

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 14, NO. 34

Member New Jersey Press Association

60 CENTS

APRIL 29, 2011

Childhood Friends Share the Big Screen

By Jean Fultz

What do two childhood friends from South Plainfield have in common aside from attending Sacred Heart Elementary School together? They are both featured in the hit movie, *HOP*, sharing screen credits for the first time ever. The movie, which opened in theaters in the number one spot on April 1, has grossed more than \$100M as of last weekend.

HOP is directed by Tim Hill, husband of former South Plainfield resident and Hollywood actress, Veronica (Roni) Alicino, who grew up on West Crescent Parkway. Hill also directed the live action animated movies, *Alvin and the Chipmunks* and *Garfield: A Tale of Two Kitties*, and is an award winning writer for the popular children's cartoon, *SpongeBob*



Veronica (Roni) Alicino and Mark Riccardi

SquarePants.

In *HOP*, Russell Brand stars as E.B., the Easter Bunny's teenage son who "heads to Hollywood determined to become a drummer in a rock 'n'

roll band. In LA, he's taken in by Fred after the out-of-work slacker hits E.B. with his car." Fred, portrayed by actor James Marsden, nurses the "injured" E.B. back to health, and the

experience "teaches both what it takes to finally grow up."

Alicino, who plays the part of a waitress, garners one of the biggest laugh lines in the movie. In her scene, Fred orders a piece of carrot cake with candy on top and she delivers it to the table topped with a cherry cough drop and says, "It's cherry, it counts."

Also playing a role in the movie is Alicino's childhood friend, Mark Riccardi, who plays the part of a security guard in the Hollywood Hills who gets hit with a dart by the Ninja Rabbits.

"I loved appearing in the film *HOP* because I just knew it would be good and funny and fascinating," said Alicino. "It was truly a great experience and working with Mark was really, really fun. Seeing Russell Brand and Jimmy Marsden

was not so bad either!"

Alicino and Riccardi, who have known each other since sixth grade, have remained in close contact over the years. Riccardi, who grew up on Schindler Drive, went on to play football in college. Alicino moved to Pennsylvania where she went to high school and attended Bucks County Community College. She eventually moved to New York City, majoring in theatre arts at Fordham University.

Both found their way to Hollywood in the 1980s and pursued careers in the entertainment industry. Alicino as an actress and Riccardi as a Hollywood stuntman. It was during the casting of *HOP* that Alicino suggested Riccardi for the role of the stunt security guard, which required the skills of a stunt/actor. "I always

try to help as many people as I possibly can in show business," said Alicino.

"South Plainfield is where our roots lie," said Riccardi. "For two young kids who went to Sacred Heart together, who knew we'd ever appear in the same movie together?"

Riccardi, who still has family in South Plainfield, lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Valerie and their two sons, Dominic and Christian. "I try to bring [them] back every summer to enjoy the Jersey Shore," he said. "It's just the beach in LA; [it's] nice to come home to the shore!"

He is currently working as a stunt double and stunt coordinator on the pilot, *Big Mike* with actor Greg Grunberg. The show is scheduled to begin airing on A&E in July.

(Continued on page 10)

CAC Talent Showcase Sunday

The South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission (CAC) will present the third annual talent showcase on Sunday, May 1 in Fellowship Hall, Wesley Methodist Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave.

south plainfield

arts COMMISSION

The talent showcase will spotlight area residents. "Reaching for the Stars" is an array of 26 acts, including dancers, singers, pianists, musicians and more. This eclectic array of performers

range from five years of age to adults.

The event provides a platform for local area residents of all ages to showcase their talents to the community at large. Please join us on May 1; seating is limited. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. The show begins at 2 p.m. Light refreshments will be served during intermission.

The South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission thanks everyone for their ongoing support to cultural arts programs in South Plainfield. For more information email spcac.nj@gmail.com. You can now find the commission on Facebook; follow us for updated events.

Math-A-Thon Benefits Children's Hospital



Top fundraisers at Franklin School's St. Jude Math-A-Thon. Front row: Alyssa Moffitt and Brandon Weber. Back row: Jordan Hamberg, Neekah Hinds, Hallie Bisgaard and Yanderi Batista.

Franklin School students participated in the St. Jude Math-A-Thon program and raised \$4,242.05 to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the premier center for the research and treatment of childhood cancer and other deadly diseases. The Math-A-Thon not only encouraged students to work out math problems, but it taught the importance of helping others.

To date, Franklin School has raised over \$75,000 for St. Jude through the Math-A-Thon.

Hallie Bisgaard was once again the top fundraiser, bringing in \$500. Yanderi Batista, Brandon Weber, Alyssa Moffitt, Neekah Hinds and Jordan Hamberg each contributed \$125 or more. All the participants did a great job, and should feel good they have helped so many others with their donations.



Eager youngsters take off to gather eggs at the recreation-sponsored annual Easter egg hunt last Friday. Hundreds of children participated in the event that had been postponed due to rain. See page 12 for additional photos.

-Photo courtesy of Louis Mormile

Jim Vokral Elected First V.P. of N.J. Association Election Officials



Jim Vokral

Jim Vokral of South Plainfield has been elected first vice president of the New Jersey Association of Election

Officials (NJAEIO) at their annual conference in Atlantic City. It is a nonpaid position.

The association is a statewide, non-profit group consisting of election officials from each N.J. county. Members work together to share information to provide safe and secure elections in conjunction with the Secretary of State, who is the state's chief election official, and the State

Attorney General, who provides legal counsel in accordance with state election laws.

Jim has been the administrator of the Middlesex County Board of Elections since February 2004. The Board of Elections is responsible for managing all elections, voter registration records, voting machines and other election activities for all of Middlesex County.

Vote

The Board of Education Election and Budget vote results were not available at presstime. The results will be available at www.spobserver.com.

In My Opinion

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

Dear Editor,

A few weeks ago, I found the article amusing about the proposed BOE budget, but now I am disgusted by the obvious charades of some board members, past and present.

Former Board President, Jeff Seider and Nick Puleio are using semantics about the real estate tax increase. They cite three different increases. Is it \$130, \$50 or \$4? Regardless of how it is presented to the public, it is still a \$130 increase, isn't it?

We seem to have in South Plainfield three different people being paid for the superintendent's position. Dr. Rosado was awarded a large salary increase as he packed his suitcase for another position. I do not know if municipal salary records are available to taxpayers, but I believe Dr. Rosado still has a few months left on his contract. If he doesn't, will someone on the BOE declare at the next meeting that he is not still receiving South Plainfield money? Then we have the superintendent, Dr. Negron, who is

receiving full salary for some unethical and maybe illegal activities and was suspended from all duties. He should have been fired outright.

The current Interim Superintendent, Dr. Bowen, is being paid \$750 per day for his work. Does anyone, besides me, think this is a fiasco, albeit expensive? Was Jeff Seider or any present board members involved in these costly foolish decisions?

The 20% healthcare cost increase has been added into the budget. Perhaps BOE employees should shoulder the increase as the private sector must do. Why not request a waiver from Obamacare, as 1,100 other organizations have done? Public employees spent millions to elect the current White House occupants and it seems taxpayers have to pay the penalty.

Also, the teacher's proposed salary increase was glaringly absent from the article. There are many unemployed and financially struggling seniors who will struggle to pay the real estate tax increase and the \$247 Medicare pay-

ment we had levied on us. But seniors have no one to foot their bills, as BOE employees.

BILL MCCARTHY

Dear Editor,

When the mayor and council appoint members to a borough board or commission, it's easy for the people appointed to lose focus on the big picture. In other words, it's easy for "turf wars" to develop and for the board members to only consider parochial interests when making decisions. I am happy to report that is not the case when it comes to our borough's Recreation Commission. Let me explain.

As most people know, the governing body is working hard to cut expenses and hold the line on taxes. We've made some great strides. For example, the borough workforce is about 15% leaner, and we've been able to work with our employee unions to negotiate contracts that recognize the slumping economy. In fact, expenses in this year's proposed budget are actually lower than two years ago. A lot of the credit for this goes to our borough employees, who have really stepped up to the plate.

