

South Plainfield Observer

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Member New Jersey Press Association

60 CENTS

FEBRUARY 25, 2011

Fire Destroys Home, Displaces Residents



A four alarm house fire broke out on the corner of Wooden and Beatrice avenues in the early afternoon of February 17. South Plainfield police, fire department and rescue squad arrived to find the second floor engulfed just minutes after the blaze was reported. No one was home during the incident. The cause is under investigation.

—Photo courtesy of Jaime Gaughan

American Legion Names Two to Jersey Boys State

South Plainfield High School juniors Austin Jenkin and Rajath Kenath have been selected to attend the prestigious New Jersey Boys State at Rider University.

For over 75 years this leadership conference has given students first-hand experience with the workings of a democracy. The young men campaign for state senate and state assembly positions and the governorship. Guest speakers from the legislature and the judiciary present informative talks on their respective areas of expertise. This will be the third year in a row that the South Plainfield American Legion has sent

two candidates.

Austin is the son of Robert and Bev Jenkin and is active at the high school and in town. He is a member of the Student Leadership Club and the Heroes and Cool Kids group that addresses sixth grade students at Grant School about dealing with issues that face students from sixth grade through high school. The students provide advice on making positive decisions. Locally, Austin is active in the Knights of Columbus Squires, a youth group of the Knights of Columbus. He is also involved with social causes in South Plainfield.

(Continued on page 7)



(L-R): Chaumont Post #243 Vice-Commander and Boys State Scholarship Committee Chair Doug Viafora, Rajath Kenath, South Plainfield High School Guidance Counselor Erica Hapstak, Austin Jenkin, SPHS Principal James Pedersen and American Legion Chaumont Post #243 Commander Jim Yedak.

Water Pipe Bursts At Superfund Site

By Libby Barsky

A 36 inch water pipe, installed in 1915 by Elizabethtown Water, split in its underground location on New Market Avenue near the Cornell Dubilier EPA Superfund site last Friday afternoon. The broken pipe was discovered after a loss of water pressure was reported and the water in the area was immediately shut off.

Approximately 175 bottles of water were distributed to nearby homes and businesses. It took two hours for New Jersey American Water, formerly owned by Elizabethtown Water, to repair

(Continued on page 5)

11-Year Old Struck by Auto On Park Ave.

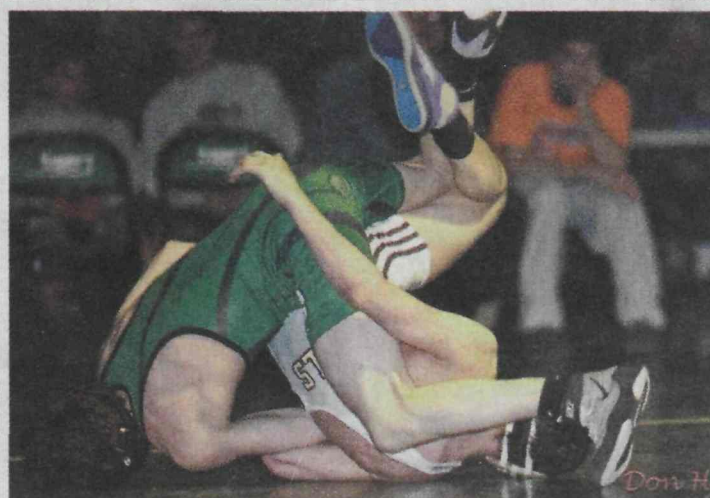
An 11-year-old boy from Keasbey was struck by a car and seriously injured when he attempted to cross Park Avenue near Sprague Avenue at approximately 6:07 p.m. on February 17.

Jordan Rodriguez was with his mother, Joseline Nunez, and had just been treated by a physician at a medical facility at 1510 Park Ave. As they exited the building, Jordan ran east across Park Avenue and then attempted to run back across the street when he was struck by a 2006 Acura MDX that was operated by Felicia Terborg, 30, of Plainfield.

Jordan was treated at the scene by EMS personnel from Somerset Medical Center and paramedics from Mercy 9 at John F Kennedy Medical Center. He was airlifted to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick by the NJSP Northstar Medevac Helicopter. He was admitted and listed in stable condition. Terborg was not injured in the crash.

No charges have been filed.

The investigation is continuing and any witnesses are asked to contact Lt. Kevin Murtagh at (908) 226-7679 or Officer Pete Magnani at (908) 226-7678.



Anthony Ashnault at Saturday's finals where he ultimately defeats M. Magaldo of Watchung Hills, 11-2. Ashnault has been named Outstanding Wrestler for District 12.

—Photo by Don Hunsinger

Tiger Wrestlers Secure 27th Consecutive Championship

Ashnault Named Outstanding Wrestler

The South Plainfield Tigers gained their 27th consecutive District 12 Team Championship win on Saturday. They set themselves apart from their closest team competitors, Governor Livingston (GL), with the Tigers earning 243.5 total points to GL's 183.5.

The semi-finalist bouts began on Friday at South Plainfield High School, with a total of 14 Tiger wrestlers, 10 of whom advanced to the finals, culminating in seven Tiger champions. Five of the South Plainfield wrestlers are repeat winners.

The Tiger District 12 seeds (weights followed by scores won by decision unless indicated otherwise) are: 103 J. Mele (GL) def. Raymond Jazikoff, 7-2 (Jazikoff def. G. Glinn of Colonia in semis); 112 Anthony Ashnault def. M. Magaldo of Watchung Hills, 11-2; 119 Troy Heilmann def. A. DiRosa of Watchung Hills, 16-1; 125 Dylan Painton def. M. Coppola of Watchung Hills, 3-1; 130 Tyler Hunt pinned T. Morelli of Middlesex in final, 25-9; 135 Scott DelVecchio

(Continued on page 8)

FYI FUN, FRIENDS, PRIZES

Don't miss the SPHS PTA Project Graduation...

AUCTION RAFFLE

MARCH 5 • SPHS • 7 PM
DOORS OPEN • 6 PM

For details, see page 12.



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

March 7 March 7

March 21 March 21

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

March 8, March 22, April 12, April 26, May 10, May 24, June 14, June 28, July 12, July 26, Aug. 9, Aug. 23, Sept. 13, Sept. 27, Oct. 11, 25, Nov. 1, * Dec. 13*

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

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.)

March 2 and March 30.

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

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.

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

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

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 plans sub-committee

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m.

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, February 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the Senior Center Questions? 908-226-7605

South Plainfield Observer

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

In My Opinion

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

Dear Editor,

I am writing in regards to the published Junior Journalist poem in the February 18 *Observer*. I am all for freedom of speech, however, when something is published and recognized as a winner that singles out an individual in a negative manner, I find it deplorable! I have always looked to the *Observer* for information on what is going on in our town, achievements of our students, and information on upcoming events. It has been a valuable source of information, however, publishing and awarding this poem has me second guessing on the value of the paper.

Not only did the poem talk about the coach being "evil," it references the coach as a liar. It is not that I do not feel for this student, I am just having a hard time understanding why a paper that is dedicated to this town and its integrity would print such harmful words and award someone publicly for it? Not only did this poem cut a coach down, your photographer requested a picture of the student. Since the English teacher was not available, the new principal of the high school was pictured with the student. The principal did not have the opportunity to read the poem, but was so happy that one of his students received such an honor so he was happy to do so. This was so unfair, talk about being blindsided.

It is your responsibility as a journalist/town newspaper to ensure that cruel words and accusations are not printed. You are our resource for what is going on in town, it is not the Inquirer!

SINCERELY,
TERI PILEGGI

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the South Plainfield Middle School PTO and the PBA, we would like to thank everyone who supported our basketball fundraiser to benefit Jerry Bartolotti and his family. Mr. Bartolotti sustained serious injuries in a November 2010 truck accident. Lloyd and I worked on setting up this fundraiser for the past two and a half months and we were extremely excited that Mr. Bartolotti was able to be with us during the fundraiser.

Thank you to Senator Barbara Buono for attending the fundraiser. Senator Buono, the N.J. State Sen-

ate majority leader, is an advocate for South Plainfield. She is the originator of the famous grammar school contest for all students entitled, "Why I Love New Jersey" and helped save our middle school sports program four years ago by obtaining an \$85,000 grant, as well as a grant for the ESL program. She is also a huge advocate for the continued higher level of education for all our students.

Thank you to the Borough Council members who supported the fundraiser by participating on court as players for PTO Team Jerry: Mayor Matt Anesh, Councilmembers Chrissy Bureas, Robert Bengivenga, Jr., Alex Barletta and Tim McConville. Also, thank you to Council President Ray Rusnak for attending as well as former Mayor Charlie Butrico.

Much appreciation to the BOE and Interim Superintendent Dr. Bowen, Interim Assistant Superintendent Dr. Cocchiola and Business Administrator Nick Puleio for their contributions and support. Thank you to BOE President Jim Giannakis for his support and attendance and the board members who participated on the court, Steven Bohn and Chris Hubner, and to high school Vice Principal Ralph Errico and our new high school Principal Jim Pedersen, who all attended.

Thank you to Kevin Hughes, recreation/senior citizen director and high school girls varsity basketball coach, for keeping the clock, and, of course, our voice of South Plainfield, "Big Bill" Cochrane, Sr., who was the announcer for the game, and to Laney Harris for singing the National Anthem.

Thanks to our biggest supporter, not only for the middle school PTO but the supreme force continually striving for higher standards of education for his students, Principal Kevin Hajduk, our new "totally committed to the kids" educator and Assistant Principal Tamekia Grier and retired middle school math teacher John Limyanski, who was the DJ for the event.

