

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 14, NO. 37

Member New Jersey Press Association

60 CENTS

MAY 20, 2011

Wells Fargo Robbed

Wells Fargo Bank, located in Middlesex Mall at the corner of Stelton and Hadley roads, was robbed on May 17 at 2:30 p.m.

The suspect is described as a Hispanic male wearing black cloth-

ing and a red baseball cap. He demanded cash and fled on foot with an undetermined amount of cash.

The FBI and the South Plainfield Police Department are investigating the incident.

Council Cuts School Budget by \$526,000

Tax Increase Reduced to \$85

By Jane Dornick

The Borough Council approved \$526,000 in cuts from the 2011/2012 school board budget at Monday evening's meeting. An increase of \$1.24M over last year's school budget was defeated by voters in the April 17 elections. The council hired the Westfield CPA firm of Suplee, Clooney & Company at a cost of \$7,000 to provide accounting and professional services to assist in the proceedings.

The 2011/2012 Fiscal Year budget, to which the board of education must adhere, will be \$52,149,285; \$40,139,182 of which will be raised by property taxes. State aid figures for the district total \$7,779,921 in Equalization Aid and Special Education Categorical Aid, an increase of almost

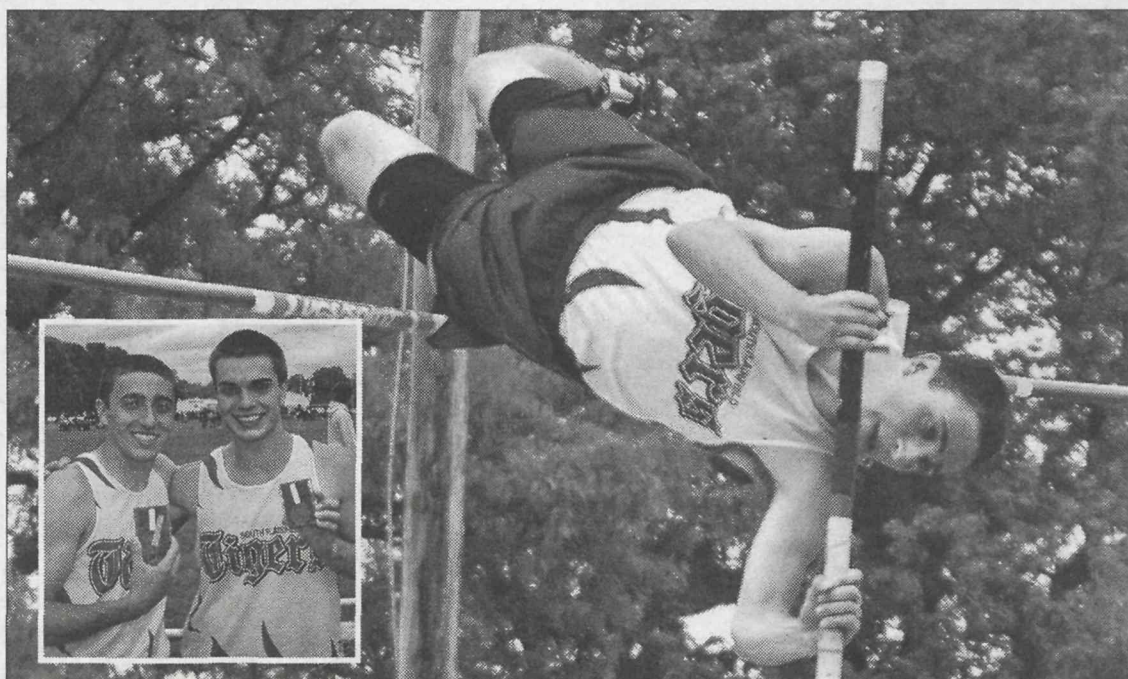
a half million dollars over last year.

The Board of Education is scheduled to meet on Wednesday evening (after presstime) and a vote will be taken to approve the cuts suggested by the council, and then formal action will be taken on the 2011/2012 school year budget.

Property owners will see the school portion of their tax bill rise approximately \$85 per year based on an average home assessed at \$123,000 as opposed to \$131 had the budget has passed.

Even with the addition of nearly \$714,000 more than last year's budget, the board still plans to cut 33 staff members. Over 100 employees received "Rice" notices recently after the budget was defeated. Under Rice

(Continued on page 12)



James Gerber's championship winning pole vault at the GMC Track and Field Tournament. (Inset) Gerber and fourth place winner, Jesse Deffler, display their medals. —Photos courtesy of Don Hunsinger.

Gerber Makes So. Plainfield History

Named Pole Vault County Champion-GMC Track & Field

By Kelly Stashko

South Plainfield High School junior James Gerber was named Middlesex County Champion after a jump off against South Brunswick's Jaleel Alston in the pole vault competition at the Greater Middlesex Conference (GMC) Track and Field championships last Saturday. Everyone at Jost Field watched this event unfold as the two rivals took eight additional jumps to determine the outcome. His personal best, Gerber's winning jump height was 12 feet, six inches. James is the first county champion in the pole vault in South Plainfield history. Sophomore Jesse Deffler, who also jumped a personal best at 11 feet, six inches, joined James at the podium.

South Plainfield High School juniors Casey Butrico and Kelly Walsh also took medals in the girls pole vault competition. Casey placed second with a jump height of eight feet. Taking third, Kelly had a jump height of seven feet, six inches.



South Plainfield GMC Pole Vault medal winners (L-R): Jesse Deffler, Casey Butrico, James Gerber and Kelly Walsh. —Photo courtesy of Don Hunsinger

In other competitions, junior Danny Lyew finished sixth in the county in the 100 meter dash. Juniors

Alexis Cargill finished fifth in the discus and Moriah Kunch placed sixth in the javelin.

New Vision and Mission Statements Approved by Library Board Trustees

By Libby Barsky

The Library Board of Trustees is appealing to the State Librarian to ascertain whether monies held by the library, specifically \$750,000 directed toward the construction of a new library building, will be designated "excess funds" which can be used by the borough for tax relief. Eric Aronowitz, president of the Library Board of Trustees, asserts the surplus was acquired from donations from patrons and fundraising projects over many years while the majority of the council say the surplus is the result of the state formula used to fund the library during prior years.

To take their case to the State Li-

brarian, the Library Board will present new Library Vision and Library Mission statements, as well as capital projects and technology plans. To help assemble these statements and plans, the library is using the services of Suzan Globus, in conjunction with Library Director Sundra Randolph and members of the Library Board.

At its April 11 meeting, members of the library board approved the new Library Vision and Library Mission statements that will be presented to the State Librarian for review and approval by May 31. A decision on whether or not the library will keep the funds or transfer them to the borough will be made within 45 days in conjunction with the Division of

Local Government Services.

The first drafts of the Vision Statement state:

"The South Plainfield Public Library is a source of pride for the town residents as a community center offering programs, education and information resources to all ages, persons and abilities. The library attracts new residents and resulting services and provides increased value to the town while building a stronger community of informed technologically savvy residents."

(Continued on page 12)



(L-R) South Plainfield High School Vice Principal Ralph Errico, Marjorie Reedy and Lawrence O'Connell, chair and chief volunteer officer, United Way of Central Jersey.

Reedy Named Hometown Hero

Marjorie Reedy, who exemplifies the true meaning and spirit of volunteerism, was honored by the United Way of Central Jersey at a dinner held at Middlesex County College on May 12.

Reedy was nominated by the South Plainfield High School Guidance Department for the United Way of Central Jersey Hometown Heroes Program which recognizes individuals with outstanding volunteer service who have made a positive impact on the quality of life in their community. Reedy was nominated for her commitment to the students of SPHS and the community.

As president of the South Plainfield Education Foundation, a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization

created to seek financial support from the business community to underwrite scholarships and academic incentives for SPHS students, Reedy has been involved in the planning and fundraising efforts for the foundation's annual golf outing, wine tasting and Labor Day 5K race which provides funds for scholarships and academic incentive programs. The foundation provides annual scholarships and acts as a clearinghouse for funds from other scholarships provided by local individuals and organizations. The Gold Card Program is an incentive program funded by the foundation which fosters student scholastic and civic responsibility culminating in

(Continued on page 12)



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

June 6 June 6

June 20 June 20

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 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 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.) June 8, July 13, Aug. 17, Sept. 14, Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 14, Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 14 and April 4.

Regular Public Meeting (begin at 7:30 p.m.) June 15, July 13, Aug. 17, Sept. 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 16, Dec. 21, Jan. 18, Feb. 15, March 21 and April 11.

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.

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.

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

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 plan sub-committee

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

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

To be announced. 7:30 p.m. in the Senior Center Questions? 908-226-7605

South Plainfield Observer

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

How to Reach Us



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

SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

In My Opinion

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

To the Editor:

It was my privilege to attend the annual Junior Journalist dinner held on May 11. Charlie and Debbie Kurland of Hometown Heros and Nancy Grennier of the *South Plainfield Observer* run this program all year. They select winners during the course of the school year, and when a winner is chosen they provide dinner to the student who won and their families. At the end of the year, they provide a wonderful dinner and awards program for all the students and their families.