But for every step forward, there are things beyond our control that make us take a step back. Pension costs are skyrocketing, certain forms of state aid that we've customarily relied upon have been eliminated, investment income is a fraction of what it once was, and ratables are plummeting. All of these things are taking their toll, especially the ratable problem. Because of the economy, South Plainfield's ratable base, like that of other towns, is dropping—which means revenue goes down with it.

All these things cut against the cost cutting we've been working so hard to achieve. It's a constant battle. Other towns have not been as lucky and have had to hike taxes and resort to mass layoffs. That's not happening here. But it would have without our efforts to cut spending.

I'm proud to say that our Recreation Commission recognizes what's happening with the economy, and has stood ready to help. The members of that board recently voted to use part of its funding to pay for new playground equipment that will be in-

stalled at the Community Pool and that replaces unsafe equipment we were forced to remove.

Why is this significant? Traditionally, the governing body funds playground equipment, not the Recreation Commission. So when the governing body asked the commission's help, its members could have easily buried their heads in the sand and said "no, that's not what our budget is used for." But it didn't. It recognized the difficult economic times, and instead of saying "no," made a one-time exception for the greater good.

I hope more of our board and agencies will follow this example. In times like these, we need to work together, which the Recreation Commission aptly recognized. My thanks to this board for its continuing efforts on behalf of our community.

MAYOR MATTHEW P. ANESH

Dear Editor,

Last week's letters by Eric Aronowitz and Donna Egan unfortunately require comment. Rather than straighten things out, like they said they would, the two take the word spin to new levels. Here are the facts:

1) The Library Board of Trustees is maintaining a surplus that dwarfs that of any other board in town. The vast majority of money came from overtaxing residents. For them to suggest that the bulk of it came from donations or selling candy bars is misleading.

2) Giving back a part of that surplus to taxpayers (about a third) has nothing to do with whether the town builds a new library. Neither the proposal that failed on Democracy Day in 2008, nor the one being discussed now, uses the surplus to fund the building. The board has consistently refused to apply the surplus toward construction. And while part of the surplus may be used for other related costs, the amounts discussed leave plenty of room for the tax relief proposed.

3) Absent from the Aronowitz and Egan letters are any mention of the taxpayers or the economy. Every other

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.

department and board in the borough (police, public works, recreation, etc.) is economizing and taking steps to provide tax relief. It's amazing that the Library Board thinks it's immune.

4) The Library Board undeniably failed to follow the statute that requires boards to return excess surplus (above 20%) to the taxpayers. The first sentence of the statute says the "Board of Trustees shall make an annual report to the chief financial officer of the municipality..." This was never done. Nor did the board submit a capital plan, as required by the statute. The board simply transferred surplus into a capital account in an attempt to keep the money from going back to the taxpayers.

What's happening here is very simple. The Library Board of Trustees is trying to do an end-run around the new law.

The people who serve on the board are well intentioned, but they simply fail to understand the realities of the economy. Naturally, every department of government thinks its mission is vital and should go untouched by cost cutting. Unfortunately, that can't be the case. The council is charged with looking out for the entire town, not the special interests who think that their cause is more important than all others. Other departments understand this and are trying to help. In times like these all departments have to pitch in and help provide taxpayers with a much-needed break, including the Library Board.

COUNCILMAN ROB BENGIVENGA

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*.

council meetings

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

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

Agenda Meeting Public Meeting

May 2 May 2

May 16 May 16

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

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

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.)

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

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.

South Plainfield Observer

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

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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.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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Holy Savior Academy Names Faculty

Melinda Hanlon, principal, has announced the faculty of Holy Savior Academy which will open on September 1 in South Plainfield. "Following an extensive search and interview process I am pleased to announce our faculty," she said. "The teachers and staff from the four merging elementary schools are well-represented at Holy Savior Academy."

Pastors of the four parochial schools - Sacred Heart School in South Plainfield, Our Lady of Fatima in Piscataway, Holy Family Academy in Bound Brook and Our Lady of Mount Virgin in Middlesex - decided to close their schools at the end of the current school

year and form a new, regional elementary school to be known as Holy Savior Academy. The new school will be housed in the building which was occupied by Sacred Heart School in South Plainfield.

Sixteen teachers and five support staff, including teacher's aides, were hired. They are Charmaine Roldan, Pre-K 3; Jacqueline Harbison, Pre-K 4; Mary Hohner, Kindergarten A; Debra Leach, Kindergarten B; Jennifer Larkin, 1A; Cynthia Sammons, 2A; Snehal Sharma, 3A; Jennifer Durkin, 4A; and Kimberly Widenor, 5A. The junior high faculty will be Patricia Sims, Gary Boresewicz and

Charlene Bressler. Music will be taught by Daniel Mahoney, Spanish will be taught by Megan Stevens and physical education/health will be taught by Deborah Fusco. The librarian will be Colleen Head, and the school nurse will be Deborah Pinto. The school secretary will be Doreen Russo and teachers aides will be Alice Bach and Geraldine Novak. The technology coordinator will be Dragan Zrno.

Hanlon pointed out that other hirings may be in the offing as registrations are approaching 300 students. "There are some classes which are close to being split into two classes as enrollments come in. We are delighted at the number of people who have placed their faith and trust in us by registering their children at Holy Savior Academy before either a principal or faculty was announced. They are, and will be, the very backbone of Holy Savior Academy and we will do our very best to be sure their faith and trust is deserved."

Under Hanlon's leadership, Holy Savior Academy will be in the forefront of using new teaching technologies, something many parents have desired for some time, and which Hanlon fully supports. "Our vision is to use 21st century technology to teach 21st century minds," she said, "and we mean exactly what we say. Children learn differently today. We have chosen to employ teaching technologies which work well for the children, making learning easier, interactive, and well, fun! Technology will permeate the students' days and our new faculty embraces this approach and looks forward to incorporating technology into their curriculums."

Holy Savior Academy will offer advanced and enriched courses in language arts and math for students who qualify. "Our academic goal is to become an outstanding academic community in the Diocese of Metuchen, a goal we will pursue aggressively," she said.

Hanlon will introduce the new faculty at a meet and greet in the gymnasium of Sacred Heart School on Monday, May 9 at 7 p.m. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Complete teacher biographies are available on the school's website: www.HolySaviorAcademy.com.



The South Plainfield High School Peer Leadership group, under the direction of Marla Vandermark, Tony Encinas, Jessica Marconi-Kriskowski and Anthony Emmons, volunteered their time and creativity to decorate boxes for spring and fill them with donated canned and dry goods. Project Hands For Hope families in need in the area. Pictured (L-R) are Austin Jenkin, Justin Harris, Chris O'Keefe and Jessica Gomes.



To Promote & Protect Public Health & Welfare
MIDDLESEX COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

By Ronald G. Rios, Chair, Committee of Law and Public Safety

Police Training Center Courses

The recently renovated, state-of-the-art Middlesex County Police Training Center in Edison is home to an impressive list of specialized training courses designed to help local law enforcement better protect and serve the residents of Middlesex County and beyond.

As times change, so do the challenges faced by local law enforcement personnel. This facility gives the county the opportunity to tailor educational and training programs to the county's own special needs. It also serves as a satellite training center for the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice and is used to educate more law enforcement groups from outside the County.

As needs arise in the field, Middlesex County Prosecutor Bruce J. Kaplan and his office work in cooperation with the Middlesex County Association of Chiefs of Police to assess the training demands of county and local law enforcement personnel. They then develop courses and the resources needed to offer that training on site at the center.

A session completed last month, The Developmentally Disabled Offenders Program, was a full day of instruction geared toward teaching of-

ficers how to recognize and control people with developmental and intellectual disabilities and communication difficulties. This program offered new skills and awareness to local law enforcement officers who are now better prepared to handle and defuse potentially dangerous situations involving developmentally disabled suspects. Repeat courses are planned for the coming months.

