

Deep

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 14, NO. 21

Member New Jersey Press Association

60 CENTS

JANUARY 28, 2011



(L-R) Donna Meade, executive director of JFKMC Foundation; COACHes Care Vice President Thomas Lanza, Board Member Rich Little, President Tom McCreesh and Trustee Tony Cassano.

Coaches Care Honored for Contribution

The close of 2010 marked the end of a very busy year for the COACHes Care charity. An acronym for Coaches Offering Assistance for Children's Health, COACHes Care was founded in 2000 and to date has donated over \$275,000 to help sick children.

Buoyed by the success of its annual sold out golf tournament, the charity

donated over \$30,000 to the JFK Medical Center this year and completed a three-year partnership program with the hospital. The charity formulated a plan with the hospital to open up an area that would aid in the diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of children with brain tumors. In early September, JFK named a pediatric

rehabilitation room, The COACHes Care Therapeutic Learning Center, in recognition of the organization's outstanding philanthropic support.

On September 30, the charity was honored at the third annual JFK Medical Center Foundation Philanthropic Awards, with the Joseph M.

(Continued on page 12)

Candidacy Information For BOE

The South Plainfield School District has information available for citizens interested in running for a vacant seat on the Board of Education. The South Plainfield Board of Education will have three vacancies in the April 27 annual school election, said Nicholas C. Puleio, spokesperson for the school board. A full term on the BOE runs for three years.

Candidates must file a nominating petition with the local school

(Continued on page 10)

Borough Council Establishes Ad Hoc Library Committee

The Borough Council approved the formation of an Ad Hoc Library Committee at Monday night's meeting. The Ad Hoc Library Committee's job will be to oversee the progress of the library negotiations in regards to constructing a new larger building on the site of the present library.

Most of the members of the new ad hoc committee will include those who served on the library committee, with the exception of former Mayor Charles Butrico, who will be replaced by Mayor Matthew Anesh. No Democrats from the council were named as committee members. Last

year's committee was formed to find a new location and/or expand the present library facility. After an extensive search, the committee recommended that the library remain in the municipal complex and be replaced by a larger, more modern, version.

The new Ad hoc committee will consist of Mayor Matt Anesh, Councilman Robert Bengivenga, public members Bob Golan and Suzanne Lepore. The Library Board of Trustees is expected to name Eric Aronowitz and Nina Rohrer, who both served on last year's committee.

(Continued on page 10)

Visit Open House for Holy Savior Academy During Catholic Schools Week at Sacred Heart School

Sacred Heart School will kick off its annual Catholic Schools Week this Sunday, Jan. 30 with a celebration of Mass at 9 a.m. and an open house for Holy Savior Academy, the Diocese of Metuchen's new Middlebrook Deanery Catholic School slated to open this fall in the current home of

Sacred Heart School.

Activities planned for the week include an open house on Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m. and a "Night on Broadway" at 3 p.m. in the church, which will include children's choir/bells. On Monday, Jan. 31, a prayer service at 8:30 a.m. in the church will be followed by Career Day from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday is Student Day and will include a prayer service at 10 a.m. in the church, a special lunch and

a volleyball game featuring the eighth grade versus the staff at 12:45 p.m. A 10 a.m. prayer service will kick off parent/grandparent visitation from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Thursday is Clergy Day and will begin with an 8:30 a.m. prayer service and open house from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday is Teacher/Staff Day and begins with a Mass at 9 a.m. and a luncheon at 12:30 courtesy of the Home School Association.

(Continued on page 10)

Sodexo Employees Claim Wage Contract Violations

Employees of the Board of Education contracted maintenance company, Sodexo, voiced their concerns to board members about the company's failure to pay contractually required wages at the January 19 BOE meeting.

Sodexo, which maintains multi-million dollar maintenance and food service contracts with the district, is required to "provide and meet the requirements of the required minimum staffing, wages, hours worked and fringe benefits for hourly staff" and "submit to the board, on a monthly basis, verification (certified payroll and a signed affidavit) that they are paying the state required minimum average wage rates and equivalent fringe benefit package."

According to Matt Painter, Sodexo's Union 32BJ SEIU assistant director of communications, several workers say they are not earning the average wage and school groundskeepers are being

underpaid according to the terms of the board's contract. Groundskeepers are required to be paid an average minimum wage of \$16 per hour, and the lead groundskeeper is required to be paid a minimum wage of \$22 per hour as per Sodexo's agreement with the district.

"South Plainfield school workers have sent a letter to local Sodexo management stating they received a copy of the contract between the Board of Education and Sodexo and noticed a discrepancy between the compensation that is mentioned in the contract and their actual compensation," said Painter. "After sending this letter, five workers in the groundskeeping department received a \$1 an hour raise, but nearly 40 additional workers in other departments could currently be shortchanged."

James Fazo, a five-year Sodexo

(Continued on page 10)



Darlene Pinto (center), vice president and regional manager, Skylands Community Bank, whose mother died of heart disease, and BOE Member Debbie Boyle (left) accept a proclamation from Mayor Matt Anesh in support of the ongoing fight against heart disease and stroke. Anesh designated February 4 to be National Wear Red Day for Women. Go Red For Women is the American Heart Association's national call to increase awareness about heart disease, the leading cause of death for women, and to inspire women to take care charge of their heart health.



Sacred Heart School Principal Terrance Golden accepts a proclamation from Mayor Matt Anesh, who extended his appreciation and best wishes to Sacred Heart School, the borough's local Catholic school, by proclaiming the week of January 30 through February 5 Catholic Schools Week. The week is an annual national celebration held the last week in January each year to recognize the role of a Catholic education in the U.S.



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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

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

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

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

cultural arts commission

Meets the third Tuesday of the month at the PAL at 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 15, March 15, April 19, May 17, June 21, no meeting July and Aug., Sept. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 20

library board of trustees

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

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

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. 31, at 7 p.m. in the Senior Center Questions? 908-226-7605



Jack Cochrane, 12, of South Plainfield brought his two Nigerian Dwarf goats to the rabies clinic held last Saturday. The goats were an instant hit. Pictured is Jack and borough employee Jean Sherwood. Sherwood said this is the first time she had to check "other" on the rabies vaccination form. Jack will be showing his goats at the Somerset County 4H Fair in August.

Bill To Help Control Property Taxes Advances

Assemblymen John F. McKeon, Pamela R. Lampitt, Reed Gusciora, Peter J. Barnes III and Charles Mainor are sponsoring a bill to help local governments save money and control property taxes by revising its master plan review.

The bill (A-3272) was approved 75-0 by the assembly in September and released 3-0 by the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee.

The bill modifies the Municipal Land Use Law to provide that municipalities need to complete the re-examination of the municipal master plan only every 10 years. The legislation would also provide a procedure for built-out municipalities to waive the general re-examination process.

"A comprehensive master plan review has a shelf life beyond the current mandate of six years," said McKeon. "If a municipality feels it's important to review its master plan at the current pace, it can continue to do so, but if you happen to be a municipality that's built out and you are in your fifth year, this measure is a respite."

"In many cases, all the developable property in a municipality is being used at its highest capacity and amendment of the municipal master plan is unfeasible, rendering the re-examination an unnecessary burden and cost," said Lampitt. "Under this bill, the municipality would be able to waive the general re-examination process and save taxpayers money."

"In this difficult economy, we must look at ways to save property taxpayers money," said Gusciora. "This is one approach that makes sense on both a government and taxpayer level."