Thank you to Middle School PTO Vice President Jenn Falcone and her husband, Treasurer Eileen Brady and son, Kyle; Suzanne Butrico for public relations and husband Bill and sons, James and Adam; and "top chef" Greg Lind and his son for coming out and setting up the most elaborate snack

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.

stand. Funds from the snack stand will go towards the middle school Washington, D.C. trip. From our membership, thank you to Mary DeLair for working during the entire event.

Thank you to those who made monetary donations: South Plainfield Elks, Bill Reuter and Peter Smith; Central Jersey Credit Union, Ms. Joyce Signorile; high school bowling Coach Ralph Fech and the bowling team; Plainfield's Chapter of UNICO, as well as other private donors.

Thank you to the *Observer* for the publicity and to Jane Dornick for the fliers and for consistent support of student events in the district.

Thank you to Brian Shaw for staying in constant contact and getting the word out, Bill Cochrane, Jr. for rallying the troops and to the Graphic Arts Club for the tickets.

The PTO coach for the event was our own Al Czech. PBA Coach Vice President Lloyd McNelly was there to rally the PBA players, Chief Jim Parker, PBA President Pete Magnani, Officers Ken Parada, Gary Cassio, Joe Glowacki, Wayne Diana, Daryl Strother, Wendell Born and Matt Koep. Without your expertise and great spirit the game would never have been as exciting as it was.

The middle school cheerleaders cheering for Team Jerry and the high school cheerleaders cheering for Team PBA added a special touch to the game.

The special referees who were wonderful and much appreciated were Peter Smith and Jack Brady; you were wonderful.

Thanks to all of our South Plainfield Education Association (SPEA)

(Continued on page 10)

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BOE Member Questions Number of Assistant Coaches

By Libby Barsky

The Board of Education (BOE) unanimously approved the high school and middle school spring athletic schedules at its February 16 meeting.

Boys varsity, junior varsity and freshman baseball at the high school will start the season in March. Girls varsity, junior varsity and freshman softball and varsity and junior varsity lacrosse will also begin in March. Other sports, including high school boys varsity golf, tennis and track, and girls' varsity track games will commence in early April.

Middle school boys baseball, girls softball and boys and girls spring track also start in April.

Prior to voting to approve the 29 coaches and 23 stipends (six coaches are volunteers), BOE member Bill Seesselberg asked his fellow board members to reconsider hiring five assistant coaches. He reminded every-

one that the five assistant coaching positions, which amounted to approximately \$24,000, had been eliminated when the original 2010/2011 budget was voted down last April. Seesselberg said he was concerned if there will be enough money in the budget to complete the school year.

"We'll make it to the end," said Interim Business Administrator Nicholas Pulcio, regarding the financial situation. He also spoke about the need to "research all expenses and make only official purchases through approved vendors."

In other business, the board approved the extension of the unpaid parenthood leave of absence for high school Assistant Principal Kelly Richkus through April 30.

The board accepted the resignation of Robert Goman as adult high school mathematics teacher and appointed Jonathan Copeland, who was serving as a long term substitute for math

teacher Taryn Decker, who was on maternity leave. Annette Hendricks was also appointed as adult high school ESL teacher. Both positions will be effective through June 30.

The board also approved the transfer of Gail Bori as instructional support aide at Kennedy School to Riley School through June 30. She will replace Amy Leso who was appointed long term substitute teacher through May 26 at Riley School to replace Angela Raimondo-Hajduk, who will be on a leave of absence. Raimondo-Hajduk also resigned as District Special Olympics coordinator.

Ten unused vacation day payments to former Assistant Superintendent Lorraine Cella was approved for \$538.46 per day totaling \$5,384.60. Unused sick day payments in the amount of \$1,570 at \$20 per day for 78.5 days was approved for former bus driver Anthony Porcile.



Cub Scout Pack 207 paid a visit to TD Bank on Plainfield Avenue on February 10. Supervisor Kimberly Poggio and Customer Service Rep Tracie Deskins were very gracious in giving the scouts and their families a tour of the bank as well as supplying them with cool gift bags. Scouts who attended the tour were Tiger Scouts Joey Cassio, Vincent Lorenzo, Evan Schimanski and Jacob Arntz; Wolf Scouts Patrick Berry, Jason Delpaoli, Chris Lee, Daniel McLeod and Gabriel Jastrzebski; Bear Scouts Braedon Dobrynio and Giovanni Dente; and Webelos Scouts Nick McGeehan, Jack O'Shaughnessey and Nicholas Alvear. The pack would like to thank TD Bank, and especially Kim and Tracie, for providing a fun tour.

Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan to be Honored By the Roscommon Society of New York

The Roscommon Society of New York will honor Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan (D-18th Legislative District) at its annual dinner which will be held on Sunday, March 6 at Riccardo's Restaurant in Astoria, Queens.

In making the announcement, Michael Lyons, president of the Roscommon Society, said, "Assemblyman Diegnan represents what the Irish brought to America—love of

God and family and a dedication to improving the lives of others."

The assemblyman's father, Patrick Sr., was born in Ballahaderran, County Roscommon. He immigrated to the United States where he married Sarah Byrne, who was born in Ballyhaunis, County Mayo. The assemblyman is the youngest of their seven children. Upon learning of the honor he said, "This honor really belongs to my parents. Whatever any of my brothers or sisters and I have accomplished is because of the values they taught us."

Anyone interested in attending the

dinner or supporting the Roscommon Society can contact Lyons at roscommonmike@optonline.net. They can also contact Assemblyman Diegnan at (908) 753-7200 or email him at patrickdiegnan@aol.com.

Advertise in the Observer's borough wide issue on March 25 and reach every home and business in South Plainfield.

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events

Around Town

Beef N Beer Night At the Elks Club

February 25

The South Plainfield Elks will be hosting a "Beef N Beer" night on Friday, Feb. 25 from 6 to 9 p.m. Hot roast beef sandwiches will be served with your choice of sauteed onions and/or mushrooms and homemade salads. Hot sandwich and beer is \$10; sandwich only is \$6.

All proceeds will benefit the Special Children's Committee which assists our special needs children and defrays the cost of sending campers to Elks Camp Moore.

Free Safety Seminar For Women

February 27

Tiger Schulmann's Mixed Martial Arts, 4957 Stelton Rd. in Hadley Center will be conducting a free safety seminar for women on Sunday, Feb. 27. Open to women and girls age 13 and up. Under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Space is limited and reservations are required.

To make a reservation, call (908) 561-2401.

Boy Scout Troop 309 Clothing Drive

March 5

Boy Scout Troop 309 will be holding a clothing drive at Wesley Methodist Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave. from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Wearable clothing, shoes, accessories, linens, stuffed animals, hard toys such as trucks, action figures and small and medium bikes will be collected and donated.

Can't get out? Call Nancy for a pick up at (908) 917-4700.

Project Graduation Auction/Raffle

March 5

The South Plainfield High School PTA will be hosting its annual auction/raffle on Saturday, March 5 from 6 to 11 p.m. in the SPHS gym. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$12 each. Profits benefit Project Graduation for the Class of 2011. Please call as soon as possible for information regarding tickets and to reserve your table.

To purchase tickets, call Tracey Hartmann at (908) 755-4349.

For more information or to make a donation, please call Sharon Miller at (908) 754-6461. This is a great event for a very worthwhile cause and your support is greatly appreciated. Together we can make a difference.

VFW Country Breakfast

March 6

The South Plainfield VFW Post #6763, located on Front Street, will hold a country breakfast on Sunday, March 6 from 8 to 11 a.m. Come and enjoy a tasty breakfast and you may be the winner to another breakfast. The public is welcome.

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

All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti Dinner

March 6

St. Stephens Lutheran Church, 3145 Park Ave. will hold an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner on Sunday,

March 6 from 5 to 7 p.m. Free will offering. Suggested donation: Adults \$5; children \$2. Includes beverage and dessert. No reservations needed.

For more information, call (908) 757-4474.

One Woman Play at Sacred Heart

March 7

The Sacred Heart Rosary Altar Society invites all to come join us for a one woman play featuring Gina Smith as Queen Esther on Monday, March 7 at 7:30 p.m. following the 7 p.m. Mass. Light refreshments will be served following the play. Free will offering.

Lenten Studies at Pilgrim Covenant

Beginning March 9

Pilgrim Covenant Church, 3121 Park Ave. invites you to join us in worship and reflection this Lenten season beginning on Wednesday, March 9 at 7:30 p.m. with an Ash Wednesday service. Women's book study begins on Monday, March 14 at 7 p.m. Wednesday night Bible study begins on March 16, preceded by a light dinner at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

For more information, call (908) 756-2474 and leave a message for Gina.

Free Nutrition and Healthcare Class

March 9

Dr. Lori M. Serra and The Divine Health Team will be offering a free healthcare class on Wednesday, March 9 at 7 p.m. at the office of Dr. William

A. Carone, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Space is limited; reserve your space now before it's too late!

For more information or to reserve your space, call Dr. Carone's office at (908) 757-2330.

Elks Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner

March 12

The South Plainfield Elks Veterans Committee is sponsoring its annual all-you-can-eat corned beef and cabbage dinner at the club on New Market Avenue on Saturday, March 12 from 4:30 to 9 p.m. Adults \$12; children \$5. Includes soda and dessert; cash bar.

Any questions, contact Lou Peralta at (908) 756-6406.

— Out of Town —

Tricky Tray at Bishop George Ahr HS

February 25

Bishop George Ahr High School, One Tingley Lane in Edison will host its 32nd annual tricky tray, "A Day at the Beach" on Friday, Feb. 25. Admission: \$20 and includes door prize ticket and light refreshments; guests are invited to bring additional snacks. Doors open 5 p.m.; drawing begins 8 p.m.

Purchase tickets in advance by calling (732) 423-2206.

Temple Sholom Shabbat Pray & Play

February 26

Temple Sholom of Fanwood/Scotch Plains invites families with children ages four and under to a Shabbat Pray & Play on Saturday, Feb. 26. The 30-minute interactive service begins at 10 a.m., followed by a free bagel brunch in our playroom. Older siblings are welcome.

