



Borough Reorganization Meeting Sunday, January 2 at Senior Center at 1 PM.

South Plainfield Observer

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60 CENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2010

Matt Anesh to Take Oath as Mayor at Reorganization Meeting



By Jane Dornick

Borough Council President Matt Anesh is set to take over the role of mayor at the annual Reorganization Meeting on Sunday, Jan. 2 at 1 p.m. at the Senior Center. He will

be the first Republican elected to the office of mayor in 16 years.

Also being sworn in at the reorganization meeting are incumbent councilmen Ray Rusnak and Tim McConville, who were re-elected to three year terms this past November.

Anesh, 38, is a lifelong resident of the borough. He and his wife, Kimberly, have twin sons, Harrison and Joseph who attend Riley School.

A 1990 graduate of Sacred Heart School and South Plainfield High School, Anesh received a B.S. degree in economics from the College of N.J. in Trenton. He is currently employed by Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

Aside from coaching his young sons at the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club, Anesh attends Sacred Heart Church and is a member of the Public Celebrations Committee.

First elected to the borough council in 2005,

he served one, three year term and was elected again in 2009.

Over the next four years as mayor, Anesh outlined some of the goals he wishes to accomplish: introduce a 2011 budget that holds the line on taxes and spending; continue to control over-development and oppose high density projects that will strain the school system, borough services and infrastructure; work with the council and

(Continued on page 12)

LOOKING BACK

20
THE YEAR IN REVIEW
10

The Year in Review

The Observer takes a look back
at the stories that made news in 2010.

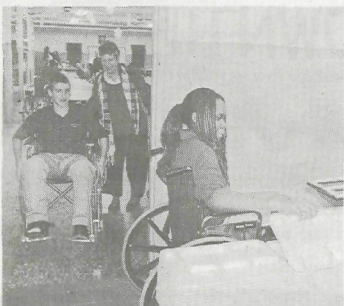
Library Begins Negotiations For Larger Facility

The South Plainfield Free Public Library Board of Trustees took the first step at its January meeting towards a new library. The Board of Trustees, in an 8-1 vote, authorized the commencement of negotiations for a long-term lease to house a new library.

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

"Tiger Country" Gym Dedicated

South Plainfield Middle School school spirit was evident as students, faculty and guests took a walk on the wild side through the newly renovated "Tiger Country," the middle school gymnasium.



Sacred Heart School sixth grade students experience firsthand the difficulty of navigating in a wheelchair in a two-day workshop aimed at creating disability awareness.

The occasion was the re-dedication of the school's gym, which recently underwent a major upgrade, the most extensive in school history. Renovations began in November and were completed earlier this month.

Schools Reach Out to Aid Earthquake Victims

Three million people were affected by the Haitian quake and its aftermath. Nearly all of Port-au-Prince's hospitals and facilities that provide support for the injured have been destroyed. In response to this disaster, SPHS organized a district-wide fundraiser to bring aid to the people of Haiti. Some students and faculty members have relatives whose well being are still unknown.

Board Names New Assistant Superintendent

The South Plainfield Board of Education appointed Lorraine Cella, Ed.D, as the new assistant superintendent of instruction and operations at their agenda meeting held on January 7.

Dr. Cella is currently principal of Hoboken High School and will begin her new position on March 15. She replaced Dr. Fredrik Oberkehr who left the district on December 13, 2009 to take the position of superintendent of schools in Rochelle Park.

Festival Celebrates Cultural Diversity

The South Plainfield Coalition of Cultural Diversity celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day with their third annual Festival of Cultures. The event was held at Riley Elementary School in the Anthony P. Sincavage Gym on January 18.

The evening's songs and dances encompassed a diverse range of cultures. Irish dancers Kelly and Bridget Simpson, South Plainfield residents, performed a slip jig and a reel.



High School Tiger Wrestlers Win GMC Tournament

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

Front Street Farmers Market Grand Opening

Front Street Farmers Market held a grand opening celebration on January 30. Owned by Tramontano Produce, the store is managed by Bob Tanganelli. On hand for the ribbon cutting ceremony were (L-

R) Linda Tanganelli, Mary Tramontano, Mary Jane Finnerty, Bob Tanganelli, John Tramontano, Mayor Charles Butrico, John Stalakis of Sherban's Diner and Restaurant, John Tramontano, Jr. and Peter Ganiaris, also from Sherban's. The new produce market is located across the parking lot from Sherban's on Front Street.

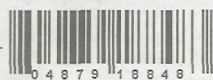
Scouting Celebrates 100 Years

On February 8 Boy Scouts throughout the nation celebrated the 100th birthday of Boy Scouting. The South Plainfield scouting community joined in the celebration with a special evening candlelighting ceremony in Spring Lake Park.



The list of famous individuals who have attained the rank of Eagle is impressive, ranging from all levels of government including presidents and actors, astronauts, athletes and authors. Among the notable Eagle Scouts are astronaut Neil Armstrong, the first man on moon; Bill Bradley, pro basketball star and U.S. Senator from New Jersey; James Brady-press secretary to President Ronald Reagan; and Arthur Eldred, the first Eagle Scout.

(Continued on page 5)



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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

Monday, Jan. 24 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.



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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

In My Opinion

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

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 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.

Dear Editor,

As John Lennon has said, "I get by with a little help from my friends." This holiday, one family truly personified what Lennon meant by performing an act of kindness that warmed our hearts, literally and figuratively!

The Gustafson Family has been dog sitting for us for several years. They have been dear friends and have extended their friendship to our pets. This holiday, as our family was in Annapolis, we were becoming increasingly worried about the roads in New Jersey and how the Gustafsons would make it over to our house. We were also worried about how our dogs would make it outside after the snow started to block their doggy door. Not only did the Gustafsons walk to our house to make sure the dogs were cared for, but they also shoveled the doggy door clear and made a path for the dogs outside. Barry even spent time coaxing the nervous dogs through the door and ensuring them that they could get out and in. (I would have loved to have seen that because one of our dogs has an aversion to wet paws and the other has recently gone blind).

Thanks to them we were able to enjoy our stay. As we headed home, we were dreading a driveway full of snow and the trudge through the snow. What a surprise to see our driveway and walks shoveled by our friends. If that's not true friendship, I'm not sure what is!