It is so nice to see the students read their poems, essays and songs to the audience at the dinner. These young people were so poised while they read their winning entries. I am so pleased to know that their teachers are encouraging them to write frequently and submit their entries. In this age of computers it's so important to make sure that students know how to write well.

Thank you to Charlie, Debbie and Nancy for continuing this program for our students. You are all truly Hometown Heros!

**SINCERELY,
MARJORIE M. REEDY, PRESIDENT
SP EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

To the Editor:

I just wanted to thank the volunteers who donated their time and material to give the municipal courtroom a much needed facelift. Your combined efforts resulted in completing the new acoustical ceiling, energy efficient lighting, modification of HVAC system, drywall installation, wallpaper and refinishing the dais.

Councilman Alex Barletta, Brian Capparelli, Bill Pastor, Leo Johnson, Manny Arlequin, John Orlando, Dan Grubaugh, Peter Malishuk, Captain Matt Koep, Officer Mark Hollian (One Call Electric), Mike Visocchi, Kenny Bonanno, Robert Graff DPW, Bob Longo (Cornerstone Architects), Jafco Supply, Feldman Brothers Electrical Supply. I also would like to thank Glenn Cullen, John Pabst and DPW for their support making this project run so smoothly. Also a special thanks to Bobby Capparelli for his tireless energy and assistance. Cappi is such a terrific asset as superintendent; he is what makes South Plainfield a wonderful town to live in. In these tough economic times they generously gave

to help fight for our town's success. If we join together with our talents, working towards our bright future, all things are possible.

**GOD BLESS YOU ALL,
DAVID MIGLIS**

Dear Editor,

The third annual Education Foundation Fine Wine, Spirits and Craft Beer Tasting fundraiser was held on April 29. As chairpersons of this event, we would like to thank everyone who purchased tickets and supported this event (SPEA, mayor and council, residents, vendors and friends). The money raised goes toward various events for South Plainfield students including the high school Gold Card picnic, scholarships, buses for the Grant School Stokes trip, buses for the middle school Washington, D.C. trip and teacher requests. These are just some of the many events that the South Plainfield Education Foundation supports.

The preparation for this event is time consuming and we would like to thank Marge Reedy, Shannon Jefferys and Carolyn Allen for helping to set up the South Plainfield Italian-American Club; the South Plainfield Italian-American Club for the use of the facility and for being so accommodating; Rich D'Urso for printing the tickets; Nancy and Wayne Grennier for continually publicizing this event and your attendance along with Jane Dornick for designing the ad; Dan and Jen Ratti for all your hard work with the vendors who were very cordial to our guests; Joann Graf for working with us to obtain all the necessary ABC permits; and to Carolyn Allen and Dan and Jen Ratti for all your help with the clean up at the end of this wonderful event. Thank you for another great year and we look forward to an even bigger event next year.

I would also like to thank Nancy Grennier and Tom Stillman for your continued support of the clean up at the Hamilton Boulevard overpass on the corner of Hamilton Boulevard and Church Street, which is the Adopt-A-Spot for the South Plainfield Business Association.

**SINCERELY,
DEBBIE AND BOB BOYLE,
CHAIRPERSONS FOR THE SPEA
WINE TASTING FUNDRAISER**

Submit Your Letters to the Editor

Send your letters to South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax to 908-668-8819, or via email: spobserver@comcast.net. **Deadline is Monday, 5 p.m.** Letters must be accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. Limit letters to no more than 200 words. We reserve the right to refuse a letter, to edit for clarity or length, and to limit the number of letters submitted on the same subject. Submission is not a guarantee of publication. We do not accept anonymous letters. Letters are strictly opinion.

Dear Editor, Family & Friends,

You probably already know that I've become very active in the fight against breast cancer and have participated in quite a few fundraising events that help those affected by this disease. I started this journey in 2008 when I decided to take a long distance walk to benefit the breast cancer cause.

Having completed the walk in Boston, Mass., New York City and Charlotte, N.C., this year will be the fourth year that I will take the steps toward ending it by participating in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer on September 17 and 18 in Santa Barbara, Calif. I will walk 39.3 miles as one with a community of thousands during this event. I walk for those who are not as fortunate, for those who can't afford proper medical care and for those who are seeking a cure for this disease.

It will take a lot of training and preparation, but I'm committed to doing whatever it takes. I am honored to be walking with others who have made the same courageous commitment—to help raise awareness and funding for this devastating disease. We will sleep in tents, shower in trucks and push ourselves far beyond what we ever thought we were capable of doing. I have to admit: I also do this walk because it's one of the best weekends ever! It's a community of many diverse people coming together with one single goal. We are greeted as heroes with every step. It's very powerful, and it's a lot of fun! To learn more, please visit www.avonfoundation.org.

To all of you who have supported me in past walks, you have my deepest thanks and I welcome you back as an important part of my support team.

I need your help to raise at least \$1,800 in donations. Now is the time to take action. Your donation can help ensure that we can make those statistics decline and that those already suffering can get the care and treatment that everyone deserves. To make a tax-deductible contribution, just visit my fundraising page at www.avonwalk.org/goto/DEEMCCRISKIN, or if you prefer, write a check payable to "Avon Walk for Breast Cancer" and send it to: Dee McCriskin, 1225 McDonough St., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

You may already know someone whose life has been touched by breast cancer. If you don't chances are you someday will! Thank you for your continued support!

DEE MCCRISKIN



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Tiger 24 volunteers Rachel Alexa, Marla Vandermark, Brigitte Kelly, Richard Rotella, Duylan Dorby (Tiger) and Joelle Butrico.

Hundreds Attend Tiger 24

More than 100 students participated in the eighth annual Tiger 24 fundraiser held at Jost Field on April 30. The event ran from 9 a.m. to midnight. Entrance fee was \$10.

Besides participating in the run/walk which took place during the entire event, there were many other planned activities scheduled throughout the day that included children's activities, middle school and high school Gaga (also known as Israeli Dodge Ball), middle school and high school volleyball tournaments and "Minute to Win It" games. There was also plenty of food along with a deejay.

The SPSHS Baseball Team volunteered to be the officials at the volleyball tournaments. During the 15 hours hundreds of students arrived to run/walk or participate in the numerous competitions.

The Student Leadership Organiza-

tion at South Plainfield High School planned the event along with the organization's advisors, Anthony Emmons, Anthony Encinas, Jessica Kriskowski and Marla Vandermark. There were also volunteers from the Booster Club, Sodexo and a few parents.

Before the day of the event student leaders helped plan the activities, secure the entertainment, create and distribute the advertising. On the day of the event all of the volunteers were on hand to help out; working the registration booth; counting the runners and walkers' laps, while others helped with the scheduled activities during the afternoon and evening.

At the end of the day all those who participated and volunteered had a great time, and the monies raised will be used to help families or groups in need within the community.

Shoplifting, Robbery at Famous Footwear

South Plainfield Police responded to a report of a shoplifting in progress at Famous Footwear in Hadley Center on May 9.

Two women and two juveniles were reportedly attempting to leave the store without paying for merchandise. They were allegedly observed directing a 12 year-old girl to conceal merchandise in the large bag she was carrying. Also present was a three year-old girl. When confronted by store manager Ralph Thompson, both the adults resisted and physically assaulted him, pushing and striking him as they exited the store. Thompson was not injured.

The suspects fled the area, but were stopped on Route 287 northbound near Exit 9 by Officers Sherlyn Courtney and Lloyd McNelly. They were positively identified and placed under arrest. The merchandise, four pairs of shoes valued in excess of \$160, was found in their vehicle.

Alnisa F. Shumate, 26, of East Orange and her mother, Debra A. Shumate, 43, of Edison were charged with robbery and employing a juvenile to commit a criminal offense. Both are being held on \$25,000 full bail set by Municipal Court Judge Spencer Robbins. The juveniles are the children of Alnisa Shumate.

Investigators from the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services were notified. The juveniles were released to a family member.

Report Potholes

To report potholes, sign or street-light problems, log on to the borough website: www.southplainfieldnj.com. Go to the "Public Works Maintenance Report" and complete a report.



Future Stars 2 1/2 year-old class hopped into spring with bunnies they made in class. Their own footprints help make their bunnies their own. Pictured is one of the bunnies that were made.

Board of Education Votes To Cut 22 Staff Members

By Libby Barsky

When presenting the proposed 2011/2012 school budget to the public, Interim Superintendent of Schools Dr. Gary Bowen repeatedly said there would be a reduction of 30 or more staff members, but did not say who would be cut, nor did he reveal what programs would be affected.

