

South Plainfield Observer

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60 CENTS

JANUARY 21, 2011



On hand to help celebrate the 75th anniversary of Boy Scout Troop 125 were Advance Chair Bob Vincent, Scoutmaster Troop 106; Al Tuttle, Life Scout Erick Rodriguez, Unit Commissioner Jack Steger, Life Scout and Senior Patrol Leader Louis Esposito and Scoutmaster Jim Donelson. (See story and photos on page 6.)

Superior Court Ruling Denies Access to Proposed Billboard by Mackin Media

By Libby Barsky

New Jersey Superior Court Judge James P. Hurley ruled in favor of the South Plainfield Zoning Board's decision to deny Mackin Media LLC its application to install a billboard facing I-287 from the rear of the Lukoil gas station on Durham Avenue.

On September 24, 2009 Mackin Media LLC came before the zoning board with an application to construct a 672 sq. ft., two-sided V-shaped digital LED billboard designed to change messages every 10 seconds with the capability to deliver Amber Alerts when needed. The proposed billboard would be 46 feet above the roadbed of I-287's right hand lane and the top of the billboard would be 70 feet above ground level at its base.

Two additional hearings were held on November 12, 2009 and December 10, 2009. The zoning board denied Mackin Media's application on January 14, 2010 based on the negative impact the sign would have on neighboring residents living 500 feet away including single family homes and those living in the second and third floor apartments in the nearby Highlands complex.

Judge Hurley affirmed the board's position for denying the billboard application based on the inability to buffer the billboard and prevent the messages on the sign from being visible to residents.

"The proposed height impacts any ability to buffer the billboard from the residences. The messages will be vis-

ible to the residences, which are about 500 feet away. The board's action in denying the application is affirmed," wrote Judge Hurley.

As part of its denial of the application, the zoning board noted that there was no discussion as to whether there were alternate available sites that would be better suited topographically along either side of the Route 287 corridor so as to prevent residents from having to view ads from their homes or apartments. Martin Judge, a principal in the Mackin Media appeal, stated that he had not considered other locations in other municipalities.

Judge Hurley noted, "The board found and the record supports the

(Continued on page 10)

Additional Charges Filed in House Fire

After further investigation by the South Plainfield Police Department, Michael Maher, 25, of 11 Owl Hollow Road in Tannersville, Pa. received numerous additional charges after driving drunk and plowing into a duplex on Rush Street causing a gas main break and fire on January 8.

According to police, Maher was operating his 2008 Ford under the influence of alcohol and recklessly crashed into the home of Frank Approvato at 1204 Rush Street. Maher claimed to have been traveling west on New York Avenue at 40 mph when he attempted to stop at Rush Street. Icy

his own for first and second degree burns sustained to his face.

Subsequent to the DUI arrest, Det. Vincent Campagna also charged Maher with assault by auto, causing or risking widespread injury or damage, knowingly leaving the scene of an accident resulting in serious bodily injury and obstructing the administration of the law.

Maher's passenger, Kevin Demarest, 25, of Delancy Court, was not originally charged at the scene but was later arrested for obstructing the administration of the law, hindering apprehension or prosecution and



Rush Street home after a drunk driver slammed into the garage and hit a gas line.

road conditions caused the vehicle to slide across the road into the driveway slamming into the garage. As a result, a natural gas line ruptured causing an explosion and blaze that destroyed the entire dwelling including the 1200 Rush Street portion of the building. Flying debris also damaged 201 and 207 Woolworth avenues and 204 Christopher Street.

Initial reports stated that no one had been injured; however, Approvato, 50, sought medical attention on

tampering with physical evidence. Demarest is alleged to have removed evidence from the vehicle after the crash and fleeing the scene. Both he and Maher did return to the accident scene approximately 20 minutes later, according to police.

Demarest was arrested on January 11 and released on a \$20,000 bond. Maher was arrested on January 12. Municipal Court Judge Spencer Robbins set bail at \$75,000, with a 10% option. He is presently out on bond.

South Plainfield Elks Donate Student Dictionaries

Members of the Youth Activities Committee of the South Plainfield Elks Lodge #2298 handed out *A Students Dictionary* paperback book to every third grade student in the district last Friday. This is the second year that the Elks have participated in the organization's Dictionary Project.

Youth Activities Chairwoman Sharon Reuter said, "The goal of the Dictionary Project is to assist young students in becoming accomplished writers, eager readers and 'creative thinkers' by providing them with their own personal dictionary." The books are a gift from the Elks for the children to use in school and at home.

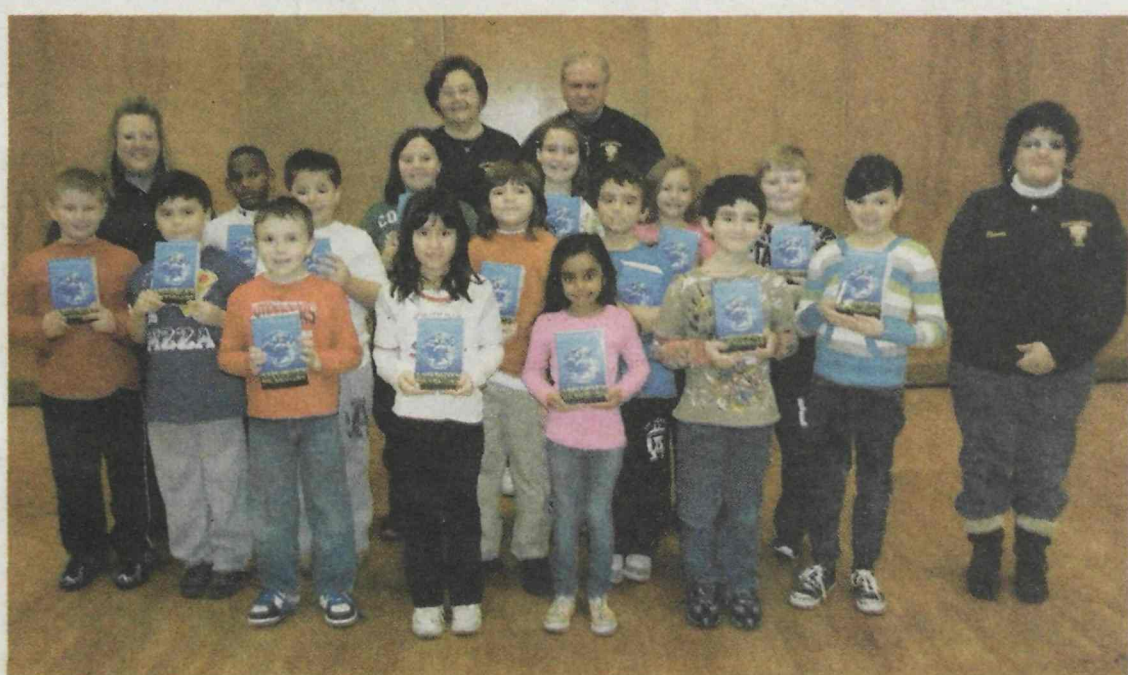
The idea for the Dictionary Project began in 1992 when Annie Plummer of Savannah, Ga. gave 50 dictionaries to children who attended a school close to her home. Each year she continued to give this gift

and raised money to help purchase even more books. In her lifetime she raised enough money to buy 17,000 dictionaries for the children in Savannah.

Her project attracted the attention of Bonnie Beeferman of Hilton Head, S.C. who began raising money by selling crafts to buy the books for local school children in surrounding communities. By 1995, Beeferman was receiving so many requests from teachers that she wrote a letter to the *Charleston Post and Courier* asking for help to meet the number of requests. After reading the letter, Mary French and her husband Arno formed a non-profit organization and the Dictionary Project was born.

Since then over 14 million children have received dictionaries all across the United States.

"The Youth Activities Committee is proud to present the dictionaries to the students in South Plainfield. We hope they will find them useful for many years to come," said Reuter.



(L-R) Elks members: District Vice President Debbie Czech, Chaplain Celeste Ginder, Interim Secretary Joe Rauh and Youth Activities Chairwoman Sharon Reuter present Kennedy School third grade students with a copy of *A Students Dictionary*.



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

Agenda Meeting Public Meeting

January 24 January 24

February 7 February 7

February 22 (Tuesday) February 22 (Tuesday)

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

Reorganization Meeting Tuesday, Jan. 25 at 6:30 p.m. Regular Meeting 7 p.m.

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

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

board of education

Meets Wednesdays at Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave.

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

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

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

Feb. 7 *, March 8, April 12, May 10, June 14, July and August—no meetings, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13

*These meeting dates will be held on the Monday prior to the regularly scheduled meeting.

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.

Feb. 15, March 15, April 19, May 17, June 21, July 19, Aug. 16, Sept. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 20

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

In My Opinion

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

Dear Editor,

I just want to thank the Department of Public Works, especially Leon and the superintendent, for helping to get my iPod back. My iPod fell into the sewer by my school, and I thought I wouldn't get it back, but with their help I did. They opened up the sewer with their equipment, and then Leon went down and got my iPod back for me. Thank you to everyone that helped me, because if they didn't help, I wouldn't have it now.

**THANK YOU,
GRANT SCHOOL STUDENT**

To the Community of South Plainfield:

I hope everyone has settled back to reality after the New Year. I trust that you all had a great holiday, and hope you and your families are doing well.

As you all know by now the weather here has been crazy at best. The Atlantic Ocean, as of this letter, has a balmy temperature of 33.6 degrees; hoping for a heat wave before March 13!