Temple Sholom is located in the Fanwood Presbyterian Church at the corner of Martine and LaGrande avenues in Fanwood. For more information, call (908) 889-4900 or visit www.sholomnj.org.

Open Call Audition at Crossroads

February 26

Crossroads Theatre Company will hold open-call auditions for the role of Travis Younger in *A Raisin in the Sun*, which opens April 14. Travis Younger is an African-American 10-year-old boy who is a spirited youth and the apple

SENIOR CENTER Calendar

Coming Up....

2011 membership fee due now. (Dues are collected Monday, Wednesday and Thursday)

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
Shopping Trip 9 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
Crafts Class 10 am
Computer 10 am, 11:30 am, 1:30 pm
Exercise Class 1:15 pm

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of his grandmother's eye.

Auditions will be held on Saturday, Feb. 26 starting at 8 a.m. A reading from the script will be provided. Bring a resume and picture.

To schedule an appointment, call (732) 545-8100.

Young Families Open House

February 27

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Road in Scotch Plains will hold a young families open house on Sunday, Feb. 27 following the 10 a.m. worship service. Have you recently moved to the area, had a baby or looking to meet other young families? If so, please join us.

For more information, call (908) 232-5678.

Journey Through Grief Lecture

March 1-22

Center For Hope Hospice & Palliative Care, 1900 Raritan Rd. in Scotch Plains will offer a four week



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lecture series entitled, "Journey through Grief" on Tuesday evenings, March 1-22 from 7-9 p.m. Free; no registration required. Bring family members and friends.

For more information, call (908) 654-3711.

Metuchen-Edison Women's Club Mtg.

March 2

The Metuchen-Edison Women's Club will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 2 at 7:30 p.m. at The Heritage at Clara Barton, 1015 Amboy Ave. in Edison.

The program will be given by Alex Dawson, owner of the Raconteur Bookstore in Metuchen. Guests are welcome. Refreshments will be served.

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

New Jersey Robotics Competition

March 4-5

The 2011 NJ FIRST Robotics Competition will be held at the Sun National Bank Center in Trenton on Friday and Saturday, March 4-5 beginning at 8 a.m. Free and open to the public. Sponsored by Johnson & Johnson featuring 62 teams of high school students and their robots facing off in a game called "LOGO Motion."

For more information, visit www.nycnjfirst.org.

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Water Pipe Bursts at Superfund Site

(Continued from page 1)

the pipe and turn the water back on to the affected residents and businesses.

John Prince, chief of Central New Jersey Superfund Section, gave a report at Monday's Borough Council meeting. "There is no cause for alarm. As soon as there was a loss in water pressure, the water was turned off by New Jersey Water and they provided bottled water to the 175 homes and businesses affected," said Prince.

According to Prince the cause of the break was due to the "change in the weather" causing adverse conditions affecting the aging pipe, located in a section of New Market Ave. within the Superfund area where soil remediation efforts are underway. The water traveled through an area where the soil had already undergone remediation.

Prince is currently tracking the route of the water from the ruptured pipe to evaluate what steps should be taken. He added that because a lot of water from the broken pipe ran through the site, it could complicate and extend the clean up process. Water flowed between cleaned areas and contaminated areas and retesting will

Stories From the Jewish Tradition

Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission and the Folklife Program for New Jersey present storyteller Gerald Fierst in The Wineglass: Blessing Families with Stories from the Jewish Tradition at the East Jersey Olde Towne Village, 1050 River Road in Piscataway on Sunday, March 6 at 2 p.m. Free; registration required.

For more information and to register, call (732) 745-4489; those with hearing disabilities can call the New Jersey Relay System at 711.



Knights volunteers serve dessert at "Don't Cook Friday" dinner.

Knights Donate Dinner Proceeds to Cub Scouts

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 held its popular "Don't Cook Friday" spaghetti dinner on February 11. The dinner, held several times each year, raised more than \$600 which will be donated to Cub Scout Pack 207.

Once again the food was delicious, the Italian music set the mood, and the atmosphere was friendly and relaxed.

Helping run the dinner were the following Knights: Maitre'd was Past Grand Knight Bill Butrico; the kitchen was run by Master Chef Joe McGeehan, Charlie Butrico and Chris McGeehan; and manning the dishwasher was Mike Butrico.

Servers for the evening were members of the Squires and children of several Knights. The bartender was Lenny Kleczkowski and selling tickets at the door were Joe and Lucille Rea. The salad bar and bread station were manned by Richie Lee and Wayne Kaczowski.

The set up and clean up crew consisted of John Roesch, Roberto Morales, Gerry Butrico, Joe Wilkowski and Brian Cargill.

Grand Knight Joe Scudato, along with his wife Sharon, cheerfully delivered take-out meals to residents around town.

The Knights would like to thank all of the 160 residents who attended the spaghetti dinner. Without your support this event would not have been as successful as it was.

SPHS Music Boosters MUSIC NOTES

The Music Boosters have been working hard. First, we would like to thank everyone in the Elks organization, especially Karen and Tim Kelly and Sharon and Bill Rueter for all their hard work at providing a great fundraising opportunity for the students in the high school music department. Over 25 students helped serve at the Elks recent pancake breakfast, and in return the Elks made a donation to our organization. We would also like to thank Debbie Boyle, who donated eggs and orange juice for the event.

We have lots of fundraising events coming up including Yankee Candles and Java Joe coffee, tea and cocoa. Students will be taking orders through March 1, so take advantage of this great opportunity to get some goodies for yourself or do some shopping for Mother's Day, Father's Day and those upcoming birthdays! The students will also be canning at various locations throughout South Plainfield, Edison and Piscataway. These events are open to all students in the music department, so please help our chorus, band, guard and orchestra.

Finally, the High School Winter Guard has been practicing diligently to prepare for their upcoming competition season.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, March 1 at 7 p.m. in the high school chorus room.

If you have any questions, call Sue Hageman at (908) 822-1716.

-Submitted by Sug Hageman

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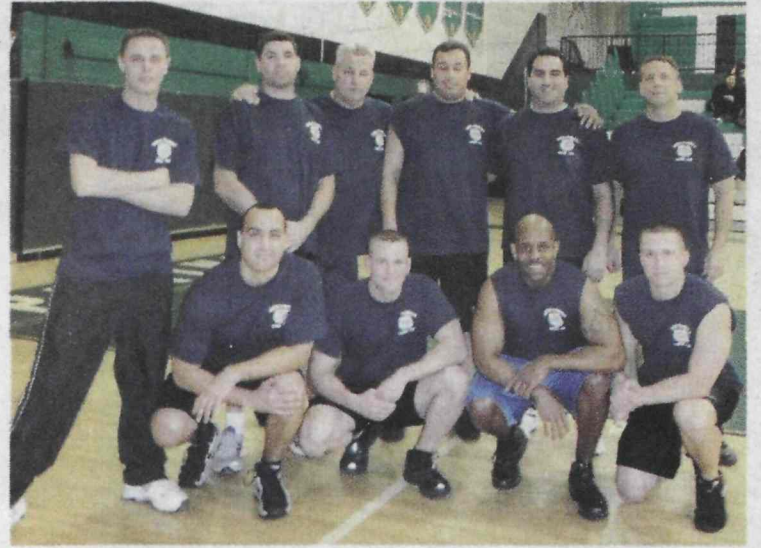
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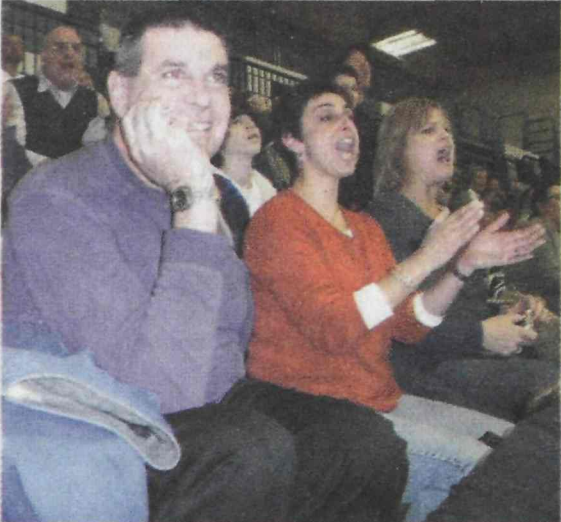


Members of Team Jerry ready for the game to begin.

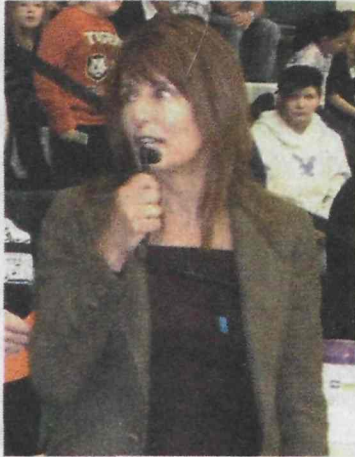


Team PBA with Coach Lloyd McNelly

Charity Basketball Game Raises Over \$2,000 for Bartolotti Family



Jerry Bartolotti and family members cheer on the teams.



Senator Barbara Buono

to participate in the fundraising event by competing against members of the Borough Council as well as Board of

A charity basketball game to benefit Jerry Bartolotti and his family was held in the high school gym on February 12. The event was organized by Middle School PTO President Debbie Boyle and PBA Vice President Lloyd McNelly. Bartolotti, who was seriously injured in a truck accident last November, was in attendance along with his family.

Members of the South Plainfield PBA agreed

Education members, school coaches, high school players, alumni and many others who wanted to participate. Team PBA, nine police officers coached by Lloyd McNelly, played against Team Jerry, 35 players coached by Al Czech. The police didn't bat an eye despite the fact they were outnumbered four to one.

