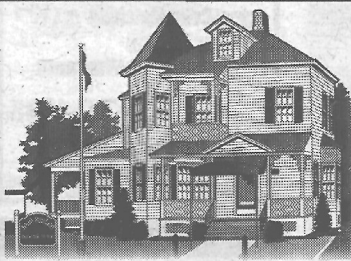
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away, we really aren't apart. So be happy for me loved ones, you know I hold you dear. And be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year!

I send you each a special gift from my heavenly home above. I send you each a memory of my undying love. After all, "love" is the gift, more precious than pure gold. It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.

Please love and keep each other, as my Father said to do. For I can't count the blessings or the love he has for you! So have a Merry Christmas, and wipe away that tear. Remember, I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

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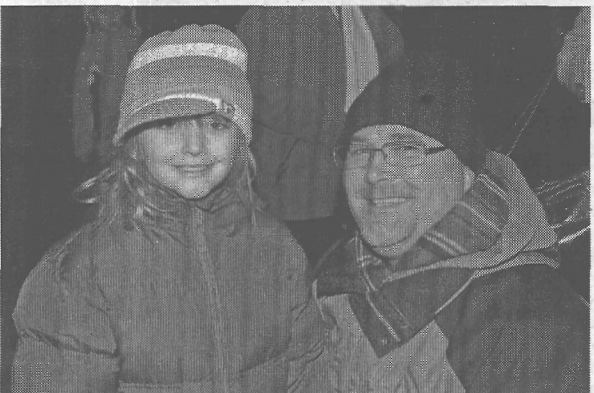
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Annual Tree Lighting Honors Fallen Soldiers

(Continued from page 1)

On December 12, 1985, 248 servicemen and women of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division lost their lives when their plane crashed in Gander, Newfoundland. The Screaming Eagles were returning home for the holidays from a peacekeeping mission in the Middle East. The plane crashed shortly after a refueling stop and all aboard the aircraft were killed. The McCriscin Family's deep seated ties to the military prompted them to light the giant tree as a memorial to those who had perished while in service to our country.

This year's tree lighting held on December 18 boasted one of largest crowds in attendance to date. Special guests for the event were the South Plainfield Eagle Midget Cheerleaders, who were celebrating their recent second national championship in Florida. Also on hand were members of the South Plainfield Tigers Marching Band and several chorus alumni who provided a holiday songfest.

In memory of the 248 who lost their lives, Reverend Nehemiah Thompson offered an invocation. The national anthem was sung by former South Plainfield resident, Candice Helfand, Remarks by Richard W. McCriscin II were followed by *Amazing Grace* performed on bagpipes. The crowd was hushed as SPHS student Alyssa Aiello stepped forward with her trumpet to play *Taps*. Closing remarks were made by Rev. Charles Mingle.

The South Plainfield Eagles Midget Cheerleaders gathered around the



base of the tree to flip the switches that would light the tree decorated with thousands of lights. Shortly after Santa Claus and his friend, Frosty the Snowman, arrived on a fire truck. As the crowd made their way to the final destination, they sang Christmas carols and then arrived at Flanagan's Restaurant and Pub for refreshments.

The remaining original members of the U.S. Army 101st Airborne Division General McAuliffe NY/NJ were not in attendance at the tree lighting, but arrived earlier in the day to honor their fallen comrades. The honor guard laid a wreath beside the tree.