Also included in this year's catalog are courses that cover school violence, bias crime, counter-terrorism, school security, street and gang-related crimes, sex crime and domestic violence investigations.

The Middlesex County Police Training Center is an incredible asset for our county and local law enforcement personnel. By offering the most up-to-date training, we can ensure that our law enforcement professionals have the necessary skills to serve effectively in our communities. The Middlesex County Police Training Center will continue to offer a wide variety of innovative programs and training that will help local law enforcement better protect and serve the residents of Middlesex County.

World Vision's 30 Hour Famine

Wars and natural disasters all over the world dominate the daily headlines, but behind the scenes and far from the spotlight, hunger and preventable diseases claim the lives of 24,000 of the world's children every day.

Right now, more than one billion people worldwide don't have enough to eat. Annually, more than nine million children under the age of five die from disease and malnutrition as a result of hunger. But world hunger is 100 percent preventable and 12 teens from The First Baptist Church of South Plainfield were ready to be a part of the solution.

For the sixth year, they recently joined the efforts of hundreds of thousands of young people all over the nation who set aside the usual "stuff" that filled their daily lives. Instead, they did World

Vision's 30 Hour Famine ("Love Hunger" was the theme this year).

The teens, through hands-on activities, got a taste of what the world's poorest children and their families face every day. Students also raised funds with the knowledge that every \$30 they raise could help feed and care for a child for a month. Additionally, a portion of the funds raised supported World Vision's efforts to assist families in need around the world including in the United States.

As part of the famine the teens also performed community service; this year they helped to clean up a nature preserve that was battered by this year's winter storms.

The teens from First Baptist set a goal of raising \$3,200.

Submitted by Karen L. Flanagan

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events

Around Town

Fine Wine, Spirits & Craft Beer Tasting

April 29

South Plainfield Education Foundation (S.P.E.F.) and the Oak Tree Buy Rite of South Plainfield will host the third annual Fine Wine, Spirits and Craft Beer Tasting Fundraiser on Friday, April 29 at the South Plainfield Italian-American Club, 1001 Garibaldi Ave. from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$35 at the door.

For more information, contact Marge Reedy at (908) 561-5800, ext. 302, Carolyn Allen at (908) 561-3275, Bob Boyle at (908) 599-0699 or Debbie Boyle at (908) 803-1573.

MOMS Club TGI Friday's Fundraiser

April 29

The MOMS Club of South Plainfield will host a fundraiser all day Friday, April 29 at TGI Friday's to benefit the Aquino Family of South Plainfield who lost their home in a fire.

Twenty percent of the food bill will be donated from anyone who brings in the flyer. Obtain a copy at www.momsclubofsouthplainfield.com.

For information, call (908) 889-4900, email sholom@sholomnj.org or visit www.sholomnj.org.

Goodbye Reunion At Sacred Heart

April 30

Sacred Heart School alumni will hold a "Say Goodbye" reunion on Saturday, April 30 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the school; then will continue on to The Pines Manor, 2085 Rt. 27 in Edison for a reception from 7 to 11 p.m. Tickets are \$60.

Join the "Sacred Heart School mid 70s to mid 80s" group on Facebook for details, or email Giannotta at shsreunion_42311@yahoo.com.

Country Breakfast At the VFW

May 1

The South Plainfield VFW, 155 Front Street, will hold a country breakfast on Sunday, May 1 from 8 to 11 a.m. Come and you may be the winner of a free breakfast. The public is welcome.

For info, call (908) 668-9751.

Elks Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast

May 8

The South Plainfield Elks, 1254 New Market Ave., will host a Mother's Day pancake breakfast on Sunday, May 8 from 8 a.m. until noon. The menu will feature pancakes, eggs made to order, French toast, bacon, sausage, home fries, toast, juice and coffee. Cost is \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors, \$4 for children ages three to 12 and free for ages two and under. A flower will be given to all mothers in attendance.

For more information, call (908) 668-9750.

SP Ed. Foundation, SPBA Golf Outing

May 10

The South Plainfield Education Foundation and the South Plainfield Business Association will hold its annual golf outing on Tuesday, May 10 at the Cranbury Golf Club in West Windsor. Entry fee is \$150.

To sign up, call Carolyn Allen at (908) 561-3275, Shannon Jefferys (908) 757-1055 or log on to golf@SPBA.biz or vision2001.org.

Wine Tasting at St. Stephen Church

May 13

St. Stephen Orthodox Church, 609 Lane Ave. will be holding a wine tast-

ing fundraiser on Friday, May 13 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$30, or two for \$50. Beer and wine provided by Oak Tree Discount Liquor. Hors d'oeuvres and desserts will be served. Raffle and gifts.

For tickets or more information, call (908) 755-7600.

Comedy Night at Sacred Heart School

May 14

Sacred Heart School, located on South Plainfield Avenue, will hold a comedy night on Saturday, May 14 from 6:30 to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$30 and include buffet dinner and show. BYOB.

For tickets, call (732) 406-9728.

Pack 207 Holding Blood Drive

May 18

Boy Scout Pack 207 will hold a blood drive on Wednesday, May 18 from 2 to 8 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Hamilton Blvd.

SPJBC Evening of Wine Fundraiser

May 19

The South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club Women's Auxiliary will host "An Evening of Wine" on Thursday, May 19 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Joe Canal's on Route 1 in Woodbridge. Tickets are \$25 per person.

For more information, call Jennifer at (908) 755-8912 or email Jenn776@gmail.com.

Fire Department Comedy Night

May 21

The South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department is sponsoring "Comedy Night" on Saturday, May 21 at 8 p.m. in the SPHS auditorium. All tickets are \$16 and will be sold at the door. Professional comics featuring Mike

Morse, as heard on XM every Sunday, Jim Dailakis and James Oakes.

Sacred Heart 5K Run & One Mile Fun Walk

June 11

Sacred Heart will hold the second annual 5K Run and One Mile Fun Walk on Saturday, June 11. Application fee is \$20 if paid before May 1; \$25 after that date; one mile walk is \$10 for family or individual. Free t-shirt to first 100 paid participants.

Register at www.sacredheartsp.net or call Carl Adlassnig at (908) 757-1933.

Maszcak Miracle Day Fundraiser

June 18

Open Your Hearts to Children Battling Cancer Foundation, Inc. will sponsor a tricky tray auction fundraiser on Saturday, June 18 at the PAL building on Maple Avenue from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. All proceeds will go to the Maszcak Family to help with medical costs associated with the treatment of their son, Stephen Austin, who passed away in March.

For more information or to contribute, email Kristen Celentano and Shelley King at openyourheartstrickytray@gmail.com.

— Out of Town —

Holocaust Remembrance

April 29 & May 1

Temple Shalom of Fanwood/Scotch Plains commemorates Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) with a free two-part program open to the public on Friday, April 29 with hors d'oeuvres at 5:30 p.m., Shabbat service at 6 p.m., speaker at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday, May 1 at 7 p.m. Temple Shalom is located in the Fanwood Presbyterian Church in Fanwood.

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SENIOR CENTER Calendar

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

(Closed today)
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.

For more information, call (908) 889-4900 or visit www.sholomnj.org.

Seeing Eye Annual Online Auction

April 29-May 12

The Seeing Eye's third annual online auction will open at 9 a.m. on April 29. All items in the auction catalog are donated by generous individuals and organizations, and all proceeds from the final sale price of each item directly support Seeing Eye® programs. The online auction will take place at www.biddingforgood.com/seeingeye. The auction will close at 10 p.m. on May 12.

If you would like more information on The Seeing Eye, visit the website at www.SeeingEye.org.

Blood Drive at Deutscher Club

April 30

Deutscher Club of Clark, 787 Featherbed Lane is holding a blood drive on Saturday, April 30 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. All donors must present signed or picture ID. Please eat a meal before you donate.