"Property taxes must be controlled, and one way to do that is to take away unnecessary mandates that help drive up property taxes year after year," said Barnes. "This is one of those unnecessary burdens, and easing it will save taxpayers money. That's always a good thing."

In My Opinion

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

Dear Editor,

My grandparents were the late Joseph, Sr. and Catherine Scalera of South Plainfield. I am very interested in learning about my family history since I am currently putting together a family history book. Learning more will also allow me to learn more about my grandparents, who I never met.

If you knew Joseph, Sr. and/or Catherine and would like to share some information for my history book, contact me at (908) 222-2683 or email dennisw07080@aol.com.

THANK YOU,
DENNIS SCALERA

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.

SPHS Hall of Fame Applications Available Online

South Plainfield High School's Hall of Fame applications are now available online. To enter your application, please visit www.spnet.k12.nj.us and click on the high school page.

The Hall of Fame was established at SPHS in order to recognize outstanding graduates. Honoring these successful graduates as leaders in their fields and community provides current students with positive role models.

Candidates must have graduated from SPHS at least 15 years prior to nomination and have made significant contributions in academics, business, community participation and service to humanity.

The application deadline is Friday, April 8. For more information or if you have any questions, please call the high school at (908) 754-4620, ext. 248.

South Plainfield Observer

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

How to Reach Us



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

SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Like the old song said, "Baby, it's cold outside!" Not to mention snowy and icy. So, how's about taking a break from shoveling and scraping? Let's check the latest from the South Plainfield Library.

We'll start off this week with a reminder. With all the inclement weather lately, there have been times when we've had to close the library or, at least, have a delayed opening. The question is, how can you know if we've done this? (Well, besides hearing the cheers of the library staff.) We've arranged to have any such announcements carried over radio stations WCTC (1450 AM), WAWZ (99.1 FM) and NJ 101.5 FM. They'll also put those notices up on their respective websites. In addition, we'll put up an announcement on our website, both on the home page and our online calendar. Those should keep you up to date on our status.

Turning to our children's programs, we'll follow our usual schedule with one modification (stay tuned for details). "Storytime," for children ages four and over, will be held on Tuesday morning at 10:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. "Time for 2's & 3's," for children ages two and three, will be held on Wednesday and Thursday afternoon at 10:30. "Baby Time," for children ages two and under, will be held on Friday morning at 10:30. Each program lasts about an hour and features stories, songs and a craft activity for older kids. They're all presented free; no pre-registration is required. For more information, please call us (see below for the number) and ask for Miss Linda or Miss Mija.

We've also got a couple of special children's programs next week. On Monday night, we'll have our annual "Valentines for Vets" program from 6 to 8 p.m. Kids can come in and make a valentine to take home, or one to send to patients at the Menlo Park Veteran's Home in Edison. The program is being presented free of charge.

We'll provide the craft materials. No pre-registration is required. Then, on Wednesday night at 6:30, we'll be sponsoring a children's concert featuring Presley & Melody. (That's the aforementioned modification, folks.) This concert is for children of all ages and will be held down the street at the Senior Center. You don't have to pre-register, and, in lieu of an admission charge, attendees should bring non-perishable food items for the Middlesex County Community Food Drive.

Here's another reminder about the swiftly approaching Ides of April (aka income tax time). Beyond a few booklets and forms, we haven't received the bulk of expected materials from the IRS. This is reportedly due to last-minute changes to the tax code at the end of last year. We'll be getting those materials in very soon (we hope). On the state side of the equation, we won't be receiving materials from the N.J. Division of Taxation; however, information and forms are available from the website: www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/. If you have any questions, beyond specific tax advice, check with one of our reference staff.

Finally, a computer-related note. Our public computers are set to begin shutting down about 10 minutes before we close each day. Please take this into account if you come in to use them near closing time, as this will affect the amount of time you're permitted. Also, if you're planning on printing out items around that time, be sure to start printing with enough time to get everything done before shut-down, especially if you're working on large multi-page documents or ones with lots of color graphics.

That's about all for now. As always, we're interested in your comments and opinions. Feel free to call us (908) 754-7885, or drop a note in our community suggestion box. You can get more information by checking our website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us. See you next Friday.

Now, where did we put that ice melt?

Dental Fair at Plainfield Animal Hospital Sunday

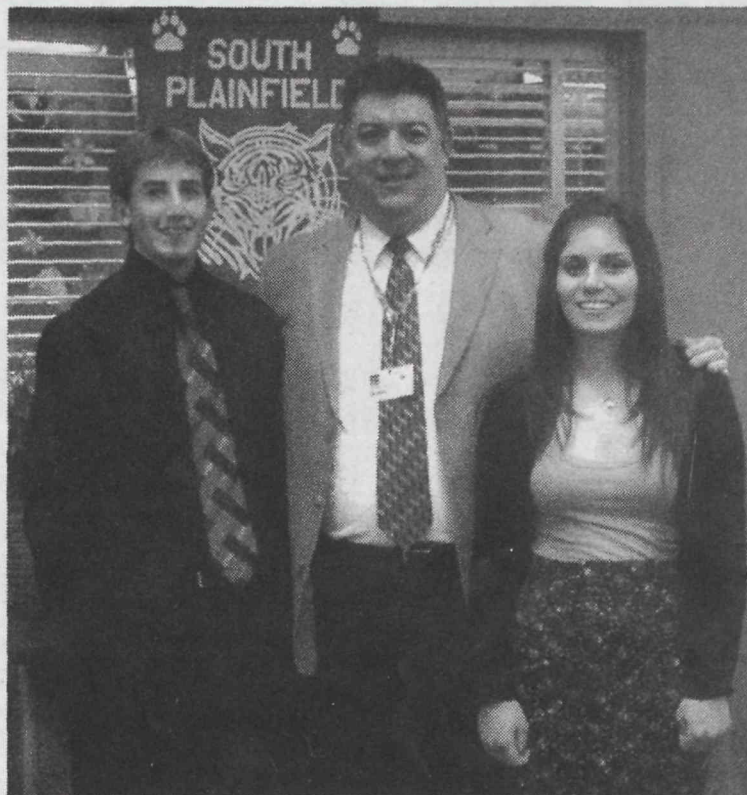
The Plainfield Animal Hospital, located at 2215 Park Ave. will hold a dental fair for pets on Sunday, Jan. 30 from 2 to 4 p.m. in celebration of National Pet Dental Health Month.

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.



Riley Hubner, Assistant Principal Ralph Errico and Alyssa Aiello

January High School Rotary Students of the Month

South Plainfield High School Rotary Students of the Month for January were announced by high school Principal James Pedersen. They are Alyssa Aiello and Riley Hubner.

Alyssa currently has a 4.7 GPA and is taking three AP courses: English, Calculus and Environmental Science. Alyssa is very active in the music program at the high school and in the Spanish Honor Society. Alyssa has participated in several Student Leadership activities such as Tiger 24 and food drives for the holidays. Alyssa

plans on pursuing a music major in college in the fall.

Riley currently has a 4.1 GPA. Riley is a member of the National Honor Society, student council and Peer Leadership organizations, and is a member of the golf team. Riley has participated in several volunteer activities such as Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer, Inc. and community activities at the high school including Tiger 24, Heroes and Cool Kids and holiday food drives. Riley plans on attending college in the fall majoring in communications.