SPHS Announces the First Quarter Honor Roll—Junior and Senior Class

Seniors—Ryan C. Abarabar, Taylor A. Adorna, Alyssa L. Aiello, Rachel M. Alexa, Lisa Alfano, Jesse M. Allen, Bacilio Alvarado, Samuel E. Alvarado, Sadiq Amini, Lauren E. Annetta, Christopher O. Anyamene, Daria W. Approvato, Pierina V. Asenjo, Carly H. Ashnault, Yadybel J. Ayala, Ryan J. Billich, Jayme A. Bishop, Joanna Bosse, Kiel L. Brown, William M. Brown, Adam J. Buck, Henna D. Budhan, Olivia J. Butler, Joelle D. Butrico

Heather L. Calderone, Kenneth J. Calderoni, Constance Caldrony, Rebecca L. Carney, Erika V. Carrillo, Amanda Chen, Stephanie K. Christian, Chelsey M. Colucci, Lauren A. Conrad, Jillian N. Cortese, Kayla C. Cotone, Lara E. Cribb, Michele L. D'Angelo, Deanna S. Dean, Angela M. DeSantis, Nicole M. Disch, Michael Dispenziere, Jonathan M. Ditmars, Glenn F. Edridge, Michael W. Bosso, Louis A. Esposito

Nicole D. Firmin, Michaela G. Fore, Jessica Frank, Joseph N. Fugazzi, Amanda M. Gabrielli, Jairo Gaitan Jr, Jeffrey R. Gillen, Connor R. Gillis, Jenae Goodson, Elizabeth A. Gratta, Kaitlyn M. Graziano, Gabrielle M. Guancione, Sarah E. Hageman, Jaclyn M. Handwerger, William C. Hartmann, Christopher E. Hebreo, Michelle R. Hernandez, Amanda N. Hoagland, Samantha D. Hoang, Jorgen-Erik Holtermann, Jesus A. Huayra, Charles J. Huber, Tori L. Huber, Riley J. Hubner, Ryan J. Hutchison

Joseph K. Ifrach, Iris N. Ivaniuc, Rajesh P. Jaikaran, Randy J. Jakubik, Taylor N. Jarema, George I. Jerro, Razyiah S. Jedy, Kristina G. Jewkes, Keely A. Joaquim, Megan J. Kaczka, Lauren K. Keane, Brigitte M. Kelly, Alexander M. Khidre, Julian T. Krupit, Michael M. Krusinowski, Hieu Q. La, Marina T. Lam, Justin P. Lesky, Cory J. Limone, Alexander J. Liszewski, Matthew R. Little, Thalia I. Lopez, Griffin A. Lynch

Natalie J. Madurski, Chante N. Martin, Jennifer Martinez, Sarah A. McCarthy, Sean M. McDede, Jamie L. McLean, Lindsay R. McMahon, Troy A. McNair, Astrid J. Mendoza, Denzel J. Mensah, Michael J. Mocharski, Amanda S. Murtagh, Michelle Nguyen, Joseph A. Nicastro, Lauren M. Nichuck, Eric Niemeyer, Xiomara Nieves Castillo, Erin E. O'Connor, Tara L. O'Day, Pearl D. Paguntalan,

Michael A. Parello, Steven A. Paskowitz, Gary S. Pastuna, Kishan S. Patel, Ruchi D. Patel, Ruchi N. Patel, Shruti S. Patel, Tarang G. Patel, Jason J. Pattison, Vasant T. Persaud, Thi Quan H. Pham, Vincent Phan, Amanda N. Pilleggi, Kyle M. Pompilio, Jeffrey R. Praul, Cassandra Prendergast, Heather M. Prete, Samantha J. Pukash, Michael R. Pullen

Deanna M. Ranger, Christopher D. Richard, Patricio M. Robles, Alexa I. Rocco, Sarah M. Roibal, Nicholas M. Ross, Richard J. Rotella, Cindy V. Ruiz, Joana E. Sa, Karly M. Sanko, Jennifer I. Saravia, Nicholas J. Savoca, Katelyn J. Scarinci, Jessica C. Scarpitto, Danielle M. Schaaf, Michele A. Schuetz, Nehal A. Selim, Miguel A. Serro, James V. Sctnick, Andrea Sierra, Michael J. Simone, Rebecca A. Smith, Daniel E. Sticco, Edward P. Sullivan, Sten Sutt