On May 11, members of the Board of Education officially approved the elimination of 21 tenured teachers, and Sophia Domogala, director of the adult school and continuing education. Her duties also include grant writing and oversight of the latch key and preschool programs.

Cut from the high school are social studies teacher Stacey Closterman and physical education teacher Matthew Connell.

Five positions cut from the middle school include three reading teachers, Nicholas Deremiah, Patrick Sarullo and Katie Wilson; English teacher Michelle Rafalowski and music teacher

Sarah LiVecchi.

Five Grant School teachers have also been eliminated: Megan Basile-math, Scott Culver-social studies, Diane Lee-general music and orchestra (currently on maternity leave), Elizabeth Mills-social studies and Carolyn White-science and math.

Full-time kindergarten will continue in September; however, because considerably fewer children (50) are currently registered, three kindergarten teachers, Karen Maszczak of Franklin, Janinine Turrisi of Kennedy and Patricia Santillo of Roosevelt have been cut. The tenured teachers have been placed on the district's preferred eligibility list in order of seniority for reemployment when and if more students are enrolled.

In addition to the kindergarten teachers, Kennedy School will lose Ann Johnson-reading, Laura Von Till-Smith-computer and Alicia Vurchio. Roosevelt School will lose Samantha Nicolay; Franklin will lose Christine Warian. Jennifer Gaster will leave Riley.

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events

Around Town

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 SPSHS 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.

Weight Watchers Grand Opening

May 21

Weight Watchers invites everyone to celebrate the opening of its all new center in Hadley Center on Saturday, May 21. The free event features great low cal cooking demos, tips on getting active, plus motivation and advice on the best way to lose weight and keep it off. Mayor Matt Anesh will celebrate the opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 2 p.m.

For more information, call Elaine Abramczyk at (732) 685-9838.

Blackrose to Perform

May 21

Blackrose, the band, playing classic rock and roll music and today's hits, will be performing at KC's Korner, 100 Oak Tree Ave. on Saturday, May 21 at 10 p.m. No cover charge.

SP Football Eagles First Golf Outing

May 23

The South Plainfield Football Eagles will hold its first golf outing

and fundraiser on Monday, May 23 at Glenwood Country Club in Old Bridge. Registration starts at 10 a.m. Cost of \$150 includes golf cart, lunch, dinner as well as prizes and raffles.

For sponsorship and/or participant information, call Anthony at (908) 285-0462.

Kidcraft Program at The Library

May 23

The library will hold a "Kidcraft" program on Monday, May 23 at 6:30 p.m. Participants will construct and decorate a birdhouse. The program is for children of all ages. Space is limited; pre-registration is required. A \$1 materials fee is payable upon registration.

For more information, call (908) 754-7885 and ask for Linda, or visit www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

Business Association Monthly Meeting

May 26

The South Plainfield Business Association will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, May 26 at 8:30 a.m. at Sherban's Diner. All businesses are welcome to attend.

For information about the business association, call Nancy Grenier at (908) 668-0010 or visit spba.biz.

Special Library Board Meeting

May 26

There will be a special meeting of the South Plainfield Library Board of Trustees on Thursday, May 26 at 7

p.m. The meeting will address plans to be submitted to the State Librarian and is open to the public. Due to this meeting, the library will close early that day at 6 p.m.

For more information, call (908) 754-7885 or visit the library's website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

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 \$25; 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 Heart 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 —

Shabbat Pray & Play

May 21

Temple Shalom of Fanwood/Scotch Plains invites families with children ages four and under to a Shabbat Pray & Play on Saturday, May 21 at 10 a.m. Music, maracas, puppets and parachutes. Older siblings are welcome. Temple Shalom is located in the Fanwood Presbyterian Church.

For more information, call (908) 889-4900.

Backyard Barbeque Tour

May 21

The best athletes in alternative sports and the best new music artists

will appear at the Journeys Backyard Barbeque Tour on Saturday, May 21 from noon to 7 p.m. in the southeast parking lot outside Woodbridge Center on Route 1 in Woodbridge. Autograph sessions with athletes and bands, free sponsor giveaways. Admission is free and open to all ages.

For information, visit www.journeysbbq.com or call (732) 634-0261.

Great American Bake Sale Sunday

May 22

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church will host a bake sale as part of Share Our Strength's Great American Bake Sale, a national campaign that mobilizes Americans to work to end childhood hunger, on Sunday, May 22 from noon until 2 p.m.

Willow Grove is located at 1961 Raritan Rd. in Scotch Plains.

Liberty Hall Museum Family Day

May 22

Liberty Hall Museum at Kean University in Union will host a Fire Muster & Family Day on Sunday, May 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The free outdoor event will feature the unveiling of the museum's latest acquisition, a 1911 Metropolitan Steam Fire Engine.

Liberty Hall, located at 1003 Morris Ave. in Union, is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Raindate: June 18.

For more information, call (908) 527-0400.

Hair of the Dog 5K Charity Race

May 22

The fourth annual Hair of the Dog 5K race will be held at Silver Decoy Winery, 610 Windsor-Perrineville Road in Robbinsville on Sunday, May 22 at 10 a.m. Pre-registration: \$25; \$30 after May 1 and \$7 per dog.

For more information, call (609) 213-7132.

Taste of Somerset

May 23

The 19th annual Taste of Somerset is scheduled for Monday, May 23 from 6 to 9 p.m. at The Palace at

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
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

FRIDAYS

Bingo..... 10 am-2 pm

Daily Activities: Morning coffee, pool, cards, board games, computer classes, exercise, art, Tai Chi, yoga and crafts.
Lunch Served Monday-Friday.

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

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

Somerset Park, 333 Davidson Ave. in Somerset. Proceeds support the PeopleCare Center in Bridgewater. Tickets are \$75 and available online at www.peoplecarecenter.org or at the PeopleCare Center office at 120 Funderme Ave. in Bridgewater.

For information, call (908) 725-2299.

Singles Dance Party

May 29

Steppin' Out Singles is hosting an upscale singles dance party on Sunday, May 29 at 8:30 p.m. at the Woodbridge Hilton, 20 Wood Ave. South in Iselin. Ages 40 and up. Admission: \$17.

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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Once again, it's time for the latest news from the South Plainfield Library.

First of all, here's advance word about a schedule change. There will be a special meeting of the Library Board of Trustees next Thursday, May 26 at 7 p.m. to address plans for submission to the State Librarian. This meeting is open to the public; no pre-registration is needed. Due to this meeting, the library will close early that day at 6 p.m.

Turning to the kids' stuff, we'll be back with the usual schedule of children's programs next week, following a brief hiatus. 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 2s & 3s, 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. You don't need to sign up for these programs. For more information, please call us (check below for our number) and ask for Miss Linda or Miss Mija.

We've recently made a bit of a policy change. For years, patrons have been limited to borrowing four videos or DVDs per person. Well, consider it a sign of our appreciation for said patrons that we've now increased that limit to eight, count 'em, eight per person. Be advised, though, that the overdue fine for videos and DVDs remains \$2 per day per person and that this increase doesn't apply to CDs or audiobooks. In any case, feel free to come in and really stock up on videos. Just don't clean us out; leave a few for someone else.

Here's a bit of a reminder: You may have noticed the camera we've installed at the circulation desk, the business end of which is pointed towards patrons. In case you weren't aware of it, this camera isn't part of our security system. (We have other cameras for that.) Rather, this particular camera is set up to allow us to add, with your permission (note the emphasis), your photo to our computer records. This will aid us in identifying you, thus preventing others from using your record to borrow items without your knowledge. Rest assured, though, that the photos will go no further than the library; we make very sure your records are kept confidential. If you'd like to participate, just ask at the circulation desk.

Regarding feedback from our patrons, you may have noticed a slight change in our community suggestion box. By slight change, we mean that it's about a foot or so higher up the wall than it was before. This wasn't done to discourage you from leaving us your suggestions. (If we'd wanted to do that, we'd have put it a lot higher up.) Rather, this was done to give us some extra room for some new computer equipment we'll be installing soon. Once it's ready, we'll let you know more. In the meantime, if you need assistance in leaving a note in the box, please ask a staff member.

That's about all for this week. For more information, here's our previously-promised phone number: (908) 754-7885. You can also visit our website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us where details are found on the home page (maintained by our highly-skilled technical people) and the online calendar (occasionally updated by some guy who figures he can write). We're also now found on Facebook at www.facebook.com/southplainfieldlibrary. Catch you later.



SOUTH PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL PEER LEADERS from the Heroes & Cool Kids program with former N.Y. Giants player and mentor Keith Elias. The group spoke with the Grant School sixth grade classes on April 27 about the perils of drug and alcohol use and abuse.

policereport

• On April 27 Rodney Jerome Bostic, 58, of Plainfield was arrested for an unregistered vehicle, no insurance and an outstanding warrant.

• Brandon Cody, 19, of South Plainfield was arrested for speeding and three outstanding warrants.