Which is why I am writing this letter, to ask if you can help support our efforts for this year's Miracle Plunge in Belmar. For more information about this event, please visit my fundraising website at www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/peter-smith-2/petersmith. I truly can use your support. If you have any questions, please contact me. If you would rather write a check, you can make the check payable to either Camp Moore or Cooley's Anemia. Both contributions are tax-deductible.

As you will see on my web page, I have a high goal this year and can use all of your support.

**THANKS AGAIN AND GOD BLESS,
PETE SMITH, MEMBER SOUTH
PLAINFIELD ELKS CLUB**

Dear Editor,

I am writing to let South Plainfield citizens know some great news about the Woodbrook Road Superfund Site. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) recently granted a \$50,000 Technical Assistance Grant for use in hiring independent technical consultants to strengthen the site's cleanup. Through this funding, technical consultants can review site files, provide technical comments and recommendations on the site cleanup, and attend public meetings to present their findings.

This is an immensely positive step for this site and the thousands who live nearby in both South Plainfield and Edison. This funding shows the US EPA's commitment to seeing the cleanup through to the end, by mak-

ing progress that keeps in mind the needs of the community. Our independent nonprofit organization, Edison Wetlands Association, is administering this funding, which is used exclusively to pay for technical consulting by public health and remediation experts. As a neighbor of this site, we are excited for the progress that the US EPA is making on its cleanup, for which we have strongly advocated since it was first discovered.

Likewise, the federal funding committed to the nearby Cornell-Dubilier Electronics Superfund Site on Hamilton Boulevard has made tremendous progress over the past two years, transforming from a dangerous abandoned site into an ongoing model cleanup using the latest in technology to treat tons of contaminated soil without causing harm to South Plainfield's health or quality of life.

We wish to praise the US EPA for their active roles on these two site cleanups, but also to stress that an involved citizenry is equally crucial to ensuring the cleanups are managed in a thorough and timely manner. I invite any residents to contact us at ewainfo@edisonwetlands.org to learn more about how to get involved in protecting the environment in South Plainfield.

**SINCERELY,
BOB SPIEGEL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
EDISON WETLANDS ASSOCIATION**

To the Editor:

Here in town everyone celebrated Martin Luther King Day. And I mean everyone. My street, Martin Luther King Jr. Street, will be celebrating Martin Luther King everyday until the road sign is destroyed by bad weather. South Plainfield, you did the civil rights movement proud.

Except that everything I described happened in Oakland, Calif. inquired with South Plainfield High School stu-

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.

dents and faculty members about what they were doing to honor Martin Luther King.

One student explained, "I haven't heard of anything related to MLK happening yet. I think it's because racism is not such a huge impact or issue anymore."

I was told by an English teacher that South Plainfield High School might be making no in-school announcements about MLK due to "technical difficulties" with the new video announcement program. She added that talking about the civil rights movement had been designated for February, as January is a time where teachers are "under the gun now with snow, the new principal and preparing for mid-terms."

I wrote an announcement myself about MLK to be read. The original version included statistics about segregation in New Jersey, but these numbers were excluded after I had been advised that it would be too much for the school to handle.

Oakland, a mostly black city, hosted multiple events to celebrate their cherished civil rights leader. MLK Day, an event designed to celebrate a man who hated segregation, has become a segregated holiday.

**SIGNED,
HOLLY MCDEDE,
A GRADUATE OF SPHS**

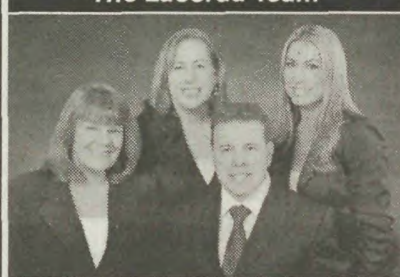
2011 Cultural Arts Commission Meetings

The regular meetings of the South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission of South Plainfield are held the third Tuesday of the month starting at 7:30 p.m. at the PAL building, 1250 Maple Ave. in the general conference room. All meetings will be open to the public.

The 2011 Cultural Arts Commission meeting dates are: February 15, March 15, April 19, May 17, June 21, no meeting July and August, September 20, October 18, November 15 and December 20.

All meetings are subject to change or cancellation

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Plans For New School Proceeding Rapidly

After the 5 p.m. Mass last Saturday, Fr. John Alvarado, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in South Plainfield, was relaxed. "It's coming together, things are really beginning to happen," he said. The "it" he was referring to is the new Catholic parochial school, Holy Savior Academy, which will open in September and be housed in what is currently Sacred Heart School.

"Proceeding from the planning stage to the execution stage takes time, research, careful thought and planning, diplomacy, the input of many, many people—all experts in their fields—and finally prayer, lots of prayer!" he said.

The 12 pastors of the Middlebrook Deanery (which is a geographical subsection of a diocese) have the opportunity to create an ideal school from the bottom up. He and his fellow pastors of the three other Catholic schools in the area—Our Lady of Fatima in Piscataway, Our Lady of Mount Virgin in Middlesex and Holy Family Academy in Bound Brook—had seen enrollment drop over the past few years. This is due in part to the recession with people unemployed and moving out of the area, and in part because parents felt that, although they

loved their parochial schools, their schools weren't quite up to snuff when compared to public schools, especially in the area of technology.

Holy Savior Academy

The Middlebrook Deanery Catholic School

and advanced curriculums. "Parents want the very best education possible for their children and we are aware there are areas that need improvement," Fr. Alvarado said. "My fellow pastors with parochial schools began to realize that, while we could struggle to remain viable over the next year or two, there would come a point where viability is no longer possible and we would be faced with having to close our schools if we didn't propose a dramatic solution. There are things that we all wanted to accomplish and knew that none of us could do this on our own."

That solution, they feel, is forming an entirely new school by combining resources, materials, assets and students. But this solution materialized



slowly. "Nothing like this had ever been done before in our diocese," Fr. Alvarado went on. "Catholic schools close all the time, all across the nation, and children are ushered to another parochial school. A deanery creating a new school is a completely new concept and one, I believe, that is in line with the vision of our bishop and the recommendations of our recent Diocesan Synod," he said. "Our bishop, Most Rev. Paul Bootkoski has been supportive from day one," he added.

A parochial school's curriculum is dictated both by the Diocesan Department of Education and the State of New Jersey, ensuring a certain quality of education. Pastors didn't have much input into the curriculum.

"What's exciting about this school," Fr. Alvarado continued, "is that we will of course maintain those levels dictated by the state and the diocese, but we will also add to it." Offering advanced classes in the areas of math, science and language arts, he feels, will challenge both teachers and students. By greatly increasing the use of technology in the classroom—"something parents have been telling us they want"—children will have an opportunity to learn in a new way, a more responsive way, using new tools to heighten the educational experience.

"Our goal," Father Alvarado continued, "is to become a 'super-school' of elementary schools. But," he added emphatically, "this new school is not an experiment. Nothing could be further from the truth!"

Is there opposition to this new school? "People don't always accept change with open arms," Fr. Alvarado continued. "Not only in my parish, but in the other parishes with schools, there is sadness and grief over losing something that is so closely tied to the parish community. Many parents however, even most parents, are genuinely excited about Holy Savior Academy, because they realize their children will have the opportunity for a higher quality of education here. Some parents will 'wait and see' and a few are not in favor of it at all. And that's where prayer plays a major role," he said.

Resident Arrested for Practicing Medicine Without a License

South Plainfield resident Yamile Mattos, 47, was arrested and charged with unlicensed practice of medicine, possession with intent to distribute a prescription drug and possession of drug paraphernalia after giving Botox injections at her 2500 Park Ave. residence on January 11.

An investigation by a female undercover police officer revealed that Mattos was giving injections to re-

move wrinkles and augment the derieres of clients. She was arrested at home without incident. Bail was set at \$70,000 with no 10% option, and she is currently being held at the Middlesex County Adult Corrections Center in North Brunswick.

Det. Anthony Pacillo led the investigation along with Sgt. Dan Noonan and investigators from the Consumer Affairs Enforcement Bureau.

Marbleizing Craft Program at Library

There will be a marbleizing craft program for adults at the South Plainfield Public Library on Monday, Jan. 24 at 6:15 p.m.

Participants will make a fabric fan using the beautiful ancient art form of Ebru, better known as marbleizing. Similar to tie dying, marbleizing is easier and more exquisite. Learn both the technique and the fascinating history of this ancient art. This

program is being presented free of charge by Nancy Leary. Space is limited, so participants must register in advance. Be advised the program is for adults only.

The South Plainfield Library is located in the municipal complex at 2484 Plainfield Ave. For more information, call (908) 754-7885 or visit the library's website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

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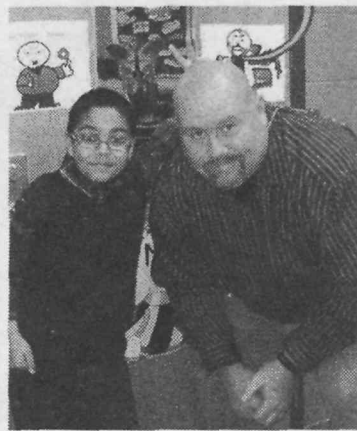
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JUNIOR JOURNALIST

Sanjiv Sewdat Named Junior Journalist



Junior Journalist winner Sanjiv Sewdat with teacher Michael Bertram.

Sanjiv Sewdat, Roosevelt School third grader, is this week's winner in the Junior Journalist program. His poem, "Bears Hibernating," has earned Sanjiv dinner for his 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.