MARY PIEKARSKI

To the Editor:

On December 20 I attended the town council meeting and once again witnessed partisan politics in action. Uncivil and impolite are probably the best words to describe the behavior of two members of the public whom decided to attempt to discredit a member of the council. What bothered me most is that these two speakers (from the public) are two of three names selected by the local GOP to fill the vacancy of council member Matthew Anesh. I had no

intention to comment about the GOP decision until I witnessed the actions of two of the proposed.

I will repeat my concerns here today because of what occurred after the meeting. My concern is that while yes, the GOP has the privilege by law to fill the seat, they must do so with someone of good character, experienced and electable in the future. The two who spoke that night showed no respect or civility in my opinion, and I question their intent to govern for the people of South Plainfield. The third does not have the experience, something the GOP was keen to point out during the election cycle about one of the Democratic nominees. Personally I don't think the citizens want to witness this type of behavior through to November. Also, if the GOP was serious, wouldn't these nominees have taken the time to use the public comments section of the meeting to explain why they are good choices to govern rather than engage in ugly discourse?

While the council thanked me for my opinion, Mr. Bengivenga was kind enough to extend invitation to comment to the GOP either in person or by letter; however, after the meeting a member of the local GOP committee did not share Mr. Bengivenga's opinion. This person decided to bully and threaten me for the comments which I made that night. His opinion was that since I am not a member of the GOP, he really didn't care what I or others thought of their decision making.

I want to be clear: the GOP members of the council have always been cordial and cooperative to comments and concerns I have had, but it seems that their party may not be. The behavior of

this party member is not acceptable to me and I hope the council members deal with this person accordingly.

Any citizen has a right to comment and have concern about what happens in this town and no party or select group of people has the right to dictate what is good for the people. This is what makes the principles of democracy special and unique to our nation.

RESPECTFULLY,
PAUL MCCULLEN

Dear Editor,

Last week's letter from politician Joe Scrudato was disappointing on several levels. The first is its timing and tone. Isn't there ever a time, even a short time over the holidays, when we can put aside the politics? The election is over. Now's not the time for the start of the next campaign, but rather, the time to work together for a better South Plainfield. On Christmas Eve, of all times, I was hoping we could get away from the politicking and focus on our community.

The second concern is the lack of candor. Joe attacked the sewer rate increase, something nobody wanted. But to blame the messenger is simply more politics. Joe knows that the Middlesex County Utilities Authority (MCUA) increased our sewer rates by half a million dollars, about 12%. His party, the Democrats, run that organization.

(Continued on page 11)

Columbiettes' Cookbook on Sale Now

The South Plainfield Columbiettes' cookbook is completed and ready for sale. Cookbooks are \$12 each, or \$11 each for two or more. Proceeds go towards the group's charities, including a local soup kitchen.

To obtain a copy, call 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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Weekend Blizzard Blankets Borough Under Two Feet

The borough received a little over two feet of snow, which began Sunday morning and continued overnight and into early Monday, during a weekend blizzard. The Department of Public Works (DPW) crew arrived at 5 p.m. on Sunday and worked 23 straight hours. "This was obviously not a typical storm," said CFO Glenn Cullen.

Over the course of the storm, the DPW dropped nearly 250 tons of salt on roadways. The town is separated into 13 plowing districts and two plows are utilized in each one.

Sunday evening the wind was blowing so intensely that the snow on the Riley soccer fields drifted onto Walter Street. Over three feet of snow had to be removed using a front end loader.

Crews also helped out with clearing the entrance and exit ramps of Route 287 on Durham Avenue which are the

responsibility of the N.J. Department of Transportation. The ramps were closed while workers used front end loaders and backhoes to keep the roadway passable. The Lakeview Avenue overpass was also closed to enable workers to clear the area of mounting snow.

"The borough DPW department did an outstanding job," commented Cullen. "I appreciate the hard work and dedication of the staff. DPW Superintendent Bobby Capparelli spent three full days and nights at DPW without ever going home. Anyone that could have witnessed the dedication and hard work would have been impressed."

Cullen also noted that borough employees living in Middletown and Bayville said that as of yesterday afternoon they still had not been plowed out by their respective towns.

police report

- On December 17 an O'Loughlin Drive resident reported the theft of a Garmin GPS from their vehicle.
- On December 18 Aliya Hunter, 38, of Somerset was arrested for driving on a suspended license, no insurance and failure to exhibit an insurance document.
- Adrian Hilton, 19, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated.
- An Edison resident reported the theft of their wallet from their purse that was left at Target.
- A Manville resident reported that their car had been scratched while parked at Home Depot.
- A Church Street resident reported that their vehicle had been egged.
- On December 19 Shena McMurrin, 31, of Plainfield was arrested for speeding and an outstanding warrant.
- A Joan Street resident reported that their Elmo blow-up decoration had been damaged.
- A Kosciusko Avenue resident reported the theft of a backpack and Coleman power inverter from their vehicle.
- On December 20 a Jackson Avenue resident reported the theft of a Garmin GPS from their vehicle.
- A Joan Street resident reported that their inflatable lawn ornament had been damaged.
- On December 21 Nihat C. Cem, 54, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.



The South Plainfield High School cafeteria workers adopted a South Plainfield family hoping to make their Christmas a little bit brighter. The cafeteria workers have been adopting families at Christmas for the past 10 years. Pictured are some of the workers.

Clean Communities Program Earns Education Award

The Middlesex County Division of Solid Waste Management presented a Certificate of Award to South Plainfield's Clean Communities coordinator at its annual Holiday Coordinators' Meeting and Awards Luncheon. Environmental Specialist Alice Tempel accepted the award on behalf of the borough's Clean Communities Advisory Board at the December 9 event at the 4H Log Cabin in East Brunswick.

The certificate was awarded for Clean Communities Education, recognizing the recently released PowerPoint presentation, "Where Does it Come From?" This program features

local residents in a story about where litter starts and how it gets into our streams and lake. The CCAB commissioned the program as a tool for bringing the anti-litter message to adult audiences. Dave Street, a professional environmental educator, wrote and directed the program, and Todd Garbarini, a computer graphics technician, produced it. Both men are borough residents.

Community groups can reserve a date for a presentation by emailing the Clean Communities Coordinator at atempel@southplainfieldnj.com, or by calling (908) 226-7621.

Plainfield Animal Hospital Celebrates National Pet Dental Health Month

The Plainfield Animal Hospital, located at 2215 Park Ave., will hold a dental fair on Sunday, Jan. 30 from 2 to 4 p.m. in celebration of National Pet Dental Health Month.