Cheerleaders from the Middle School were on hand to support Team Jerry and high school

cheerleaders cheered for Team PBA. Referees for the game were Peter Smith and Jack Brady.

Spectators and players were treated to a very competitive match. Announcer "Big Bill" Cochrane kept everyone informed as each player scored, made a three point play, or stole the ball.

When the game began it was obvious that Team PBA had previously played a lot of basketball together as they ran up and down the court passing the ball with ease. That was not the case with Team Jerry, which did not have the opportunity to practice together.

Team Jerry's coach, Al Czech, made plenty of substitutions during the game giving every person the opportunity to play. The score remained very close during the first quarter. Czech continued to shout encouragement, but Team PBA was faster, more accurate and posted more three point plays and slowly started to pull away in the second quarter.

The start of the fourth quarter saw Team Jerry put together a string of baskets and got the score to within a few points of Team PBA much to the delight of the crowd.

A full court press during the last minute of the game saw every Team Jerry player run onto the floor, but as the final buzzer rang they were still within one point of tying the score and one basket short of winning.

It was an enjoyable and entertaining game



Team members in action.

for spectators and players alike, and in the end, it was about a community rallying in support of a local family in their time of need.

The proceeds from admission tickets, checks, a PBA donation, a 50/50 raffle (where the winner donated \$100 back from his winnings) totaled \$2,125, and was all donated to the Bartolotti Family.

The snack stand revenue of \$205 was donated to the middle school for the Washington, D.C. trip.

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Why Advertise in Newspapers?

A study commissioned by the New Jersey Press Association (NJPA) and conducted by Belden Associates revealed that newspapers are the number one choice for news among New Jersey residents and that 93% of adults with a media preference choose a newspaper for local community and neighborhood news.

The study also revealed that 73% of New Jersey shoppers use newspapers as their primary source for local shopping information and 2 out of 3 consumers rely on newspapers for information related to purchases. You may also be interested to know that the average number of days a weekly paper is kept is 4.2 and the

average number of readers per copy in a household is 2.0. And that ads are second only to local events in reader interest. Statistics also reveal that more South Plainfielders rely on the Observer for local news than any of the dailies, surpassing the local circulation of The Home News-Tribune, the Courier News, and The Newark Star-Ledger.

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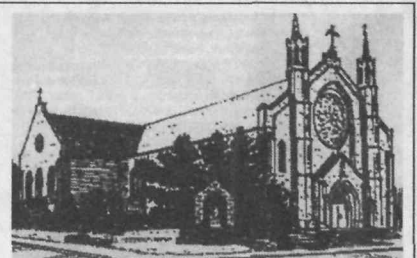
Sunday 9:00, 11:30 a.m.

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



Buteas Family Renews Adopt-A- Spot Contract

The Buteas Family has renewed its adoption of the Belmont Avenue Open Space Area for the next two years. Councilwoman Chrissy Buteas approached the South Plainfield Clean Business Association (CBA) a year ago about adopting this spot. Two to four people go out monthly to clean.

This spot is made up of a group of vacant, wooded parcels that were designated as permanently preserved open space some years ago. A dense growth of shrubs and brambles catches any litter blowing along the roadway. Although this section of Belmont Avenue no longer carries the heavy truck traffic it once did, a considerable amount of traffic-generated trash still accumulates.

Buteas has strong feelings about litter. In addition to maintaining her adopted spot, she participates regularly in the borough's volunteer public lands cleanups and has been known to tackle various sites on her own throughout the year.

This adoption is important for maintaining the quality of the borough's open space wildlife habitat. In addition to spoiling the beauty of a natural area, litter can kill animals that eat it or get entangled in it. The CBA is looking for more groups to adopt spots along natural areas. Coolidge Street, Walnut Street Park and Metuchen Road all attract litter and illegal dumping.

For more information about the Adopt-A-Spot program, contact the clean communities coordinator at (908) 226-7621 or email atempe1@southplainfieldnj.com.

Two Named to Jersey Boys State

(Continued from page 1)

Rajath Kenath is the son of Ramesh and Srilatha Kenath. He is currently the number one student in the Class of 2012 at South Plainfield High School. He is active with the Student Leadership Club, Model UN and the Jerseyans. In addition to participating in cross country and tennis, Rajath has joined the swim team this year. He has also volunteered for the American Red Cross, the Roosevelt Care Center and JFK Hospital. His future goal is to become a doctor of medicine.

—Submitted by Richard Doerr,
vice-commander Chaumont Post 243

Lenten Fish Dinners at Sacred Heart

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 and Sacred Heart Church will again sponsor its yearly Lenten fish dinners on Friday, March 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8 and 15 at Sacred Heart School in the cafeteria, 149 South Plainfield Ave. Dinner will be served from 5 to 7 p.m. Take out orders will also be available.

The menu will feature filet of fish (fried, broiled, parmesan) cheese ravioli, manicotti and linguini or pizza; fresh garden salad, rice pilaf, French fries or macaroni and cheese, cole slaw, coffee, tea or cold drink, plus dessert. Admission is \$8/adults, \$7/seniors and \$4/children. Pay at the door.

Stations of the Cross will be held in the church at 7 p.m.

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From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

We've got time for one more column before February is gone and March arrives like the proverbial lion. (No idea what animal February's departure is supposed to be like.) So, here's the latest from the South Plainfield Library.

We'll start off this week with one last note about Monday's "Kidcraft" program. It's set for Monday evening at 6:30, and participants will be making a special craft for the upcoming spring season. (Well, we all *hope* it's upcoming.) Space is limited for this program, so pre-registration is required. Be advised that there's a \$1 materials fee, payable upon registration.

Turning to the rest of our children's programming, we'll have the normal schedule of story programs next week. For the benefit of the handful of people who are still unaware, here's the definition of "normal schedule": "Storytime," for children ages four and over, will be held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 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 mornings at 10:30. "Babytime," 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. If you'd like more information, please call us and ask for Miss Linda or Miss Mija. (See below for our number.)

We've got an update regarding the tax forms. We've now received all of the federal instruction booklets and primary forms. As far as specialized forms are concerned, we have some of them; what we don't have handy may be printed out from the IRS website. As far as the NJ State forms are concerned, we still won't be receiving them, so you should check the Division of Taxation website for forms and instructions. As far as complain-

ing about tax season is concerned, feel free to indulge.

We've recently had a problem with our books. More specifically, the problem is with what holds our books together. Some patrons have been misjudging the strength of the spines and bindings of these books, resulting in their getting broken and damaged. We can make some repairs to these damaged books, but not all of them, and it's just too expensive to get replacement copies of everything. So, it'd be a big help to us if you'd be careful not to strain those bindings too much and exercise greater care with our books. (Admittedly, though, they're still sturdier than your average e-book reader.)

Finally, a word from the library's notary public (who, conveniently, is also the guy who's writing this column). Please be advised that notarizing a document can be an involved job, what with all the information that needs to be recorded. This is an even bigger concern for more complex, multi-page documents, like financial instruments. So, if it is late in the day, please make sure you arrive at the library early enough for the process to be finished long before the library has to close. The notary has other duties to perform while the library is closing, and would rather not keep the rest of the staff waiting. Also, please make sure you understand what your document is, what it means and what you're supposed to do with it. The notary doesn't feel comfortable trying to advise you on documents he has no direct knowledge of. As always, we appreciate your assistance.

That's about all for now. If you'd like more information, call us at (908) 754-7885 or visit our website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us. Thanks for reading, and we'll catch you next Friday. Oh, and here's wishing you a happy and safe St. David's Day. Cymru am byth!

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Sara Dabul Named Junior Journalist



Junior Journalist winner Sara Dabul with teacher Nicole Zablocki.

Sara Dabul, third grader at Riley

School, is this week's winner in the Junior Journalist program. Her essay, "What Pets Really Do When Nobody's Home," has earned Sara dinner for her family, courtesy of Hometown Heros.

There is still time to submit entries for the annual program which runs through May. Students should submit their original written works to teachers, Hometown Heros or 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 on May 11.

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

What Pets Really Do When Nobody's Home

By Sara Dabul

I have a Schnauzer puppy that is gray and white named Liza. When I'm not home, Liza has a party. Liza invites all her friends. She invites Danny, Anna, Isabel, and the last puppy she invites is Melanie, her best friend forever. Melanie is a golden retriever puppy with a red bow in her hair. First, they have a party. At that party, they order pizza. They eat doughnuts and popcorn. They also eat steak. Next, they do arts and crafts. First, they get the supplies. Next they paint pictures on their blank white papers. Then they get their Popsicle sticks and make models of stuff from real life. They also play with clay. After that, they watch scary movies. They watch *Goose Bumps*. Then they clean up, so that when we come home, we have no idea they did anything at all. What do you think *your* pets do when nobody's home?

policereport

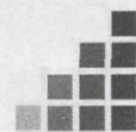
- On February 11 Michael E Beyer, 51, of Edison was arrested for parking in a handicap spot illegally, unregistered vehicle, driving on a suspended license and two outstanding warrants.
- Drupad Budhan, 46, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated.
- On February 12 Frank A. Dispensie, 58, of Jersey City was arrested for driving on a suspended license and two outstanding warrants.
- On February 13 Jose C. Guzman-Cruz, 22, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated and careless driving.
- On February 14 Manthan Ras-

ikbhaj, 23, of Oakdale, N.Y. was arrested for driving while intoxicated and careless driving.

- Keyra Beatrice Duharte, 43, of South Plainfield was arrested for disorderly conduct.

- Robert Parzanese, 35, of Matawan was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving, possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle and refusal to submit to breath testing.

- On February 15 Shakirah Monique King, 26, of Elizabeth was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.