Watchung Art Center Landscapes Exhibit

April 30-May 26

The Contemporary Art Group presents "Landscapes: Interiors and Exteriors" at the Watchung Art Center, 18 Stirling Road in Watchung from Saturday, April 30 through May 26. Gallery hours are Wednesday and Friday, noon to 3 p.m., Thursday, noon to 5 p.m. and Saturday, 1 to 4 p.m. and Tuesday by appointment only.

For more information, call (908) 753-0190.

Giant Yard Sale

April 30

The Ladies Auxiliary of the North Stelton Volunteer Fire Company will be sponsoring the annual spring yard sale on Saturday, April 30 (raindate May 14) from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the firehouse, 70 Haines Ave. in Piscata-

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events

Around Town

away. Spaces available for \$15 each.
For more information or to reserve a space, call Lisa at (732) 985-0282, option six.

Upscale Singles Dance Party

April 30

Steppin' Out Singles is holding an upscale singles dance party on Saturday, April 30 at 8:30 p.m. at the Woodbridge Hilton, 20 Wood Ave. South in Iselin. Ages 40+; no jeans/t-shirts/sneakers. Admission: \$17.

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

NJ Intergenerational Orchestra to Perform

May 1

The New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra will hold its annual free spring concert on Sunday, May 1 at 3 p.m. at Summit High School, 125 Kent Place Boulevard.

The orchestra will perform works by Gounod, Vivaldi and Stravinsky. There will be a premiere of Concerto for Guitar and chamber orchestra by Victor Kioulaphides performed by Christopher Kenniff, Guitar. He will also perform the Guitar Concerto in D by Vivaldi.

Gesang-und Turn-Verein Spring Concert

May 1

Plainfield Gesang-und Turn-Verein, Inc. will hold its 125th anniversary concert on Sunday, May 1 at 4 p.m. at Singer Hall, 220 Somerset St. in North Plainfield. Tickets are \$17 in advance and \$20 at the door.

For tickets, call (908) 276-8572.

Metuchen-Edison Women's Club Mtg.

May 4

The Metuchen-Edison Women's Club will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 4 at 7:30 p.m. at The Heritage at Clara Barton, 1015 Amboy Ave. in Edison. The speaker will be Dorothy Obropta, a member of the Garden Club of Metuchen, who will speak on spring planting to attract butterflies and hummingbirds. Guests are welcome and light refreshments will be served.

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

Fish or Chicken and Chips Dinner

May 6

Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church, Stuyvesant Avenue and Chestnut Street in Union will hold a fish or chicken and chips dinner on Friday, May 6 from 5 to 7 p.m. Cole slaw, homemade desserts, coffee, tea and juice. Eat in or take out. Adults \$13; children under 12, \$7. Reservations are suggested.

For reservations or more information, call (908) 688-3164.

Medical Qi Gong Meditation Class

May 7

Medical Qi Gong, a course of meditation exercises, is being offered at Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains on Saturday, May 7 from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

For more information, call (908) 232-5678 or email info@willowgrovechurch.org.

Free Music Program

May 9

A special musical program will be presented, honoring Learning for Life's fortieth year of cultural programs in the Plainfield area on Monday, May 9 at 12:45 p.m. It is free of charge and all are welcome.

The Learning for Life program is held in the facilities of the United Presbyterian Church, 525 Front St. in Plainfield. Use the office entrance, last door to the left when facing the church complex from the rear parking lot.



Students and teachers from South Plainfield High School Spanish and art classes at El Museo del Barrio.

Spanish, Art Classes Visit NYC Museum

South Plainfield High school students from Ms. Danella and Mrs. Barton's upper level Spanish classes and Mr. Casano's Art 2 class took a cross curricular trip to the El Museo del Barrio in New York City.

The museum is New York's leading Latino cultural institution and welcomes visitors of all backgrounds to discover the artistic and cultural landscape of the Caribbean and Latin America.

The group toured the Voces y

Visiones gallery with numerous paintings and sculptures depicting the theme of the Hispanic immigrant's perspective of The American Dream.

Following the tour, the students participated in an art project using

foam and paint to make prints that represent different issues in society.

The group also enjoyed lunch at an authentic Mexican restaurant, El Paso Taqueria, a few blocks away from the museum.

SPHS Class of 1961 Seeking Alumni

SPHS Class of 1961 is soon approaching a 50 year reunion. Organizers are reaching out to obtain current addresses of as many graduates as possible. If you know a member of

the class of 1961, please forward this information to Brenda Belardo Ribar, Nancy Kahora Dowd and Geri Trivigno Beyer via email to class1961sphs@gmail.com.

2nd ANNUAL SACRED HEART 5K RUN & 1 MILE FAMILY FUN WALK

Saturday June 11, 2011

Check In 7:30 AM

Race Time 9:00AM

Sacred Heart School

1 Sacred Heart Drive

South Plainfield, NJ 07080

Entry Fees: 5K Race \$20.00 for applications received by May 1, 2011
\$25.00 for applications received after May 1, 2011
\$25.00 on the day of the race
\$5.00 for students with valid school ID or report card copy
1 MileWalk \$10.00 per family or individual

*****Free T-Shirt to First 100 Paid Participants*****

Register @ www.sacredheartsp.net or mail completed application with check payable to Sacred Heart to the above address. Contact Info: Carl Adlassnig randcautobody@aol.com
908.757.1933

ENTRY FORM

Name (Last, First) _____

Age _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

CIRCLE ONE: 5K Race / Fun Walk

CIRCLE ONE: T-Shirt (Adult Sizes) S / M / L / XL

Signature (Parent Signature if under 18) _____

Date _____

Email _____

In consideration of this signed entry form being accepted, I the undersigned intend to be legally bound hereby, my heirs, executors and administrators, waive and release Sacred Heart Church and School, all race supervisors, workers, sponsors and volunteers for any and all injuries, including death, suffered by me in the said event. I verify that I am, and/or my child who is participating, is physically fit for the completion of this event.

Send Your Milestones

to: South Plainfield Observer,
1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B
South Plainfield, NJ 07080
or fax (908) 668-8819
email: spobserver@comcast.net



South Plainfield Girl Scout Troop 65014 has been busy cleaning up the schools, streams and local parks this past winter. In a joint effort with Grant School Student Council, the girls spent several weekends cleaning up the Grant School grounds. The girls were surprised that their efforts resulted in a check for \$240 from the Borough of South Plainfield as part of the Clean Campus Program. They were happy to donate the check to Student Council Advisor Allison Schneider and Leo Whalen, Grant School principal. The Girl Scouts involved in the clean ups are Angel, Jade, Christina, Lindsey, Jackie, Courtney, Stephanie, Leanna, Samantha, Kristi, Megan, Lexie and Asha (not pictured). Good job, girls!

Lions Club Hosts Annual Gourmet Breakfast



Lion Mike Zushma prepares a made-to order omelet.

By Patricia Abbott

It wouldn't be Palm Sunday in South Plainfield without the Lions Club hosting its annual gourmet

breakfast. The event, held in the high school cafeteria, officially began at 8 a.m., but Lions members and their families, including children, were on the scene much earlier setting up and

doing food prep long before the doors opened. During the early hours of the breakfast there were long lines of hungry patrons.

The lines for breakfast were well organized with signs pointing the way to the many items available. The extensive menu included sausage, bacon, toast, French toast, Belgian waffles, potatoes, the popular made-to-order omelets with a wide choice of fillings, coffee, tea, orange juice and more.

The breakfast is more than just a South Plainfield tradition, it's a family tradition and an important once a year social event for many attendees who arrive early and stay long after they finish their breakfasts, talking with friends, family and neighbors. One example was a guest who was visiting from Simpsonville, S.C., Gabriele (Gaby) Hollain, a 26-year resident who was also a borough employee. Hollain noted how much she enjoys the breakfast and never failed to miss it when she was living in South Plainfield. She also lingered over her coffee while talking with her old friends. Her son, Mark Hollain, is a police officer in town.