The festivities will include free dental check-ups, discounts on future services, tooth brushing and home care demonstrations, giveaways, contests, door prizes, tours of the hospital, refreshments and much more.

National Pet Dental Health Month is held to promote public awareness of the importance of dental care for pets in order to prevent dental problems, gum disease and the general health of your pets.

Please join us for a fun and informative afternoon. For more information and directions, call us or visit our website at www.plainfieldanimalhospital.com. If you plan to attend, please register by calling (908) 755-2428 by January 11.

The South Plainfield Elks Veterans Committee is selling the Entertainment Book for \$30.



Contact Lou Peralta at (908) 756-6406.

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events

Around Town

Country Breakfast At the VFW

January 2

The South Plainfield VFW Post #6763 on Front Street will hold a country breakfast on Sunday, Jan. 2 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. The public is welcome.

For more information, call (908) 668-9751.

Forum: Coping with Education Cuts

January 20

"Coping with the Governor's Education Cuts," an education forum hosted by Senate Majority Leader Barbara Buono, 18th Legislative District, will be held on Thursday, Jan. 20 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Edison High School in the auditorium, 50 Boulevard of the Eagles in Edison.

How have the governor's education cuts affected you? Come voice your opinion and concerns at this public forum. All are welcome.

For more information, call (732) 205-1372.

Ponytail Softball Fundraiser

January 21

Come out for a night of music and laughter at the Senior Center, 90 Maple Ave. on Friday, Jan. 21 from 6:30 to 11:30 p.m. to help support South Plainfield's girls softball. Sponsored by South Plainfield Parents Ponytail Association. Tickets: \$40 per person; includes buffet dinner, beer, wine, soda

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Visit our website:
www.spobservers.com
for information on how to
submit an event.

and dessert. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Dinner starts at 7:30 p.m. Show starts at 8:30 p.m.

To purchase tickets, call Roone at (908) 202-1653, Nancy at (908) 217-2103 or Dave at (908) 906-1670.

— Out of Town —

Middlesex East WOWs Business Mtg.

January 3

Middlesex East Widows Or Widowers will conduct a business meeting on Monday, Jan. 3 at 7 p.m. at the Carteret Community Center, Pershing and Cooke avenues in Carteret. All widows or widowers are invited to attend.

For more information, call (732) 969-2228 or (908) 757-0515.

Upscale Singles Dance Party

January 15

Steppin' Out Singles is holding a grand re-opening upscale singles dance on Saturday, Jan. 15 at 8 p.m. at the Crown Plaza Edison, 2055 Rt. 27 in Edison. Newly renovated with a brand new dance floor.

Ages 40 and up; no jeans/sneakers/t-shirts. Admission: \$17.

For more information, call (732) 656-1801.

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 Bridgewater from 7 to 11 p.m. Ticket price is \$85 per person.

For more information, email spsclassof1995@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page: SPHS class of 1995.

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.

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

Senior Center is open daily 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays & Sundays.

Class of 1961 Seeks Alumni for Reunion

The SPHS Class of 1961 is approaching its 50 year reunion. Organizers are attempting to reach out to all families and classmates in an effort to obtain current locations and addresses in the hopes to contact as many graduates as possible. If you know a member of the class of 1961, please contact Brenda Belardo Ribar, Nancy Kahora Dowd and Geri Trivigno Beyer via email to class1961sphs@gmail.com.

Retro Fitness to Open State of The Art Gym on Park Avenue

By Jean Fultz

A brand new, state-of-the-art Retro Fitness gym is set to open in January in the former L.A. Dreyfus building just a short distance from South Plainfield over the Conrail bridge on Park Avenue in Edison. The new facility will occupy most of the 28,500 sq. ft. of warehouse space that partners Mitchell Kurtzer and Ari Forman purchased in 2009.

Planning for this joint venture began in 2008 and has been described as "ambitious" by many, but Kurtzer has a simple reason for pushing this project forward. "My kids are the most important thing to me and I did this for them," he said. "A gym is a great atmosphere for kids to grow up in."

Kurtzer, who resides in Basking Ridge and Manhattan, has three children who are all physically active in various sports programs in New York. Daughter Jamie, 12, is a softball enthusiast, and for the second year in a row, was awarded the Cahill Award for Leadership, Teammanship, Sportsmanship and Enthusiasm by the softball league. Son Grant, who is 10 years old, plays Little League baseball and went to the District All-Stars last year, as did son, Louis, who is eight years old.

Retro Fitness gyms focus on cardio workouts; however, they also feature a circuit training area with free weights and a boxing studio, employing on-site trainers who will work with you to help you achieve your personal fitness goals. Each cardio machine is equipped with its own personal LCD TV screen, and large screen TVs will also be strategically positioned on the walls in each workout area. A physical therapist, massage therapist and chiropractor will also be on site.

A unique aspect of the Retro Fitness experience is the Retro Theatre, where you can view a movie while working out on your choice of cardio equipment. All movies shown will be upbeat and comedic to set the atmosphere for a great total workout.

"We will also offer childcare services," said Kurtzer, while leading a tour of the

facility in early December. "We have tanning rooms, showers, a juice bar; you name it, we will have it all here."

Kurtzer and Forman will also move their other business, Network Delivery, into separate offices on the site from their current location on Montrose Avenue. A third business, located in a 2,400 sq. ft. mezzanine is the brainchild of Kurtzer's girlfriend, Maggie. "She suggested using the space for yoga and Pilates, spinning and Zumba classes," Kurtzer said. "It's a great idea and I give her all the credit for coming up with it."

Tom DeFelice, who will manage the new Retro Fitness gym, met Kurtzer while exploring the possibility of purchasing his own franchise. After realizing the huge investment needed to start up a new business venture, he teamed up with Kurtzer and Forman to manage their franchise, bringing more than eight years of experience and expertise in managing gyms to the table.

For more than 56 years, the L.A. Dreyfus Co. occupied the 40-acre, 500,000 sq. ft. building on Park Avenue. A subsidiary of the W.M. Wrigley Company that was founded in 1891 and headquartered in Chicago, Ill., L.A. Dreyfus employed more than 800 people during the height of its operations. The company ran two shifts producing gum base for the chewing gum division of the Wrigley Company. In 2005, L.A. Dreyfus shut down operations putting 150 people out of work and leaving the huge building unoccupied and abandoned.