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Sports

Gymnasts Medal at JOGA States

South Plainfield gymnasts Skylar Davisson, Anaid Mohtadi and Natalie Stilo from American Gymnastics Academy received medals at the JOGA State competition held at Precision Gym in Bayville February 11-13.

Skylar won second all around, first on uneven bars, second on vault and fourth on floor; Anaid won tenth on balance beam and Natalie won seventh on balance beam.

In order to compete in the JOGA States, each gymnast must have had two qualifying scores at meets during their regular competition season.



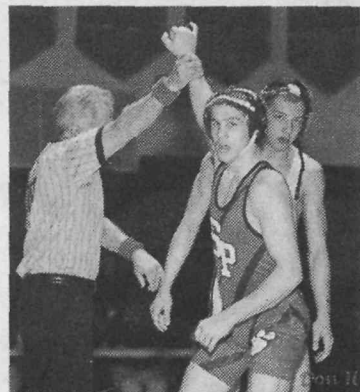
Gymnasts Skylar Davisson, Anaid Mohtadi and Natalie Stilo.

Wrestlers Secure Championship

(Continued from page 1)

def. Michael Stepien (GL), 7-4; 140 Corey Stasenko def. M. DiVito of Watchung Hills, 5-1; 145 C. Gardner of Watchung Hills def. Jeff Conroy, 6-0 (Conroy def. K. Colman Plainfield in semis); 152 B. Sobol (GL) finalist-M. McPleasant of Plainfield def. Inan Sikel, 3-2 semi-finals; 160 Kyle Pompilio pinned in 1:34 by R. Dunham of North Plainfield in semi-finals; 171 S. Haddad (GL) def. Michael Molinaro, 7-4; 189 Z. Hessler (GL) def. Ryan Billich 7-0 semi-finals; 215 William Whitefleet def. A. Yamakaitis of Colonia, 2-1 tie breaker; 285 T. Womack of Plainfield def. Luigi Gerardi in fall in semis.

"Whenever you win something 27 times in a row it is exciting. It was a complete team effort. Now the season is all individual. We would have liked to get a few more through to the regions, but now our goal is to get the 10 remaining wrestlers down to Atlantic City," said coach McCann.



Troy Heilmann is named the winner after defeating A. DiRosa of Watchung Hills, 16-1.

Repeat champions include Ashnault, Heilmann, Hunt (third time winner), DelVecchio and Stasenko. Anthony Ashnault was named Outstanding Winner for the division with a 34-0 season and 75-0 career total.

Congratulations to Coach Kevin McCann and the entire team.

LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX
VOTE BY MAIL

NOTICE TO PERSONS REQUESTING MAIL-IN BALLOTS

If you are a qualified and registered voter of the State who wants to vote by mail in the **School Election** to be held on **April 27, 2011** complete the application form below and send to the undersigned, or write or apply in person to the undersigned at once requesting that a mail-in ballot be forwarded to you. The request must state your home address, and the address to which the ballot should be sent. The request must be dated and signed with your signature.

If any person has assisted you to complete the mail-in ballot application, the name, address and signature of the assistor must be provided on the application and, you must sign and date the application for it to be valid and processed. **No person shall serve as an authorized messenger for more than 10 qualified voters in an election.** No person who is a candidate in the election for which the voter requests a mail-in ballot may provide any assistance in the completion of the ballot or may serve as an authorized messenger or bearer.

No mail-in ballot will be provided to any applicant who submits a request therefore by mail unless request is received at least 7 days before the election and contains the requested information. A voter may, however, request an application in person from the county clerk up to 3 p.m. of the day before the election.

Voters who want to vote only by mail in all future general elections in which they are eligible to vote, and who state that on their application shall, after their initial request and without further action on their part, be provided a mail-in ballot by the county clerk until the voter requests that the voter no longer be sent such a ballot. A voter's failure to vote in the fourth general election following the general election at which the voter last voted may result in the suspension of that voter's ability to receive a mail-in ballot for all future general elections unless a new application is completed and filed with the county clerk.

Voters also have the option of indicating on their mail-in ballot applications that they would prefer to receive mail-in ballots for each election that takes place during the remainder of this calendar year. Voters who exercise this option will be furnished with mail-in ballots for each election that takes place during the remainder of this calendar year, without further action on their part.

Application forms may be obtained by applying to the undersigned either in writing or by telephone, or the application form provided below may be completed and forwarded to the undersigned.

DATE: FEBRUARY 25, 2011

ELAINE M. FLYNN
MIDDLESEX COUNTY CLERK
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
P.O. BOX 1110
NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. 08903
(732) 745-4463
TDD (732) 745-5553

APPLICATION FOR VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT

Please type or print clearly in ink. All information required unless marked optional.				SPECIAL STATUS	
1 I hereby apply for a Mail-In Ballot for the: (CHECK ONLY ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> General (November) <input type="checkbox"/> Primary <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal <input type="checkbox"/> School* <input type="checkbox"/> Fire <input type="checkbox"/> Special To be held on _____ Date _____				Check if you are: <input type="checkbox"/> Active Duty Military Voter <input type="checkbox"/> Overseas Voter <input type="checkbox"/> None of the Above	
2 Last Name (Type or Print) _____ First Name (Type or Print) _____ Middle Name or Initial _____ Suffix (Jr., Sr., III) _____		3 Address at which you are registered to vote Street Address or RD# _____ Apt. _____ Municipality (City/Town) _____ State _____ Zip _____		4 Mail my ballot to the following address: <input type="checkbox"/> Same Address as Section 3 Please include any PO Box, RD#, State/Province, Zip/Postal Code & Country (if outside US)	
5 Date of Birth ____/____/____ 6 Day Time Phone Number (____) ____-____ 7 E-Mail Address (Optional) _____		8 Signature _____ Please sign your name as it appears in the Poll Book. 9 Today's Date ____/____/____			

OPTIONAL - ONLY COMPLETE SECTIONS 10 THROUGH 12 IF APPLICABLE

10 Voter Options to Automatically Receive Ballots in Future Elections You may choose either option, both options, or none of the options. YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO CHOOSE AN OPTION. If you do not choose any option, you will only be sent the ballot for the election you chose in Section 1. A <input type="checkbox"/> I wish to receive a Mail-In Ballot for all elections to be held during the REMAINDER OF THIS CALENDAR YEAR. B <input type="checkbox"/> I wish to receive a Mail-In Ballot in ALL FUTURE NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTIONS, until I request otherwise. <small>* Please Note: Your ballot can only be sent to the mailing address supplied on this application; if your address changes, you must notify the County Clerk in writing.</small>					
11 Assistor Any person providing assistance to the voter in completing this application must complete this section. Name of Assistor (Type or Print) _____ Signature of Assistor _____ Date ____/____/____ Address _____ Apt. _____ Municipality (City/Town) _____ State _____ Zip _____					
12 Authorized Messenger Any voter may apply for a Mail-In Ballot by Authorized Messenger. Messenger shall be a family member or a registered voter of this County. No Authorized Messenger can (1) be a Candidate in the election for which the voter is requesting a Mail-In Ballot or (2) serve as messenger for more than TEN qualified voters per election. I designate _____ to be my Authorized Messenger. Print Name of Authorized Messenger Address of Messenger _____ Apt. _____ Municipality (City/Town) _____ State _____ Zip _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____ Signature of Voter _____ Date ____/____/____ Signature of Messenger _____ Date ____/____/____					

OFFICE USE ONLY

Voter Reg # _____
Muni Code # _____ Party _____
Ward _____ District _____

LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX
VOTO POR CORREO

AVISO PARA LAS PERSONAS QUE DESEEN RECIBIR UN VOTO POR CORREO <0>

Si usted es un elector que está inscrito y cumple los requisitos del Estado y desea votar por correo en la elección **Escolar** que tendrá lugar el **27 de Abril, 2011**, complete el formulario de solicitud a continuación y envíelo al suscrito, o escriba o aplique personalmente al suscrito pidiéndole que le envíe un voto para votar por correo. Su solicitud debe indicar la dirección de su domicilio y la dirección a la cual desea que se le envíe el voto. La solicitud debe estar fechada y firmada por usted.

Si alguna persona lo ayudó a completar la solicitud de voto por correo, en el mismo formulario debe señalar su nombre, dirección y firma y usted deberá firmar y fechar la solicitud para que ésta sea válida y pueda ser procesada. **Ninguna persona puede servir de representante autorizado para más de 10 electores calificados en una elección.** Ninguna persona que sea candidato en la elección para la cual el elector está solicitando un voto por correo puede ayudar a llenar el voto o servir de representante autorizado o portador de éste.

No se entregará ningún voto por correo a la persona que presente una solicitud por correo, a no ser que ésta se reciba al menos siete días antes de la elección e incluya toda la información solicitada. **Un elector, sin embargo, puede solicitar un formulario personalmente al funcionario del condado hasta las 3 p.m. del día anterior a la elección.**

A los electores que deseen votar únicamente por correo en todas las elecciones generales futuras en las que les corresponda votar y que así lo estipulen en su solicitud, luego de su solicitud inicial y sin acción ulterior de su parte, el funcionario del condado les enviará un voto por correo hasta cuando los propios electores manifiesten que ya no desean que les sigan enviando dichos votos. Al elector que no vote en la cuarta elección general siguiente a la última elección general en la que haya votado, se le podrá suspender su derecho a recibir un voto por correo para todas las elecciones generales futuras, a menos que complete una nueva solicitud y la haga llegar al funcionario del condado.

Los electores también tienen la opción de indicar en la solicitud de voto por correo que prefieren recibir los votos por correo para cada elección que tenga lugar durante el resto de este año calendario. Los electores que ejerzan esta opción recibirán sus votos por correo para cada elección que tenga lugar durante el resto de este año calendario, sin que deban ejercer acción adicional alguna.

Los formularios pueden obtenerse solicitándolos al suscrito ya sea por escrito o por teléfono o bien se puede completar la solicitud que se acompaña más abajo y enviarla al suscrito.