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

Bears Hibernating

By Sanjiv Sewdat

Bears hibernating
nighty, night
and if you woke one up
run for your life.
Play dead or you're dead meat
Better hope he goes back to his
peaceful slumber
to finish his sleep.
Good night bear!
I'm so out of here.

Suburban Woman's Club NEWS

At the January meeting of the Suburban Woman's Club, members were treated to a very informative talk presented by Dr. Alice Tempel, South Plainfield Environmental Specialist and Recycling Coordinator. Dr. Tempel accompanied her talk with a slide show entitled, "Where does it come from? Where does it go?" to illustrate the path that litter takes and ways in which to prevent it.

Special State Project Chairperson Natalie Bergen reported that her committee members were to meet at the Senior Center on January 13 to discuss the fashion show/luncheon that will raise funds for the Wellness Community/Gilda's Club Program in April.

Club President Lucy Hudson announced that she would host a report

writing meeting at her home on January 20 and a group of members will be attending the College District Council/Program Assistance Day at the NJSFWC Headquarters in New Brunswick on January 27.

The NJSFWC Public Issues Day on Monday, March 21 will honor women in the military. The club will present Sgt. Trista L. Moretti's name to be placed on the list of honorees.

The time of the club meetings had been changed from 1 to 2 p.m. due to scheduling difficulties at the American Legion Hall.

Any woman interested in joining the club may contact Grace Bertucci, membership chairperson at (732) 549-9633.

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events

Around Town

Ponytail Fundraiser

January 21

Come out for a night of music and laughter, sponsored by the South Plainfield Ponytail Association, at the Senior Center on Friday, Jan. 21 from 6:30 to 11:30 p.m. to support girls softball. Tickets are \$40 per person and include a buffet dinner, beer, wine, soda and dessert. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; dinner at 7:30 p.m. and show 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.

Wrestling Alumni Night

January 22

The first wrestling alumni night will be held Saturday, Jan. 22 at 7 p.m. at the high school. All former SPHS wrestlers are invited for a night of fun and reminiscing and watch the Tigers take on Old Bridge. Following the match, all alumni, friends and fans (adults only please) are invited to Flanagan's for a post match reception sponsored by the South Plainfield Wrestling Club. Light buffet and cash bar.

For information or to register visit www.spwrestling.com; information can be found under the Alumni section.

Elks Pancake Breakfast

January 30

The South Plainfield Elks Lodge #2298, 1254 New Market Ave., will hold a pancake breakfast on Sunday, Jan. 30 from 8 a.m. to noon to benefit the South Plainfield High School Orchestra/Marching Band Disney trip. Pancakes, sausage, bacon, hash browns,

toast, eggs to order, orange juice, coffee and tea. Cost: adults/\$6; seniors/\$5; children under 12/\$4.

For more information, call Karen Kelly at (908) 757-5820.

Sacred Heart "A Night on Broadway"

January 30

The Sacred Heart Music Ministry presents "A Night on Broadway" on Sunday, Jan. 30 at 3 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church, 149 South Plainfield Ave., featuring music from many beloved musicals, including *The Sound of Music*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Carousel*, *My Fair Lady*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and *The Fantastiks*. A free will offering will be accepted at the door.

For more information, call (908) 756-0633, ext 139.

Open House at Holy Savior Academy

January 30 & February 3

Holy Savior Academy extends a warm and cordial invitation to parents and students to attend an open house at what is currently Sacred Heart School in South Plainfield.

Dates are Sunday, Jan. 30 from 2 to 6 p.m. and Thursday, Feb. 3 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

For more information, please call (908) 822-5890.

Send Your Events to:
spobservers@comcast.net
Visit our website:
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Don't Cook Friday Spaghetti Dinner

February 11

South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203, 334 Hamilton Blvd. is holding its annual "Don't Cook Friday" spaghetti dinner on Friday, Feb. 11 from 4 to 7:30 p.m.

Purchase tickets at the door; \$8/adults, \$7/seniors and \$4/children. Take out dinners are also available.

Food Fest/Bake Sale/Candy Sale

February 12

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Orthodox Church, 400 Delmore Ave., will hold a food fest/bake sale/candy sale on Saturday, Feb. 12 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Ukrainian and Russian ethnic foods, homemade candy for Valentine's Day for your loved ones. Enter through the ramp door in the parking lot in the back of the church.

For more information, call (908) 561-6366.

— Out of Town —

Temple Shalom White Elephant Auction

January 22

Temple Shalom of Fanwood/Scotch Plains, 74 Martine Ave., will host its second White Elephant Auction at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 22. Open to the public. Tickets: \$10 in advance; \$15 at the door include light refreshments, soft drinks and wine.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call (908) 889-4900 or email sholom@sholomnj.org.

Gesang-und Turn-Verein Dinner Dance

January 22

Plainfield Gesang-und Turn-Verein will hold a dinner dance on Saturday, Jan. 22 at 6:30 p.m. in Singer Hall, 220 Somerset St. in North Plainfield. Gulash and spaetzle and all the trimmings will be served. Coffee and cake for dessert. Tickets are \$17 for members or \$19 for non-members.

For tickets, call Joan at (908) 647-0819 or Victor at (908) 276-8572.

Blackrose to Perform

January 22

Blackrose, the band, playing classic rock and roll music and today's hits, will be performing at Rug's & Riffy's Bar and Grill, 493 Rahway Ave. in Woodbridge on Saturday, Jan. 22 at 9 p.m. No cover charge.

Willow Grove Winter Festival Concert

January 23

Hear Imperial Brass perform its Winter Festival Concert on Sunday, Jan. 23 at 3 p.m. at Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains.

Tickets are on sale in advance and at the door. Ticket prices are \$15; seniors and students-\$12; and free for children 12 and under. Following the concert, a reception will be held.

For tickets or information, call (908) 232-5678.

Depression/Bipolar Support Meeting

January 26

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance will feature a panel of

SENIOR CENTER Calendar

Coming Up....

MONDAYS

Silver Sneakers 8:45 am
Crocheting 9:30 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.

people living with mood disorders at its monthly meeting at 7:45 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 26 using the facilities of the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, 21 Normandy Heights Road in Morristown. The public is cordially invited.

For information or weather-related cancellations, call (973) 994-1143.

Beat the Winter Blues Dance Party

January 29

Steppin' Out Singles beat the winter blues upscale singles dance party will be held on Saturday, Jan. 29 at 8 p.m. at Crowne Plaza Hotel, 36 Valley Rd. in Clark. Ages 40 and up; no jeans/sneakers/t-shirts. Admission: \$17.

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

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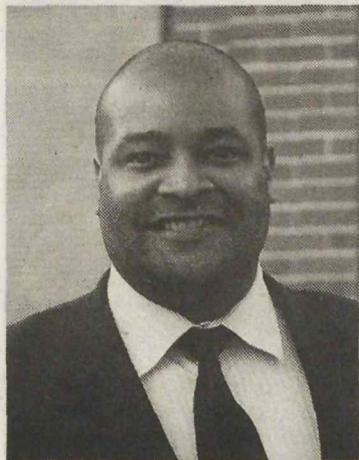
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Milestones



Daniel Eatman, Jr.

Daniel Eatman, Jr. Named Investor Branch Manager

Investors Savings Bank has named Daniel Eatman, Jr. to the position of branch manager of its recently opened South Plainfield branch, located at 2449 Plainfield Ave. Eatman will oversee the branch's business development efforts and will report to regional manager Susan Nardoza.

Eatman worked in the criminal justice field before embarking on a 13 year career in financial services. Before joining Investors, he held relationship and sales management positions at Chase Bank, Bank of America and Valley National Bank. A former student athlete, Eatman coaches Little League and 12-and-under league baseball.

"Mr. Eatman's experience and expertise will help us continue to offer top-quality services to our customers," said Nardoza.

Natalie Colucci Named to Rider U. Dean's List

Natalie Colucci of South Plainfield was named to the dean's list at Rider University College of Business Administration for the 2010 Fall Semester.

As a dean's list student, Natalie is among a select group of student scholars who represent the brightest and most accomplished students in the College of Business Administration and at Rider University.

Two Named to Coastal Carolina Dean's List

Nicole A. Slatky and Ashleigh Gaspari of South Plainfield have been named to the dean's list at Coastal Carolina University (CCU) for the Fall 2010 semester. To qualify for the dean's list, freshmen must earn a 3.25 grade point average and upperclassmen must earn a 3.5 grade point average. All students must be enrolled full time.

Coastal Carolina University is a dynamic, public comprehensive liberal arts institution located in Conway, just minutes from Myrtle Beach, S.C. CCU offers baccalaureate programs in 53 major fields of study, including acclaimed programs in marine science, resort tourism and professional golf management. Graduate programs include an MBA as well as master's degrees in education, writing and coastal marine and wetland studies.

Two Named to Bucknell University Dean's List

Bucknell University has announced the dean's list for outstanding academic achievement during the fall semester of the 2010-11 academic year. A student must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a scale of 4.0 to receive dean's list recognition.

Among the students named to the dean's list were Lauren C. Fry, daughter of Kenneth and Kathleen Fry of South Plainfield and a 2007 graduate of South Plainfield High School; and Eric C. Nuber, son of David and GERALYN Nuber of South Plainfield and a 2009 graduate of St. Joseph High School in Metuchen.

Send Your

Milestones to:

spobserver@comcast.net

For information on how
to submit an event, visit
www.spobserver.com.



Residents of Keystone enjoy a Christmas party hosted by the Knights of Columbus.