The building was purchased in 2006 by Tulfra Realty Company, LLC based in Rochelle Park and converted into 11,000 to 220,000 sq. ft. industrial units and 22,000 sq. ft. office units. Kurtzer and Forman purchased the first three units, and hope that they can lead a revitalization of the property and help attract additional business owners to the area.

To find out more about Retro Fitness, see their ad on page 7, call (732) 549-7387 or stop by the pre-sale office located at 3775 Park Ave. in Edison.

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LOOKING BACK

20 THE YEAR IN REVIEW 10

The Year in Review

The Observer takes a look back
at the stories that made news in 2010.

Police Chief and Three Others to Retire

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

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

Home Invasion Spurs Crime Prevention Meeting

Police responded to a call of a home invasion on the 1900 block of 2nd Place on February 26 at about 1 p.m. The residence is a single family home.

When police entered the home they found four individuals in a downstairs bedroom, bound and on the floor. The victims were identified as a 37 year-old female, her 3½ year-old daughter, a nine year-old

nephew and an eight year-old niece. In response to the concerns for the safety of residents, the mayor and council, the South Plainfield Police Department and the Board of Education gave a presentation relating to crime prevention.

BOE Member Tim Morgan Resigns

After almost eight years as a member of the Board of Education, Tim Morgan resigned his seat. The announcement of his resignation came during the board's meeting to rework the 2010/2011 school budget held on March 1. Board President Jim Giannakis read Morgan's short statement referring to "personal issues at this time" as the reason for his resignation.

SPHS Freshman Anthony Ashnault Wins State Title

Anthony Ashnault became South Plainfield High School's sixth state wrestling champion,

winning the 103-pound final on March 7 at the NJSIAA Wrestling Championships in Atlantic City. Ashnault finished the year with a 44-0 record.

D.A.R.E. Students Accept The Challenge

South Plainfield Police Officers Dave Franchak and Sherilyn Courtney held the annual Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) graduation program for fifth grade students at Sacred Heart and Grant Elementary school on March 3 and 4, respectively.

Mayor Butrico Will Not Seek Reelection

Mayor Charles Butrico read an emotional statement to the public at the conclusion of the March 15 Borough Council meeting saying he does not intend to seek re-election for mayor this year. He explained that the continuous political fodder being thrown at him during his term has influenced his decision.

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



Looking toward New Market Avenue from Carmine Avenue.

Borough Reels from Weekend's Nor'easter

As the heavy rain and high winds continued to batter South Plainfield the weekend of March 13/14, the borough's emergency teams gathered in the command center on South Plainfield Avenue.

By 10 p.m., members from Emergency Management began to ask residents along New Market Avenue to evacuate their homes. In addition, many streets throughout the borough flooded and had to be closed to traffic. Hundreds of residents lost electricity between Park Avenue and Woodland Avenue.

Graf Resigns as Senior Center Director

Borough Clerk Joann Graf announced her resignation as senior center director at the March 15 Borough Council meeting. Graf has held the two positions since March of 2008 after an effort to cut costs. According to Graf, the borough has saved nearly \$160,000 in salary and benefits over the past two years.

BOE Grapples With 27.8% Cut In State Aid

The Board of Education had been planning for a worst case scenario after Governor Christie appropriated the districts \$1.6M surplus. 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.



Education Reserve Open House featured guided nature walks at Highland Woods Environmental Education Reserve on March 27. The Friends of the Woods hosted the open house and walks.

(Continued on page 6)



Police Chief John Ferraro reads at Roosevelt School's celebration of Read Across America Week.

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LOOKING BACK

20 THE YEAR IN REVIEW 10

The Year in Review

The Observer takes a look back
at the stories that made news in 2010.

Kevin Hughes Named Dir. of Office on Aging



Kevin Hughes

Recreation Department Director Kevin Hughes was appointed as the new director of the Office on Aging at the March 22

council meeting. He replaced Borough Clerk Joann Graf, who previously held both titles and resigned from the position.

Riley Student Wins 18th District Essay Contest

Riley School fourth grader Kaylee Horne wrote an essay on why New Jersey was very special to her and won the first place prize of



\$50 in the eighth annual, "What My State Means to Me" contest sponsored through the office of State Senator Barbara Buono.

Kaylee competed with other fourth grade students whose schools are in the 18th District.

Midco Awarded Recycling Contract

Republic Services of N.J., LLC/ aka Midco located on Harmich Road was awarded a three-year contract to service the borough's curbside recycling needs on March 22.

Republic was the lowest bidder at a cost of \$473,000 a year, a savings of \$27,093 or \$81,280 over the next three years. Waste Management had been the borough's previous vendor for the past 10 years.

BOE Approves \$52M Budget with Some Cuts

With the exception of Board of Education member Bob Jones, the board approved a \$52,299,264

2010/2011 budget on March 31, with \$40,688,303 to be raised by local taxes.

The increase in taxes is caused by an unexpected reduction of 28% in state aid instead of the anticipated 15% reduction, which the board says it could have managed. The borough only received \$7,206,690 in state aid, \$2.8M less than last year.

Council Votes to Bond To Pay Retirees' Benefits

The Borough Council voted 4-2 to apply for an \$800,000 bond to cover accrued sick and vacation time and other related expenses arising from the unexpected retirement of several borough employees.

According to Finance Committee Chair Ray Rusnak, the borough has already paid out \$342,564.68 this year to recently retired employees and it anticipates another \$807,988.93 in payouts through the end of the year for a total of \$1,155,553.61.

Chief Ferraro to Retire

Police Chief John Ferraro will retire after 28½ years of service to the borough.



Chief John Ferraro

Ferraro, a 1976 SPHS graduate, spent his entire career as a police officer in South Plainfield.

Ferraro was

sworn in December, 1981. Before he became chief in 2005, he served as a detective for several years, a position he says he found "rewarding." He was promoted to sergeant and then lieutenant of the bureau. Ferraro returned to "the road" for a short while and was promoted to captain of the detective bureau.

Dems Endorse English, Williams and Sorrentino

The South Plainfield Democratic Committee unanimously endorsed Michael English as their candidate for mayor and Jeffrey Williams and John Sorrentino for council candidates in this November's election.

SPJBC Kicks Off 57th Season With Parade



The South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club held its opening day ceremonies April 10 under sunny skies. Volunteers spent many hours readying the fields after the extensive damage from numerous winter snowstorms and recent heavy rains.