• On April 29 Nicholas C. Lazaro, 26, of Keyport was arrested for failure to inspect and an outstanding warrant.

• A Plainfield resident reported the theft of their credit card carrying case from their locker at LA Fitness.

• On May 1 Toni D. Nelson, 56, of Plainfield was arrested for no registration, no insurance, failure to exhibit insurance documents and an outstanding warrant.

• On May 2 Lauren Calligy, 29, of Union Beach was arrested for driving on a suspended license, no insurance, failure to inspect and an outstanding warrant.

• A Plainfield resident reported the theft of an iPod and gym bag from their vehicle parked at LA Fitness.

• On May 3 Latir O. Ndure, 29, of Trenton was arrested for disregard

of a traffic signal and an outstanding warrant.

• On May 4 Roberto Jesus Punina, 41, of Plainfield was arrested for possession of an open container of alcohol and two outstanding warrants.

• A Leonard Avenue resident reported the theft of \$160 from their residence.

• On May 5 a Ranger Street resident reported that a decorative light pole in front of the residence had been damaged.

• On May 6 Sheriffa Wallata Mckessey, 24, of Piscataway was arrested at CVS on Oak Tree Road for shoplifting an Ambi cleansing bar, Milani nail polish, Olay scrub and Ambi face cream totaling \$18.

• On May 7 a Sims Place resident reported that their vehicle's tire had been flattened by a screw.

• On May 8 CNC Associates on Kentile Road reported the theft of a drop safe with cash from a truck in their warehouse.

• Steven G. Jones, 32, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated and possession of an open

container of alcohol in a vehicle.

• On May 9 Ranika R. Whitley, 23, of Neptune was arrested for failure to keep right, no license and an outstanding warrant.

• A Pershing Place resident reported that the passenger side window of their vehicle had been broken and a Garmin GPS was taken.

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Motorist Hits Parked Car and Krauszer's

Anna Hargrove, 83 of Piscataway was driving her 2009 Pontiac on Oak Tree Avenue near Putnam Avenue on May 10 at a high rate of speed when she went to apply the brakes but stepped on the accelerator instead. Hargrove's vehicle traveled into the parking lot of the Krauszer's Convenience Store at 488 Oak Tree Ave. where it struck a parked car, owned by Michael Garry of South Plainfield. The car was occupied by Stephen Garry, 20,

who was in the front passenger seat.

The vehicle continued on and struck the building, causing moderate damage to the store. The store was open for business at the time of the crash.

Hargrove was treated at the scene by EMS personnel from Somerset Medical Center and transported to Somerset Medical Center for treatment of minor injuries.

Hargrove was charged with careless driving by Officer Joseph Papa.

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Sports

SOUTH PLAINFIELD SOCCER

By Dawn Hutchison

Spring Season Coming to a Close

The final games of the spring season have arrived. Playoff games (home and away) will take place this weekend, and we wish all teams the best of luck. It has been a fantastic season and we look forward to the teams all closing out on a high note.

Our spring tryouts were held this past week and it was a great turnout. Players were evaluated and the results will be reviewed. Once reviewed, they will be presented to the coaches for team selections. All those who participated will receive a call by mid-June.

Thank you to all who assisted in getting our clothing fundraiser un-

THIS WEEK'S SOCCER CLUB HOME GAMES

Warriors	5/22 Sunday	10 a.m.	Kenneth #2
Fusion	5/22 Sunday	11:30 a.m.	Kenneth #1
Sharks	5/22 Sunday	1:30 p.m.	Kenneth #2
Thunder	5/22 Sunday	3 p.m.	Kenneth #11

Good luck to all our teams this week!

derway. We collected well over 100 large bags of clothing. In addition to raising funds to benefit the club, we collected clothing and other items that will benefit those in need. To all the parents who stepped up to assist with loading collected bags into our collection truck, thank you for your

hard work. The club would like to recognize Jake and Mike with Penske Truck Rentals on South Clinton Avenue for their kind and generous donation of the truck used to collect the donations. We greatly appreciate your support.

The final canning dates available for the spring canning session are Monday and Tuesday, May 23 and 24. There will be no other dates available. Contact Laura Sansone to schedule your spot immediately at (908) 370-8118 (cell) or (908) 755-3626 (home).

There will be a field duty this Saturday, May 21 from 8 a.m. until noon. This will be one of the last opportunities for those who have not met their work bond obligations. Please be sure to show up on time and sign the sheet to ensure you get credit for working.



South Plainfield TIGER SHARKS
Tiger Sharks Plan Meet and Greet

The Tiger Sharks Swim and Dive Teams Meet and Greet with the coaches will be held Monday, May 23 at 7 p.m. at the PAL.

Notes from the Jim Pornovets

Memorial Golf League



LEAGUE STANDINGS

American Division				National Division			
	W	L	T		W	L	T
Alfie's Boys	3	0	0	Unique Sports Accessories	3	0	0
KC's Korner	2	1	0	Italian-American Club	2	1	0
Twin City Pharmacy	2	1	0	2 Buds, 2 Dubs	2	1	0
Oak Tree Dental	1	2	0	McCriskin's Home			
Dirty Harry & Friends	1	2	0	For Funerals	2	1	0
Witty's Liquors	0	3	0	So. Plainfield Funeral Home	0	3	0
				Sport & Social	0	3	0

By Bob Nilan

Golfers with low handicaps are under a lot of pressure when they face opponents with very high handicaps. They not only have to give away strokes on all the difficult holes, they have to watch while the double-digit handicappers put all those nice little dots all over their score cards where they are getting strokes.

That was precisely the challenge Alfie's Boys confronted in taking on the Italian-American Club. Irish Danny Griffin and his bomb squad knew they had to bring their A-games to the course and, fortunately, they did. Griffin led the way for his team with a fine round of 37, and Mike King pitched in with a 38 as Alfie's Boys pulled off their third straight win, 11-9, to maintain the top spot in the American Division.

Jeff Gross and Joe Mistretta had a pair of 40s for the Italian-American Club.

Over in the National Division, Unique Sports Accessories also remained undefeated by whipping Oak Tree Dental. Jay Bertleson and Ted

Stanik both fired nifty 38s as Unique Sports made it very clear that they are the team to beat this season for the National Division crown.

Twin City Pharmacy also had a formidable challenge in giving away a lot of strokes in their match against a struggling Sport & Social team. Guy Severini and his fellow boomers smashed some monster drives on the first two holes and tried to intimidate their high-handicap opponents. But Sport & Social hung in there and wound up losing a tough match, 11-9.

Jay Coppola was the medalist for Twin City with a 37 and Guy Severini contributed a 39. Dennis Bibby of Sport & Social earned the medal for his squad with a 40.

Billy "Cappy" Capparelli of KC's Korner is off to his best start in the league by posting another solid round, a 38, to spark his team to a 14-6 triumph over the South Plainfield Funeral Home. KC's Korner was able to cruise to an easy victory when one of the scheduled golfers for the South Plainfield Funeral Home failed to show up so the team played with only three golfers. Vinnie Welch had a 39 in a losing effort.

Mark "Mr. Steady" Chichvar is heading off to Hawaii on a golf vacation and hopes to find his game somewhere on Oahu. Before he left, he had the good sense to have Kris Krantz fill in for him.

McCriskin's Home For Funerals and Krantz came through in superb fashion registering the low-round of the night, a two-over 35 that featured birdies on the seventh and ninth holes. McCriskin's needed that fine performance to gain a 13-7 win over Witty's Liquors. Jim Parker of Witty's was low-man for his team with his 37. Captain Kevin "Boom Boom" Bickunas of Witty's has still not managed to break 40 and may have to call upon his son, Brandon, to give him some more chipping and putting lessons. Brandon is four years old.

The guys on 2 Buds, 2 Dubs, were relieved that they didn't have to endure the bantering of their captain, Dale "The Needler" Dube who is away on vacation. Jeff "Bam Bam" Orth assumed the leadership role for his team, and Orth's easy-going manner worked wonders as 2 Buds, 2 Dubs easily got by Dirty Harry & Friends, 13-7. Orth was very relaxed in leading his team to victory and earned medalist honors with his solid round of 37. At the end, Orth's bountiful teammates began calling him "Mr. Christian" and hope that Dale Dube gets the message.

Low scores for the night: Kris Krantz, 35; Jay Coppola, 37; Danny Griffin, 37; Jim Parker, 37; Jeff Orth, 37; Jay Bertleson, 38; Billy Capparelli, 38; Ted Stanik, 38; Mike King, 38.

U-10 SOCCER ECLIPSE

By Jenn Curtis

Eclipse Still Undefeated with Another Tie Against Millburn

Tie is the name of the game for Eclipse this spring season as the SPSC U-10 girls travel team hosted Millburn this past rainy Sunday and tied 2-2. The girls improved their record to 3-0-5 this season playing hard and remaining undefeated against a tough Millburn team.