Shortly after noon many of the Lions and other workers finally sat down to enjoy their own breakfasts. There were still several dozen people on hand, some waiting for the raffle and 50/50 drawings. Grand prize was a 42" Sharp TV and a Toshiba Blu-ray disc player, which was won by the O'Brien Family from Madison Drive. Marie Pinto won the 50/50 drawing.

The South Plainfield Lions Club annual gourmet breakfast tradition dates back approximately 50 years.

To place an ad in the Observer classifieds, call (908) 668-0010 by 5 p.m. on Monday.

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SPHS Music Boosters MUSIC NOTES

Executive Board Positions

Nominations and voting for the 2011-2012 executive board positions will take place on Tuesday, May 3 at the Music Boosters general meeting. If anyone is interested in being an executive board member for the 2011-2012 SPHS Boosters of the Musical Arts please plan on attending the meeting.

Important Dates to Remember

Tuesday, May 3—Music Boosters general meeting at 7 p.m. Important Disney information to be discussed.
Thursday, May 12—Music Booster

night at Burger King. Burger King, located on Park Avenue, will be donating 10% of receipts from 4 to 8 p.m. All profits will go to the Music Booster General Fund. Please come out and support the Music Boosters!

May 26 through May 31—Marching band/orchestra Disney trip.

Wednesday, June 1—senior awards banquet.

Tuesday, June 7—choral and instrumental concert.

Friday, June 10—Music Booster dinner banquet.

—Submitted by Donna Teller



Pictured (L-R) are Edison Mayor Antonia "Toni" Ricigilano, South Plainfield Mayor Matthew Anesh, Retro Fitness Edison owner Mitch Kurtzer and his girlfriend, Maggie Cardenas, with his children, sons Louis, 8 and Grant, 10 and daughter Jamie, 12.

Retro Fitness Hosts a Grand Opening Celebration

Retro Fitness gym, located at 3775 Park Ave. in Edison, held its grand opening celebration on April 16. Inclement weather forced the festivities inside, but that did not dampen the spirits of the more than 400 people who braved the wind and rain to celebrate the opening of the new, state-of-the-art gym.

Chefs Caterers prepared hot dogs,

hamburgers, veggie burgers, grilled chicken, pasta salad, potato salad and cole slaw. Hometown Heros provided cold sandwiches, and many vendors offered free samples of their products.

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held at noon with the mayors of Edison and South Plainfield participating.

policereport

- On April 8 Robert T. Williams, 47, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated and careless driving.
- Lori Ann Blend, 41, of South Plainfield was arrested at Kohl's for

shoplifting \$890 worth of children's clothing and candles.

- On April 10 a Hamilton Boulevard resident reported that four of five lug nuts from the passenger side rims of their vehicle had been removed.

Leaders Needed for Girl Scouts

South Plainfield Girl Scouts are looking for leaders for Daisy (K-1) and Brownie (2-4) troops.

There are currently girls interested in becoming Girl Scouts but there are

not enough leaders.

If you are interested in becoming a leader, or need more information, call Michelle Biggs at (908) 754-5791.

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Roosevelt Annual Grandparents Day

By Jane Dornick

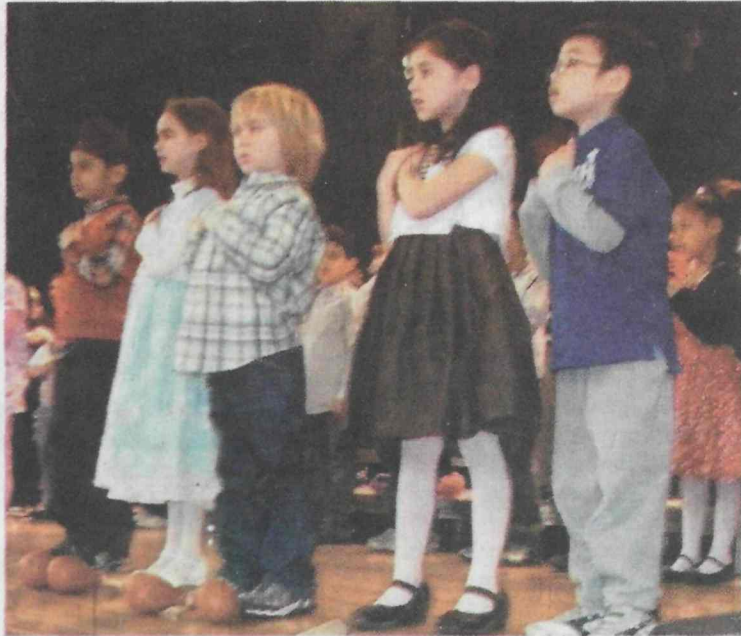
Roosevelt Elementary School presented its annual Grandparents Day program recently. The school staff understands how much time, attention and love is given to the students by their grandparents and so they honor them each year with kind words and a musical performance by the kindergarten classes.

The morning began with a few words from Principal Robert Diehl followed by the flag salute led by Aiden Medina, Daniel Bedoya, Mira Balaji and Hannah Ridley. The students then recited thoughtful poems about the many things their grandparents do for them including talking, reading and hugging.

Songs, led by music director Sharon Perez, highlighted the event. The class sang *America, We Are Roosevelt's Children, I'm Gonna Climb My Family Tree, Spend Some Time With Your Child, Let's Go See Our Grandparents, Skinnamarink* and *All I Really Need*.

During the performance, several students were asked to accompany the songs by playing instruments. Noah Santos and Emily Budhan played the sand blocks, Andrew Loniewski and Kalilah Hassan played the claves, Sukhraj Goraya played the cabasa, Ashley Correll and Patrick McAuley played the maracas and Grace Taber and Eric Ngyuen played the guiro.

The show's finale included the songs *Grandma, Grandpa, How I Love You, Here's a Flower Just for You* and *Now We Say Goodbye*. Refreshments were provided by the PTO following the program.



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The King and I directors, Joan Stasio and Lizbeth Arriola, along with members of the cast and crew.

Grant School Performs *The King and I*

By Patricia Abbott

Roger and Hammerstein's hit musical, *The King and I*, was the perfect vehicle for the large membership of the Grant School Drama Club. Directors Joan Stasio and Lizbeth Arriola worked with the enthusiastic cast for several months. The cast and crew included over 84 students.

The characters and plot were introduced to the children early on in the rehearsal process. They worked several times a week learning lines, blocking, songs and more. "The kids really seemed to enjoy the show especially after we kept explaining it and they began to understand the true meaning of the story and characters," said Stasio.

Among the featured performers were Ryan Marston as the King of Siam, MacKenzie Larsen as Anna Leonowens, an English teacher; Michael Menkin as Captain Orton, Alea Watson as Ying, the narrator; Zachary Prehn as Louis Leonowens, Anna's

son; Jameer Robinson as The Kralahome, the King's executive officer; Alexis Salernitano; Joseph Kelly as Lun Tha, an emissary from Burma; Megyn DiCarlo as Tuptim, a girl from Burma; Zion Spears as Lady Thiang, the King's head wife; Philip DeFort as Prince Chulalongkorn, heir to the throne; Haley Medina as Princess Ying, a royal daughter; Tommy Licato as Sir Edward Ramsay, a British diplomat; Kristi Maher as Another Child, Shea Price as Another Child #2, Gina Taricani as Butri, a wife; Talia Wilson as Thara, another wife; and Stephanie Waters, Sara Regan, Sierra Pasquerella, John Boyce and Chloe Wilson as musicians. Forty-two students played the King's children; a dozen played the wives and three students played guards. There were two special appearances by Harlee Larsen and Jake Rochette.

The musical is a favorite, both on stage and on film. *The King & I* tells the tale of Anna, a British English teacher hired to tutor the King of Siam's children. A widower, she arrives with her young son to find the king has many children and wives, and her job will be a daunting one. The teacher and the King clash over many issues, but during the disputes a love story

begins to unfold.