Board Members Praise School Snow Removal

By Libby Barsky

Board of Education members Carol Byrne and Debbie Boyle praised the combined efforts of the Borough Department of Public Works (DPW) and Sodexo custodians in clearing the snow during the recent storms at last week's Board of Education meeting.

The custodians worked on the school's parking lots and DPW employees made sure the entrances to the school parking lots were clear and no large piles of snow caused any visual obstructions.

Since the major 20 inch snow storm occurred during the school's winter vacation, cleanup costs were kept low because little overtime expenses needed to be paid to clear the snow. "The extra cost for clearing the snow came to \$3,000," said Nicholas Puleio, interim board secretary and business administrator.

Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Ave.
South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul
Alvarado, Pastor

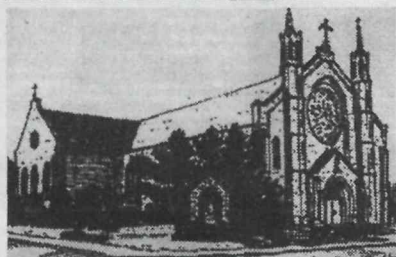
Mass Schedule:

Saturday Mass 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 9:00, 11:30 a.m.

Daily 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday
7:00 p.m. Monday (Church), Thursday (Parish Center Chapel)

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

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



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events

Around Town

Cub Scout Pack 324 Spaghetti Dinner

January 28

Cub Scout Pack 324 will be holding a spaghetti dinner on Friday, Jan. 28 at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Hamilton Boulevard from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Cost is \$7 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under and seniors.

Dinner includes salad, spaghetti and meatballs, ice tea, lemonade or water. Take out dinners welcome.

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.



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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* and *Sweeney Todd*. A free will offering will be accepted at the door.

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

Holy Savior Academy Open House

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.

SPHS Financial Aid Workshop

February 6

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 SPHS Information Center.

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.

Blackrose to Perform

February 5

Blackrose, the band, playing classic rock and roll music and today's hits, will be performing at Italian American Progressive, 1001 Garibaldi Ave. in South Plainfield on Saturday, Feb. 5 at 9 p.m. No cover charge; 50/50 raffle.

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. Perogies will also be sold. 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 —

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.

Abilitees Foundation Hosts Open House

January 29

Abilitees Foundation will host an open house at Abilitees, 23 Adams St. in Metuchen on Saturday, Jan. 29 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Abilitees teaches the craft of screen-printing to those with disabilities. If you have a friend, family member or a loved one with a disability, stop by the open house and see if Abilitees can help you.

For more information, call Vinnie or Tom at (732) 494-1513.

Woodbridge WOWs Open Dance

January 30

Woodbridge Widows Or Widowers will hold an open dance on Sunday, Jan. 30 from 7 to 11 p.m. at The Knights of Columbus Hall, Morrissey Ave. in Avenel. Light refreshments. Everyone is welcome. Admission \$10 members, \$12 guests.

For more information, call (732) 381-3255 or (908) 757-0515.

Metuchen-Edison Women's Club Mtg.

February 2

The Metuchen-Edison Women's Club will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 2 at 7:30 p.m. at The Heritage at Clara Barton, 1015 Amboy Ave. in Edison. A quilting demonstration will be given by club member Diane Colucci. Guests are welcome; light refreshments will be served.

For more information, call Karen at (732) 742-6869.

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.

American Flyers Open House

February 5

American Flyers Flight School located at the Morristown Airport, 50 Airport Rd. will host an open house and barbeque beginning at 11:45 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 5. BBQ lunch and facility tour free and open to the public.

For information, call (973) 267-3223 or visit www.americanflyers.net/about/aviation_seminars.asp.

Singles Dance Party

February 5

Steppin' Out Singles will hold an upscale dance party on Saturday, Feb. 5 at 8 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza, 390 Forsgate Dr. in Monroe Township. Ages 40 and up; no jeans/T-shirts/sneakers. Admission is \$17.

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



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Employees of the Borough hosted a farewell breakfast for outgoing Mayor Charles Butrico last month at the Senior Center. Butrico, who served as mayor for four years as well as five years on the Borough Council, chose not to run for reelection last year.

High School, College Students Sought For County Youth Conservation Corps

Applications are now being accepted for the Middlesex County Youth Conservation Corps, whose mission is to protect and preserve natural areas from misuse, polluters and the forces of nature at the more than 7,000 acres of Open Space owned and maintained by Middlesex County.

Conservation Corps crew members earn \$8.50 per hour and will work Saturdays from March 26 to June 11. Work will primarily take place at county open spaces in Old Bridge, Monroe and

South Brunswick. Students age 16 and over are encouraged to apply.

"Our Youth Conservation Corps members continue to be an integral part of our efforts to maintain beautiful, open lands for our residents to enjoy," said Frecholder Stephen J. "Pete" Dalina, chair of the County's Parks and Recreation Committee.

Activities include trail building, litter clean-up, invasive species removal and wildlife habitat improvements. Applicants should be enthusiastic, self motivated and willing to work and learn as part of a team. Applicants must also have the capacity to walk several miles and stand for extended periods of time, the willingness to get dirty and work outdoors in various weather conditions and the ability to use various hand tools.

Space is limited. Interested applicants should send a cover letter and

application for employment to: Valerie Leone, Middlesex County Department of Parks and Recreation, P.O. Box 661, New Brunswick, N.J. 08903. Applications can be downloaded at www.co.middlesex.nj.us/personnel/index.asp and must be received in the office by February 23.

A complete job description can be found at the Middlesex County Department of Parks and Recreation web site, www.co.middlesex.nj.us/parksrecreation/index.asp.

For more information, call Valerie Leone at (732) 745-3064.

Residents Reminded to Clear Snow from Sidewalks

The South Plainfield Police Department would like to remind all property owners in town of the Borough Ordinance requiring the removal of snow and ice from sidewalks.

Borough Ordinance #409-1 states:

(a) "The owner or owners, tenant or tenants of lands abutting or bordering upon the sidewalks of public streets, avenues and highways of the Borough of South Plainfield shall remove all ice and snow from that part of said sidewalks lying in front of their respective premises which is paved with flagging, broken stone or other artificial covering within twelve hours of daylight after the same shall be formed or fall thereon." In simple terms, this means that ice and snow must be removed from the public sidewalk in front of your home or business within 12 hours of daylight after it snows.

(b) "The owner of any building shall remove all snow and ice from the driveways and parking lots of the premises and from the walkways between the public sidewalks, parking lots or driveways and the entrances to the buildings within twelve hours of daylight after the snow or ice has fallen or

formed thereon."

(c) "Snow or ice shall not be deposited or moved to any public street, avenue, highway or sidewalk."

Failure to comply with this ordinance may result in the issuance of a Borough Ordinance Summons, which may require a Municipal Court appearance and could result in a fine. Further failure to comply could result in removal of the ice or snow by the Borough at the property owner's expense.

Residents are also asked to remove their cars from the street when it snows so the snow plows can properly clear the streets. Plows have trouble maneuvering around cars so that the roadway can be properly cleared.

Also, a law recently passed states that all snow must be removed from your vehicle, including the roof of the car. You will receive a ticket if you do not clear the snow from your vehicle.

Don't miss a beat in South Plainfield...
SUBSCRIBE!

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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Speak Up for a Child: Training Sessions Start Soon

CASA of Middlesex County, Inc. is currently accepting applications for training sessions for those interested in becoming an advocate for children in Middlesex County who have been neglected or abused, and are in the court or foster systems.