Knights of Columbus Host Annual Christmas Party for Keystone Residents

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 held their annual Christmas party for Keystone residents on December 30. Over 70 attended the party at the Knights hall to enjoy a hot dinner and a visit from Santa who delivered many gifts to the residents. The Knights of Columbus have been hosting a Christmas party for Keystone residents for over 20 years.

The Knights would like to thank all

of their members and family members who attended and either cooked or served the residents their dinner. A special thank you to brother Knight Max Waldrop for his support in playing Santa. Ed Kubala has played Santa for many years, but was unable to this year.

Another special thanks to the Sacred Heart Prayer Shawl Ministry who handmade over 50 winter hats and scarves for the Keystone residents this

year. Members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry are Joan Bechtel, Susan Barry, Donna Brown, Joanne Drake, Jeanne Griesi, Evelina Inigo, Maria Lewis, Grace Lyons, Pat McDonough, Pat Malia, Anna Miranda, Cheryl Nagle-Smiley, Joanne Otlowski, Mary Otlowski, Debra Perry and Maria Perry.

Co-organizers for this event were Bill Thomas and Grand Knight Joe Scrudato.

Week of Prayer Concludes with Panel Discussion

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was first observed from January 18-25, 1908. Today, the event will be observed through the Association of Christian Churches of South Plainfield. The association invites the Christian community throughout the world to pray in communion with the prayer of Jesus, "that they all may be one" (John 17:21).

The Association of Christian Churches of South Plainfield was formed in 1964 for just that purpose—to advance unity and dialogue among the various Christian faith traditions of South Plainfield. The current active members of the association, whose pastors and spiritual leaders meet

monthly, consist of St. Stephen Evangelical Lutheran Church, First Baptist Church, Pilgrim Covenant, Rescue House of Prayer, Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church and Wesley United Methodist.

This year the Association of Christian Churches week of events to advance and celebrate Christian unity in South Plainfield will conclude with the following events:

January 21: An Old Fashioned Hymn Sing, 7 p.m.—Sacred Heart Church. Choirs from area churches, along with congregational singing, will celebrate the unity we share in Christ through sacred music, with favorite hymns from the various faith tradi-

tions.

January 23: Panel Discussion, 3 p.m.—Wesley Methodist. Topic: Visions of Hope for South Plainfield. Along with our respective clergy and local politicians and educators, join in a discussion of our hopes for the future of South Plainfield, and the role we each play in our growing multicultural community.

For more information on any of these events, contact the local hosting church.

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Boy Troop 125 Celebrates 75 Year Anniversary

By Patricia Abbott

Boy Scouting in South Plainfield dates back well over 70 years and Boy Scout Troop 125 boast that they are the oldest active troop in town. On January 9 the troop held a 75 year reunion dinner at the VFW.

Troop 125 was formed in 1933 and has a copy of the original charter from the former Willis School on New Brunswick Avenue. Scoutmaster Jim Donelson explained that while the troop is entering its 78th year, the council only recognizes his particular unit as active for 75 years. "There doesn't seem to be a lot of history passed down from scoutmaster to scoutmaster. I am trying to do the troop's history with the help of former Scoutmaster Bob Vincent," explained Donelson.

This is the first reunion the troop has held. Unfortunately they did not have a large number of alumni in attendance because many live out of state, most too far away to attend.

The informal pot luck style dinner was held downstairs at the VFW. They plan a more formal event in June at their year-end picnic. The reunion had about 25 guests, including Noelle Perrine, who had three boys in the troop; two of whom reached the rank



Albert Tuttle, Piscataway Troop 106

of Eagle. She was the oldest alumni there. Also on hand was Scoutmaster Albert Tuttle from Piscataway Troop 106. The two troops often participate in activities together.

The afternoon began with the Pledge of Allegiance and continued with the official Boy Scout Oath and Scout Laws led by Senior Patrol Leader Louis Esposito. Scoutmaster Donelson welcomed the guests and presented a brief history of the troop. The Patriots' Path Council presented the troop with a proclamation recognizing 75 years of service to the town.

After dinner, alumni were invited to the microphone to share their favorite memories of their years with Troop 125. Later the State Board of Education presented the troop with a certificate recognizing their 75 years of activity in South Plainfield. Closing remarks were made by Bob Vincent, and Scoutmaster Donelson offered a "Scoutmaster Minute" which he described as a short story about a scouting value topic.

Troop 125 is proud of its 55 Eagle Scouts and they anticipate three more boys to earn the prestigious award

within the year. The troop currently has six boys registered and expect more in the near future. While searching back over the years, Donelson located the troops oldest alumni, William McNair, who earned his Eagle Award in 1960. He was the third scout in the troop to achieve the rank. The first Eagle Scout, Billy Williams, died in the war. Donelson is still researching the troop's second Eagle Scout, Woody Conklin, who earned his Eagle Rank in 1955.

The troop started in 1933; they were chartered at Willis School by Scoutmaster Clarence Donnelly. From there they moved to Franklin School from 1959 to 1980 where the scoutmaster was Charlie Mohn. From 1980 to 1986 they were chartered by the Geary Park Association and met at the middle school. Since 1986 the troop continues to be chartered by and meet at the VFW Post #6763 on Front Street.

Among the scoutmasters who ran the troop over the years were, Clarence Donnelly, Richard Davis, Robert Schaefer, Norman Payeur, Donald Mundwilder, Charlie Mohn, Edward Barulli, Chris Corvelyn, Mike Corvelyn, Eric Strand, Greg Lewis, Bob Vincent and the current Scoutmaster, Jim Donelson.

After 1967, the council stopped printing the scoutmaster's names on the charters. So far they have been unable to find how many or the names of any of the original scouts. Donelson noted that there was a gentleman by the name of Al Grove who started helping the troop in 1934 and continued to assist until his death in the 1990s. He passed down the old charters and some of the troop's history, giving Donelson a place to start.

Donelson said, "When asked 'Why



Noelle Perrine and Advance Chair Robert Vincent.

scouts?', I begin to tell them everything that scouting has done for my life—the people you meet and friends you make. Scouting teaches values, family, citizenship and a sense of belonging. The uniform is what makes everyone the same. I'm proud of wearing that uniform every Monday night, because I know that what I do for the boys someday in return they will do for someone else. Hopefully they will become Scoutmasters someday."

Senior Patrol Leader Louis Esposito had this to say about scouting, "I joined the troop due to my family's participation with it. My grandfather was a leader and my uncle and brother are alumni. For almost eight years I have used the skills and leadership that came with it. With leaving for Rider University in September, I am currently in the process of earning my Eagle rank and I know that having this troop's number on my resume helped me earn acceptance in my college of choice."

Former Scoutmaster Bob Vincent said, "I have been recognized by my peers at various times during my 35 year tenure as a scoutmaster and for that I am grateful; however, the greatest reward that I receive is when I'm in some public place and I hear the words 'Mr. V.' I turn around and see a man in his

30s whom I do not recognize. He introduces himself to me as a former scout and proceeds to tell me some of the stories of the times he remembers with me. That is the reason that I remain a scoutmaster."

Parent Maria Rodriguez said, "I have been involved with Troop 125 for about 14 years. It has been a great experience and a wonderful accomplishment seeing my oldest son, Omar, now 21, complete his Eagle Scout three years ago. Now my youngest



Unit Commissioner Jack Steger and son, Jack.

son, Erick, 16, is in progress to complete his as well. It makes me feel greatly appreciative of everything the troop has offered my sons. I highly recommend this experience to all boys. I plan to continue to be a part of the Boy Scouts."



Parent Omar Rodriguez and Committee Chair Bryan O'Keefe.



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Rabies Clinic This Saturday

The South Plainfield Health Department will be conducting its annual rabies clinic on Saturday, Jan. 22 from 9 a.m. to noon at the South Plainfield Borough Garage, corner of Spicer and Belmont avenues. Dog and cat owners are urged to bring their pets for inoculation.

2011 dog and cat licenses will also be available. Please note: Cats must be in a carrier.

The health department will no longer mail license or rabies clinic reminders. Please check the borough website, www.southplainfieldnj.com, for current license/late fees and clinic information.

For more information, call (908) 226-7631.

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Giving is Second Nature to Local Resident, Shirley Thompson

The economic turnaround has hit home here in South Plainfield as evidenced by the increase in the number of families requiring assistance this Christmas season. Fortunately, the outpouring of generosity has overwhelmingly proved that there are still many individuals who are willing to help others and go the extra mile to ensure that these families are able to provide for their children.

Each year, Shirley Thompson begins her holiday project shortly after Thanksgiving; however, this year she began earlier. Shirley needed to get a head start in order to meet the needs of the many residents who require help providing gifts for their children and to provide a hot meal for the entire family on Christmas Day.

This year, Shirley needed to purchase gifts for 65 children. As some might imagine, she had her work cut out for her. For the past seven years, Shirley organized the list of children and began her Christmas shopping adventure. Along with the help of many individuals and businesses, she was able to provide gifts for all the children on her list.

Throughout the month of December, Shirley coordinated and organized all of the donated gifts. She then stored them in the garage of her neighbors, Don and Betty Herman.