The festivities began at

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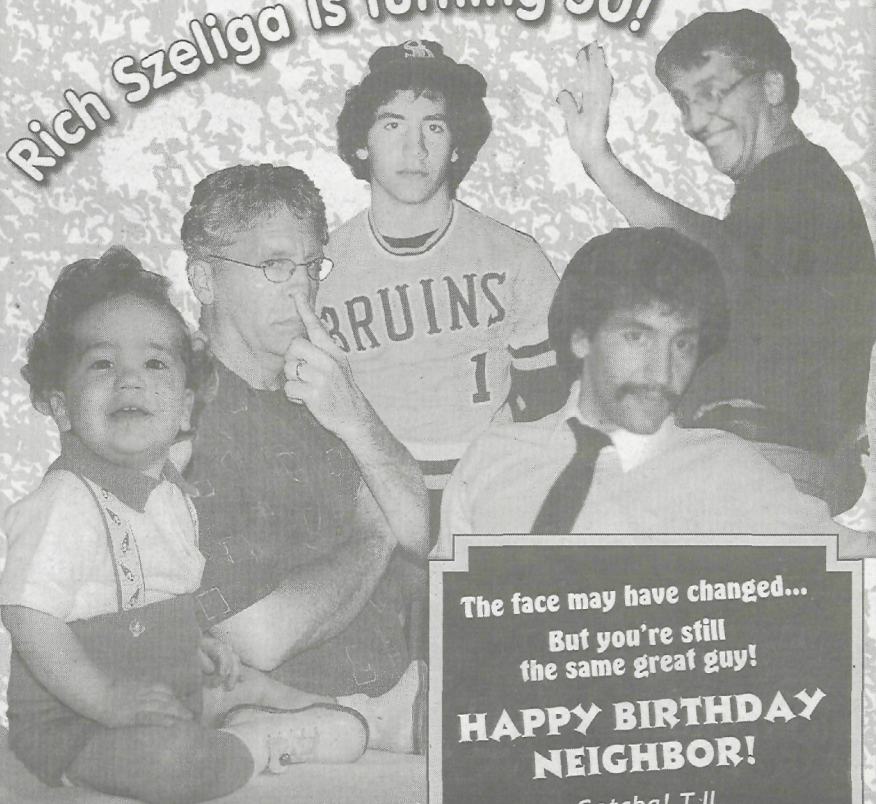
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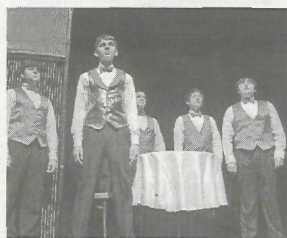
LOOKING BACK

20
THE YEAR IN REVIEW
10

The Year in Review

The Observer takes a look back
at the stories that made news in 2010.

Roosevelt School with the players marching to the ballfields in new uniforms and displaying their team banners.



South Plainfield High School Players Drama Club recently presented the hit musical, *Cabaret*. The students performed March 25-28.

Voters Reject the BOE Budget, Elect Three

South Plainfield voters rejected the proposed Board of Education 2011/2012 budget. The final vote was 2,096-1,398. If approved property taxes would have increased by approximately \$100.34.

Incumbent Debbie Boyle received the largest number of votes, 2,131, while newcomers Chris Hubner received 1,930 and Gary Stevenson got 1,901.

The borough council will now have the option to make spending cuts to the budget.

Brembt Appointed Acting Police Chief



Paul Brembt

Captain Paul Brembt was named acting chief of police in April.

Brembt will head up the department

until Ferraro's retirement is official on August 1. Brembt has been with the department for 25 years.

Truck Committee Asks Council For Funding

Borough Council members disagreed over whether to put an ordinance on the agenda at the April 19 meeting to borrow money to fund permit applications for the Hollywood Avenue Bypass or to wait on the possibility of obtaining grant money.

The cost of the permit application is \$195,000; approximately \$75,000 has already been set aside in the budget for this purpose.

Plainfield Superintendent Charged with Theft

The Plainfield schools superintendent and two assistants were charged with stealing more than \$10,000 worth of educational services by providing false documents to send two Perth Amboy children to school in South Plainfield.

Steven Gallon, a South Plainfield resident, was charged with conspiring to commit theft by deception, theft by deception as an accomplice and false swearing.

His assistants, Angela G. Kemp,

assistant superintendent in Plainfield, and Lalelei Kelly, who had worked as the district's coordinator of assessment, data collection and school improvement, were also charged.

Council Urges Library to Surrender Surplus

The Borough Council passed a resolution on April 19 asking the library board to return 10% of its \$1.7M surplus (\$170,000) to provide tax relief to the borough. In making the request, the council noted that every department was asked to cut costs by 10% and "efforts to cut costs should apply to all departments, agencies and boards, including the Library Board of Trustees."

Tiger 24 Benefits Families in Need

Tiger 24, a favorite event with high school students, was held on April 24. Tiger 24 is a multifaceted outdoor event which offers fun for everyone—athlete, spectator or just friends looking to socialize.

The event, which benefits families in need, began with runners and walkers assembling at the Jost Field track. Each participant wore a number aiding Tiger 24 volunteers

to keep track of their progress throughout the day and evening.

The Athletic Booster Club was on hand selling hamburgers, hot dogs, cold drinks and snacks. Proceeds were donated to Tiger 24.

Bus Company Contamination Investigation Underway

The Borough Council approved an ordinance appropriating \$111,609 in state funds for a remedial investigation of the old Suburban Transit Bus Company site on New Market Avenue at its March 15 meeting. The property was purchased in December 2006 with a hold harmless agreement signed by former Mayor Daniel Gallagher.

The borough intends to apply for another grant to clean up the site, according to CFO Glenn Cullen. The borough also relinquished claims to property surrounding the site on Rio and

Pulaski streets and Anthony Avenue at its April 5 meeting. The entire area will be used in the future by the Recreation Department's Ponytail Softball Club.

GOP Chooses Anesh, McConville and Rusnak

The South Plainfield Republicans have officially announced this year's candidates, who will be led by Council President Matt Anesh, the party's candidate for mayor. Joining Anesh will be incumbent Councilmen Tim McConville and Ray Rusnak, who will be seeking re-election to three-year terms.