According to the N.J. Administrative Office of the Courts, nearly 14,000 children in New Jersey live in out-of-home placement. These children have been taken from their homes due to abuse and neglect. Many children are trapped in the court and child welfare systems, spending their childhoods moving from one foster home to another.

Be the defining voice for a child. Give him or her hope for a better future.

Seniors: Need Your Snow Shoveled?



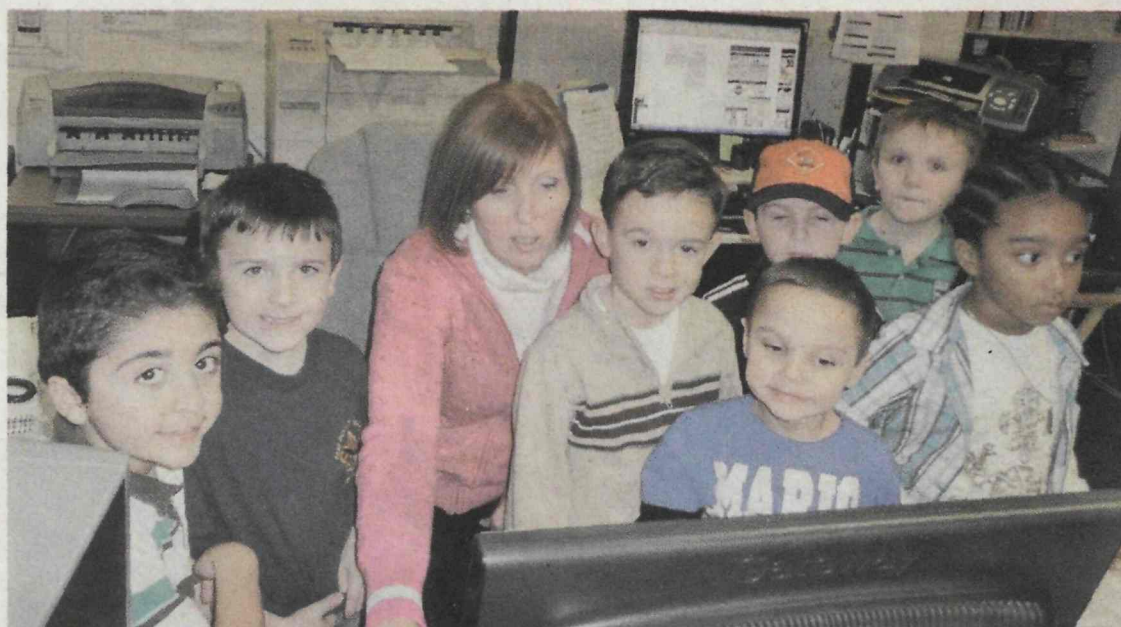
Any seniors in need of snow removal please call the Senior Center at (908) 754-1047 for names of school children who are willing to help you.

Volunteers who are interested in making a difference in the lives of these children are urged to become a Court Appointed Special Advocate. As a CASA, you will help move neglected and abused children toward safe, loving and permanent homes by advocating in court for their best interests.

"CASA volunteers provide a valuable service not only to children in foster care but also to the courts in helping to reunify families," said Kerry Kern, senior case supervisor for CASA of Middlesex County. "They provide a great service to our community."

Applicants must be at least 21 years old, have strong oral and written communication abilities, and be able to pass a criminal background screening. Applicants must be willing to undertake a 30-hour training program beginning on February 28.

For more information or to request an application, call Emily Koper at (732) 246-4449 or email emilyk@casaofmiddlesexcounty.org. You may also visit them online at www.casaofmiddlesexcounty.org to learn more about the program.



Tiger Cub Scouts from Kennedy School Pack 324 visit the Observer office to learn about newspaper production and to earn their Communications bead. Pictured with Observer Art Director Susan Kaneps are: (L-R) Jason Abd Elhady, Brady Farrell, Christian Schulz, Chris Spadavecchia, Colin Carey, Marshall Johnson; and Brady's brother, Colin Farrell.

Board of Education Transfers and Appointments

By Libby Barsky

At the January 19 meeting the Board of Education appointed Desiree Sparone as Roosevelt School technology/basic skill mathematics teacher effective January 24. Sparone replaces Annemarie Stoeckel who was promoted to supervisor of technology. She has worked in the district as a long term substitute teacher and temporary replacement for Tara Fusaro of Franklin School since September. She is a 2005 Rutgers University graduate with a B.A. in psychology.

Cristin DiLonardo was appointed Middle School English teacher. She replaces Robyn Mikaelian who was appointed Middle School guidance counselor to replace Denise diMello, who is on leave of absence. DiLonardo is a 2008 graduate of Villanova University with a B.A. in communications. Since graduation she has been employed as a substitute language teacher in the Woodbridge Township

School District.

Middle School Guidance Counselor Jason Sabino was appointed high school guidance counselor effective April 23. Sabino replaces Nadine Knight who retired in June 2010.

Anthony Massaro, whose position as interim high school principal ended on January 3 when James Pedersen began his position as SPHS principal, was appointed by the board to the position of consultant to conduct staff certified evaluations in arrears three days a week at the daily rate of \$400. SPHS Assistant Principal Kelly Richkus is on maternity leave. Massaro's position will terminate on March 15.

Massaro has already donated more than \$6,000 to the South Plainfield Education Foundation as he promised from the salary he has been paid to serve as interim principal; a portion will fund a scholarship for a student who will be the first in his or her family to attend college.

The board appointed Interim Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Dr. Frank Cocchiola, Jr. to the position of Affirmative Action Officer for Equity in Educational Programs and the Childhood Advisory Council for Early Launch to Learning Initiative (ELLI) Preschool program for the 2010/2011 school year.

Two parent/community volunteers were appointed: Anthony Emmons as high school winter track coach and Samuel Martin as middle school wrestling coach, both effective January 20 through March 12.

Stephen Phillips was appointed bus driver Step 1 at \$18.40 per hour for 5.5 hours a day effective February 1. Phillips replaces Anthony Porcile who retired.

Connie Barca was appointed Roosevelt School computer long term substitute teacher at \$120 per day, retroactive to November 8, 2010 through December 31, 2010. She was a temporary replacement for Annemarie Stoeckel who was promoted.

policereport

- A one alarm fire broke out in a three story home at 1237 So. 9th Street last Wednesday evening. A neighbor reported hearing a fire alarm sounding inside the structure. The damage was localized to the second floor and the structure was deemed uninhabitable. An investigation into the cause of the fire is currently being conducted by the South Plainfield Fire Prevention Bureau.

- On January 14 AJ Jersey Inc. on Kennedy Road reported that someone attempted to pry open a bay door.

- On January 15 Daniel A. Driver, 23, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated and careless driving.

- A Hamilton Boulevard resident reported that two of their unlocked vehicles had been entered. Nothing was taken.

- An Avon Avenue resident reported the theft of a 1999 Ford Explorer from their driveway.

- On January 16 a Kaine Avenue resident reported that their front door had been kicked and damaged.

- On January 17 Shoppers World reported that a front window of the building had been broken.

- A Triangle Place resident reported that two of their vehicle's tires had been cut and flattened.

- On January 18 Leticia A. Logan, 50, of Piscataway was arrested for driving on a suspended license and three outstanding warrants.