FECHA: FEBRERO 25, 2011

ELAINE M. FLYNN
MIDDLESEX COUNTY CLERK
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
P.O. Box 1110
NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. 08903
(732) 745-4463
TDD (732) 745-5553

SOLICITUD DE VOTO POR CORREO

Escriba claramente con letras de imprenta. Debe completar toda la información, a menos que se marque opcional.				ESTATUS ESPECIAL	
Por el presente solicito un Voto por correo para: (MARQUE UNA SOLA ALTERNATIVA) <input type="checkbox"/> la elección General (noviembre) <input type="checkbox"/> Primaria <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal <input type="checkbox"/> Escolar* <input type="checkbox"/> Comisión contra incendios <input type="checkbox"/> Especial Especiales: _____ Que tendrá lugar el ____ Fecha ____				Haga una marca si usted es: <input type="checkbox"/> Elector y miembro activo de las Fuerzas Armadas <input type="checkbox"/> Elector que vive en el extranjero <input type="checkbox"/> Ninguna de las anteriores	
2 Apellido (Escriba o use letras de imprenta) _____ Primer nombre (Escriba o use letras de imprenta) _____ Segundo nombre o iniciales _____ Sufijo (ej. Jr., Sr., III) _____		3 Dirección donde se ha inscrito para votar Dirección o N° de distrito electoral _____ Depto. _____ Municipalidad (ciudad/pueblo) _____ Estado _____ Código postal _____		4 Envíe mi voto a la siguiente dirección: <input type="checkbox"/> La misma dirección que en la Sección 3 Incluye cualquier Casilla postal, Número de distrito electoral, Estado/provincia, Código postal y país (si vive fuera de los EE.UU.)	
5 Fecha de nacimiento ____/____/____ 6 Número de teléfono durante el día (____) ____-____ 7 Dirección de correo electrónico (opcional) _____		8 Firma Por favor, haga la misma firma que aparece en el Libro de registros de votación. 9 Fecha de hoy ____/____/____			

OPCIONAL - SOLO COMPLETE LAS SECCIONES 10 A 12 CUANDO CORRESPONDA

10 Opciones que tiene el elector para recibir votos de futuras elecciones en forma automática Puede elegir una de las opciones, ambas opciones o ninguna de ellas. NO ES OBLIGATORIO QUE ELIJA UNA OPCIÓN. Si no marca una opción, se le enviará solamente el voto para la elección que seleccionó en la Sección 1. A <input type="checkbox"/> Deseo recibir un Voto por correo para todas las elecciones que se realizarán durante el RESTO DEL AÑO CALENDARIO B <input type="checkbox"/> Deseo recibir un Voto por correo para TODAS LAS ELECCIONES FUTURAS GENERALES DE NOVIEMBRE, hasta la fecha en que solicite otra cosa. <small>* Observe: Si su voto solo se puede enviar a la dirección postal que se entrega en esta solicitud, si cambia de dirección, debe notificarlo por escrito al Funcionario del condado.</small>					
11 Ayudante Cualquier persona que le preste ayuda al elector para llenar esta solicitud debe completar esta sección. Nombre del ayudante (Escriba o use letras de imprenta) _____ Firma del ayudante _____ Fecha ____/____/____ Dirección _____ Depto. _____ Municipality (ciudad/pueblo) _____ Estado _____ Código postal _____					
12 Representante autorizado Cualquier elector puede solicitar un Voto por correo a través de un representante autorizado. El representante deberá ser un pariente o un elector registrado en este Condado. Ningún representante autorizado puede (1) ser Candidato a la elección para la cual el elector está solicitando un voto por correo o (2) servir de representante para más de DIEZ electores calificados por elección. Designo, _____ como a mi Representante autorizado. Escriba con letras de imprenta el nombre del representante autorizado Dirección del representante _____ Depto. _____ Municipality (ciudad/pueblo) _____ Estado _____ Código postal _____ Fecha de nacimiento ____/____/____ Firma del elector _____ Fecha ____/____/____ El representante autorizado debe firmar la solicitud y mostrar una cédula de identificación con foto al Funcionario del condado o al funcionario del condado designado. "Por el presente certifico que el Voto por correo se lo entregará directamente al elector y a ninguna otra persona, bajo apercibimiento de la ley." Firma del representante _____ Fecha ____/____/____					

PARA USO EXCLUSIVO DE LA OFICINA

N° de registro del votante _____
N° de código municipal _____
Parte _____
Distrito electoral _____ Distrito _____

Sports

REC WRESTLING

By Joe Sacco

Rec Wrestlers Finish Undefeated

The South Plainfield Central Jersey recreation wrestling team finished the regular dual meet season 16-0, a second consecutive undefeated season for the young Tigers who have a 30-0 record in league matches the past two years. The Tigers closed out the season with a 42-25 win over league rival Cranford, a 92-6 win over Clark, a 58-22 win over Kenilworth and a 66-15 win over Hillsborough.

The Tigers faced their toughest test all season on February 9 when they met the 12-0 Cranford Cougars, a match that would put the winner one step closer to winning the dual meet season. The match was held under the lights at Cranford High School, and both teams knew what was at stake.

Cranford jumped out to an early 7-0 lead before Nick Loniewski scored a close 6-5 decision at 57 pounds to put the Tigers on the board. After dropping a decision at 60 pounds, the Tigers trailed 10-3. South Plainfield's Joe Heilmann scored a 9-0 major decision at 63 pounds to cut the Cougars lead to three, but Cranford put together back-to-back decisions at 67 and 70 pounds to pull ahead 16-7.

The Tigers would pull to within six after a 2-0 decision by sixth grade captain Jake Giordano at 73 pounds. Cranford then went on a roll winning the next three bouts to widen their lead to 25-10.

South Plainfield's upper weights had their chance and responded by winning the next six bouts to put the Tigers ahead for good. Joe Penyak picked up a 9-3 decision at 87 pounds, Luke Niemeyer a pin at 90 pounds, Kyle Bythell a forfeit at 95 pounds, Ryan Marston a technical fall at 102 pounds, Ben Lundy a pin at 110 pounds and Zach DeVecchio a pin at heavyweight. The Tigers are now getting ready for the league tournament this Sunday at Kenilworth.

The South Plainfield Wrestling

Club recently hosted the 37th annual wrestling tournament at the South Plainfield PAL. Over 200 wrestlers from around the tri-state area participated. Placing in the top four from South Plainfield were:

First place: Jeffrey Jacome, JJ Giordano, Tyler Balent, Mikey Kurilew, Steven Twist, Jake DeVecchio, Anthony White, Johnny Padovano, Joe Heilmann, Sebastian Santos, Joe Sacco, Connor Adams, Zach DeVecchio, Ryan Duhamel, Dan Hedden, Ben Lundy, Lou Locacio and Dion Pender.

Second place: Christopher Poggio, Bobby White, Daniel Borsos, Aidan Mackenzie, Anthony Penyak, Darren Ochoa, EJ Nieves, David Loniewski, Colby Huber, Tommy Fierro, Alex Amato, Jacob Panton, Jake Giordano, Kyle Davisson, Joe Penyak, Kyle Bythell, Nick DiFrancesco, George Pittenger, Christian Gonzalez and Jordan Handwerker.

Third place: Brandon Lienhard, Lucas Amato, Andrew Loniewski, Justus Niemeyer, Mark Molinaro, Ryan Patterson, Tyler Russo, Sean Passarelli, Isias Ramos, Nicholas Loniewski, Gabe Panton, Kenny Clevenger, Devon Pender, Brenden Hedden, Luke Niemeyer, Michael Marrero, Jake Hoffman, Desmond Santos, Josh Stasenko, Ryan Walsh, Frank Ferraro, Antonio Martinez and Xavier Wilson.

Fourth place: Noah Santos, John Chabrak, Robert Barrios, Julian Irizarry, Michael Niemeyer, Justyn Kranzke, Colin Drogue, Nicholas Lienhard, Jack Campagna, Ben Ullrich, Marcus Czarrunchick, Xavier Santos, Anthony Nigro, Justin Bell, Jeff Plungis, Richard Marcovecchio, Ryan Marston, CJ Maszszak, Thomas Appoloni.

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Daniel M. Erickson, Dir. • N.J. Lic. No. 4798





LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Alcoholic Beverage License Amendment Change in Corporate Structure

NOTICE

Take notice that application has been made to the Borough of South Plainfield, Municipal Clerk's office, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, N.J., 07080 for a **Change in the Corporate Structure** of Retail Plenary Consumption license #1222-36-030-002 by Friendwell Management, LLC, trading as Best Western for premises located at 101 New World Way, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. The new stockholder, Lee Man W of 365 Restaurant & Bar Inc. residing at 93 Hoffman Rd., Monroe, NJ 08831 will be joining the corporation.

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

Friendwell Management LLC
101 New World Way
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

\$77.00 February 25 and March 4, 2010

Want to reach South Plainfield consumers? There's no better way than in the Observer. Call 908-668-0010 for advertising info.

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

February 16, 2011

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on February 10, 2011.

A. Case # 37-10-Panzarella Contracting, 224/226 Grove Street, Block 200; Lot 9; R-75 Zone. The applicant's request to erect a single family home together with bulk variances was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

B. Case # 38-10-Hennwanti Ramsingh and Walid-matt Bhagwandat, 2103 Maple Avenue, Block 104; Lot 6; R-75 Zone. The applicant's request for a pre-existing non-conforming use and the continuation of the personal living space was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

C. Case # 39-10-Venice Goyette, 1905 Stratford Avenue, Block 129; Lot 1; R-75 Zone. The applicant's request to enclose an existing deck was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Beth Khidre
Secretary-Board of Adjustment

\$31.81 February 25, 2011

Obituaries

Andrew H. Minark, 91

Andrew H. Minark died on Monday, Feb. 21 at the Runnells Specialized Hospital in Berkeley Heights.