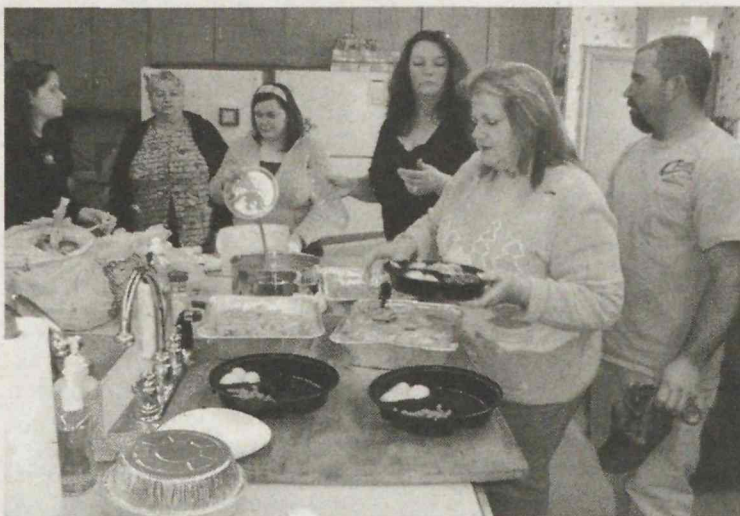
Another neighbor, Cathy Herman, was also a tremendous help. She organized the lists and gifts along with the help of many others who volunteered to wrap the presents. Shirley made sure that each child had more

than a few gifts to open on Christmas morning. The "elves" who volunteered with the wrapping were Shirley's daughter, Heather; daughter-in-law, Deneen; Julie Humphrey, Betty Herman, Jessica Pratt and Katie Yon.

In previous years, Shirley had helpers who would deliver the gifts to the families homes, but this year Shirley asked the parents of the children to pick up the gifts which worked out nicely. Shirley was able to meet the families personally that she helped this year. There was one family that came to pick up gifts but did not have a Christmas tree to put the gifts under; fortunately, the family picked up an artificial Christmas tree that was generously donated by Puleo International.

Once the distribution of the gifts was completed, the preparations then began for the hot meals to be delivered on Christmas Day. For the third year in a row, Bob and Arlene Richie arranged for Shirley to use the kitchen at Wesley Methodist Church. Shirley and her helpers headed over to Wesley at about 10 p.m. on Christmas Eve. As in previous years, Shirley stayed up all night to cook over 120 lbs. of turkey breast and all the trimmings. Bob and Arlene also stayed with Shirley through the night and the next day until all the meals had been delivered and the kitchen at Wesley was clean.

The team of helpers prepared all non-perishable items for delivery, including cranberry sauce, fresh rolls, fresh fruit, nuts, pies, homemade mini



Shirley Thompson fills containers with the hot turkey dinner that family members, friends, neighbors and volunteers deliver on Christmas day.

cakes that were donated by a South Plainfield resident, cookies donated by Girl Scout Troop 14 and cookies donated by Carousel Beauty Salon. The team worked until 1 a.m., and Shirley continued to work long after they left.

On Christmas morning, the deliveries began promptly at 11:30 a.m. and within 2 hours, 300 hot meals had been delivered including deliveries to two group homes. This is the eighth year that Shirley, along with her team of volunteers, have provided Christmas dinner to those in need, and they have the routine down to a science. Even Shirley's grandchildren, Kasi, Daniel and Anthony, willingly give up their Christmas day to help with the food deliveries.

After the deliveries had been made, the volunteers shared a meal of hot turkey, stuffing, green beans, potatoes, cranberry sauce, plus many other goodies in the church hall. The day was a huge success because of this team effort, and the holiday was made brighter for those who were on the receiving end of the generosity of Shirley and all those who volunteered to help and who made donations.

Shirley would like to thank the following people and organizations for their donations, support and help during this holiday season; all was greatly

appreciated:

Ted and Ellie Stockman, Meg Hunsicker, Pat Malia, Marie and Joseph Dolinski, George and Betsy Coyne, R. McCrisky, McCrisky-Gustafson Home For Funerals, Anthony Weiss, Amy Bathsta and Tricia Obregon and Girl Scout Troop 14, Barry and Joann Dueker, The Browns, The Fritzes, Donald and Patricia Jackson, Mrs. Ranger, Dave and Peggy Koury, Professor Dell'omo, Lory Jackson, Bob Alcaro, Asia Smith, Georgeann Larson, Margaret Flynn, Joe Mantz, Armpco Office Machines and their employees; Collis and Peggy Moore, Danielle, Tony, Daniel and Anthony DiMaria-Sidorski; Dana Zampella, Dorreen, Denise and Devon DiMaria; Mark Piano, Kasi Joyner, Margaret Schweers, Don and Connie Palmer, Bob and Arlene Richie, Anne and Tyler Weingart, Dom and Cindy Derosa, Nancy and Nick Steprans, Jim Rice, Bill, Jackie, Cindy, Billy, CJ and Angelique Weaver; Mr. and Mrs. Dick Bartell, Twin City Pharmacy, Thomas and Eugenia Cassio, D. Reed, Rev. and Mrs. Mingle, Patricia and Kenneth Martin, Robert and Christine Schulte in honor of John Schulte; Emily and Brian Mazellan, Alan Graziano of Jersey Tank Fab Inc.; Kenny and Debbie Chabok, Rose Trivigno, Thorm Ramirez, Dawn Pasch, Cindy and George Zielenbach, Mr. and Mrs. Martize, Julie Humphrey, JoAnn and Harry Robinson, Nancy Stillman Pender, Brenda and Buster McRae, Audrey and Linda Ranger, Toby Prince CPA, Ross Anglim-

Anglim & Co., Jacqueline and William Humphrey, Janet Scalera; senior volunteers-Wednesday Knit Club; In Memory of John E. Sobotka; Joyce and Brian Schweers, June Bowden, Edward and Linda Rocca, Mr. & Mrs. Steven Machat, the Sorentino Family, George Nichol, Carousel Beauty Salon, Maureen and John Terhune, Rebecca Armand, Rose Marie Pelton, Ann and Tyler Weingart, Mrs. Bengivenga, the South Plainfield Observer, David Herman and Katie Yon; Julie, Andy and Andrew Yon, Nadine Sansone, Cathy Herman, Don and Betty Herman, Puleo International, Arch Personal Care and their employees; Mark Pellegrino, Michelle and Carmen Petrillo; Linda Rodriguez, Marisol Martinez, TD Bank, Carolyn Allen, South Plainfield Business Association, Bagel Pantry, South Plainfield EMS Sunday night crew; Rosemary, Rocco, Jordan and Anthony Petrillo; Rocky and Rose DeCovolo, Lisa and Evan DeCovolo, Paul Brand, Barry Christ, Candy and Matt Goldstein, Cindy Sansone, Tina Hansen and Elizabeth Hansen.

"There are various people who have donated their time and money who wish to remain anonymous, and there are people I am sure to have missed," said Shirley. "But I would like to take the time to say thank you to these individuals and allow them to know how greatly their help is appreciated."

"Last and of course not least, I would like to thank my husband, John, who helps in every way; my mother, Stella; my children, John, Jerry, Heather, Candice, Matt and Deneen; and my grandchildren, Kasi, Daniel and Anthony. Without their help this project would not be possible or nearly as successful."

Family Concert at Senior Center

There will be an interactive family concert on Wednesday, Feb. 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the South Plainfield Senior Center, located at 90 Maple Ave.

The concert will feature NJ-based songwriters/musicians Presley & Melody, making their first appearance in South Plainfield. The concert promises to offer both musical enjoyment and educational value. It's for children of all ages; no pre-registration is required. In lieu of an admission fee,

attendees should bring non-perishable food items for the Middlesex County Community Food Drive. The concert is sponsored by the South Plainfield Public Library.

The South Plainfield Library is located at 2484 Plainfield Ave. For more information, call (908) 754-7885 or visit the library's website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us. For more information about Presley & Melody, please visit their website at www.presleyandmelody.com.

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Special Public Meeting HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT MEETING

A public hearing for the 2011 Housing and Community Development Block Grant has been scheduled for Monday, February 7, 2011 at 6:45 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the South Plainfield Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue.

The purpose of this hearing is to introduce projects being considered for inclusion in the 2011 Housing and Community Development Block Grant application. Public input on this project as well as input on any other projects will be entertained by the Governing Body at this time.

Further questions may be addressed to Councilman Robert Bengivenga, Jr., the Council's Representative to the Housing and Community Development Agency at 908-966-1491 or Glenn Cullen, Administrator / CFO at 908-226-7602 or e-mail at gcullen@southplainfieldnj.com

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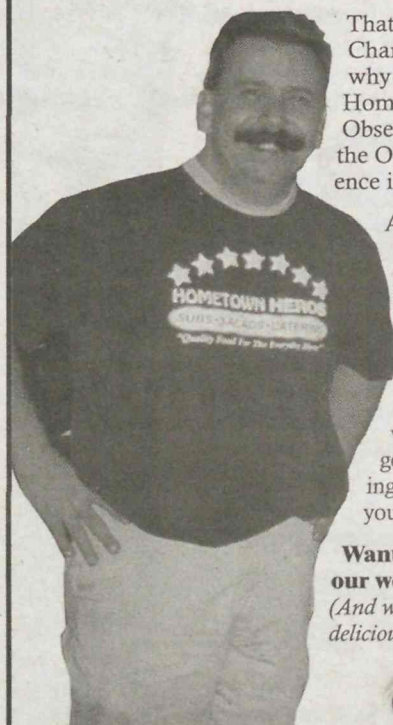
GOP Seeking Candidates

The South Plainfield Republican Organization's screening committee is accepting resumes from anyone interested in running for borough council on the Republican ticket in November.

Send resume to SPRO, P.O. Box 371, South Plainfield, N.J. 07080. Resumes must be received no later than Friday, Feb. 4 for consideration by the SPRO.