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Juniors—Sofia M. Abd Elhady, Asia N. Acevedo, Robert A. Aimone, Alexis M. Alba, Ashley Ampaebeng, Lanna M. Arki, Jared E. Aronowitz, Tiffany R. Avila, Jennifer L. Barone, Luis B. Benitez, Samuel A. Bermudez, Brendan T. Berry, Laura S. Biggs, Ashanti C. Bishop, Miranda N. Black, Angela C. Brown, Stuart O. Buckelew, Harshil A. Budhan, Ryan P. Bundy, Casey E. Butrico, James C. Butrico, Alexis D. Cargill, Roshni Chulika, Janea K. Clark, Janine M. Colicchio, Michael E. Connolly, James D. Conrad, Ken Criley

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The South Plainfield Columbiettes' cookbook is completed and ready for sale. Cookbooks are \$12 each, or \$11 if purchasing more than one. Proceeds from the sale of the book will go towards the group's charities, including a local soup kitchen.

To obtain a copy, contact either Kathy at (908) 756-3772 or Nancy at (908) 561-5917. Requests can be emailed to kathy1130@gmail.com. Copies of the book are also available at the Sacred Heart Parish Center during regular business hours.

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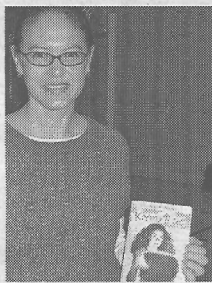
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Author Visits Grant School



Valerie Thomas

(Continued from page 1)

know I wanted to be a writer," Thomas told her audience. "The thought of doing anything creative seemed impossible because only talented people can do that—paint a picture, write a poem or a story. But I have learned one of the hardest things about doing something creative is to believe you can do it. It may seem impossible, but over the years I've observed what is really important is that you sit down, and day after day do it, and before you know it you are a writer. Almost every sentence I've written has been rewritten 30 times."



Bruce Masopust, Director of Moose Heart Board; Alex Lyszczasz, Administrator of Edison Moose Lodge #1978; Bill Stevens, Governor of Edison Moose Lodge #1978; George W. McCullough III, Supreme Governor of Moose Heart; Sgt. Lawrence Minott, Marine Corps of USA; Dale Walters, Deputy Supreme Governor; and David Long, Assistant Area Manager of Moose Heart

Edison Moose Lodge Hosts Supreme Governor of Moose Heart

Edison Moose Lodge #1978 members welcomed Supreme Governor of Moose Heart, George W. McCullough III and his wife, Sue, from Charlotte, N.C. on December 12.

Among the special guests were Deputy Supreme Governor Dale Walters of Moose Heart, Director of Moose Heart Board Bruce Masopust, Assistant Area Manager Moose Heart David Long, Mayor of Edison Antonia Ricigliano, Battalion Chief James Hook, Battalion Chief Kevin Ogrady, Firefighter Peter Yackel from the Edison Fire Department and Marine Corps Sgt. Lawrence Minott.

Officers of the lodge present were Governor Bill Stevens, Jr., Governor Joe Micaele, Administrator Alex Lyszczasz, Treasurer Bob Peterson, Prelate Andy Snyder, one year trustee Ed Dalesandro and three year trustee Steve Karlowski.

McCullough honored the wonderful job the lodge members had done rebuilding their lodge from the fire that destroyed it a few years ago.

Mayor Antonia Ricigliano, handed McCullough a proclamation in honor of his visit to Edison Moose Lodge, and recognized and encouraged all residents to honor him for his commitment and dedication of the less fortunate. Among other accomplishments, the Supreme Governor is a decorated Vietnam veteran and recipient of the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

McCullough presented checks to Marine Corps Sgt. Lawrence Minott for Toys for Tots from American Legion Father and Son Post #435, Edison Moose Lodge #1978 and other members of the lodge. The lodge collected three large containers of toys from local merchants, organizations and members.

The Moose Lodge presented the supreme governor with a Thomas Edison coin as a token of his dedication to the Moose Heart.