Born in Bayonne, Andrew grew up and resided in Plainfield before settling in South Plainfield nearly 40 years ago.

He worked for Mack Motors in Plainfield as a machine operator until he retired.

During WWII, Mr. Minark served with the U.S. Army and was honorably discharged as a corporal in 1945.

Andrew enjoyed family gatherings, the South Plainfield Community Pool and attending the South Plainfield Senior Citizens Center.

He is predeceased by his parents, Andrew and Anna Minark, and by seven brothers, George John, Frank, William, Jack, Albert and Robert.

Surviving are his sister, Dorothy Nace of Clinton; several special nieces and nephews and several great-nieces and great-nephews.

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

Plainfield before settling in Edison's Tyler Senior Residence. While living in Roselle Park she was only one of two women that had the honor to serve on the Roselle Park Police Auxiliary.

Mrs. Palitto had been employed by Margie's Cake Box in Plainfield and later worked for Haisch Bakery in South Plainfield. She previously worked in various sewing factories and stitched parachutes during WWII.

A former active member of Our Lady of Czestochowa Church in South Plainfield, Frances often assisted with the feast of St. Anthony and was also active with the Union County Chapter of Deborah Heart and Lung. She enjoyed cooking and crocheting, but most important to her was her family.

She is predeceased by her first husband, Matthew J. Lepore; by her second husband, Sylvester Palitto; and by five brothers and sisters.

Surviving are a daughter, Rachael Callanan and husband Michael of South Plainfield; five sons and their wives, John and Karen Palitto of Holmdel, Matthew and Louise Lepore of East Hanover, Anthony and Linda Palitto of Piscataway, Joseph and Connie Palitto of Springfield and Ross and Carolyn Palitto of South Plainfield; a sister, Lucy Schifano of Manalapan; and by 15 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations may

be made in her memory to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, 28 Kennedy Blvd., East Brunswick, N.J. 08816.

Patricia A. Kaufmann, 62

Patricia A. (Gursaly) Kaufmann died on Friday, Feb. 18 at Haven Hospice at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born in New Brunswick and raised in Woodbridge, she met her husband, Francis, and resided in Linden for some time before settling in South Plainfield in 1970.

Patricia was self employed as an Avon representative, selling their products for about seven years. A fond pastime of hers was touring several states with her husband on their motorcycle.

She is survived by her husband, Frank; two sons, Frank Jr. and wife Lauri of Middlesex and Eric and fiancé Nerisca of East Brunswick; two sisters, Shirley Nagy and husband Andrew and Marie Sinka and husband Robert; and a brother, John Gursaly and wife Joanne, all of Fords.

If you love sports and you like to write, we need you. Email the editor at spobserver@comast.net

Congratulations Kaitlyn! #1 JUNIOR JOURNALIST



Debbie and Charlie Kurland of Hometown Heros deliver dinner to Junior Journalist winner Kaitlyn Graziano, pictured with her parents, Alan and Lee Ann, and boyfriend, Ryan Beckish.

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Lorraine Merrick
Sadly Missed
March 22, 1993

Ronald, Jacqueline, Jessica and John

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LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PENDING BOND ORDINANCE AND SUMMARY

The bond ordinance, the summary terms of which are included herein, was introduced and passed upon first reading at a meeting of the governing body of the Borough of South Plainfield, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, on February 22, 2011. It will be further considered for final passage, after public hearing thereon, at a meeting of the governing body to be held at the Municipal Building, in the Borough on March 7, 2011 at 7:00 o'clock pm. During the week prior to and up to and including the date of such meeting, copies of the full ordinance will be available at no cost and during regular business hours at the Clerk's office for the members of the general public who shall request the same. The summary of the terms of such bond ordinance follows:

Title: "Bond Ordinance Providing for the Acquisition of Various Equipment for the Borough of South Plainfield, in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey, Appropriating the Aggregate Amount of \$258,000 Therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of \$199,000 Bonds or Notes of the Borough to Finance Part of the Cost Thereof."

Purposes:

Purpose	Appropriation and Estimated	Estimated Maximum Amount of Bonds or Notes	Period of Usefulness
a) The acquisition of a salt truck, including all related costs and expenditures incidental thereto.	\$134,000	\$127,000	5 years
b) The acquisition of a backhoe, including all related costs and expenditures incidental thereto.	\$79,000 (includes \$40,000 Recycling Grant)	\$33,000	15 years
c) The acquisition of a police sports utility vehicle, including all related costs and expenditures incidental thereto.	\$45,000	\$39,000	5 years
TOTALS	\$258,000	\$199,000	

Appropriation: \$258,000

Bonds/Notes Authorized: \$199,000

Grant Appropriated: \$40,000 Recycling Grant

Section 20 Costs: \$25,800

Useful Life: 6.65 years

Joann L. Graf

Municipal Clerk

\$55.91

February 25, 2011

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 1914

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE COMPENSATION OF BOROUGH POLICE OFFICERS AND THE METHOD OF PAYMENT OF SAID COMPENSATION FOR THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1, 2011 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2014 was adopted after a Public Hearing and final reading were conducted on Monday February 22, 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, February 25, 2011.

Joann L. Graf

Municipal Clerk

\$28.50

February 25, 2011

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 1916

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SURPLUS MUNICIPAL PROPERTY PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13 was adopted after a Public Hearing and final reading were conducted on Monday February 22, 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, February 25, 2011.

A public sale will take place at the March 21, 2011 Public meeting of the South Plainfield Mayor and Council.

Joann L. Graf

Municipal Clerk

\$28.50

February 25, 2011

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 1917

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SURPLUS MUNICIPAL PROPERTY PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13 was adopted after a Public Hearing and final reading were conducted on Monday February 22, 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, February 25, 2011.

Joann L. Graf

Municipal Clerk

\$27.56

February 25, 2011

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 1918

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$6,750.00 FROM THE RESERVE FOR DPW EQUIPMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF VEHICLE DIAGNOSTICS EQUIPMENT FOR DPW IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY was adopted after a Public Hearing and final reading were conducted on Monday February 22, 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, February 25, 2011.

Joann L. Graf

Municipal Clerk

\$28.50

February 25, 2011

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 1915

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SURPLUS MUNICIPAL PROPERTY PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13 was adopted on first reading and advertised in the Observer on Friday, February 25, 2011 and that a public hearing be scheduled for

Monday, February 22, 2011 at the Public Meeting which will begin immediately following the 7:00pm Agenda Meeting in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 as follows:

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY THAT:

WHEREAS, the Borough of South Plainfield in the County of Middlesex is the owner of the property identified as Block 273, Lots 4 & 5, located within the Borough of South Plainfield (hereinafter referred to as the "Property");

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield has determined that said Property is no longer needed for public use; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council determined it to be in the public interest to sell said Property by open public sale at auction to the highest bidder in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13(a); and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

- The Mayor and Borough Council declare the Property to be surplus and not needed for public use.
- The sale of the Property to the respective purchasers shall be pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Notice of Sale of Land.
- The Mayor, Borough Clerk, Borough Attorney or such other Borough officials as the law may provide, are hereby authorized to prepare and execute such documents as may be required to close and the transfer of title to the Property to the successful bidders.
- The Property is sold subject to all existing encumbrances, liens, zoning regulations, easements, other restrictions, such facts as an accurate survey would reveal and any present or future assessments for the construction of improvements benefiting said property.
- If any article, section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Ordinance and they shall remain in full force and effect.
- In the event of any inconsistencies between the provisions of this Ordinance and any prior ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield, the provisions hereof shall be determined to govern. All other parts, portions and provisions of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of South Plainfield are hereby ratified and confirmed, except where inconsistent with the terms hereof.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage and publication according to law.

Joann L. Graf

Municipal Clerk

\$52.13

February 25, 2011

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

Public Notice

RETURN OF PERFORMANCE BOND

To Gibraltar Management Co., Inc. for public improvements at Middlesex Mall, Hadley & Stelton Roads, South Plainfield, N.J. Lot 46.04 and 46.05, Block 528.

A public meeting has been scheduled by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield to hear objections, if any, to the release of a Performance Bond posted by Gibraltar Management Co., Inc. for public improvements at Middlesex Mall, Hadley & Stelton Roads, South Plainfield, NJ known as Lot 46.04 and 46.05, in Block 528 listed on the official tax maps of the Borough of South Plainfield. Said public hearing will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 21, 2011 in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

Richard M. Schweitzer
Gibraltar Management Co., Inc.
150 White Plains Road
Tarrytown, NY 10591

\$38.50

February 25, 2011

In My Opinion

(Continued from page 2)

who attended, contributed and supported this basketball fundraiser.

Thank you to Mara Levine, who sold her handmade jewelry and donated 10% of her sales.

And a huge thank you to all of the Team Jerry players: Kevin "Downtown" Hajduk, Debbie "Dunkin'" Boyle, Ralph "Rockin'" Errico, Megan "Amazing" Boyle, Patrick "Big Pat" Boyle, Robert "The Commish" Bengivenga, Jr., Matt "Slam Dunk" Anesh, Chrissy "Boxout" Butcas, Tim "Big T" McConville, Bill "Sky C" Cochrane, Quinn "Quinny Bop" Cochrane, Pete "Leo" Leonardis, Chris "Hub Dog" Hubner, Brian "Big B" Shaw, Brendon "Little B" Shaw, Steve "Daddy Bone" Bohn, Tony "The Pizza Man" Celentano, AJ "Cully" Celentano, Benny "Prime Time" Gibson, Bryant "Show Time" Draper, Vinny "The Franchise" Padula, Bob "The Fish" Bengivenga Sr., Renato "The Birbs" Birbin, Taylor "T Bone" Born, Lou "Sweet Lou" Peralta, Brian "Bri" Chobar, Nicholas "Nick" Pasquale, Joey "Animal" Skwiat, Alex "Baby Face Finster" Barletta, Samantha "Slamin Sam" Cangas, Jess "J Bone" Bohn, Emily "The Pittenator" Pittenger and Mike Vega. You all made the day!