- On January 19 Adriana Sepulveda, 50, of Piscataway was arrested at Radio Shack on Hadley Road for the theft of a customer's credit card information to make a purchase.



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Wesley Church Sponsors Interfaith Prayer Service for Peace and Non-Violence



Guests attend Interfaith Prayer Service event.

About 175 people of several faith groups from South Plainfield churches gathered at the Fellowship Hall of Wesley United Methodist Church on January 16 to pray for peace and non-violence in the world and pay tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The event started with the singing of the National Anthem. Pastor Nehemiah Thompson said the opening prayer.

Helen Hunter, chairperson of the Division of Church and Society of the Wesley Church moderated the event. In her introduction, Hunter said that now more than ever prayers for peace and non-violence need to be said, especially in the aftermath of the Tucson, Ariz. shooting where Congresswoman Gabrielle Gifford was hurt and several others were killed or injured. She said the teaching of Martin Luther King, Jr. is still relevant today. The day was also observed as Human Relations Day in United Methodist Churches throughout the country.

Mayor Matt Anesh, Councilwoman Chrissy Buteas, and Councilmen Rob Bengivenga and Alex Barletta attended.



Councilwoman Chrissy Buteas speaks with Wesley Church Pastor, Nehemiah Thompson.

Buteas and Barletta paid tribute to Dr. King. Prayers were offered by Father John Alvarado and Kavitha Kanwas for peace and non-violence. The crowd sang *Let There Be Peace On Earth*.

The "I Have a Dream" speech given by Dr. King was shown. The choir of the Rescue House of Prayer sang and the students of Bobby Jeevaraj School

of Arts performed a dance for peace.

Dorothy Blae, civil rights leader who was with Dr. King at the Washington, D.C. march, spoke about her memories of Dr. King. Her speech brought tears to several people's eyes. The gathering ended with a celebration of Rev. Dr. Irene Campbell, the pastor of Rescue House of Prayer, for her 74th birthday. Refreshments followed.

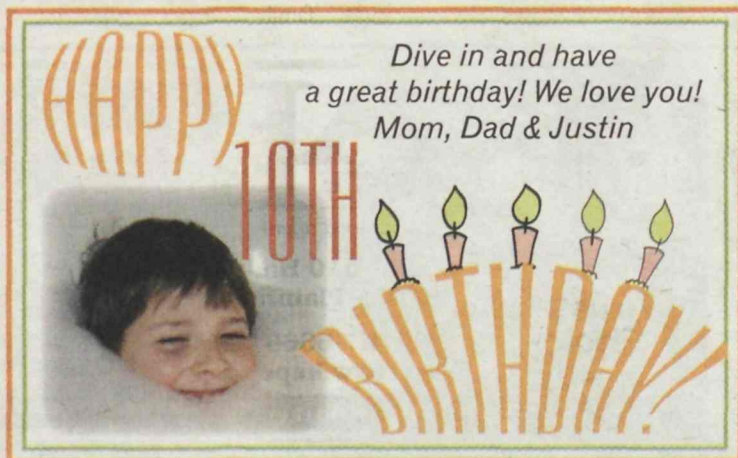
Valentines for Vets Program

The South Plainfield Library will hold its annual "Valentines for Vets" program on Monday, Jan. 31 from 6 to 8 p.m.

This program is for children of all ages. Kids can stop by and make a valentine to take home, or one to send to patients at the Menlo Park Veteran's Home in Edison. The program is being presented free of charge. The library will provide the craft materials. No pre-registration is required.

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.



2010-2011 JUNIOR JOURNALIST

Giavanna Difrancesco Named Junior Journalist

Giavanna Difrancesco, Kennedy School second grader, is this week's winner in the Junior Journalist program. Her short story told from the perspective of a penguin has earned Giavanna dinner for her family, courtesy of Hometown Heros.

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

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

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



Junior Journalist winner Giavanna Difrancesco with teacher Kathy Wharton.

Untitled

By Giavanna Difrancesco

Hi, I am Rosey the Penguin. I love to dive. While I am in the sea, I hunt for food for my family. All the penguins watch out for seals so they can't eat us. We have to take care of our baby penguins. Right now my husband is watching our baby penguin while I get fish for us to eat. Then my husband will get the food while I keep the baby penguin on my feet to keep it safe and warm. Now I have been waiting for an hour. Splash, here he comes! That's how my family gets food.

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Sports

SPHS Bowling

By Ralph Fech

BOYS BOWLING

Despite Tom Riccardi's 604 and Joe Parillo's 558, JP Stevens Prevails

SPHS	759	839	866	2,464
JP STEVENS	850	879	917	2,646

The boys bowling team has been picking it up a notch, but JP Stevens rallied in the late frames to capture all three very competitive games.

Sophomore Tom Riccardi crushed the pocket, firing games of 191-194-219 for a 604 set. Sophomore Joe Parillo posted games of 168-192-198 for a 558 set. Also chipping in for the green and white were Andrew Yon with a 188 game and 463 set and sophomore Robert Benwell with a 186 game and 486 set.

A combination of two missing starters for the Tigers and JP Stevens' Dare Mamboyo's 212-240-255 and 707 set made all the difference in the match

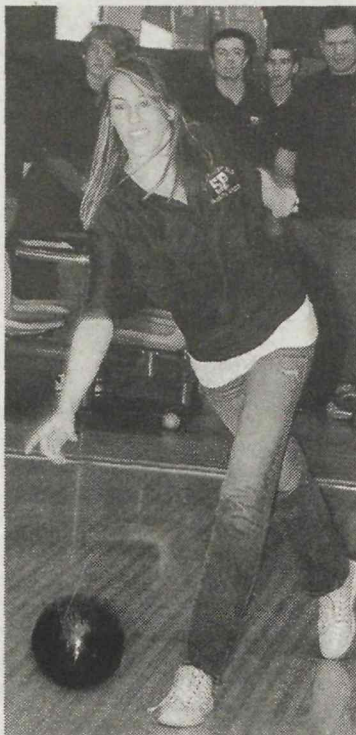
GIRLS BOWLING

Stephanie Sherwood's 551 Not Enough; Lady Tigers are Edged by JP Stevens

SPHS	712	677	738	2,127
JP STEVENS	746	792	742	2,280

The girls bowling team, with two starters out of the lineup, gave JP Stevens all they could handle. The JP Stevens Hawks, with a steady team effort, managed to win all three games.

Stephanie Sherwood zoned in with games of 200-182-169 for a sparkling set of 551. Teammate Nikki Disch crossed the board with a solid 449 set, while Rebecca Moskal's 151, Allison Yuschik's 135 and rookie Angela Tharp's 133 contributed to the Tiger scoring.



Congratulations to senior Nicole Disch who qualified for the GMC individual bowling finals. Nicole fired games of 190-140-165 for a 485 set, which placed her 34th in a field of approximately 200 girl bowlers. An additional three games will be bowled, with bronze medals given to sixth through tenth place, while the top five will battle in a step-ladder format to determine the GMC Champion.

WRESTLING

By Joe Sacco

Rec Wrestlers Score Big

The South Plainfield Recreation Wrestling Team continued its winning ways, scoring big wins during the past couple of weeks. In dual meet action, the Central Jersey team improved to 7-0 on the season with wins over Watchung Hills 60-13, Bridgewater "A" 53-22 and Bridgewater "B" 85-3.