Council Cuts \$1.25M From BOE Budget

The Borough Council voted unanimously to recommend a reduction of \$1.25M in the tax levy as a result of the defeated

(Continued on page 8)

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LOOKING BACK

20 THE YEAR IN REVIEW 10

The Year in Review

The Observer takes a look back
at the stories that made news in 2010.

school budget, along with an addendum recommending further reductions totaling \$725,000, at a special meeting.

The \$53M school budget was overwhelmingly defeated in the April 20 school elections by a vote of 2,096 to 1,398.

SP Man Indicted in Labor Day Attack

A South Plainfield man has been indicted on charges stemming from the attack of a borough employee, whose neck was cut on Labor Day.

Anthony K. Cole, 24, of Woolworth Avenue in South Plainfield, was charged with attempted murder, unlawful possession of a weapon, possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose and hindering his apprehension or prosecution.

Kennedy Students Perform at Forum Theater



Kennedy Elementary School students Tala and Dina Abdeljaber, Dania Mohrati and Skylar Davison had the distinction of performing in Walt Disney's *Cinderella Kids* at the Forum Theater in Metuchen.

2010 Municipal Budget Introduced

The 2010 municipal budget was introduced at the Borough Council meeting on May 17. If passed, residents will see a reduction in the municipal portion of their property tax bill. According to Councilman Ray Rusnak, a property with an assessed value of \$122,500 will see a decrease of \$178 from 2009.



Junior Journalist Hailey Brooke Medina accepts the Ruth Kurland Memorial Award (\$1,000 savings bond) at the seventh annual Junior Journalist banquet on May 12.

BOE Accepts \$1.25M in Cuts, Adopts Budget

Two days after the Borough Council voted unanimously to recommend cutting \$1.25M from the defeated \$52,299,264 school budget, the BOE approved the council's recommendations and formally adopted the 2010/2011 budget.

Memorial Day Ceremonies



Members of the VFW and the American Legion were joined by South Plainfield officials, Boy Scout Troops 125 and 207, past and present high school band students and local residents in honoring the servicemen and women who lost their lives while serving their country.

The ceremonies began at the VFW and continued on to the three local cemeteries and the Senior Center, and concluded at the American Legion.

Zoning Board Rejects Plans for Library Move

The Zoning Board of Adjustment voted unanimously not to approve the Library Board of Trustees' request to relocate the library to 901 Montrose Ave. Set in an area zoned for industrial use and currently housing three businesses, Zoning Board Chairman Alex Barletta objected to the application based on safety concerns due to the lack of sidewalks and the location next to neighboring industrial businesses.

The Library Board can appeal the board's decision.

Three Nominated to Hall of Fame



Three South Plainfield High School graduates were added this spring to the school's Hall of Fame. The 2010 nominees are Ellen Decker-Lorys, Cheryl Hughes and Rev. John Graf, Jr. The three were honored at a luncheon on June 2.

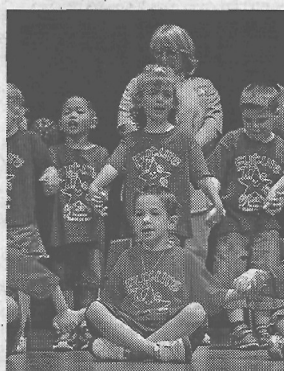
Franklin Flag Dedication Honors Former Student

Flag Day, June 14, would have been Sergeant Trista Moretti's 30th



birthday, and the Franklin School PTO chose the day to honor the former student with a formal dedication of the addition of a flagpole and flag to the school's Trista Moretti Memorial Garden.

Future Stars Graduate



Future Stars Preschool held the 30th annual promotion ceremonies for eight classes of four-year-olds on June 7.

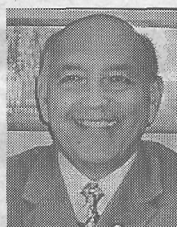
BOE Votes Against Raises for Administrators

The Board of Education voted not to increase the salary of Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Dr. Lorraine Cella and Business Administrator/Board Secretary Richard Guarini at the June 16 meeting.

The approximately 1.5 percent increase was intended to offset the 1.5 percent that would be taken out of their salary to pay for their health insurance.

SPHS Principal Retires

Dr. Ken May, principal of SPHS, retired on July 1. Dr. May came to the district as assistant principal in 1987 after working for 16 years as a math teacher, math department head and K-12 supervisor. He also coached



Dr. Ken May

football, soccer, basketball and track in three different districts—Scotch Plains Rahway and Westwood-Washington Township Regional School in Bergen County.

Many academic initiatives were introduced by Dr. May over the years he served in the district.

BOE Restores Adult School, Freshman Sports

Co-curricular activities, the Adult High School and two secretaries, along with other items which were originally cut from the Board of Education school budget adopted in April, will be restored.

The board also voted to restore all freshman sports, winter track, competition cheerleading and the swim team, at the June 29 meeting.

The board dedicated a maximum of \$25,000 to update technology software. High school and middle school team leaders may also be restored.

School Resource Officer Detective Darby Retiring

Detective James Darby retired from the South Plainfield Police force after 25 years as a police officer.

He began his career in Green Brook then came to South



Plainfield in 1994, spending most of his career as a decorated detective in the department. Darby held the position of School Resource Officer in 2009/2010. His duties included patrolling the halls and grounds of the high school, middle school, Grant School, and occasionally, he would visit the elementary schools. It was a position created as part of shared services with the Borough of South Plainfield.

Continued in Next
Weeks Observer

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Kennedy School teachers and staff filled Christmas stockings with candy, books, toys, mittens and gloves to donate to the New York City Relief organization. The entire staff contributed money, items and small gifts toward the 144 stockings which are then distributed to needy children in the New York City, Newark and Elizabeth areas.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN MY TOWN FROM A BUSY BUSY MOM *jd*

The entire school district will have an early dismissal for a teachers Professional Day on Wednesday, Jan. 12 and will be closed on Monday, Jan. 17 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Grant School will be visited by Hero and Cool Kids high school peer leaders on Wednesday, Jan. 19.

Franklin School Market Day pick up is Monday, Jan. 10 from 3 to 4 p.m.

Kennedy School will host a Character Counts Rally at 2 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 7 (wear red), and an author assembly on Tuesday, Jan. 11. Region II band and orchestra auditions will be held at the middle school on Saturday, Jan. 29.

Riley School PTO meeting is on Monday, Jan. 10 at 7:30 p.m.