And in the fashion of South Plainfield, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going," once again came in to play.

SINCERELY,

DEBBIE BOYLE, MIDDLE SCHOOL PTO PRESIDENT
LLOYD MCNELLY, SP POLICE PBA VICE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Family,

Thalassemia (Cooley's anemia) is a genetic blood disease for which there is no cure. Each patient undergoes bi-weekly blood transfusions and thrice weekly medical treatments which

include a needle in their stomach and a 10 hour infusion of a life saving medication, along with enough pills to constitute a meal all by themselves.

Camp Moore is a facility that provides a weeklong camp for special needs children which is fully funded by the New Jersey State Elks Association. There is no cost to the family of the child attending. The Elks fund this camp through various charity events.

On March 12 I will get a chance to prove, once again, that I am not the brightest guy you know. I will run, half naked and screaming like a little girl, into the 35 degree ocean in Belmar as part of this perverse fundraiser for The Cooley's Anemia Foundation and The Elks Camp Moore for disabled children.

Once again, you can prove you are much smarter than I by choosing to participate with your credit card rather than shocking your body in the cold ocean beside me.

If every one of you will just click the donate button and give what you can, \$5, \$10, \$20 or just \$1, whatever you can afford, I will be able to reach my goal and donate a nice sum to The Cooley's Anemia Foundation and Camp Moore who will in turn continue to invest in programs and research that help all these children.

Please go to my web page: www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/peter-smith-2/miracle-plunge-iv and hit the "Donate" button. Follow the instructions and then pass this information along to others who you know would want to make a difference in the lives of patients like you just did.

Thank you and may God bless you.

PETE SMITH

To the Editor:

I was amazed to see the poem that won the Junior Journalist in last week's *Observer* to actually be printed.

I'm not sure who selected it and what teacher would pass this along as a finalist. I'm one for free speech, but to make those comments about a coach and, more importantly, a caring person who gives so much to this community, you should be ashamed. This situation should have been handled between you, your parents and the coach and AD.

First thing—Principal Pedersen was told this young lady got an award and he was thrilled to take the picture and acknowledge her accomplishments. Then the paper comes out and he sees what the award was for and what she wrote about. He had no idea of the poem and should not be associated with this kind of trash talking.

Secondly—This coach has taken this program from its beginning and made them competitive. More importantly, this coach (who I know personally) is one of the most giving people around and cares so much for the kids. He is also a volunteer fireman in town and is involved in the county emergency services, giving of his time to protect all of us.

Finally, when I grew up you tried out for a team, and if you did not make it you tried harder next year to make the team. Also, not everyone got to play every minute of every game, but it was everyone together that made up the team. Now everyone gets to be on the team, but if you're that unhappy, quit and try again next year. Get used to this because the real world is much like years ago and not everyone is the superstar.

I would love to see this student's name in the *Observer* again, but this time as an apology to Principal Pedersen, the coach, and the fire department. Grow up!

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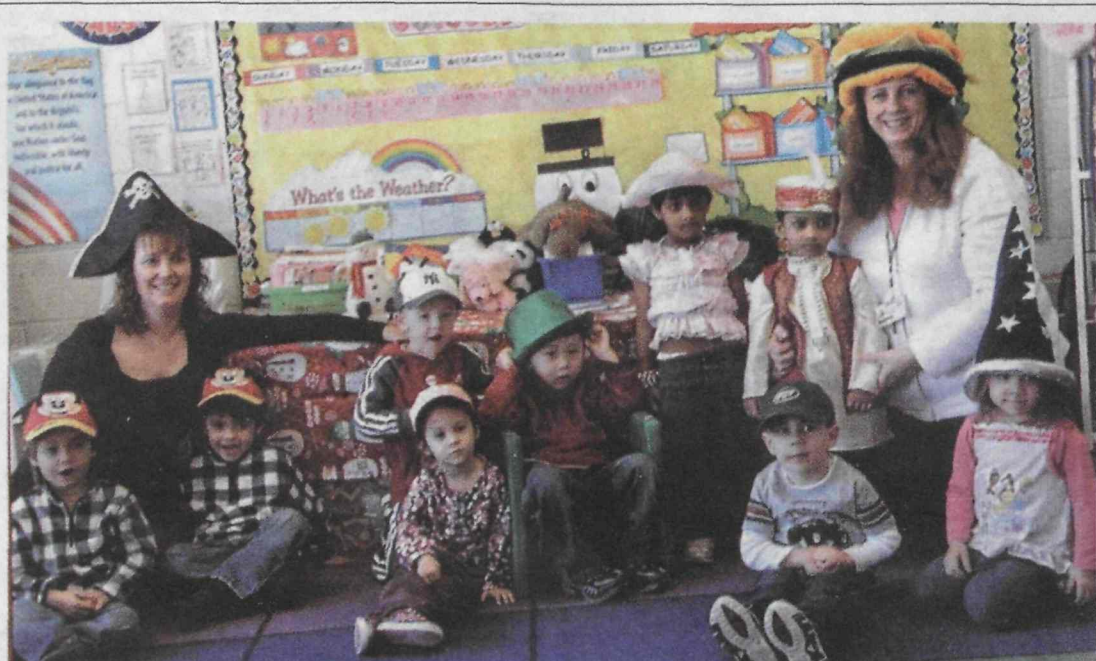
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The Future Stars Preschool two and a half year old class had fun when they all wore their favorite hats to school. Teachers Mrs. McConville and Ms. Patty joined the class in the fun.

Project Graduation Auction is Just a Week Away

The Project Graduation Auction/Raffle Auction is only a week away! There are many great prizes this year including a 55" Toshiba LCD TV, Dell laptop, Apple iPad, a night out for two in New York City (theatre tickets to any Broadway show and dinner), Kindle eReader, an authentic Gucci watch, a Wii bundle and so much more! Where can you find these great prizes? Only at the SPHS PTA/Project Graduation Auction/Raffle on Saturday, March 5 from 7 to 11 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.) at South Plainfield High School.

Door tickets are currently being sold so get yours before they are gone. This year marks the 23rd year of providing graduating seniors with a project graduation celebration.

Senior Parents—This one is for your children so get some of your friends together and come join us for a fun night at the auction. For those of you who have never attended our auction before, it is run similar to a tricky tray.

South Plainfield Community—It is not too late to donate; however, since the auction is only one week away we will only be able to accept donations through February 27. After that, we will only accept monetary donations which can be mailed to South Plainfield HS, 200 Lake Street, South Plainfield, N.J. 07080, Attn: SPHS PTA. Please make checks payable to SPHS PTA.

Auction Door Ticket—For ticket information or to reserve a table, call Tracey Hartmann (chairperson) at (908) 755-4349. Provide her with your name, phone number and the number of people you would like at your table.

Donations—Any donations (other than monetary) must be received by February 27 in order to be recognized in our program. Please call Sharon Miller (president) at (908) 754-6461

if you would like to donate.

Outside Business/Corporate Donations—Ask the business or corporation you work for if they will make a contribution or if you know of someone who can obtain a donation from a business or corporation, please ask

them for their help.

Telethon Donations—If you are a SPHS senior family and have already pledged your support of a donation through our recent telethon, please send in your donation by February 27.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN MY TOWN

FROM A BUSY BUSY MOM *jd*

Thank you to everyone who supported and volunteered at the Middle School PTO/PBA charity basketball game for resident Jerry Bartolotti. It was a huge success and raised approximately \$2,000.

The high school baseball team used clothing drive will take place on Saturday, March 12 in the middle school parking lot entrance. Items can be left in the Ferraro Foods truck. For further information or to help, please contact Debbie Boyle at (908) 803-1573. Coaches Guida, Batista, Mosca and Darby will have a meeting for the baseball parents in the high school cafeteria on Monday, Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. for Project Graduation Auction/Raffle on Saturday, March 5. The HSPA make-up test will take place Tuesday through Thursday, March 8-10. Interim notices will be available on MMS on Thursday, March 10.

The Middle School PTO will host "McPTO" Night at McDonalds on Oak Tree Road on Monday, Feb. 28 from 5 to 8 p.m. Principal Kevin Hajduk and Assistant Principal Tamekia Grier will be working alongside members of the PTO. Please continue to send in the yearly activity fee of \$30 if you have not done so already. A PTO sponsored assembly by Dance Troupe will perform for students on Tuesday,

March 15 at 12:45 p.m. and will address the new bullying bill signed into law by Gov. Chris Christie. Spring picture day is Friday, April 1. A used clothing drive will take place on Saturday, April 9 in the school parking lot where the Ferraro Foods truck will be located and the blood drive for Jerry Bartolotti will take place on Tuesday, April 12 in the upper gym in the high school from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Thank you to all the chaperones for the Middle School PTO dances, on January 14: Jim Colapietro, Jennifer Pellegrino, Police Sgt. Dave Delair, Kelly Butrico, Susan Gurajdam, Michelle Soto, Linda Kelly, Diane Zekas, Geri Nuber and Debbie Boyle, and on February 11: Tina George, Jim Colapietro, Greg Lind, Diane Polizzano, Karen Hurst, Dania Munoz, Steve Bohn and Debbie Boyle.

Riley School will host the Mother/Son Sports Night on Friday, March 4 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Grant School will have spring pictures taken on Wednesday, March 30. All schools will have a half day session for students on Wednesday, March 9.

The Board of Education will hold 2011/2012 budget workshops during the month of March. School elections will take place on Wednesday, April 27 from 2 to 9 p.m.

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