Wrestling at 50 lbs. were Jake DelVecchio, 53 lbs.-Anthony White, 57 lbs.-Nick Loniewski, 60 lbs.-David Loniewski, 63 lbs.-Joe Heilmann, 67 lbs.-Joe Sacco, 70 lbs.-Alex Amato, 73 lbs.-Jake Giordano, 77 lbs.-Jacob Painton, 80 lbs.-Jake Hoffman, 83 lbs.-Brenden Hedden, 87 lbs.-Joe Penyak, 90 lbs.-Luke Niemeyer, 95 lbs.-Kyle Bythell, 102 lbs.-Ryan Marston, 110 lbs.-Ben Lundy and HWT -Zack DelVecchio.

The Mid Jersey team improved to 5-3 with a 39-30 win over Metuchen. Wrestling at 55 lbs. was Jack Campagna, 60 lbs.-Justin Bell, 65 lbs.-Tommy Fierro, 70 lbs.-Sebastian Santos, 75 lbs.-Kyle Davison, 80 lbs.-Mike Marrero, 85 lbs.-Connor Adams and 90 lbs. Darius Mullens.

In tournament action, the novice wrestlers took home a truckload of medals from the Middlesex Novice Tournament. Participating for the

young Tigers were Jeff Jacome-second, Noah Santos-fifth, Derrick Glenn-third, Darin Larsen, John Chabrak, Justyn Kranzke, Brandon Lienhard, JJ Giordano-first, Rafael Maisonet-sixth, Andrew Loniewski-first, Logan LaCross-fifth, Christopher Poggio-fifth, Julian Irizarry, Steven Zultowski, Robert Barrios-fourth, Mark Molinaro-first, Christian Schulz-fifth, Tyler Balent-second, Colin Drogue-fifth, Ryan Patterson-fourth, Mikey Kurilew-third, Steven Twist-first, Sean Passarelli-sixth, Tyler Russo-fifth, Isias Ramos-fifth, Benjamin Ullrich-fifth, Jack Campagna-first, Brandon Shine-fourth, Gabe Painton-third, Marcus Czarrunchick-third, Andrew VanHerk-third and Colby Huber-first.

At Sunday's Monroe Mid-Season Tournament the South Plainfield wrestlers had another strong outing. Finishing in first place were JJ Giordano, Jake DelVecchio, Joe Sacco, Sebastian Santos, Zack DelVecchio, Joe Heilmann, Mike Marrero, Jake Painton and Jake Giordano. Second place finishes went to Nick Loniewski and Joe Penyak; third place to Jack Campagna, Anthony Penyak, Desmond Santos, Kyle Davison and Darius Mullens and finishing in fourth place were Xavier Santos, Divon Pender and Justin Bell.

Lastly, at the Randolph state qualifier, South Plainfield had three wrestlers qualify for the state tournament in March. Winning the championship in his weight division was Danny Hedden with a first place finish. Second place went to Luke Niemeyer and finishing third place was Anthony White. Good luck at the states, boys!

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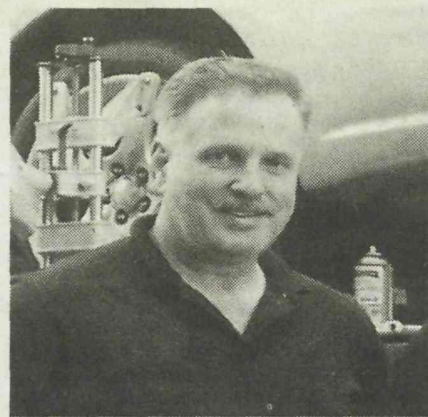
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Charity Basketball Fundraiser

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 2 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.

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By Gary Lampasona

JUNIOR BASEBALL
CLUB NOTES

As winter continues its frigid hold, we are busily getting ready for the Spring baseball season.

Registration
for the Spring

Season: Please make it a point to register. We have completed all our planned spring registrations for this year; however, it's not too late to register. Just download the registration form from our website, www.league lineup.com/SPJBC, fill it out and mail it along with your check to the address on the form. If you have any questions, please contact a board member or call the clubhouse at (908) 754-2090.

2011 Sign Sponsors: Interested in having your business advertised on one of our fields? Fill out a Sign Sponsor form and get your sign on a field. Go to the handouts section and download the form with the required payment. Thanks to all that have supported this program over the years.

Umpire Classes to Begin Soon: Anyone that is of middle school age and older can umpire in the spring. All first and second year umpires must take the class to be able to umpire in the spring. Parents, you can umpire also and make a few extra bucks. Classes are held on the following dates: February 15, 17, 22, 24 and March 1 at 6:30 p.m. and March 5 at 9 a.m.

All classes are held in the clubhouse. Please call the clubhouse if you have any questions.

2011 Calendar of Events: The 2011 Calendar of Events are available in the "Handouts" section on the website. If you are looking for a special date you can find it there.

General Monthly Meeting: Our next monthly meeting will be held on Monday, Feb. 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the clubhouse. All parents who have kids playing in the 2011 season are welcomed to our monthly meeting. Come on out and see what is going on!

"I don't love baseball. I don't love the owners. I do love, however, the baseball that is in the heads of baseball fans. I love the dreams of glory of 10-year-olds, the reminiscences of 70-year-olds."

—Stan Isaacs, "Diamond-Studded Memories," *Newsday*

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Marie "Mary" Blair, 89

Marie "Mary" (Leavey) Blair died on Thursday, Jan. 20 at Haven Hospice at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born in Brooklyn, Mary had lived in Piscataway since 1946.



Mary retired in 1985 from Shop Rite in Dunellen after 20 years of employment as a cashier. She enjoyed knitting and all the time she spent with her family, especially when they were together at family gatherings. Mary was active with the Sterling Village Senior Community activities and was a member of St. Frances Cabrini Parish in Piscataway.

She is predeceased by her husband, Richard, who died August 11, 1963; a son, John Blair, who died April 20, 2008; two sisters and two brothers.

Mary is survived by three children, Shawn and wife Carol of Piscataway, Brian and wife Cynthia of North Plainfield and Karen Weierich and husband Stephen, also of Piscataway and by a daughter-in-law, Patricia Blair of Florida. She also leaves behind a sister, Eleanor; 13 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

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

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, Tenn. 38105 or to Shriners Hospitals for Children, International Headquarters, 2900 Rocky Point Drive, Tampa, Fla. 33607.

Josephine (DeSarno) Murtagh, 78

Josephine (DeSarno) Murtagh died on Friday, Jan. 21 in the Haven Hospice at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born and raised in Newark, Josephine settled in Edison in 1962.

She was employed as a bank teller at the former Crestmont Savings & Loan in Newark prior to becoming a homemaker. Josephine found great pride and joy in spending time with her family, especially her children and grandchildren. In addition, she enjoyed going to garage sales.

Her husband, William, died in 1993. She is also predeceased by three sisters, Anna Mone, Angela Palumbo and Rose Macera and by three brothers, Frank, Salvatore and Phillip DeSarno.

Surviving are a daughter, Donna Bobik and husband Bob of Edison; two sons, Kevin and wife Nancy of

South Plainfield and Joseph and wife Megan of West Caldwell; and two sisters, Frances Clarke and Geraldine Feula. Also surviving are 10 grandchildren, Brian, Lyndsey, Jessica, Amanda, Samantha, Nicole, Sean, Matthew, Brittany and Shane.

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

In lieu of flowers donations in her memory may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, Tenn. 38105.