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Sports

SPHS Bowling

By Ralph Fech

BOYS BOWLING

Tiger Bowlers Clobber Carteret, Sizzle in Loss to North Brunswick

SPHS	775	795	841	2,411
CARTERET	650	777	707	2,134

The boys' bowling team clobbered Carteret as they rolled their highest total of the year. High scores were Andrew Yon 190, 516 set, Joe Parillo 194, 512 set. Sophomore Jesse Masters struck out in the tenth frame as the Tigers squeezed a close second game. Also chipping in for the Tigers were Tom Riccardi 168-167-161, 496 set.

Rob Benwell 160, 443 set and Ryan Riccardi, 150, 409 set. The 2,411 total was the highest series of the season for the young Tiger squad.

SPHS	811	863	877	2,551
NORTH BRUNSWICK	1002	824	953	2,779

A trio of sophomores led the boys' bowling team to a tight match with a good North Brunswick team. In their best performance of the season, the spirited Tigers fell in the deciding third game.

High scorers were Tom Riccardi 176-178-191, 545 set; Joe Parillo 182-189, 518 set; Jesse Masters 179-169-170, 518 set; Andrew Yon 176, 489 set; and Ryan Riccardi 168, 481 set.

GIRLS BOWLING

Lady Tigers Bumped by Carteret and State-Ranked North Brunswick

SPHS	615	665	660	1,940
CARTERET	837	809	602	2,248

Despite Nikki Dischs' 186 high game and 502 set and Stephanie Sherwood's solid 479 set, the girls' bowling team could only win one game out of three and was beaten by a good Carteret team. Rebecca Moskal chipped in with a 160 game.

SPHS	718	730	664	2,112
NORTH BRUNSWICK	985	1,047	964	2,996

The Lady Tigers fell to state-ranked and undefeated North Brunswick. Stephanie Sherwood took scoring honors with a 212 high game and 546 set. Nikki Disch added a 192 game and 476 set while teammates Allison Yuschick and Becca Moskal chipped in with 400 and 378. The Lady Raiders put on an awesome display of power and shot-making.

Charity Basketball Fundraiser

A charity basketball game, sponsored by the middle school PTO and South Plainfield PBA, between the police officers and teachers will take place on Saturday, Feb. 12 at 3 p.m. in the high school gym. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to resident Jerry Bartolotti who was injured in a truck accident.

Ticket price is \$4. Food and drink will be available; games and prizes during half time. For more information, call Officer Lloyd McNelly at (908) 755-0700 or PTO President Debbie Boyle at (908) 803-1573.

Adult Baseball Teams Forming

Adult baseball players and teams are wanted for the Amateur Baseball Association of NJ. The ABA is the premier adult mens recreational baseball league (18 and over) in New Jersey. We are also the fastest growing league in Northern and Central NJ with 200 teams in 2010. In 2011 we will again have multiple wood and metal skill level leagues.

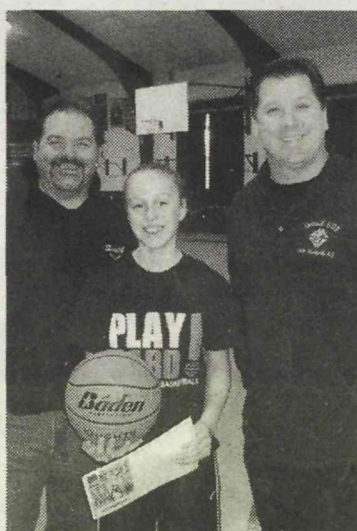
Included in our fees are our strong customer service and flexible master scheduling, a large player pool, seven dozen Wilson baseballs, field insurance, accidental medical insurance, AllStar TeamStats.com/aba for stats and schedules, equipment discounts, All Star Game and jackets for league winners.

For more details, visit www.AllStarTeamStats.com/aba, email NJBaseball4all@aol.com or call Jason at (201) 873-3349.

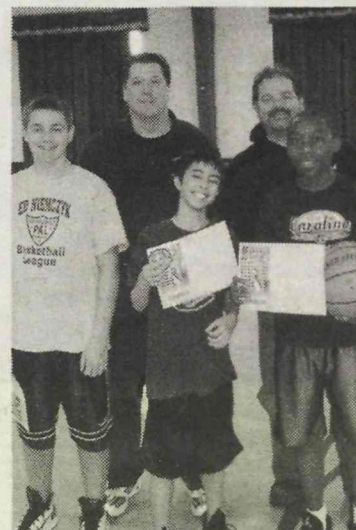


Pictured is Coach Tejada with the South Plainfield "Center Circle A League" soccer team who won the A League Championship on January 9 against the Internationals at the Center Circle Complex in Rahway. As champions they received a glass mounted soccer ball, first place medals and championship t-shirts. Front row (L-R): Daniel Lyew, Matias Palma and Sam Tejada, Jr.; second row: Erick Rodriguez, Jeffrey Giron, Gary Pastuna and Jose Cruz; top row: Coach Tejada, Lucas Gótiandia, Jelani Ptah, Goalie Patrick Boyle, Michael Zelasko and Edwin Molina. Not pictured are Jake Salerno, Mike Dispenziere and Jesse Allen.

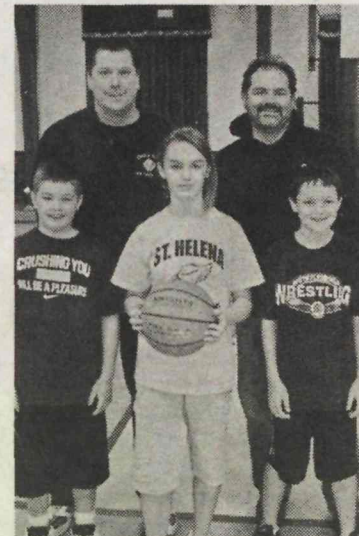
Knights Free Throw Contest Results



Sarah Cargill with Chairman Robbi Matusz and Grand Knight Joe Scrudato.



Brian Marski, Brian Tse and Michael Maynard



Mike Clevenger, Christine Houghlan and Jack Scrudato

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 held the local level of the annual free throw contest at Sacred Heart School on January 9. Boys and girls ages 10 to 14 shoot 15 free throws, and whoever makes the most are winners and move onto the district level competition.

The winners were: 10 year old boy-

Mike Clevenger; 10 year old girl-Christine Houghlan; 11 year old boy-Jack Scrudato; 12 year old boy-Brian Tse; 12 year old girl-Sarah Cargill; 13 year old boy-Brian Marski and 14 year old boy-Michael Maynard.

The Knights would like to thank all the boys and girls who participated. All contestants on the local level were recognized for their participation in

the event.

The Knights would like to thank Robbi Matusz who chaired this event as well as his helpers, Steve Belanger, Carl Adlassnig and Grand Knight Joe Scrudato. Also, in the annual Knights members free throw contest, Steve Belanger won in a thrilling double overtime contest against Joe Scrudato.

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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Eve Pasternak

On January 24, 1848, gold was discovered in Sutter's Mill, California. When word got out, it started the great California gold rush of 1849. Why not rush over to your library this week to see what "gold" you can discover?

Adults can discover their creative talents. On Monday, Jan. 24 at 6:15 p.m., Nancy Leary will be presenting a marbling craft program. Participants will learn the history of the ancient art of Ebru and decorate a fabric fan. This technique is similar to tying but easier, and gives exquisite results. The event is free, but space is limited and pre-registration is required. The program is for adults only.

Kids will have the chance to discover the pleasure of helping others and have crafty fun on Monday, Jan. 31. Come by the library anytime between 6 and 8 p.m. to make a valentine for a veteran (and one to take home). Valentines will be sent to patients at the Menlo Park Veterans Home in Edison. Children of all ages are invited to this free program, and pre-registration is not required.

The golden pleasures of books are waiting for your children to discover. All regular story times are scheduled to take place next week. There will be stories and a craft for children four years and older at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday and 1:15 p.m. on Thursday. "Time for 2s and 3s," a story and craft program for two- and three-year-olds (parents, please stay in the room with them) will be at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday and Thursday. Children ages two and under are invited to Babytime with Miss

Linda on Friday at 10:30 a.m. No registration is needed for story times.

If you are searching for the gold of a new job, you'll find a mother lode of information with the Job & Career Accelerator. This online resource allows you to explore careers, write resumes and cover letters, search and apply for jobs all in one place. Try a computer course to upgrade your skills, or get interview tips. There is an online guided tour. Any staff member can help you get started. You'll need the barcode from your library card to create an account. You'll be able to save your progress and access it from any computer. Start at the library's home page, www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

Whether it's information related to your career, or just something you have always wanted to learn about, you're sure to find something interesting in the Universal Class offerings. Classes are available in subjects ranging from accounting to yoga (unfortunately, panning for gold is not included!). You can access your class 24/7 via the internet, and an instructor is available for guidance. Classes are free when you sign up through the library's website.

Did you know that you can download free ebooks and audiobooks from the library? If you just got a new Kindle, Nook or other ebook reader, explore over 16,000 titles and gain access to them in an instant. Audiobooks work on a wide range of devices, including many smart phones. You can listen while you're out searching for gold!

There's a goldmine of information and entertainment available to you at the library. Come and explore today!

Tips on How to Obtain Tax Forms from the IRS

The IRS has free tax forms and publications on a wide variety of topics available through various options.

"Due to the continued growth in electronic filing, the availability of free options available for taxpayers to get forms and efforts to reduce costs; the IRS no longer automatically mails paper tax packages that typically arrive in mailboxes during January," said IRS Spokesperson Gregg Semanick.