The show features such classic songs as *Getting to Know You*, *Shall We Dance?* and *I Whistle a Happy Tune*. The show ran April 13 and 14. There was an afternoon performance for the student body on Wednesday as well as an evening performance. Both evening performances played to huge crowds.

Stasio and Arriola have been working together producing Grant School shows for five years. Stasio has been working on shows at Grant since she began working at the school 10 years ago.

"Liz and I are a great team. We love working together and plan to continue," said Stasio. "Liz and I do everything. The Rodgers & Hammerstein junior musicals are called G2K (getting to know) musicals. You pay one price and you get everything you need to do the show—lots of educational directing instructions, history, CDs and a choreography video. We use everything. We rented microphones from Rod Reilly and we borrowed an amp from the high school. Teacher Mark Tweed worked really hard to get it to sound great. We hired SPHS alumni Sean Walsh to run the lights. We borrowed a spotlight from the middle school. The Dunn Family made us a curtain for the set. Parent Mr. DeFort assisted by his wife built the set at their home and then brought it and installed it. Volunteer Luanne Severini, the stage crew and Mrs. Arriola painted the book shelves and more. A lot of parents helped as well."

The King and I was the fifth musical to be staged by the amazing team of Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II. The musical premiered on March 29, 1951 at Broadway's St. James Theatre.

Sports

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Varsity Calendar Highlights

Friday, April 29–Thursday, May 5

With Spring Break behind us, now's the time that sporting events go in to full swing. Tigers Boys and Girls Track will be competing at the GMC Coaches Relays on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 3-4 at 3:30 p.m. in South Brunswick. Here's what else is happening in South Plainfield High School sports for the upcoming week:

Boys

- **Baseball**—11 a.m. Saturday, April 30 away vs. JFK; 3:45 p.m. Monday, May 2 home vs. Edison; 3:45 p.m. Wednesday, May 4 home vs. Monroe Township; 3:45 p.m. Thursday, May 5 away vs. Monroe Township.
- **Golf**—3:30 p.m. Monday, May

2 away vs. Monroe Township; 3:45 p.m. Wednesday, May 4 home vs. St. Joseph.

- **Tennis**—3:45 p.m. Monday, May 2 away vs. Monroe Township; 3:45 p.m. Wednesday, May 4 home vs. Colonia.

Girls

- **Lacrosse**—10 a.m. on Saturday, April 30 home vs. North Brunswick; 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 3 away vs. East Brunswick; 4 p.m. Thursday, May 5 away vs. Ranney School/Tinton Falls.

- **Softball**—4 p.m. today, April 29 away vs. Scotch Plains-Fanwood; 4 p.m. Monday, May 2 away vs. Somerville; 3:45 p.m. Tuesday, May 3 home vs. JFK Memorial.

SOUTH PLAINFIELD SOCCER CLUB

By Dawn Hutchison

Candy Fundraiser Ends May 8

We hope everyone enjoyed the holiday break last weekend, now it's time to get back to soccer. Looks like the weather will even start cooperating with warmer days. Hard to believe, but we are just weeks away from the end of the Spring season. Just a few reminders of what is going on with the club right now.

- Our candy fundraiser is underway. Please be sure to return your candy money to your coach no later than May 8.

- Tryouts for the Fall 2011/Spring 2012 season will take place May 9-12. Tryouts are open to all players interested in the U-8 through U-14 age groups. Tryouts for the U-8 through U-10 age groups will be May 9 and 11 and the U-11 through U-14 age groups will be held on May 10 and 12. For age requirements and additional information, please visit our website, www.soplfdsoccerclub.com. Preregistration forms can also be downloaded from this site. If you have questions, please call the club at (908) 755-3550 and leave a clear message with your name and number. A club representative will return your call.
- The SPSC Scholarship is again

being offered to two individuals chosen from applications submitted. Each winner will receive a \$500 scholarship. The SPSC Scholarship application and requirements can be found on our website, www.soplfdsoccerclub.com. Deadline for submissions is May 20.

Here's this week's home games. Come on out and see an exciting game of soccer.

Wanderers—Saturday, April 30, 4 p.m. at Kenneth Field #1.

Ambush—Saturday, April 30, 6 p.m. at Kenneth Field #1.

Fusion—Sunday, May 1, 12:30 p.m. at Kenneth Field #1.

Arsenal—Sunday, May 1 at 2:30 p.m. at Kenneth Field #1.

Strikers—Sunday, May 1, 4:30 p.m. at Kenneth Field #1.

Wanderers—Sunday, May 1, 1:30 p.m. at Memorial Field.

Magic—Sunday, May 1, 3:30 p.m. at Memorial Field.

Spartans—Monday, May 2, 7 p.m. at Kenneth Field #2.

SPHS Baseball Game Postponed

The SPHS baseball game vs. JFK originally scheduled for Saturday, April 23 was cancelled due to rain and has been rescheduled for Tuesday, May 10 at 6:30 p.m. All tickets that were purchased in advance will be accepted for the rescheduled game.

For ticket information, please see SPHS Coaches Guida, Mosca, Batista and Darby or any of the SPHS baseball team players.

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Obituaries

Margaret (Fotia) Trocodeo, 91



Margaret (Fotia) Trocodeo passed away peacefully at her home after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease on Wednesday, April 20.

Born in Plainfield, Margaret settled in South Plainfield where she was a resident for 60 years. A homemaker for most of her life, Margaret worked with her family at their store in Plainfield many years ago. She also worked at the former Cornell-Dubilier Manufacturing Company in South Plainfield and had been a candy maker for the former Helen Elliot store on Route 22 in North Plainfield. Margaret and her late husband, John, were active communicants of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield. She was known to be an excellent cook and loved to play bingo.

She is predeceased by her beloved husband, John, who died in 2004; four sisters, Marie, Anna, Lena and Josephine; and by three brothers, Rocco, Salvatore and Dominic.

Surviving are two daughters, Linda Malvone and husband Chris of Atlantic Highlands and Rosemarie Trocodeo of Florida; a brother, Rudolph Fotia of South Plainfield; and her longtime, devoted caretaker, Natia. Also surviving are two granddaughters, Jennifer and husband Scott Grieves and Christine and husband Herbert Ruiz; and two great-granddaughters, Olivia Grieves and Sophia Ruiz.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, Greater N.J. Chapter, 400 Morris Ave., Suite 251, Denville, N.J. 07834.

Virginia R. (Fioravanti) Frisco, 74



Virginia R. (Fioravanti) Frisco passed away on Friday, April 22 at Overlook Hospital in Summit after a brief illness. Born October 24, 1936 in Plainfield to the late Dominica "Minnie" Rubustelli and Adolph Fioravanti, Virginia resided in North Plainfield for most of her life.

A homemaker primarily, she also worked for many years as a seamstress at the former Robert Dress Company in Middlesex.

She enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and family, listening to classical music, playing the organ, crocheting as well as playing bingo and cards.

A brother, Eugene P. Fioravanti, died in 1961.

Surviving are her beloved husband of 49 years, Andrew; a daughter, Roberta Boos; a son, Robert Frisco and wife Patti; two sisters, Dolores Bagonyi and Joyce Puckett; and two brothers, Adolph and Joseph. Also surviving are six grandchildren, Nicholas, Jason, Jimmy, Michael, Brandon and Alyssa and five great-grandchildren, as well as many beloved nieces and nephews.

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

Edward Kiernan Hogan, 87

Edward Kiernan Hogan died on Thursday, April 21 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

Born and raised in Plainfield, Mr.

Hogan had resided in South Plainfield since 1953.

A lieutenant in the U.S. Navy, Mr. Hogan was a pilot during WWII and for 21 years he worked for Rutgers University in New Brunswick in the campus security division prior to his retirement.