Francis Eugene Reed, 78

Francis Eugene Reed of Bangor, Pa., formerly of South Plainfield, passed away on Saturday, Dec. 25 at Lehigh Valley Hospital in Bethlehem, Pa.

He was born on January 19, 1932 to David Morgan Reed and Ella Cherry.

Survivors include his wife, Lora S. Reed; two sons, Lawrence F. Del Negro and wife Connie and John D. Reed and wife Jill; and two daughters, Debbie Schwalje and husband Mark and Melissa Reed-Capra. Also surviving are 10 grandchildren.

A memorial gathering will be held at McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals, 2425 Plainfield Ave. on Saturday, Jan. 29 from 1-3 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations toward the memorial service would be greatly appreciated. Please send to McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals.

Antoinette (Dobozinski) Banul, 71

Antoinette (Dobozinski) Banul died on Friday, Jan. 21 at Kimball Medical Center in Lakewood.

Born in Philadelphia, Pa., Antoinette resided in Pleasantville before moving to South Plainfield in the 1950s.

An amazing woman, Antoinette spent her time caring for her family as a homemaker. Everyone knew her as a loving, outgoing and caring person. She was a member of Our Lady of Czestochowa RC Church in South Plainfield.

She is predeceased by a son-in-law, Michael Amirr, Jr.; and by a sister, Nancy Dobozinski.

Antoinette is survived by her husband, Kenneth Banul and a daughter, Laura Amirr of Piscataway. She also leaves behind a grandson, Kenneth and two sisters, Kathleen Dobozinski of South Plainfield and Veronica Dobozinski of New York.

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

Marie Importico Green, 84

Marie Importico Green passed away peacefully on Sunday, Jan. 23 in the Haven Hospice at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born and raised in Plainfield, Marie resided in South Plainfield for nearly 55 years.

Marie retired from the Middlesex A&P. She enjoyed playing bingo.

Mrs. Green was an avid reader and could often be found at the South Plainfield Public Library. In addition she loved and took pride in her family.

She is predeceased by her first husband, Nicholas J. Importico, and her second husband, Frederick W. Green.

Surviving are two daughters, Cindy Kelly and husband Bob of Florida and Pat Guarraci and husband Joe of South Plainfield; four grandchildren, Andrea Yuill, Susan Christman, Todd Kelly and Nicholas Guarraci and four great-grandchildren, Amanda and Sofia Yuill and Noah and Lana Christman.

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

John B. Piano, 57

John B. Piano died on Friday, Jan. 21 at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born in Plainfield, John was a lifelong resident of South Plainfield. He had worked locally as a "right hand man" who enjoyed working with his hands, working on cars, spending time fishing and watching NASCAR.

He was predeceased by his parents, Mary and Paul Piano.

Surviving are four siblings, Susan Schaeffer and husband James of Wool-

ford, Md., Bob Piano and wife Kathy of Bridgewater, Mark Piano and wife Yesenia of South Plainfield and Lori Praul and husband Jeff of South Plainfield; four nephews and a niece, Paul, Bobby, Matthew, Jeffrey and Meagan.

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

Elba (Candelario) Berrios, 80

Elba (Candelario) Berrios died on Monday, Jan. 24 at the Runnells Specialized Hospital in Berkeley Heights.

Born and raised in Puerto Rico, Elba came to the United States in 1949. She lived in New York City for a few years, before living in various places on the east coast. Elba had spent most of her time in Jackson before moving to Edison in 1982.

A graduate of Kean University in Union, Elba earned her bachelor's degree in Spanish education. She was a professional seamstress who made her children's clothing and curtains for her home.

She worked as a city inspector for the New York City Housing Authority under former Mayor David Dinkins and was a former member of Faith Fellowship Ministries World Outreach Center in Sayreville. Most importantly, she raised her family on her own and loved to share Jesus with her family and friends. Elba was known as a prayer warrior and street evangelist.

She is predeceased by her husband, William, Sr., who died in 1969; and by three siblings.

Surviving are three daughters, Brenda Berrios of South Plainfield, Mary Anne Guzman and husband Frank of North Plainfield and Vera M. Jackson and husband Kevin of Milltown; a son, William Jr. and wife Linda of Bordentown; five grandchildren, Nicole, Billy, Danielle Guzman and Sarah and Kevin Jackson Jr.; and by six siblings.

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



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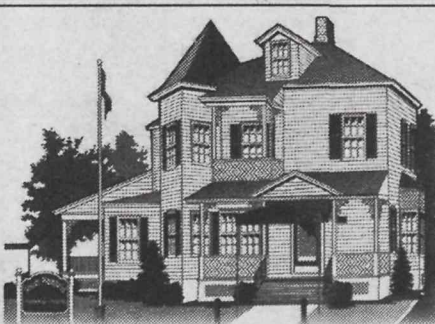
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Congratulations Angela
JUNIOR JOURNALIST #1



Debbie and Charlie Kurland of Hometown Heros deliver dinner to Junior Journalist winner Angela Ramos, pictured with her mom Judy, sister Michelle and grandparents Pedro and Josefa.

Catholic Schools Week to Feature New School

(Continued from page 1)

The new deanery school is being formed from Holy Family Academy in Bound Brook, Our Lady of Mount Virgin School in Middlesex, Our Lady of Fatima School in Piscataway and Sacred Heart School in South Plainfield.

When Holy Savior Academy opens its doors in September it will offer augmented extra-curricular programs, advanced computer and science labs and bolstered language programs.

"The school has 16 classrooms for grades one through eight. Additionally there are science and computer labs, a gymnasium and separate rooms for pre-K and kindergarten classes. There are also two modules on site, one housing a library and the other, Middlesex County Commission for Educational Services," Ayoub said.

At Holy Savior Academy's website, www.HolySaviorAcademy.com, prospective students and their parents will find a wealth of information, including 40 photos showing various rooms in the school. The website's FAQs invites individuals to ask questions which are then answered and included in the section. So far 45 questions have been posted.

The phone number for Holy Savior Academy is (908) 822-5891 and for now it will be answered by Kanowitz.



South Plainfield High School secretary Andrea Gustafson flanked by Principal James Pedersen (L) and Interim Superintendent of Schools Dr. Gary Bowen after receiving her tenure certificate.

Ad Hoc Library Committee

(Continued from page 1)

Last year's committee was made up of two members of the library's board of trustees, two residents, two council members (one Republican and one Democrat) and was headed by former Mayor Charles Butrico. Councilwoman Chrissy Buteas, who served on last year's library committee, questioned why no Democrat was appointed to the new committee.

"It was my understanding that when our former mayor put this advisory committee together it was done in such a manner to keep politics out of the discussion, and therefore the former mayor appointed non-candidates to this group. I fully supported that decision and followed suit with ap-

pointments to this year's committee.

"As I stated at the last council meeting, if either of the two Democratic council people formally announce that they will not be seeking re-election they will be appointed," explained Rusnak. "This committee is meant to be an advisory committee, and all council people have the opportunity to attend any of these discussions. Ultimately the entire governing body will make the final decisions regarding this library issue," he added.

Buteas disagreed with Rusnak's explanation, saying that she felt the decision of not appointing a Democrat to the committee was in itself a political statement.

Sodexo Employees Claim Wage Violations

(Continued from page 1)

employee, asked the board for a copy of the contract and questioned if his employer was "fulfilling the contract" and also about his "right to organize." He also said that he has made As-

semblyman Patrick Diegnan aware of the situation and he would write a letter to the board on behalf of his co-workers.