—Photographs and article submitted by Debra J. Shuleski, South Plainfield Elks Lodge

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BOE Appointments and Actions

By Libby Barsky

The Board of Education approved the following on December 15:

- Appoint Jessica Leary as Middle School Physical Education teacher at \$44,996 per year to replace Natalie Zeno-Carr who is on unpaid leave from January 3 through June 30. Leary graduated from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va. with a BS in health and physical education and was a volunteer softball coach and trainer.
- Transfer Robyn Mikaelian from Middle School English teacher to guidance counselor with no change in salary effective January 3. She is a temporary replacement for Denise deMello who is on a leave of absence.
- Appoint Esther Pak long term substitute at Roosevelt replacing Samantha Nicolay who is on leave of absence from January 3 through May 4.
- Appoint George Moutafis as long term substitute high school special education teacher from October 4 through January 19 at \$120 per day. He replaces Greg Genz who has been on a leave of absence.
- Appoint Connie Barca as long term substitute computer teacher at Roosevelt from November 1 through December 31 replacing Annemarie Stoekel who was promoted to supervisor of technology.
- Promote Grant School speech therapist Gayle Butrico from 3/5 to 5/5 at Step 13 MA salary of \$75,096 (prorated) effective January 3. Butrico will be replacing Deana Luchs.
- District Music Team Leader An-

drew Weiss' stipend will reflect the adjustment in his salary due to advancement on the salary guide from a stipend of \$4,130 to \$4,188, retroactive to September 1.

• Ronald Baltimore appointed high school choral director, previously approved at the September 20 board meeting, was rescinded.

• Appoint Tracy Murray high school choral director, Step 5 at a prorated stipend of \$2,565.50 (7 months service) effective December 1 through June 30.

• Appoint Sherry Affinito as substitute secretary/clerk typist at \$10.50 per hour effective December 16.

• Transfer \$52,935 from the maintenance reserve account into the general fund to pay for the following completed projects: asbestos abatement in the administration building and Kennedy School; fire panel and replacement of smoke detectors at Roosevelt School; clean and apply fire retardant to high school stage curtains; annual fire inspection; district boiler cleaning; and replacement of the fire alarm annunciator in Riley School.

Knights Youth Free Throw Championship

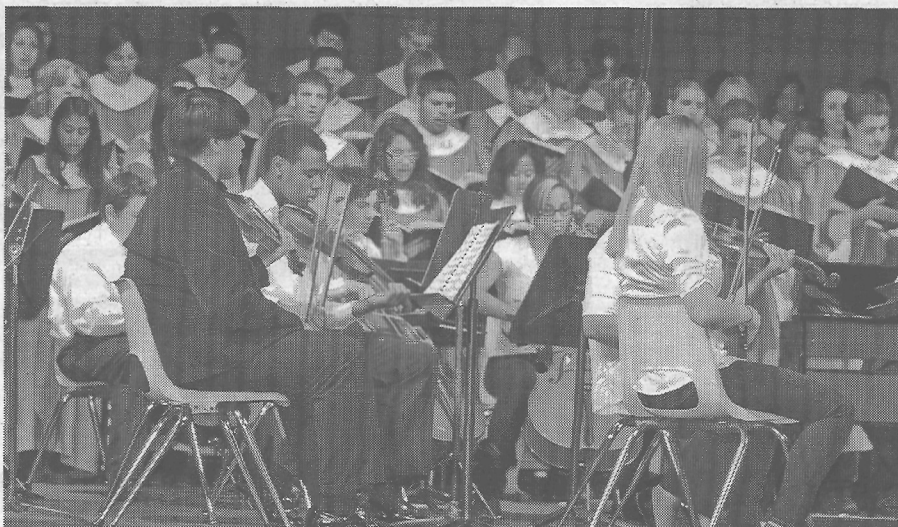
The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 is sponsoring the annual youth free throw championship on Sunday, Jan. 9. All boys and girls ages 10 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition.