He is survived by a daughter, Mary McAbee and husband William of San Mateo, Calif.; five sons, Dodd Hogan and wife Julie of South Plainfield, Timothy Hogan and wife Anita also of South Plainfield, Peter Hogan and Sean Hogan, both of Middlesex and Christopher Hogan of Plainfield; a sister, Patricia Pelizzoni of Allentown, Pa.; and six grandchildren.

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

Theresa (Sacco) Kalapach, 96

Theresa (Sacco) Kalapach died on Wednesday, April 20 surrounded by her loving family at Haven Hospice located within JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born in New York City, Theresa was a lifelong resident of South Plainfield.

She was a longtime member of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield and her passion was gardening and maintaining her home. Theresa enjoyed cooking for her family, especially around the holidays.

She is predeceased by her husband, George; a granddaughter, Lisa Marie; a son-in-law, Robert Grohe; and six siblings, William, Joseph, Angelina, Nicholas, Anna and Grace.

Theresa leaves behind four children, Georgann Reinartz of Franklin Park, William and Rhonda Kalapach of East Stroudsburg, Pa., Lucille "Lucy" Grohe of Keyport and Anthony and Elsie Kalapach of Union Beach; five grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and two sisters, Millie and husband Guido Abbruzzese of South Plainfield and Mary Gallo of Central Islip, N.Y.

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

Julia E. (Bartus) Vakerich, 81

Julia E. (Bartus) Vakerich died on Monday, April 25 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Rahway.

Born and raised in Manville, Mrs. Vakerich had resided in South Plainfield since 1957.

Julia worked for Chanel in Piscataway for over 20 years and she enjoyed her trips to Atlantic City.

She was a member of Sacred Heart RC Church, the South Plainfield Senior Citizens and the Red Hat Club.

She is predeceased by her husband, Charles; a son, Charles John and three brothers.

Surviving is a son, Kenneth and wife Juanita of South Plainfield; two sisters, Dorothy Zebrowski of Manville and Susan Gittleman and husband Abe, also Manville.

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

Donations can be made to the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Dept. 123 Maple Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad 2520 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

Anna (Rakoncza) Lencheski, 99



Anna (Rakoncza) Lencheski died on Saturday, April 23 at the Brandywine Assisted Living in Bridgewater.

Born and raised in Carteret, Anna had resided in Perth Amboy for 15 years before moving to South Plainfield in 1943.

Mrs. Lencheski was an avid sports fan.

She is predeceased by her husband, Theodore and son, Fred DeMarco.

Surviving is a daughter, Phillis Collins and husband William Ronald of Middlesex; a son, Theodore A. Jr. of Phoenix, Ariz.; five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

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

Classified Ads Get Results.

To place a classified ad, call (908) 668-0010 by 5 p.m. on Monday.

LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE Award of Bids

Pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Law of New Jersey, be advised that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield awarded contracts for Senior Citizen Yard Waste Collection Services and the painting of the helicopter at Memorial Park at their public meeting on April 18, 2011. By Resolution # 11-090 and 11-100, the governing body awarded contracts as follows:

Contract #1 - Senior Citizen Yard Waste Collection Services was awarded to:

Pinto Brothers
South Plainfield, NJ 07080,
Total Bid - \$11,200.00
Contract dates: April 1, 2011 - October 31, 2011

Contract #2 - Painting of helicopter at Memorial Park was awarded to:

Natelli Brothers Painting and Construction
88 Sherman Ave, Edison, NJ
Total Bid - \$3,250.00

Joann L. Graf, Municipal Clerk
\$38.28 April 29, 2011

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Jim and Tracey Lundy requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit proposed pool deck, requires a 5' side yard setback; 45" is proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 108 Vakerich Place, Block 240, Lot 5; Zone R-10 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, May 12, 2011 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey at 7:00 p.m.

The files and documents pertaining to this appeal are available for public inspection in the Planning/Zoning Office in Borough Hall between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

\$38.50

April 29, 2011

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

The Borough of South Plainfield is submitting an application for a permit or approval to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) under the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act rules, N.J.A.C. 7:7A for an individual freshwater wetlands permit for the Proposed Hollywood Avenue Truck Bypass Route.

The activities for which the application requests NJDEP approval are for cutting or clearing of trees and/or other vegetation and placement of pavement or other impervious surface.

The proposed work includes the extension of Hollywood Avenue from its current terminus east of Ryan Street to Metuchen Road, south of Harmich Road. The project area includes Block 383, Lot 1; Block 384, Lot 1.01; Block 385, Lot 1.02; Block 386, Lot 1.01; Block 387, Lots 2 & 3; Block 388, Lots 17, -18, 28, 7.01, 5-6, & 3; Block 390, Lots 28 & 24. The proposed road will include a crossing of the Bound Brook, crossing a Tributary to the Bound Brook and the disturbance of less than 3/4 of an acre of wetlands.

A copy of the application is on file at the Borough of South Plainfield's Municipal Clerk's Office, or you can call the NJDEP at (609) 777-0454 to make an appointment to see the application documents at NJDEP offices in Trenton during normal business hours.

Comments should be submitted to the NJDEP in writing within 30 days after the Department publishes notice of the application in the DEP Bulletin to:

New Jersey Department of
Environmental Protection
Division of Land Use Regulation
P.O. Box 439
Trenton, New Jersey 08625
Attn: Middlesex County Section Chief

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April 29, 2011

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Suburban Woman's Club NEWS



Danielle Marie Butrico, granddaughter of Diane Gallo, the club's recording secretary, models an outfit for the fashion show.

Charity Fashion Show Benefits Scholarships

The Suburban Woman's Club hosted a fashion show luncheon on April 10 at the South Plainfield Senior Center.

The meeting room at the center was filled with a joyful group lunching, viewing fashions and taking their chances on the beautiful array of baskets and prizes that were gathered and prepared by the club members. The affair was for the benefit of The Wellness Community and the club's scholarship fund. The Wellness Community is designated as the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs Special State Project for 2011-2012. Through this program, assistance is provided to help cancer victims and their families. Eunice Jadowicki, executive director of The Wellness Community in Bedminster, was a special guest, as was Ann Ribinsky Brown, the NJSFWC College District vice president.

The club's scholarship fund will provide \$1,000 scholarships to two South Plainfield High School seniors this year and a special permanent item will be purchased for The Wellness Community in Bedminster.

The fashions were provided by The Dress Barn of South Plainfield and the models were club members and some of their daughters and granddaughters.

Childhood Friends

(Continued from page 1)

Alicino has performed in more than 50 plays and also appeared on the popular daytime soap opera, *General Hospital*, in a small role as an old girlfriend of mobster Sonny Corinthos. She has also written a pilot for ABC and directed a one-act play at the Beverly Hills Playhouse.

"I enjoyed a small role in *Made of Honor* (much of it cut), but I really loved working with Patrick Dempsey," said Alicino. "I have a small role in a film coming out in June called *Rehab*," a horror genre/thriller co-written and produced by David Caruso of *CSI: Miami* fame. Alicino plays the role of the mother of a troubled teenaged actress. Another project Alicino has just wrapped filming is the low-budget, indie flick directed by Buz Alexander, *Venice by the Sea*. In that film, she plays Madame Yolanda, a tarot card reader who can see into the future.

For more information on *HOP* or to view a trailer online, visit the movie's official website at www.iwantcandy.com.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Bill Grippo

There has been a change in the location of the receptacle for used batteries. The library no longer has a bucket; all batteries for recycling must be brought to Borough Hall.