Bob Hopkins, a 10 year employee, said, "I'd like to see a certified payroll."

Diegnan responded to BOE President Jim Giannakis in writing, urging the board to "conduct an independent audit of all Sodexo's contracts with the board" which includes invoices, supplies, calculation and payment of required employee compensation. Interim Business Administrator Nicholas Pulcio said he replied to Diegnan's office saying that the board is "taking the effort to look into the matter."

"Sodexo is a multi-billion dollar company that is not only creating poverty in our communities, but is shortchanging our school districts," said Brown, New Jersey director of 32BJ SEIU. "The school districts are paying the company to provide good paying jobs with benefits, and it appears Sodexo is failing."

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BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

CONTRACTS AWARDED FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Law of New Jersey, (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq) the awarding of the contracts for "Professional Services" without competitive bidding must be publicly advertised within 10 days of the date approved. The following Professional Services contracts were approved at the January 24, 2011 public meeting of the South Plainfield Mayor and Council.

Cornerstone Architectural Cornerstone Architectural Group, LLC, 202 Hamilton Blvd., South

Plainfield, NJ 07080 - to provide design, construction documents, bids and construction administration for the insulation project at the South Plainfield Senior Center at a cost not to exceed \$5,500.00. Funding for this project is provided through a Housing and Community Development Block Grant.

Green View Landscaping of 550 Hollywood Ave, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 was added to the list of outside contractors hired to provide snow removal services, as needed in accordance with the terms set forth in the bid specification which are on file in the clerk's office.

ATTEST:
Joann Graf/Municipal Clerk

\$35.12 January 28, 2011

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 1913

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING RATES FOR USE OF THE SOUTH PLAINFIELD COMMUNITY POOL FOR 2011 was adopted after a Public Hearing and final reading were conducted on Monday, January 24, 2011 at the Public Meeting of the Governing Body which began at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 and is being advertised in The Observer on Friday, January 28, 2011.

ATTEST:
Joann Graf/Municipal Clerk

\$27.56 January 28, 2011

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

NOTICE

Alcoholic Beverage Control

Take notice that application has been made to the Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 to transfer Menlo Management SP L.L.C. trading as Holiday Inn for premises located at 4701 Stelton Road, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 the Plenary Retail Consumption License #1222-33-15-006 heretofore issued to Hi-South Plainfield L.L.C. trading as Holiday Inn for premises located at 4701 Stelton Road, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

The persons who will hold an interest in this license are: Christopher Wang, Jason Cheng and Jonathan Lin at 2025 Lincoln Highway, Ste. 220, Edison, NJ 08817.

Objections, if any, should be made immediately in writing to: Joann Graf, Municipal Clerk, Borough of South Plainfield of 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

Menlo Management SP L.L.C.
2025 Lincoln Hwy., Ste. 220
Edison, NJ 08817

\$77.00 January 28 & February 4, 2011

South Plainfield Adult School Offering Winter Classes

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, Ashville, 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.

Candidacy Information For BOE

(Continued from page 1)

board in order to get their name on the ballot for the election. The current deadline to submit the nominating petition is 4 p.m. on Tuesday, March 8.

This year the election, which is usually held the third Tuesday of April, is scheduled for Wednesday, April 27.

Prospective school board candidates can obtain a "School Board Candidate Kit" online at www.njsba.org. Published by the New Jersey School Boards Association, the School Board Candidate Kit includes a nominating petition, information about legal qualifications for school board candidacy and the role of the

school board member. Information about the New Jersey School Ethics Act and important dates in the school election process are also included in the kit.

"One of the most meaningful contributions that a citizen can make to their community is serving on their local Board of Education," said Raymond R. Wiss, NJSBA president. "I encourage all interested citizens to consider school board membership. It doesn't require a degree in education, or a background in politics; however, it does require a sincere interest in the community, its children and their education."

ob•serve

(v.t.): 1. to celebrate ceremonially // 2. to notice (something), to pay special attention to // 3. (a) to look at with attention // 4. to perceive, notice, come to know by seeing // 5. to comment, to note attentively.

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(L-R) JFK Board Member Paul Antinori, COACHes Care Members Tom McCreesh, Thom Lanza and Rich Little.

Coaches Care Honored for Contribution

(Continued from page 1)

Masci Philanthropic Award. Named after a major benefactor to the hospital, the Masci Award was given last year to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation.

In accepting the award, COACHes Care Founder and President Tom McCreesh thanked all of the volunteers and local businesses who have

helped in the success of the charity. McCreesh spoke of the continuing inspiration for the charity, and thanked the hospital for allowing their vision to become a reality. Quoting baseball great Jackie Robinson, McCreesh said, "A life is not important, except for the impact it has on other lives." In a recent article McCreesh was quoted as saying, "We are only on this earth

once, our role is to make it better for the people that are here and the people who will follow us."

COACHes Care is already receiving entries for their 2011 golf outing to be held at the Heron Glen Golf Course in Ringoes on Saturday, June 11.

For more information about COACHes Care, visit the website at www.coaches-care.com.

DEP's Low-Cost Firewood Program Expanded

The Department of Environmental Protection's Homeowners Firewood Program, which provides low-cost wood to the public and improves forest health, will expand this winter to Brendan T. Byrne State Forest in Woodland Township and Parvin State Park in Pittsgrove.

The program, run by the DEP's Division of Parks and Forestry, will now be available in seven state parks and forests throughout New Jersey.

Initiated in 1973, the program was created to offer inexpensive firewood to residents and provide them with an

outdoor recreation opportunity while helping the Division of Parks and Forestry meet forestry management objectives by eliminating dead and unhealthy trees.

State residents can seek permits to cut up and cart away as much as six cords of the felled trees for \$20 a cord.

Those interested in participating at Brendan T. Byrne State Forest must call (609) 296-1114 on weekdays to register for a two-day permit. To participate at Parvin State Park, call (856) 358-8616. Permits also may be obtained in person at Bass River State Forest (for

Brendan T. Byrne State Forest) and Parvin State Park administrative offices.

For more information on this program and all seven participating sites, visit www.njparksandforests.org

For a Homeowners Firewood Application Form: http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/docs/homeowners_firewood_application_form_2010-2011_fillable1.pdf.

For a Homeowners Firewood Information Sheet: http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/docs/homeowners_firewood_info_sheet_10-11.pdf.

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, please 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.

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Women Give from the Heart

Donations to Go Red For Women help support our efforts to educate women and to fund breakthrough research by the American Heart Association that helps ensure women are represented in clinical studies. Since 2004, through its fundraising efforts, Go Red For Women has contributed almost \$44 million to women-focused research and has provided additional funds to lifesaving educational programs and tools for physicians.

In spite of our efforts, there is much to do. Heart disease is still the No. 1 killer of women. Help contribute to awareness and education.

Visit GoRedForWomen.org/WearRedDay.

Jennie Garth, Go Red For Women Spokesperson and Heart Health Advocate

Now you know what I know. Heart Disease Kills. My father lost his battle with heart disease many years ago — it was devastating for me. Caring for him throughout the years and seeing firsthand how the disease affected our family made me want to help prevent this from happening to anyone else. I have made it my mission to fight heart disease in women. Make It Your Mission too. Wear Red, spread the word and raise funds to fight this preventable disease. Together we can help stop heart disease in our lifetime.

— Jennie

GoRedForWomen.org

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