Roosevelt School PTO meeting is on Tuesday, Jan. 4 at 7 p.m.; school store is Thursday, Jan. 6; Student of the Month (caring) is Monday, Jan. 10; Spirit Day Change Your Name Day is Friday, Jan. 14; PTO Go for the Stars assembly A.M. is Tuesday, Jan. 18; Multicultural Day is Friday, Jan. 28.

Thank you to Eileen Brady and Suzanne Buttrico for distributing the Joe Corbi and Yankee Candle fundraising items at the Middle School and to Suzanne Buttrico and Jen Falcone for packing and distributing the School Spirit Wear fundraiser.

Congratulations to newly-elected South Plainfield Business Association officers, President Nancy Grenier, Vice President Marge Reedy, Secretary Tom Stillman, Treasurer Carolyn Allen and Financial Secretary Shannon Jefferys. The association hosted a holiday breakfast at Sherban's Diner which was a huge success. Thank you to all businesses for their continued participation.

Please watch for the Saturday, Feb. 12 middle school PTO basketball fundraiser at 3 p.m. at the high school

which will be held in conjunction with the South Plainfield Police Department. Funds will be donated to resident Gerald Bartolotti, who was seriously injured in a horrific truck accident. To participate in the fundraiser, hosted by the school teachers and other staff wishing to join in, please contact Officer Lloyd McNelly or PTO President Debbie Boyle at (908) 803-1573. Tickets will be on sale shortly.

The middle school PTO blood drive, along with the high school Student Council and Advisor Tony Encinas, will take place on Tuesday, April 11 in the high school gym. The blood drive will also benefit Gerald Bartolotti, who has used over 100 pints of blood to date.

The high school Student Leadership program and advisors Marla Vandermark and Tony Encinas hosted the annual senior citizens luncheon on December 21. It commenced with a concert by the band and chorus. It was a wonderful day of giving back to the community. Interim Principal Tony Massaro requested that next year the group also reach out to various senior housing groups in town.

A huge thank you to all those who participated in the South Plainfield Education Foundation telethon. The students raised \$6,600 in pledges. Thank you to Interim Superintendent Dr. Gary Bowen, Interim Principal Tony Massaro and Vice Principal Ralph Errico for your support in making this telethon a reality, which was a huge undertaking in itself.

Another huge thank you to Interim Superintendent Dr. Bowen, Interim Principal Massaro and the vice principals for helping the school turn around and become a better place.

Mr. Massaro, your presence has provided an overwhelming feeling of security to the staff and the students. The students themselves have offered those statements of congratulations.

Middle School First Quarter Honor Roll

Eighth Grade High Honor Roll

Jhordanne B. Anderson, Matthew S. Belanger, Mark S. Butrico, Vincent P. Butrico, Melanie D. Cheng, Danielle M. DeVizio, Hayley A. Dow, Anthony J. Eggert, Moriah E. Garcia, Imrin K. Goray, Jordan T. Handwerker, Chelsea J. Housel, Dominika Kapolka, Paul G. Licato, Matthew C. Lind, Charlotte R. Macchia, Marcela D. Naranjo, Het D. Patel, Riya T. Patel, Kara E. Podlovits, Kenneth Quin, Brandon T. Rickert, Brian C. Schillaci, Gina L. Tartza

Eighth Grade Honor Roll

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Kennedy School teachers and staff filled Christmas stockings with candy, books, toys, mittens and gloves to donate to the New York City Relief organization. The entire staff contributed money, items and small gifts toward the 144 stockings which are then distributed to needy children in the New York City, Newark and Elizabeth areas.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN MY TOWN

FROM A BUSY BUSY MOM *jd*

The entire school district will have an early dismissal for a teachers Professional Day on Wednesday, Jan. 12 and will be closed on Monday, Jan. 17 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Grant School will be visited by Hero and Cool Kids high school peer leaders on Wednesday, Jan. 19.

Franklin School Market Day pick up is Monday, Jan. 10 from 3 to 4 p.m.

Kennedy School will host a Character Counts Rally at 2 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 7 (wear red), and an author assembly on Tuesday, Jan. 11. Region II band and orchestra auditions will be held at the middle school on Saturday, Jan. 29.

Riley School PTSO meeting is on Monday, Jan. 10 at 7:30 p.m.

Roosevelt School PTO meeting is on Tuesday, Jan. 4 at 7 p.m.; school store is Thursday, Jan. 6; Student of the Month (caring) is Monday, Jan. 10; Spirit Day Change Your Name Day is Friday, Jan. 14; PTO Go for the Stars assembly A.M. is Tuesday, Jan. 18; Multicultural Day is Friday, Jan. 28.

Thank you to Eileen Brady and Suzanne Butrico for distributing the Joe Corbi and Yankee Candle fundraising items at the Middle School and to Suzanne Butrico and Jen Falcone for packing and distributing the School Spirit Wear fundraiser.

Congratulations to newly-elected South Plainfield Business Association officers, President Nancy Grenier, Vice President Marge Reedy, Secretary Tom Stillman, Treasurer Carolyn Allen and Financial Secretary Shannon Jefferys. The association hosted a holiday breakfast at Sherban's Diner which was a huge success. Thank you to all businesses for their continued participation.

Please watch for the Saturday, Feb. 12 middle school PTO basketball fundraiser at 3 p.m. at the high school

which will be held in conjunction with the South Plainfield Police Department. Funds will be donated to resident Gerald Bartolotti, who was seriously injured in a horrific truck accident. To participate in the fundraiser, hosted by the school teachers and other staff wishing to join in, please contact Officer Lloyd McNelly or PTO President Debbie Boyle at (908) 803-1573. Tickets will be on sale shortly.

The middle school PTO blood drive, along with the high school Student Council and Advisor Tony Encinas, will take place on Tuesday, April 11 in the high school gym. The blood drive will also benefit Gerald Bartolotti, who has used over 100 pints of blood to date.

The high school Student Leadership program and advisors Marla Vandermark and Tony Encinas hosted the annual senior citizens luncheon on December 21. It commenced with a concert by the band and chorus. It was a wonderful day of giving back to the community. Interim Principal Tony Massaro requested that next year the group also reach out to various senior housing groups in town.

A huge thank you to all those who participated in the South Plainfield Education Foundation telethon. The students raised \$6,600 in pledges. Thank you to Interim Superintendent Dr. Gary Bowen, Interim Principal Tony Massaro and Vice Principal Ralph Errico for your support in making this telethon a reality, which was a huge undertaking in itself.