Registration will be held at 8:30 a.m. at the Sacred Heart School gymnasium. The competition starts at 9 a.m. for boys and girls ages 10 and 11. Girls ages 12, 13 and 14 will be from 10-11 a.m. Boys ages 12, 13 and 14 will be from 11 a.m. to noon.

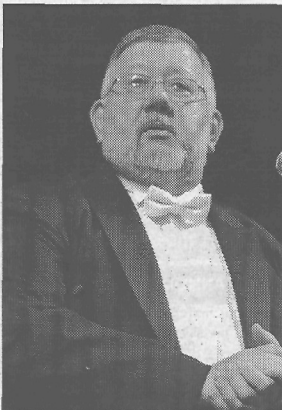
All contestants on the local level are recognized for their participation in the event. Participants are required to furnish proof of age (birth certificate) and written parental consent.

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

Submitted by Joe Scrudato



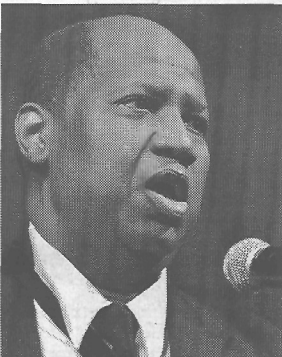
SPHS Holiday Concert Features Handel's Messiah



Orchestra Director Bruce Mikolon welcomes the audience.

By Patricia Abbott

South Plainfield High School Orchestra and Combined Chorus annual Christmas concert was held on De-



Choral Director Tracy Glenn Murray greets students and the audience.

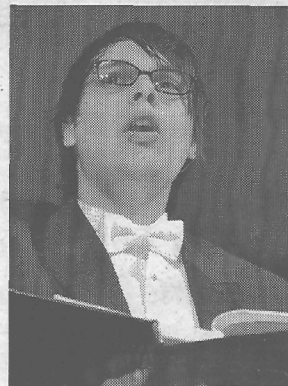
cember 14. In keeping with tradition, the group presented a quadrennial performance of George Frederick Handel's, *Messiah*. The challenging piece, featured every four years at SPHS, allows the four grade levels one year each to take part in the famous work. The original works normally takes a full two and a half hours. The SPHS concert was pared down to about an hour.

The performance was an oratorio for four-part chorus of mixed voices; soprano, alto, tenor and bass soli and orchestra. In addition to the numbers performed jointly by the chorus and orchestra, there were five featured soloists, Franis Suarez, Miguel Mejia, Kathleen Vincent, Erin O'Connor and Rusty Teller.

The concert was conducted by Orchestra Director Bruce Mikolon. Choral Director Tracy Glenn Murray, who had been hospitalized and only recently returned to SPHS, was unable to participate in the preparations for the concert; however, Murray did attend the concert, taking a moment to speak to the audience and students.

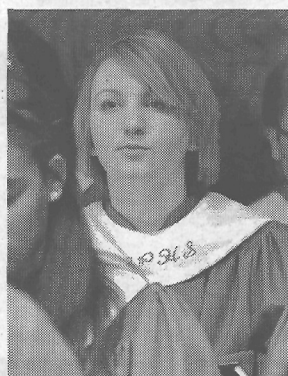
Working with the chorus in Murray's absence, teacher Ronald Baltimore rehearsed with the students from September through November. Upon Murray's return on December 1, Baltimore volunteered to stay and help with chorus rehearsals. "Baltimore worked in-depth with the soloists as we got closer to the performance. I was most grateful for all of his help, and I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors," said Murray. Baltimore also served as piano accompanist for the concert.

On hand to enjoy the students'



Soloist Frances Suarez

musical talent was Interim Superintendent Dr. Gary Bowen, Interim High School Principal Anthony Massaro, newly appointed SPHS Principal James Pederson and Board of Education members Debbie Boyle, Bill Seesselberg and Steve Bohn.