Patrons have stopped in to ask about e-books. The library subscribes to ListenNJ which includes both downloadable audio-books and e-books (you access this database through our website, www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us). Readers supported by this program include the Nook, Sony E-Reader, iPad, iPhone, Android and both Windows and Mac computers. Books fall into two groups, those that are in the public domain and those that are not. Public domain books are usually older items that have been around for a long time, the other group are newer materials. Authors like James Patterson, Lee Child, Debbie Macomber, Agatha Christie and Eloisa James. Titles include Patterson's Women's Murder Club series, Sookie Stackhouse series, and more. There are also non-fiction books including biographies of Lincoln, memoirs by Sarah Palin and Craig Ferguson, popular recent books like *Atlantic: Great Sea Battles, Heroic Discoveries, Titanic Storms* and *A Vast Ocean of a Million Stories* by Simon Winchester, *Barack and Michelle: Portrait of a Marriage* by Christopher Andersen, *The Black Swan: The Impact of the Highly Improbable*, with a new section, *On Robustness and Fragility* by Nassim Nicholas Taleb, and many more. In fact, there are close to 2,000 e-books available in this database and another 15,000 e-books in the public domain database. These figures do not include all the audio-books which are available, so instead of joining a pay service why not use the one the library provides for free?

With the demise of video stores, remember that the library does carry almost all the latest DVDs. We have everything from *The King's Speech* to *Rabbit Hole* to *Toy Story 3* and *Mega-mind*. Best of all is that as long as they are returned on time they are free (a price that you cannot match at any store). So stop in and check out our video collection which also includes television shows from *Friends* to *Breaking Bad* and *Nurse Jackie*.

Finally, to get the most out of the new HBO series, *Game of Thrones*, you can stop in and pick up the award-winning books on which the series is based. An epic series by George R. R. Martin, it combines fantasy with the more traditional story (to quote Shakespeare) "Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown." Twins who see too much of each other, murderous kings, rebellious nobles, honorable children who try to respect and avenge their elders all have roles in this exciting adventure.

Miss Mija and Miss Linda will have their usual story and craft times this week. Programs for three and up are Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday at 1:15 p.m. "Time for 2s and 3s" is Wednesday and Thursday at 10:30 a.m. and "Books and Babies" is Friday at 10:30 a.m. All are free and registration is not required. Miss Mija and Miss Linda request that participants arrive before the starting time of the program so that children can get name tags and receive the full benefits of the program.

If you have any questions, call (908) 754-7885 or visit us at 2484 Plainfield Ave. (across the parking lot from Borough Hall). Our hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Tuesday and Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 1:30 to 5 p.m.



Riley School students assist magician and illusionist, Joe Holiday.

Riley Students Read 4,005 Books

By Jane Dornick

During the month of March, Riley Elementary School students were challenged to read as many books as possible. This year's read-a-thon theme, "Catch the Wave," inspired the children to read 4,005 books. For each book read, students recorded the name of the book on a beach ball, bucket or fish which were placed on the gymnasium wall. With the large number of books read, the entire gym was nearly covered.

For their efforts, the PTSO treated the entire school to a show by award winning magician and illusionist Joe Holiday on April 1. From Singapore and Seoul, South Korea to the casinos of his hometown in Atlantic City, Holiday has been a featured performer at both the Trump Plaza and Showboat Casino Hotels for over 25 years.

The PTSO will also be giving the class in each grade that read the most

books an Italian ice party in the next few weeks. The winning classes were: Kindergarten-Mrs. Bohl, first grade-Mrs. Gaster, second grade-Mrs. Sotiriou, third grade-Mrs. Hajduk and fourth grade-Mrs. Dispenziere.

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The Recreation Department annual Easter egg hunt, which was postponed due to inclement weather, was held last Friday. Hundreds of children, along with their parents, showed up for the event. There were plenty of eggs for each child who participated. They all received a special gift, a stuffed bunny, in addition to all of the eggs they collected. The Easter Bunny was present, which was evident by the long line of children waiting to speak to him.

Moretti Competes in Fundraiser Event

By Kelly Stashko

Anthony Moretti, a resident of South Plainfield, participated in the Tough Mudder event at Bear Creek in Allentown, Pa. on April 10. All Tough Mudder events challenge individuals in endurance and strength and promote team building. For this event, Anthony and his friends competed in a 10+ mile race/obstacle course in a fundraising effort for the Wounded Warriors Project (WWP).

Moretti asked his friends, family and members of the community to pledge a donation, for which he raised over \$2,000. All monies raised by Moretti and others went towards WWP, a non-profit organization designed to raise awareness and provide support for wounded service members, who in turn benefit by the programs provided by the WWP to assist them in recovery.

"Every day we get to enjoy this great country and the freedom and opportunity it offers. We are afforded this privilege because of our selfless service men and women who risk their lives every day so that we don't have to," said Moretti.

The sold out Tough Mudder week-



Anthony Moretti, third from left, with his team prior to the Tough Mudder event at Bear Creek in Allentown, Pa. "sans" mud. That would come later!

end at Bear Creek had 10,000 participants, along with a waiting list. There were more obstacles than originally anticipated, among them uphill climbs, downhill slides, tunnel crawls, and a "cliff hanger" which was a 15 foot jump into icy water. Of the 5,000 participants who competed in Sunday's event, only 78% completed the race. Moretti was among them.

At the finish line, those 21 years of age and older were able to partake in some hops and potassium—that is, a cold beer and a bunch of bananas. "We had a blast!" exclaimed Moretti. "At the start, I was completely clean; at the end, it took me three showers to get off most of the mud I was covered in." Would he do it again? "Absolutely," he stated. That's one Tough Mudder!

The third annual South Plainfield Education Foundation wine/beer tasting event will take place on Friday at the Italian American Club.

Tiger 24 will be held on Saturday at Jost Field from 9 a.m. to midnight. Come walk and/or run and support the high school peer leader's efforts to raise funds for local families in need.

The high school Hall of Fame inductee luncheon, sponsored by the South Plainfield Education Foundation Alumni Association and the Boyle Memorial Foundation, will be held on Thursday, June 2 at Adeline's Ristorante on Hamilton Boulevard.

The rained out game for the baseball team vs. JFK has been rescheduled for Tuesday, May 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the Patriots TD Bank Ballpark. Tickets originally purchased will be honored. To purchase tickets, see Coaches Guida, Mosca, Batista, Darby or any of the team players. They are \$10 each.

High school AP testing will take place Monday, May 9 through Thursday, May 12. Algebra 1 testing takes place Monday, May 23 through Thursday, May 26. The spring concert will take

WHAT'S GOING ON IN MY TOWN

FROM A BUSY BUSY MOM

jd

place on Thursday, May 26.

The middle school planting and campus cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April 30. NJASK testing is Wednesday, May 4 through Friday, May 6; makeup testing is Monday, May 9 through Wednesday, May 11. The school play is Friday, May 13 at 7 p.m. and the spring concerts are Thursday, May 19 and Thursday, May 26. An anti-bullying assembly is also scheduled for Thursday, May 26.

The middle school PTO hosted picture day with Lifetouch. Packages will be arriving home with the students. Parents may choose the entire package or individual photos. Pictures not purchased should be returned to the PTO and checks made payable to Lifetouch. Thank you to Joan Rochotte and Lisa Abate for assisting during the event. The PTO book fair was April 12, 13 and 14. Thank you to Chairwoman Eileen Brady and those who helped out during the day; MaryAnn Quin, Linda Kelly, Jen Falcone, Diane

Schmidt, Maria Jones, Deane Croce., Lisa Abate, Margaret Rodriguez, Stephanie Wolak, Lisa Santone and Barbara Bythell. Thanks to Kyle Brady for your help during PTO volleyball tournament and the clothing drive along with Jack Brady.

The South Plainfield Business Association cleanup of the overpass on Hamilton Boulevard has been rescheduled for this Saturday at 9 a.m. Meet at Cornerstone Architectural Group parking lot on Church Street.

Grant School NJASK testing runs Monday, May 9 through Thursday, May 12; makeup testing is Monday, May 16 through Thursday, May 19.

Franklin School will host the pre-order flower sale Wednesday, May 4 and regular flower sale Thursday, May 5 and Friday, May 6; Market Day is Monday, May 9 and Fitness Day is Wednesday, May 25 with a rain date of Thursday, May 26. The Walk for Diabetes will take place on Friday, May 13. DARE graduation is Monday, May 23 and an anti-bullying assembly will take place on Thursday, May 26.



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