Another huge thank you to Interim Superintendent Dr. Bowen, Interim Principal Massaro and the vice principals for helping the school turn around and become a better place.

Mr. Massaro, your presence has provided an overwhelming feeling of security to the staff and the students. The students themselves have offered those statements of congratulations.

Middle School First Quarter Honor Roll

Eighth Grade High Honor Roll

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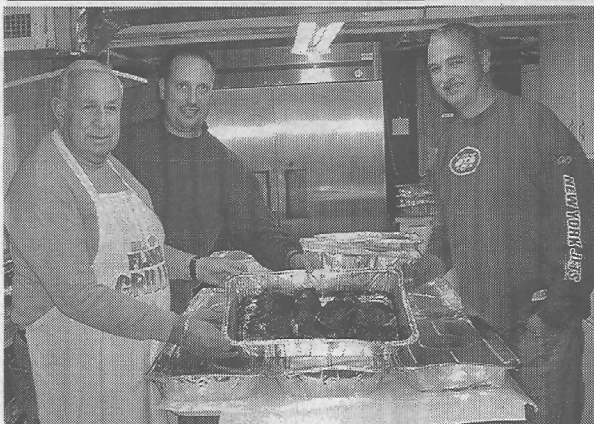
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The Plainfields' Chapter of UNICO National recently held its annual pig roast event at the Italian-American Club in Scotch Plains, drawing hundreds of people for a great night out for a good cause, and good food. Frank Licato (left), head chef, prepares the food for the evening's event. He is joined by T.J. LaMarca and Frank Licato, Jr.

In My Opinion

(Continued from page 2)

zation. Yet his letter left that out. I encourage Joe to join us in urging the MCUA to rescind that increase. Since the MCUA is an all-Democrat board, Joe's clout might actually help us get them to do that. Please, Joe, join us in working to get the MCUA rescind, what in my mind, is an unreasonable increase.

I know Joe also criticized the borough's finances, but I want to remind him that South Plainfield just saw its financial rating upgraded, and it's happened at a time when, according to the *Star Ledger*, other towns are seeing their bond ratings downgraded. South Plainfield was one of the few towns in the state to be recognized for its improved financial management.

Last time the Democrats were in the minority on the council, Joe and

his team (including the mayor and Councilwoman Buteas) refused to work with anyone and said "no" to everything. I hope that's not going to happen again. It's not good for anyone. I urge them to look at the better example set by one of their fellow Democrats, Councilman Franky Salerno, who has tried to work in a bipartisan manner on several issues. Franky can serve as a role model for his fellow Democrats.

In the spirit of goodwill and the Christmas season, I'm extending the olive branch and saying to Joe and his party, "Let's work together." Every town in the state is facing difficult challenges, and South Plainfield is no exception. Just imagine what we can do if we work together.

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Kennedy Students Celebrate the Holiday Season at Seniors Holiday Luncheon

By Jean Fultz

Fourth grade students from Kennedy School attended the annual holiday luncheon at the Senior Center on December 19. The students, all members of the student council, were accompanied by Kennedy School teacher, Alicia Vurchio.

"We wanted to do something to help the community this holiday season, so I reached out to Kevin Hughes [senior center director] to ask how the students could get involved," Vurchio said. Hughes suggested the students attend the luncheon and serve as "waiters" to bring soft drinks, tea and coffee to the seniors, and help clean up and clear the tables when the luncheon was over.

Guests began arriving early, and by 1 p.m. the tables were just about full. Hughes then welcomed everyone to the luncheon, and acknowledged the volunteers who came out on a Sunday to set up the room and serve the food: Sandy Connelly, Lillian Smith, Linda Fiore and Angelo Paradiso. He introduced the entertainers for the afternoon, Jimmy Eldridge and Ray Rothstein of The Jimmy Ray Band, and then introduced the students.

The students drew table numbers one at a time, allowing the guests from that table to move to the buffet line. The food was provided by Sunnyside Deli in Edison and included chicken francese, tortellini alfredo, ravioli, hot roast beef, roasted vegetables and potatoes, and assorted sandwiches.

Among the more than 100 seniors who attended were a group of friends at table three: Marge Sheldon, Dotty King, Betty Muglia, Mary Kmosko, Wilma Zielinski, Deanna Sinclair, Jennie Jankoski and Estelle Switzer.



Rose Boccia, Fran Strobeck, Councilmen Ray Rusnak and Rob Bengivenga



Dotty King, Betty Muglia, Mary Kmosko, Wilma Zielinski, Marge Sheldon, Deanna Sinclair, Jennie Jankoski, Estelle Switzer



Jimmy Eldridge and Ray Rothstein, The Jimmy Ray Band



Fourth Grade Kennedy School Student Council members attend the holiday luncheon at the Senior Center. The student council consists of members Ryan Boettcher-vice president, Michael Marrero-secretary, Taylor Santamaria-treasurer, Anthony Barge, Patrick Both, Ryan Carey, Ryan DeGroot, Lynda Farinella, Mackenzie Hall, Chance Jones, Olivia Leonadis, Brittany Olsen, Sarah Singh and Brianna Spadavecchia. Not pictured are teacher, Alicia Vurchio and the student council president.



Fourth Grade Kennedy School student Brianna Spadavecchia serves Lu Mack and Barbara Napoleon their drinks at the senior luncheon.

Anesh to Take Oath as Mayor

(Continued from page 1)

ad hoc committee to advance the Hollywood Extension through the NJ DEP permit process; finalize borough labor contracts that balance the needs of employees with the current economic reality and the 2% cap; work with the Library Board, council and the Library Committee to advance the planning of the future of the library; improve the infrastructure through the development of a multi-year road maintenance program; advocate for the continued expansion of the Safe Streets, Safe Kids program; continue to expand and

leverage shared services opportunities and conduct a review of public safety needs and the development of a multi-year capital replacement program.

"I'm looking forward to serving all of the residents of South Plainfield over the next four years," Anesh said. "I'm truly honored to have the opportunity to serve my hometown in this capacity."

Appointments to various boards and commissions will also be announced at the January 2 meeting, and those members will be sworn in.

The public is invited to attend.

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. Boys and girls ages 10 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition.

Registration is at 8:30 a.m. in 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 is from 10-11 a.m. Boys ages 12, 13 and 14 is 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 Marusz at (973) 534-6447.

Submitted by Joe Scrudato

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