Millburn jumped ahead on an early goal and went up 1-0. The girls did not give up. Samantha Pullen scored her first career goal tying the game 1-1. Early in the second period the girls pulled ahead 2-1 on a goal scored by Victoria Meono. Millburn was

determined and tied the game 2-2. Goalie duties were shared by Kaitlyn Smith and Mackenzie O'Brien.

Team Eclipse consists of Mackenzie O'Brien, Kathryn Delair, Gianna Sacco, Samantha Pullen, Lynda Farinella, Victoria Meono, Kaitlyn Smith, Kristen Smith, Olivia Leonardis, Cameron Marks, Alexis Curtis, Jill Holoboski, and Erika Rems. The coaches of Eclipse are Gino Leonardis and Ken Curtis.

The girls travel to play the Ridge Mavericks on Sunday. Good luck girls, keep that unbeaten streak alive!

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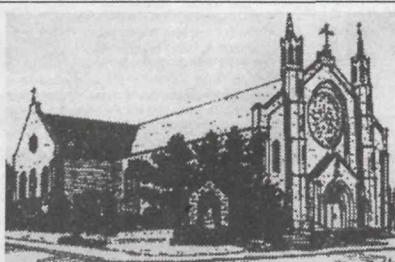
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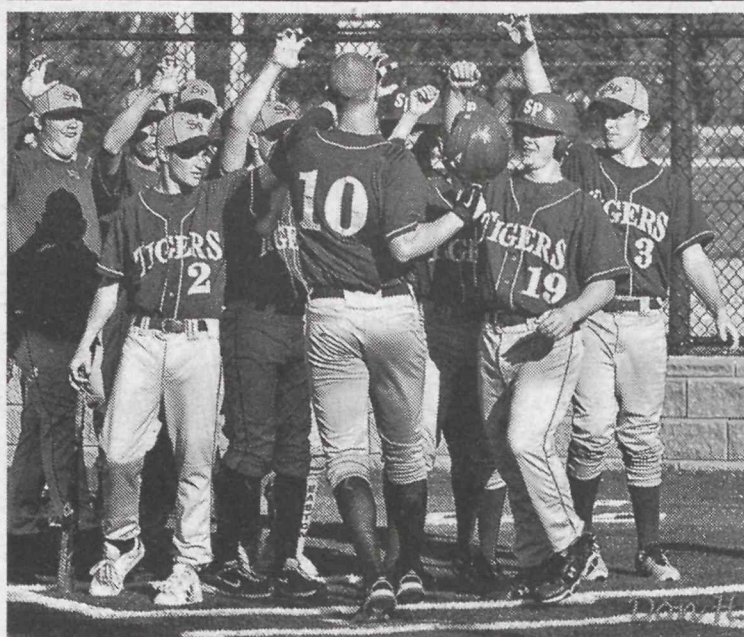
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Sports

SOUTH PLAINFIELD HS VARSITY BASEBALL



After hitting a home run in the May 12 game against Carteret, Sophomore Quinn Cochrane is greeted by his Tiger teammates.

All photos courtesy of Don Hunsinger

Tigers Victorious Over Carteret in Two Games

There was no bad luck in this Friday the 13th varsity baseball game when the Tigers took a close victory over Carteret, winning 6-5. Playing at home, South Plainfield found themselves in a tie game at the top of the seventh inning. It was Tiger player Brandon Downes who clinched the win at the end.

The previous days' game was played in Carteret where the Tigers trounced their rivals beating them 10-0. Sophomore A.J. Celentano was the winning pitcher for the Tigers in Thursday's match-up. South Plainfield has been on a seven game winning streak since May 13 with a 16-7-0 record.



Soon after stealing second base, Junior Ryan Marcoux rounds third heading for home in last Thursday's away game against Carteret which the Tigers won, 10-0.

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Varsity Calendar Highlights

Friday, May 20-Thursday, May 26

Here is what's happening in varsity high school sports. Come on out, enjoy a game and support the Tigers!

BOYS

• **Baseball:** Friday, May 20 at 3:45 p.m. home vs. Scotch Plains-Fanwood; Saturday, May 21 at 7 p.m. away vs. Toms River South.

• **Tennis:** Monday, May 23 at 3:45 p.m. away vs. Sayreville War Memorial High; Tuesday, May 24 at 3:45 p.m. away vs. Dunellen; Wednesday, May 24 at 3:45 p.m. home vs. Bishop Ahr; Thursday, May 25 at 3:45 p.m. home vs. Colonia.

GIRLS

• **Lacrosse:** Friday, May 20 at 4 p.m. away vs. Lacordaire; Saturday, May 21 at 10 a.m. away vs. Hamilton West; Monday, May 16 at 4 p.m. away vs. Hamilton West.

• **Softball:** Saturday, May 21 at 10 a.m. GMC Super Saturday; Wednesday, May 25 at 3:30 p.m. home GMC Quarter Finals.

Football Eagles to Hold First Golf Outing

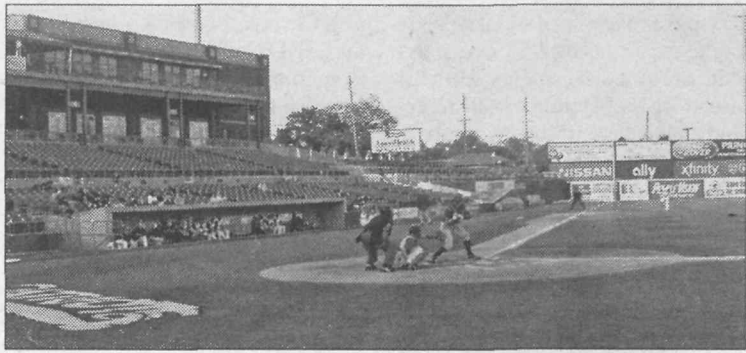
The South Plainfield Football Eagles will hold its first golf outing and fundraiser on Monday, May 23 at Glenwood Country Club in Old Bridge. Registration starts at 10 a.m. Cost of \$150 includes golf cart, lunch and dinner, prizes and raffles. For more, call Anthony at (908) 285-0462.

The Eagles would like to thank our generous sponsors: Double Eagle; Pinnacle Mortgage, Inc., Hoboken; Republic Services of N.J. (Midco Residential Services); Eagle; Petro Heating & A/C (Star Gas Partners); Golf Cart: Mountain Valley Conference-Pop Warner; Hole: Multi Auto Mall, Union; Birdie: Jesco Inc., South Plainfield; Friend: Elks Lodge No. 2298, McCriscin-Gustafson Home For Funerals and Supreme Silk Screen & Embroidery.

SOUTH PLAINFIELD TIGERS



SPHS Baseball Coach Tony Guida hands a check for \$500 to Lisa Petrillo after team members and coaches participate in a head shaving fundraiser for breast cancer research. Barbara Cochrane performed the shaving. Lisa's employer matched the money they raised. Pictured (L-R) are Coach Bill Mosca, Patrick Boyle, Nick Muglia, Quinn Cochrane, Chaz Huber and Dan Hansen. Front row (L-R) are Taylor Born, Coach Tony Guida, Lisa Petrillo, AJ Celentano, Sal Esposito and Stephen Petrillo.



SPHS Baseball Team beat JF Kennedy High School, 8-2 on May 10 at TD Bank Ballpark in Bridgewater. Player Dan Hansen hit a triple and had three RBIs in the fifth inning. The head coach is Tony Guida; assistant coaches are Mosca, Batista, Darby, McKee and Miller. Team players were Brandon Downes, Dan Hansen, Alex Liszewski, Charlie Hubner, Eric Niemeyer, Nick Ross, Ryan Hutchinson, Shane O'Connor, Sal Esposito, Stephen Petrillo, Mark Tomei, AJ Celentano, Quinn Cochrane, Ryan Marcoux, Nick DeMarco, Patrick Boyle, Jeff Pellegrino, Chris Neal; pitcher was Tommy Bowden.

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National Kidney Foundation Honors Social Worker Jessica Phipps

The National Kidney Foundation recently honored Jessica Phipps, MSW, LSW, a member of the health care staff at Fresenius Medical Care North America (FMCNA). The award recognizes Phipps' commitment to patients and her efforts to raise awareness of chronic kidney disease (CKD).

Phipps has worked in the dialysis field since 2002. She has facilitated quarterly regional social work meetings and educated social workers on the use of outcomes-based interventions to assist patients, particularly in areas of treatment adherence, fluid management and to improve

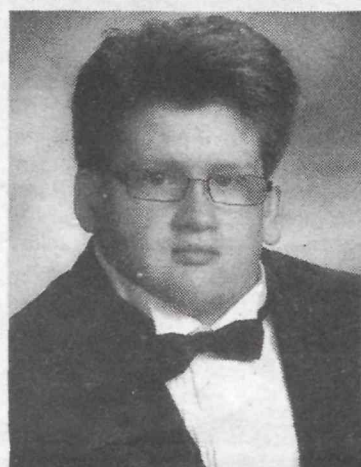


Jessica Phipps

Kidney Disease Quality of Life (KDQOL) scores. She also started patient support groups and open houses for dialysis patient caregivers, and promoted public CKD education at community health fairs and support groups.