In early October 2010, the IRS sent a postcard to individuals who filed paper returns last year and did not use a tax preparer or tax software. Only eight percent of individuals who filed tax returns last year received tax packages in the mail. The postcard information explained how to get tax forms for filing tax year 2010 returns.

Taxpayers can access tax forms, instructions and publications on the IRS website 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at www.irs.gov.

Taxpayers can call 1-800-TAX-FORM (800-829-3676) Monday

through Friday from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. to request tax forms, instructions and publications by mail. Usually within 10 days taxpayers will receive their order by mail.

Taxpayers can also pick up many IRS forms, instructions and publications at IRS offices. The location of IRS offices can be found on the IRS website home page by accessing "Contact IRS."

In addition to IRS offices, many libraries and post offices may offer free tax forms during the tax season.

Instead of requesting and using paper forms, the IRS encourages taxpayers to take advantage of IRS e-file. IRS offers an electronic Free File program on the IRS website for filers with an income of \$58,000 or less. Traditional paper filers may consider the Free File Fillable Forms program available to all filers on the IRS website. Taxpayers can also use the IRS e-file program at a nominal cost.



UNICO Sponsors Keystone Christmas Party

The Plainfields' chapter of UNICO recently sponsored their annual Christmas party for the Keystone Community residents at Sacred Heart Church. UNICO members donated gifts and threw a party with singing, food and entertainment and a visit from Santa Claus. (L-R): UNICO District X First Deputy Governor Robert Bengivenga, accordion player John Gibriano, Connie Kozachek, UNICO President Anthony Bengivenga, Chris Walsh, Susie Leonardis, Dolly Caretuenuto and Stephanie Butler. Standing (L-R): Sgt. at Arms John DeAndrea, Erik White, Angela Baratta, Carmine Baratta, Bob Longo, Past National President Frank Licato, Vice President Mike Colucci, Past President Rick McNally and daughter Madison McNally.

Obituaries

Elaine (Leggio) Venezia, 101

Elaine (Leggio) Venezia passed away peacefully in her sleep on Sunday, Jan. 16 at the New Jersey Eastern Star Home in Bridgewater.

Her 100th birthday was celebrated at the Eastern Star Home and later followed by a family celebration dinner in her honor in Bound Brook.

Born and raised in Hartley, Del., she resided in Raritan, Plainfield and Scotch Plains before settling in Piscataway's Sterling Village in 1990.

A homemaker for much of her life, she was also a member of the Piscataway Senior Citizens.

Her husband, Samuel, died in 1978.

She is survived by two daughters, Theresa Steiner and Janice Michael and husband Thomas, both of Piscataway; and two sisters, Sarah Merrill and Betty Keller. She is also survived by seven grandchildren, Peter, Kenneth, Su-

zanne, Karen, Dana, Darcy and Thomas, and eight great-grandchildren.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to Haven Hospice, c/o 65 James St., Edison, N.J. 08818.

Virginia J. Morris, 86

Virginia J. "Jeannie" Morris died on Sunday, Jan. 16 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Born in Newark, she had resided in Irvington and Elizabeth before settling in Piscataway many years ago.

She was a homemaker for most of her life and was a member of the Sil-

ver Tones, a musical group from the Sterling Village Senior Complex in Piscataway.

Jeannie is predeceased by her husband, Edward, and by a sister, Estelle Hayes.

She is survived by two daughters and sons-in-law, Carol and Bill Arms of South Plainfield and Mary and Jim Fox of North Carolina; a son and daughter-in-law, John and Vivian Morris of Milltown; five grandchildren, Danny, Kelly, Kimberly, Kevin and Andrew; three great-grandchildren, Angel, Michael and Matthew; and a sister, Doris Murray.

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


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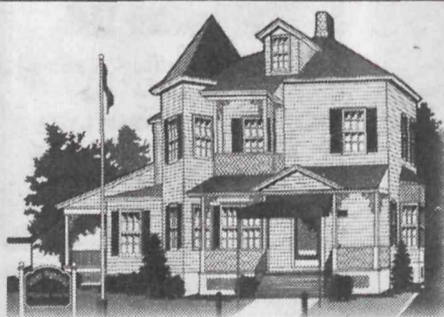
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Congratulations Liesl #1 JUNIOR JOURNALIST



Debbie and Charlie Kurland of Hometown Heros deliver dinner to Junior Journalist winner Liesl Co, pictured with her mom Marina, dad William, sister Lauren and friend Alexis.

South Plainfield Band and Orchestra to Perform at Disney World

By Libby Barsky

After a lapse of four years students in the South Plainfield High School Band (SPHS), Color Guard and Orchestra will perform at Disney World during spring break from May 26-31.

For members of the band and chorus, it has been a tradition to alternate yearly to perform out of state. When SPHS Band Director Roger Vroom was a SPHS student and a member of the band and chorus, he traveled out of state every year to perform in Canada, South Carolina, Disney World and Ireland. After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 trips to other countries and even other states ended, especially those requiring airplane transportation. Gradually, bus trips within the country began and in 2007, SPHS students performed at Disney World.

Vroom has been planning to take the band to Disney World for two years. "We chose Disney World because we know it'll be a great experience for students," he said. "All the students will be in one park where everything is in one location and everyone will be in one place." Night-

time security will also be present.

Accompanying Vroom will be Assistant Band Director Lauren Hartong and Julie McCullough, Color Guard advisor. Chaperones will be band booster parent volunteers responsible for 10 students each. Assistant High School Principal Ralph Errico is also planning to be present to provide support to the area of the curriculum he supervises.

"We would like to do this on a continuing basis, at a minimum every other year. It would get kids interested in music and be an incentive to get them into the music program," said Errico.

This trip will mark the first time the orchestra will perform at Disney World under the direction of Orchestra Director and Conductor, Bruce Mikolon. The orchestra will perform in an enclosed area, and the band and color guard will march in a parade formation using the same program used to lead the South Plainfield Labor Day Parade.

"The purpose of the trip is the performance—the educational experience to play during an adjudicated parade and before people who never saw us

before representing our school, South Plainfield and our state," said Vroom.

This year the band will be performing wearing new uniforms.

"When we played at Disney World in 2007, we were marching along and the people who saw us stared. When they realized we were a performing school band they began following us and clapping along. It was an experience for the students," said Vroom.

Approximately 66 students and 14 volunteers will be going on the trip which has been organized by Vroom through Performing Arts Consultants. To save money, the students will be transported by the school buses to the Philadelphia Airport. Two parent volunteers will drive to Florida with the school instruments and uniforms. Even in this economy the trip still will cost approximately \$1,000 per student.

Students have been participating in fundraising activities with band boosters including selling Popcorn Palace Gourmet Popcorn, note cards, Florida citrus, window decals and a portion of a day of dining at Applebee's to help pay for their portion of the trip. Donna Teller, president of

the band boosters who organizes the fundraisers, wants residents to know that students will be canning to raise money for the trip on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 25 and 26, and again on Friday and Saturday, March 4 and 5.

At the suggestion of band booster mom, Karen Kelly and husband

Timothy, who is a member of the Elks, a breakfast will be held at the Elks Lodge on New Market Avenue on Sunday, Jan. 30 from 8 a.m. to noon. All proceeds will benefit the band trip.

Superior Court Ruling Denies Billboard by Mackin Media

(Continued from page 1)

finding, that the plaintiff did not investigate any other site along I-287 within or without the borough. Without such an investigation the board could not conclude that the site is particularly suited for the placement of the billboard at the proposed location. Its mere location along I-287 is insufficient; it's negative impacts must be weighed against the benefit received."

The borough has a history of prohibiting billboards. Following a Supreme Court ruling in 2000, billboards, which are a form of protected free speech, were the subject of an ordinance the borough adopted. The initial ordinance was contested by Carole Media LLC and later Amherst Media Investors who sought the reversal of the zoning board's denial of their billboard applications. Judge Hurley ruled in their favor at the time, and on February 27, 2006 Hurley also invalidated the borough's billboard ordinance directing the borough to adopt an ordinance "consistent with law."

When Mackin Media went to court on their appeal they also sought to have the borough held in contempt for failure to comply with the court's order and sought to have the zoning

board's decision reversed because a new ordinance hadn't been adopted. A new billboard ordinance was introduced at the November 8, 2010 council meeting and adopted at the November 22, 2010 meeting. Judge Hurley rejected the claim for reversal.

Mackin Media also asked for monetary damages.

"The court cannot award punitive, exemplary and/or treble damages unless permitted by statute; however, it is appropriate to grant reasonable counsel fees to the plaintiff," Judge Mackin wrote.

Judge Hurley did award Mackin Media \$3,200 for counsel fees to cover the legal costs of going before the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a variance instead of going before the Planning Board because of the lack of an ordinance that would have complied with Judge Hurley's order from 2006.

In dismissing Mackin Media's complaint Judge Hurley added this order. "Unless the borough council has already adopted a billboard ordinance, billboard's are to be deemed a permitted use in the commercial and industrial zones within the borough. This order may be superseded by an ordinance hereafter duly adopted."

policereport

- On January 6 a Princeton resident reported that the window of their vehicle had been smashed and an IBM Think Pad laptop was taken while parked at Marshall's.

- On January 7 a Norway Lane resident reported that a bullet had been lodged in the rear quarter panel of their vehicle.

- On January 8 David John Doby, 31, of Princeton was arrested at Rite Aid for shoplifting \$42 worth of Similac baby formula.

- Jersey Oil on Hamilton Boulevard reported that the front door window had been pushed in and pry bar marks were observed. A fire was also set near the door. No entry was gained.