Chorus member Jordan Katowich

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LEGAL NOTICE

**BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE
ORDINANCE NO. 1912
BOND ORDINANCE STATEMENT
AND SUMMARY**

The bond ordinance, the summary terms of which are included herein, has been finally adopted by the Borough of South Plainfield, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey on December 20, 2010 and the 20 day period of limitation within which a suit, action or proceeding questioning the validity of such ordinance can be commenced, as provided in the Local Bond Law, has begun to run from the date of the first publication of this statement. Copies of the full ordinance are available at no cost and during regular business hours, at the Clerk's office for members of the general public who request the same. The summary of the terms of such bond ordinance follows:

Title: "Refunding Bond Ordinance Providing for Payment of Amounts Owed to Others for Taxes Levied Resulting from Settled Tax Appeals in and by the Borough of South Plainfield, in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey, Appropriating \$590,000 Therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of \$590,000 Bonds or Notes of the Borough for Financing the Cost Thereof."

Purpose: To pay an aggregate amount not exceeding \$590,014.38 for amounts owed by the Borough to the owner of Bit Holdings Fifty-Three Inc. located on Park and Oak Tree in the Borough, as more specifically known as Block 222, Lot 1 on the tax maps of the Borough and for the costs associated therewith.

Appropriation: \$590,000
Bonds/Notes Authorized: \$590,000
Grant Appropriated: N/A
Section 51(b) Costs: \$29,985.12
Useful Life: N/A

ATTEST:
Joann Graf/Municipal Clerk
\$37.95 December 24, 2010

**BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE
ORDINANCE NO. 1909
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 157 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD ENTITLED "SEWERS" WAS ADOPTED AFTER A PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL READING WERE CONDUCTED ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2010 AT THE PUBLIC MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY WHICH BEGAN AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 2480 PLAINFIELD AVENUE, SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NJ 07080 AND IS BEING ADVERTISED IN THE OBSERVER, DECEMBER 24, 2010.**

ATTEST:
Joann Graf/Municipal Clerk
\$28.00 December 24, 2010

**BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE
ORDINANCE NO. 1910
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 187, VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD WAS ADOPTED AFTER A PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL READING WERE CONDUCTED ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2010 AT THE PUBLIC MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY WHICH BEGAN AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 2480 PLAINFIELD AVENUE, SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NJ 07080 AND IS BEING ADVERTISED IN THE OBSERVER, DECEMBER 24, 2010.**

ATTEST:
Joann Graf/Municipal Clerk
\$27.56 December 24, 2010

**BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE
ORDINANCE NO. 1911
BOND ORDINANCE STATEMENT AND SUMMARY**

The bond ordinance, the summary terms of which are included herein, has been finally adopted by the Borough of South Plainfield, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey on December 20, 2010 and the 20 day period of limitation within which a suit, action or proceeding questioning the validity of such ordinance can be commenced, as provided in the Local Bond Law, has begun to run from the date of the first publication of this statement. Copies of the full ordinance are available at no cost and during regular business hours, at the Clerk's office for members of the general public who request the same. The summary of the terms of such bond ordinance follows:

Title: "Ordinance Amending Section 3(b) of Bond Ordinance #1890 of the Borough of South Plainfield, in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey, Finally Adopted May 3, 2010 in Order to Amend the Description of the Project."

Purpose: Section 3(b) of Bond Ordinance #1890 of the Borough of South Plainfield, in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey, finally adopted May 3, 2010 which provides for the acquisition of a front end loader is amended to read as follows:

Purpose	Appropriation and Estimated Cost	Estimated Maximum Amount of Bonds or Notes	Period of Usefulness
b) Acquisition of a front end loader and a mason dump truck, including all related costs and expenditures incidental thereto.	\$137,000	\$130,000	15 years"

Appropriation: \$0
Bonds/Notes Authorized: \$0
Grant Appropriated: N/A
Section 20 Costs: \$0
Useful Life: N/A

ATTEST:
Joann Graf/Municipal Clerk
\$52.13 December 24, 2010

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