Phipps was the chair of the Council of Nephrology Social Workers (CNSW) NJ Chapter and is currently the co-chairperson of a special interest group for the National Association of Social Work (NASW) N.J. Chapter. Phipps is a member of the ESRD Network 3 Renal Coalition Committee and recently completed a two-year term on FMCNA's National Social Work Advisory Board.

William Hartmann Receives Defiance College Scholarship



William Hartmann

William Hartmann of South Plainfield was awarded the 2011-2012 Dean's Scholarship and Service Lead-

ership Award by Defiance College.

Awards are given to students in five categories—Presidential, Dean's, Pilgrim, Trustee and Achievement—with dollar amounts ranging from \$9,000 to full tuition. Additionally, students can be awarded a \$2,000 Service Leadership Award, recognizing their commitment to service in their community. Students must attend the college's fall or spring scholarship day event to qualify for scholarships.

William, the son of William and Tracey Hartmann, is a student at South Plainfield High School and is involved with band, 4-H and the Knights of Columbus.

Defiance College is an independent, liberal arts institution in Northwest Ohio offering more than programs in education and business.



Brian Babinetz

Brian Babinetz Graduates from U.S. Air Force

Airman First Class Brian Babinetz graduated from United States Air Force Security Forces Training, 343rd Training Squadron, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. He will be assigned to the 9th Security Forces Squadron Air Force Base in California.

Brian, a 2010 graduate of South Plainfield High School, is the son of John and Nanette Babinetz of South Plainfield and Sue Palmer-Babinetz of Sayreville.



John Falzarano

John Falzarano Graduates from NYPD Academy

John Falzarano, formerly of South Plainfield, graduated from the NYPD Academy on December 27, 2010.

A 2004 graduate of South Plainfield High School, John was an honors student at New Jersey City University.

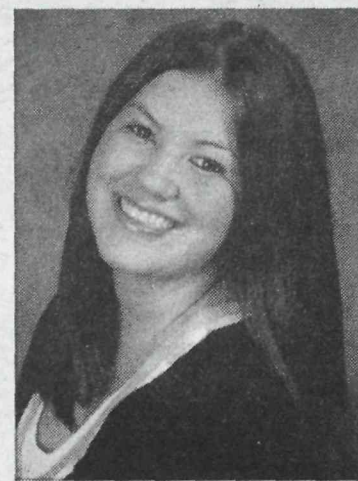
The son of John Falzarano Jr. and Frances Falzarano, John is employed by the City of New York in the Borough of Brooklyn.

Jessica Hill Graduates from Seton Hall University

Mr. and Mrs. David Hill are proud to announce the graduation of their daughter, Jessica, from Seton Hall University. Jessica earned her degree in elementary/special education and social behavioral sciences with a concentration in social work. Jessica maintained dean's list status all four years and is graduating magna cum laude.

A member of Tri Sigma sorority and Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity, she was also inducted into the Order of Omega Honor Society and Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education.

Jessica is a 2007 graduate of South Plainfield High School.



Jessica Hill

Three Local Residents Graduate from Coastal Carolina University

Brian Acrin, BSB; Charles Decker, BSB; and Ashleigh Gaspari, BS, MC graduated from Coastal Carolina University on May 7.

Coastal Carolina University is a dynamic, public, comprehensive liberal arts institution located in Conway, just minutes from Myrtle Beach, S.C. CCU offers baccalaureate programs in 54 fields of study including acclaimed programs in marine science, resort tourism and professional golf management. Graduate programs include an MBA, master's degrees in

education, writing and coastal marine and wetland studies. A BEA in theatre arts, a BEA in musical theatre and a BS in Nursing (completion program) have recently been added. More than 8,700 Coastal Carolina students from across the country and the world interact with a world-class faculty, and enjoy a nationally competitive NCAA I athletic program, an inspiring cultural calendar, and a tradition of community interaction that is fueled by more than 100 student clubs and organizations.

Camille Romano Graduates from Nursing School

Camille Romano graduated from Muhlenberg/Snyder School of Nursing and Union County College on January 9 receiving a diploma in nursing and associate in science degree.

She passed the national NCLEX exam and has accepted a position as a registered nurse on the cardiac care unit at Baptist Medical Center in Jacksonville, Fla.

Camille is the granddaughter of Dominic and Ann Demico.



Camille Romano

Kristen Partesi Receives Award

Kristen Partesi of South Plainfield received the Academic Excellence Award for Art during the Castleton State College Awards ceremony that

was held on April 27.

Kristen is an art major and has an anticipated graduation date of 2012.

Castleton is small enough to be a community where every student matters, yet offers more than 30 academic programs, 20 intercollegiate sports, and over 40 clubs and student organizations. The college stresses community service and provides exceptional programs for first-year students.

Matthew Anderson Graduates from Lock Haven Univ.

Matthew D. Anderson of South Plainfield received a bachelor of science degree from Lock Haven University during 2011 Spring Commencement ceremonies.

Founded in 1870, Lock Haven University is a public liberal arts university with 5,349 students from 28 states and 32 other countries. The university offers 53 majors and 42 minors.

Marie Cunicella Earns Degree from Dominican College

South Plainfield resident Marie Cunicella graduated from Dominican College in Orangeburg, N.Y. during the May 22 commencement ceremonies.

The college is an independent institution of higher learning, Catholic in origin and heritage.

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Library Presentation Features Numismatist Greg Heim

By Patricia Abbott

The South Plainfield Library recently offered a presentation by full-time coin dealer, professional numismatist and long-time South Plainfield resident, Gregory S. Heim.

The informative event drew more than two dozen. The presentation covered a wide variety of subjects. Heim distributed a handout to attendees entitled, "The Reality of Selling Coins, Paper Money, Scrap Gold/Unwanted Gold Jewelry, Precious Metals, Sterling Silver and Vintage Sports Cars and Memorabilia."

The program was intended to educate those without knowledge of the value of their items, and also to educate those with assorted pieces or collections which may be of value.

Heim explained that he wanted, "to provide attendees with a solid, basic level of information regarding the texture of their holdings, how they are evaluated, the appraisal process and how they will be quoted and paid." Attendees were directed to ask questions during the presentation regardless of how basic they might be.

Heim warned against purchasing items from newspaper ads, TV or telemarketers. Many of those purchases often lead to disappointment. He also advised against researching values on eBay, saying, "The only thing that eBay is useful for is determining the

relative rarity of an item. What's important is what it is worth now."

Heim pointed out the importance of not trying to clean, polish or otherwise organize your pieces. Trying to clean them often strips them of value. He noted that the proper preservation of numismatic items should be left to a seasoned professional (and even then the final result is not guaranteed). Not doing anything is the best way you can do something.

If you contact Heim, you will always receive a quote on your items over the phone based on current market condition in the form of an "and up" quote. For example, if you tell Heim that you have an 1885 Morgan Silver Dollar, he will provide you a quote, such as \$30 and up. In order to provide an exact evaluation, several factors must be taken into consideration, such as the year, mint where the coin was made, its condition, marketability and its scarcity.

Heim uses current and constantly updated sheets to obtain current values. He pointed out that references such as the *Red Book* (available in the library) are obsolete as soon as they hit the market. "I use dealer sheets, which cost me hundreds of dollars per year, along with my experience," said Heim.

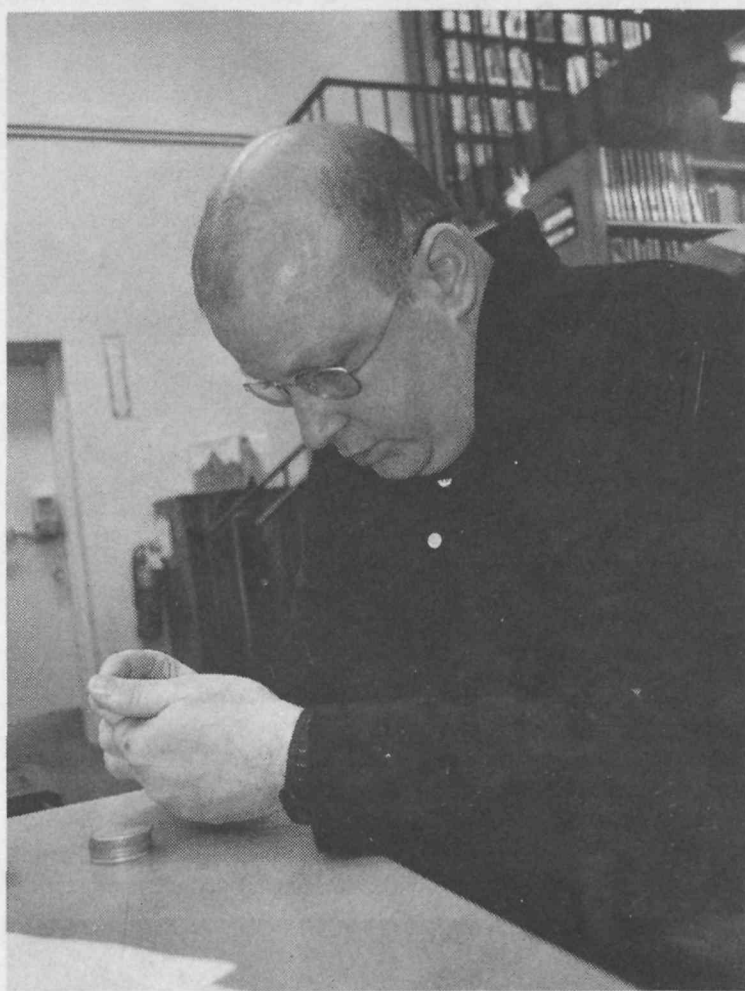
During the course of the afternoon Heim covered a wide variety of topics, including scrap gold, unwanted gold jewelry and the method for determin-