- Mark Garcia, 19, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, refusing to submit to breath testing and possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle. While in custody, Garcia became combative which resulted in

additional criminal charges: aggravated assault, terroristic threats and resisting arrest.

- On January 9 Carlene S. Tomlinson, 39, of Piscataway was arrested for driving while intoxicated, careless driving and possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle.

- Manishkum M. Patel, 35, of Edison was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving after striking a patrol vehicle and refusal to submit to breath testing.

- On January 10 Bravo Supermarket reported that a male had left the store without paying for \$248 worth of Pantene and Head & Shoulders shampoos.

- On January 12 an Oak Tree Avenue resident reported two fraudulent transactions on their credit card.

- An Edison resident reported the theft of a plow from the front of their pickup truck that was parked at Quality Air Specialists on Snyder Road.

- Central Jersey Orthopedic Specialists on Park Avenue reported the theft of a Compaq laptop from their office.

South Plainfield Adult School

The South Plainfield Adult School's winter brochures have been mailed to all area residents. If you have not received your brochure and would like one, please call the adult school at (908) 754-4620, ext. 213. The South Plainfield Adult School is open to everyone. You do not have to be a resident of South Plainfield to sign up for a class or a trip. Among the many classes that are being offered are typing, computer classes, arts and crafts including basket weaving, photography, CPR and first aid, yoga, tai chi, tennis, exercise, line dancing and ballroom dancing.

The adult school still has space available on the following day trips: Philadelphia Flower Show on Sunday, March 6-\$71

A Bronx Tale & More on Saturday, April 30-\$59

Greenwich Village Art Show & N.Y. City Pockets on Sunday, June 5-\$59

Biltmore Estates, Asheville, N.C., May 15-20

Trapp Family Lodge & Indian Head Resort, October 11-15

Additional information on the trips listed above and Broadway shows may be obtained by calling the adult school at (908) 754-4620, ext. 213.

National Pet Dental Health Month At Plainfield Animal Hospital

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.

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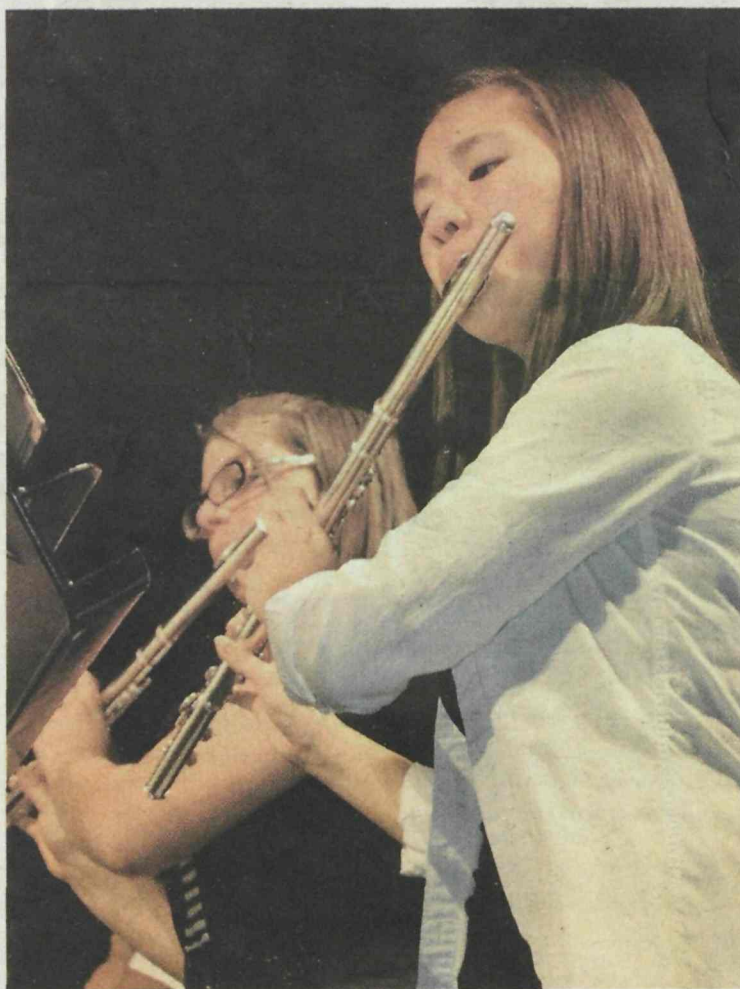
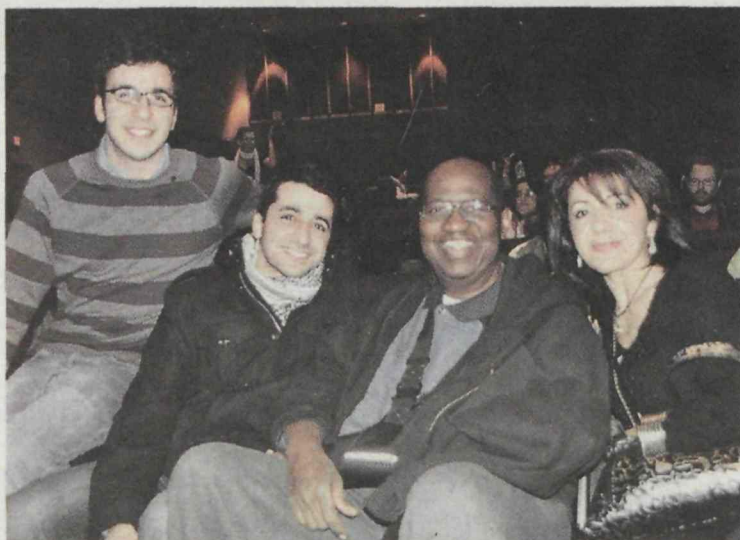
SPHS Performs a Winter Holiday Concert

By Patricia Abbott

The South Plainfield High School Music Department closed the district's winter concert season with their annual Winter Holiday Concert. The event featured both the concert and the jazz band. The musical gala was held on December 22 in the SPHS auditorium, directed by the school's Director of Bands, Roger A. Vroom III.

The evening opened with the 41 piece concert band who performed *An American Christmas*, *A Canadian Brass Christmas*, *The Festival of Hanukkah* and Russian Christmas music. After a brief intermission, Vroom introduced the high school jazz ensemble. The group performed *The Incredibles* and *Superstition*, which featured soloists Justin Lesky on trumpet and Joe Miller on alto saxophone. They continued with a Glen Miller yuletide medley and *I Wish*, featuring G. Bjorn Delacruz on tenor sax. The jazz ensemble has 21 members.

On hand to enjoy the concert were high school Interim Principal Anthony Massaro, Interim Superintendent Dr. Gary Bowen and Board of Education members Debbie Boyle, Steve Bohn and Bill Seesselberg.



WHAT'S GOING ON IN MY TOWN

FROM A BUSY BUSY MOM *jd*

The high school baseball team along with Coaches Guida, Battista and Darby will host a used clothing drive on Saturday, March 12 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and again on Saturday, April 9. The Ferraro Foods truck will be parked in the middle school lot on Plainfield Avenue. Items accepted for donation include clothes, shoes, pocketbooks, belts, ties, linens, comforters, toys and books. The USA Fashion Republic will then donate all collected items to Russia and Poland.

Interim Principal Tony Massaro has donated over \$6,000 from his salary to the South Plainfield Education scholarship fund. Thank you to Mr. Massaro for being the first person to make this type of donation to the fund on a daily basis. Once again, it is all about the "kids." A portion of Massaro's donation will be used toward a scholarship for a student who will be the first family member to attend college. Thank you to all the students who helped to make phone calls during the Education Foundation Telethon. Pledge forms have been mailed. Please help support the foundation in any amount that you can.

The Middle School PTO and the South Plainfield PBA will host a fund-raising basketball game on Saturday, Feb. 12 at 2 p.m. at the high school. Proceeds will go to Jerry Bartolotti, a Franklin School parent who was injured in a truck accident in November. The PBA will play teachers, faculty and staff from area schools. All are encouraged to participate. Tickets are \$4 and will be sold at the middle school and through the PBA. Snacks will be served, games played and prizes will be given out at halftime. Contact Officer Lloyd McNally (908) 755-0700 or PTO President Debbie Boyle (908) 803-1573 for information.

An "anti-bullying" cultural arts program presented by The Dance Troup

will take place on Tuesday, March 15. The program is funded by the \$30 activity fee which helps sponsor programs and events for students. Without your donation these programs will no longer be possible.

A blood drive assisted by the SPHS Student Council will be held on Tuesday, April 12 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the upstairs gym at the high school. The drive will also benefit resident Jerry Bartolotti who has received over 100 pints of blood.

For parents/guardians who still need help with MMS and obtaining interim reports and report cards, please see your respective students' principal. Remember you must log in to the districts website, www.spnet.k12.nj.js using the student's ID number found on the report card.

The South Plainfield Business Association membership fees for the new year are due. Please contact President Nancy Grennier at (908) 668-0010 or Vice President Marge Reedy for further information. Membership applications have been emailed to all current members. Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, Jr. administered the oath of office to all the newly elected officers at the association's holiday breakfast in December.

SPHS Financial Aid Workshop

Attention senior high school students and parents: Get help completing the FAFSA. There will be a Financial Aid Workshop at South Plainfield High School for parents and students on Tuesday, Feb. 8 at 6 p.m. in the South Plainfield High School Information Center.

ALERT

MEETING DATE CHANGE

Please be advised that a special Curriculum/Technology/Student Activities Committee meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 26 at 4 p.m. in the Second Floor Conference Room of the Roosevelt Administration Building, 125 Jackson Ave.

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