ing the weight of gold. A discussion on United States coins was broken down into several sections, including 90% silver coins before 1964, silver dollars, proof sets, mint sets, sterling silver, precious metal bullion and vintage United States gold. The handout he provided included a wealth of information that Heim said was only the tip of the iceberg.

Heim's interest in coins began as a hobby at the age of eight. He sold his first coin before his twelfth birthday. His career as a full-time coin dealer began in January 2007 when his then two-year-old son was diagnosed with autism. Prior to that he had been a professional video poker and poker player for 10 years.

Heim is a life member of the American Numismatic Association (since 1985), the Garden State Numismatic Association (since 1984) and the Watchung Hills Coin Club (original member since 1982). He holds memberships in the Early American Coppers Club, the Colonial Coin Collectors Club (2010), the Numismatic Literary Guild (since 1991) and the New Jersey Numismatic Society (since 1987). He has also been a member of the South Plainfield Business Association since 2009.

Heim can be reached at (908) 405-6408 or through email at gregheim@njcoinbuyer.com or at www.njcoinbuyer.com.



Numismatist Greg Heim examines coins at a presentation at the library.

Obituaries

Brayden J. Carr



Brayden James Carr

Brayden James Carr, at the age of two and a half, passed away at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia on Tuesday, May 10 surrounded by his loving family.

He was born in New Brunswick and had lived in South Plainfield.

He was a happy and loving two year old whose smile and eyes would light up any room and could melt anyone's heart. He will truly be a guardian angel for all who loved him.

He is predeceased by his beloved maternal grandmother, Lucille Zeno.

Brayden leaves behind his devoted family, parents James and Natalie (Zeno) Carr of South Plainfield; maternal grandfather, Angelo Zeno of Florida; paternal grandparents, John and Mary Carr of Pennsylvania;

four uncles, Michael and Robert Zeno and Vincent and Michael Carr; and an aunt, Toni Carr. He will be missed especially by his godfathers, Michael and Salvatore Zeno of Florida and by many family friends.

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

Olga (Kuciarski) Gursky, 88

Olga (Kuciarski) Gursky died on Saturday, May 14 at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born in Newark, Olga has been a resident of South Plainfield for about 70 years.

Olga spent most of her time caring

for her family as a homemaker. She worked for a few years in the office of Cornell-Dubilier in South Plainfield. Olga was a member of Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in South Plainfield and she enjoyed sewing and antiquing.

She is predeceased by two sisters, Ann Graham and Irene Kuciarski.

Olga is survived by her husband of 64 years, Andrew; and three daughters, Nancy and Payne Marciniak of Asbury, Eileen and John Snidenbach of Vineland and Claire and Kenji Kenno of Windsor, Ontario, Canada. She also leaves behind seven grandchildren, Allison, Sara, Keith, Stephanie, Staci, Scott and Kristen; a great-grandson, Colton; and a niece, Patricia Strenkert.

Funeral services were held at Mc-

Criskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations sent to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, 2506 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080 would be appreciated.

Denise A. (Costantino) Padilla, 56

Denise A. (Costantino) Padilla died on Sunday, May 15 at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born in Newark, Denise grew up in South Plainfield before settling in Edison.

She worked for the Township of Edison in the Recreation Department and the township's ABC Enrichment

Program.

Denise enjoyed the beach, decorating and flowers, but her main focus in life was her family. Denise was a loving wife, mother and grandmother and will be greatly missed by Scouchie xoxo.

She is predeceased by her mother Ruth "Chick" Costantino.

Surviving is her husband, Angel; two daughters, Erica Padilla of Edison and Melissa Padilla of Delaware; three sons, Luis and wife, Dion, Joseph and Nicholas all of Edison; her father, Anthony Costantino; two sisters, Joann Toolan and Maryann Santino and two grandchildren, Timothy and Anthony Padilla.

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



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Wine, Spirits, Beer Tasting Benefits Education



Guests enjoy the food and beverages.

The South Plainfield Education Foundation (SPEF) and Oak Tree Wine and Spirits held the third annual Fine Wine, Spirits and Craft Beer Tasting Fundraiser on April 29 at the

Italian-American Club to an almost sell out crowd.

Guests were treated to an assortment of food donated by Flanagan's Restaurant, Paulo's Restaurant, Ade-

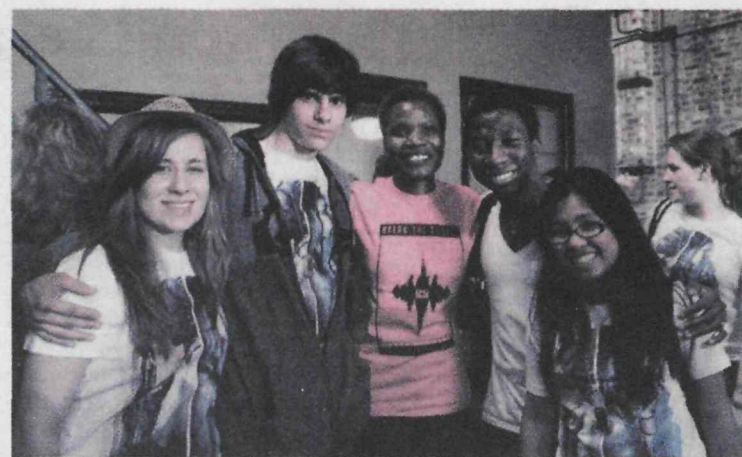
lines Ristorante and Hometown Heroes while they tasted a huge selection of wines, spirits and craft beers from the vendors at Oak Tree Wine and Spirits owned by the Ratti Family, lifelong residents of South Plainfield.

Credit for the successful event is attributed to the many volunteers from the Education Foundation, including Charlie and Debbie Kurland, Shannon Jefferys, Carolyn Allen, Marge Reedy and Frank Mikorski. Chairpersons for this year's event were Bob and Debbie Boyle.

Vendors for the evening were Narduzzi Imports, La Vendemia Wines, Grandpa Cha-Cha Homemade Style Wine, Adult Chocolate Milk, Pinnacle Flavored Vodka, Tempranillo Importers, Fedway Imports, Skinny Girl Margarita, Karma Premium Tequila, Metro Wine Imports, R & R Marketing, Castello Beer, Climax Brewing, Cricket Hill Brewing, Valenzo Winery, Shore Point Distributing, Hunterdon Distributing, Gallo Fine Wines and Voli Low Cal Vodka.

The SPEF in existence since 1994, was originally named Vision 2001. It is a non-profit tax exempt organization. The foundation promotes numerous educational and incentive programs, such as the Gold Card, and scholarships for South Plainfield High School students. To date, the SPEF has awarded over 50 scholarships totaling over \$283,150, and over \$130,000 in endowments. The Education Foundation has given to the students of South Plainfield High School more than \$41,000 in curriculum programs, over \$33,000 in academic incentive programs and over \$18,000 for school equipment.

For more information on the South Plainfield Education Foundation, visit www.vision2001.



(L-R) Paula, Tony, Barbara, Nii and Jeka. Barbara, who is from Uganda, shared her story about how the war has affected her life.

Invisible Children Organization Empowers High School Students

Within just two weeks, dozens of South Plainfield High School students have become empowered to make a difference and help end a war that has been raging for decades in Africa.

The Invisible Children organization is a largely youth-driven movement started by three college students in search of adventure, and has evolved into a force of positive change. The group fights for the rights of war-affected children in Uganda and other parts of central Africa, trying to help stop a war that has been raging for decades. Through touring the nation with victims of the violence to speaking to celebrities such as Oprah, the organization has helped to create laws that have allowed the U.S. government to become involved. South Plainfield youth have also become involved, helping those that cannot help themselves an ocean away.

The Invisible Children organization visited South Plainfield High School on April 11, as arranged by the Model United Nations Club. Five presenters spoke to an audience of nearly 400 students about the movement, while also showing a documentary about Tony, one

Ugandan child's story. At the end of the presentation, Barbara, a victim of the violence in Uganda, spoke to the students about her personal story, helping to give the movement a face and a voice.

One student, freshman Tierra Sanders, responded in the following way to the presentation: "During the Invisible Children assembly, we learned that we as Americans don't appreciate the opportunities we have around us. The people who don't have much are grateful for the little things they have and aren't complaining. A boy named Tony is Ugandan and didn't have much, making the thing that was the most valuable to him his family. His father died when he was younger and he cared about his mother a lot. One day she died and he said it was as if his life ended also."

"Barbara was another Ugandan who went through tough times. She even had to hide in the jungle with her grandmother to get away. I learned a lot from the Invisible Children assembly. It has made me grateful for what I have and love my family even more."

—Submitted by Tierra Sanders

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Hall of Fame Candidates Named

The South Plainfield High School "Hall of Fame" was established to honor past graduates for achievement in business, government, academia, community service and the humanities.

Acknowledging the successful graduates recognizes them as leaders in their fields and provides current high school students with positive role models from their own community.

The candidates selected for 2011 are Matthew Anesh, William Butrico, Pamela McCreesh and Shayne Austin Miller.

The inductees will be honored on June 1 at a luncheon at Flanagan's Restaurant. An induction ceremony will take place at 7 p.m. the same evening in the Joseph A. Mondoro Auditorium at the high school preceding the annual academic awards.

Council Cuts School Budget

(Continued from page 1)

vs. Union County Regional High School Bd. of Ed., 155 N.J. Super. 64 (App. Div. 1977), certif. den. 76 N.J. 238 (1978), workers must be provided with adequate notice when their personnel file will be discussed in closed session at a particular board meeting. They also have the right to waive the privacy of a closed session in order to have the discussion aired in public.

"We're recommending reductions to two reserve accounts (capital and maintenance) and we're suggesting that the board use some of the surplus that accrued this year," said Borough Council President Rusnak. "These reductions will not affect the students." Even though state law mandates the council's decision as binding, the suggested line item reductions are not.

Robert Swisher, CPA for Suplee, Clooney & Company, explained that \$226,000 was suggested to be reduced from the board's appropriations accounts for services such as cleaning, repair, maintenance and ground services; \$100,000 from capital reserve, which would result in delaying some pending projects; and \$200,000 from their surplus.

According to Mayor Matt Anesh, school officials say the decrease will not mean any additional cuts to staff or programs. "The council wanted to reduce the board's proposed tax increase, while at the same time, safeguard the quality of education," said Anesh. "Our approach was to find savings that wouldn't require any further reductions, especially to teachers or programs. At the same time, we knew residents could not

absorb a \$131 tax increase. We had to cut that number substantially."

Councilwoman Chrissy Buteas questioned that if there is money in the school surplus why is the board cutting teachers. Newly elected board member John Farinella, interim principal at Rahway High School, commented, as an "expert who runs a school" the cuts by the council will "hurt the schools."

High school teacher and resident Fran Flannery asked if the council had planned all along on cutting the budget after its defeat. "I hope we can get back to being as effective, thorough and efficient as we had been several years ago," said Flannery.

Former board member Frank Mikorski commented to the council, "I don't understand the amount of the reduction. The council has reduced its costs for the last two or three years. In this school budget, in spite of more state and federal aid, we are still going to be faced with a tax increase."

Last year, the council cut the defeated school budget by \$1.25M. CFO Glenn Cullen said, "In two years the council has reduced the school tax levy by about \$1.8M, which has saved the average taxpayer \$153.30." He also added that \$61.39 of the \$85.15 (the fiscal rate) increase is due to the increase in the budget and \$23.76 of that is from a reduction of approximately \$1M in the borough's ratable base.

Anesh explained, "Based on the council's proposed reductions, the school tax levy has increased only about 1.25% over the past two years, even though many towns in the area are seeing increases two and three times that."

Reedy Named Hometown Hero

(Continued from page 1)

the annual Gold Card picnic held in May. The website for the Education Foundation is www.vision2001.org.

Reedy was instrumental in starting the SPHS Alumni Association. She worked to gather information and then produced the first SPHS Alumni Directory.

Reedy is married and has three children. In addition to her role in the foundation, she has been a

dedicated volunteer over the years in Riley School PTSO, middle school and high school PTAs and Project Graduation. She has been an assistant cub scout den leader and a member of the South Plainfield Music Boosters. Reedy is also a past member of the Board of Education and is currently Vice President of the South Plainfield Business Association.



Back row (L-R) Gregory Heim, Dawn Farinella, Joseph Sorrentino, Debbie Boyle, Ralph Errico and Frank Mikorski. Seated are John Sickles, Joyce Signorile, James Kenny, David Spatz, Ardis DeCamp and Dr. Tania Otero.

South Plainfield Business Association and South Plainfield High School Co-Sponsor Career Day

The South Plainfield Business Association (SPBA) and South Plainfield High School (SPHS) co-sponsored Career Day on April 26. The panel discussion was intended to expose students to a variety of professionals and careers with an opportunity ask questions about their education employment requirements.

Fourteen members of the SPBA volunteered their time to be on the panel and answer questions from 300 SPHS juniors. The panel discussion took place in two sessions, with approximately 150 students in each group. Students asked the panel members questions about various careers, who in turn referred to their own education and careers.

One thing which was repeated over and over by each panel member was to find a career they would enjoy working in every day. Many panel members explained how they had changed their professions and gone back to school in order to find new careers.

At the end of the panel discussion, students were given a few minutes to ask panel members one on one about their chosen career.

The panel discussion was well received and will probably be repeated next school year. Panel members were Debbie Boyle-BOE member, Ardis DeCamp-school nurse, Dawn Farinella-attorney, Nancy Grennier-newspaper editor, Gregory Heim-coin dealer, James Kenny-Skylands

Bank, Bob Longo-Cornerstone Architecture, Frank Mikorski-engineer, Dr. Tania Otero-veterinarian, John Sickles-The Salon Professional Academy, Joyce Signorile-Central Jersey Federal Credit Union, David Spatz-JerTex Network Solution and Joseph Sorrentino-newly elected school board member.

The event was organized by South Plainfield High School Director of Guidance Elaine Gallo and SPBA members Dawn Farinella, Nancy Grennier, Debbie Boyle and Frank Licato.

Library Board Approves New Vision and Mission Statements

(Continued from pages 1)

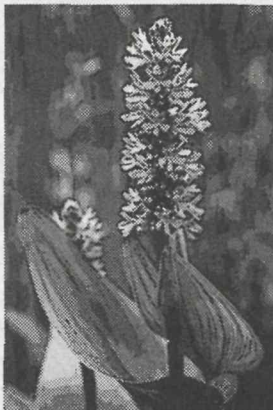
The first draft of the Library Mission statement states:

"It is the mission of the South Plainfield Public Library to provide informational, educational leisure and cultural resources to every resident of South Plainfield regardless of age, background or income level. From its unique position of enabling access to its online resources 24 hours a day, 7

days a week, the library encourages lifelong learning through its print and digital collections, programs activities and personal assistance at the library. The library strengthens the community by supporting schools, underserved populations and community charitable organizations through its outreach services as well as enriching the lives of all its residents."

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LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

May 13, 2011-Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on May 12, 2011.

- Case #33-10-Park Avenue Endo Surgery Center. Block 84; Lot 1; R-75 Zone; 2509 Park Avenue. The applicant's request that this matter be withdrawn and dismissed without prejudice was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.
- Case #4-11-Carmello Occhipinti, Jr. Block 60; Lot 13.01; R-75 Zone; 1706 Oxford Avenue. The applicant's request for the erection of a fence into the secondary front yard setback on Fairmount Avenue was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.
- Case #6-11-Gordon & Sheryl Lapp. Block 23; Lot 12; R-75 Zone; 1906 Grant Avenue. The applicant's request for the erection of an add-a-level was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.
- Case #7-11-Ronald Snyder-Block 254; Lot 20; R-1-2 Zone; 116 Teeple Place. The applicant's request that an existing foundation remain in its present location was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.
- Case #8-11-Michael Surowiec. Block 278;

Lot 9; R-15 Zone; 116 Ralph Avenue. The applicant's request for an add-a-level which will encroach into the secondary front yard setback on Willow Avenue was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Beth Khidre
Secretary-Board of Adjustment

\$37.95 May 20, 2011

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE No. 1931

#1931 ENTITLED: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF INTERESTS IN PORTIONS OF CERTAIN LOTS BY NEGOTIATION OR CONDEMNATION FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF A PORTION OF NEW BRUNSWICK AVENUE WITHIN THE BOROUGH was adopted after a Public Hearing and final reading were conducted on Monday, May 16, 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, May 20, 2011.

Joann L. Graf, RMC
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