

# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 14, NO. 39

Member New Jersey Press Association

60 CENTS

JUNE 3, 2011



Members of Boy Scout Troops 125 and 207 look on as Master Sergeant John Welgos, U.S. Army Special Forces (Ret.) and VFW Post #6763 Commander Vincent Perry (right) salute after placing wreaths to honor fallen veterans at Veterans Memorial Park on Monday. For story and additional photos, see page 7.

## Mark Tomei Named *Star-Ledger* Player of the Week



Mark Tomei —Photos courtesy of Don Hunsinger

South Plainfield High School junior, Mark Tomei was named the *Star-Ledger* Player of the Week for week eight in varsity baseball. Mark plays outfield for the Tigers and is their lead-off batter. He is batting an even .500, and at 96 at bats Mark has 48 hits which include 17 doubles, four triples and seven runs batted in (RBI).

Since that date, Mark has greatly assisted the Tigers during the Greater

Middlesex Conference (GMC) tournament games. In the quarter-finals Tomei singled, doubled, tripled and scored three runs. Additionally, in the semi-final game against Perth Amboy, Mark hit a three-run home run, and along with his teammates advanced to the final game of that tournament against Old Bridge.

Mark's dream is to one day be a professional baseball player.

### Tigers Defeat Perth Amboy 11-5; Advance to GMC Championship Final

Lately 11 would appear to be the lucky number for the South Plainfield Tigers. During the Greater Middlesex Conference (GMC) tournament on May 23, the Tigers beat Woodbridge 11-1 in the quarterfinals, and on Saturday in the semifinals they took down top-seeded Perth Amboy, 11-5. They'll take it-all the way to the championship game where they'll face second-seeded Old Bridge at a game to be played at East Brunswick High School on June 1 (after presstime).

In Saturday's semifinals, South Plainfield took to the field in the second game of the evening. The Tigers scored seven runs in the sixth inning, taking and holding on to the lead. Home run hitters were Mark Tomei (three run homer), Quinn Cochrane (solo) and Dan Hansen (two home runs), who finished the game with an impressive six runs batted in. The team advances to the finals in the GMC tournament with a 21-7 season record.



Tiger teammates gather at the plate to congratulate Mark Tomei, named *Star-Ledger* Player of Week 8, in South Plainfield's win in the semifinal game of the GMC tournament against Perth Amboy, 11-5.

The special borough-wide graduation issue hits newsstands July 1.  
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**BIG**  
BOROUGH-WIDE GRADUATION ISSUE





# 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

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

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

## South Plainfield Observer

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

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### SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

We encourage the submission of stories and photos. To have 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 story idea, contact the editor 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:

In the May 20 edition of the *Observer*, there was a picture showing the South Plainfield High School baseball team with their heads shaved after participating in a breast cancer research fundraiser. This fundraiser was done on behalf of mothers of SPSHS baseball players. Sadly, breast cancer has touched several families on the high school baseball team and all the boys have been affected by it to some degree. So, for them to want to participate and donate makes me so proud of these boys. They are very special young men.

Thank you to Coach Anthony Guida for organizing this event and wanting to do something for breast cancer research. Also, thank you to all the players and coaches on the JV and Varsity Baseball teams who donated what amounted to \$500. I took that money and donated it on Mother's Day at Somerset Patriots Stadium to Somerset Medical Center—Steeplechase Cancer Center for Breast Cancer. The Somerset Patriots agreed to match the amount along with my employer's match for a total of \$1,500 being donated to the cancer center.

Not only am I thanking Coach Guida for coming up with the idea, I would also like to thank him and Coach Mosca for joining the boys in shaving their heads. To the players who shaved their heads: my son, Stephen Petriello, Danny Hansen, Charlie Huber, Quinn Cochrane, Nick Muglia, Sal Esposito, AJ Celentano, Patrick Boyle and Taylor Born, thank you from my heart, and make sure you protect those heads! Love you boys!

LISA PETRIELLO

### Dear Editor,

The comments in last week's paper by the heads of the teachers' union really missed the mark.

In my opinion, the council acted quite responsibly when it reduced the tax increase proposed by the school board. Voters said "no" to the school budget, and regardless of the margin, nearly a thousand people cast their vote for lower school spending. It would have been wrong for the council to ignore these voters.

But recognizing that the school board had already cut back its staffing, the council went in with a scalpel

rather than a machete. In doing so, it came up with reductions to surplus accounts and reserves, which will not affect a single program or cut a single job. In fact, the school board president and the superintendent signed a letter guaranteeing that the council's reductions would not require any layoffs beyond those the board was already planning.

In my mind, the union should be happy that the council worked so hard to try to protect teaching spots, while at the same time, doing what the public said it had to do. One union official described the council as being "cavalier." It was anything but. If it had been, the council members would not have required a jobs guarantee as part of its agreement with the school board.

I realize that the extremes on both sides will never be happy in a situation like this. Some people wanted the budget cut to the bone, and some wanted no cuts whatsoever. The result is in between, a middle ground. In the end, the council was faced with a tough job, and it acted commendably by working together with the board to do what was right for the majority of people in our town. Again, in my opinion, the council acted responsibly.

KAREN PALLEIJA

### To the Editor:

Read the article on the school board budget meeting. It really got my attention. The reported comment by Carol Byrne to not let the citizens of the town vote on the budget made me so mad I had to put the paper down. How dare she tell me and every other taxpayer we should not have any input on the money taken out of our pockets to run the school system. As an ex-military guy who protected her rights—how dare she tell me that she wants to limit mine. She reminds me of a snively nosed whiny spoiled kid who is not getting her way. To her I say 'Get over yourself.'

### 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: spobsrver@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.

The Board of Education in this town has had its really questionable moments with regards to money matters. If the board doesn't like the input they should sit down and figure out how to do the job better. I agree with the board members who indicated the teachers are taking the hit instead of eliminating unnecessary school functions like sports, etc. The primary job is to teach the 3Rs. To emphasize this, the report last year indicating student academic proficiencies was a disappointment. Do we need more teachers and less outside interests? I have a load of questions on why our kids appear to lack the skills they will need if they don't go on to college. Take my vote away and see how irate I get.

BOB MESSER

### Dear Editor,

I was dismayed over the letter about this library and it is time this subject is put to an end.

The Democrats when in control went out and bought land and a house for a new library. When the Republicans took control we had a Democracy Day vote and again it lost. No matter how many people voted it lost.

The Republicans have tried everything to work with the Democrats which are trustees but have had nothing but a fight with no good reason. They should have also turned over the \$750,000 to the town as that is not the money of the library.

(Continued on page 10)

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## Borough Seeks Sustainable Jersey Certification

By Dorothy Miele, South Plainfield Environmental Comm. Chairwoman

In 2009, the Borough of South Plainfield passed a resolution to register in the Sustainable Jersey Municipal Government Certification Program. This provides a framework and incentives for municipalities working to become sustainable communities—communities that embody a good quality of life while minimizing impact on environment and other resources, now and for future generations.

The next step was taken by the South Plainfield Environmental Commission in January 2011. The commission amended its by-laws to form a Green Team as mandated by the certification program. Eight members were chosen: four from the Environ-

mental Commission (Dorothy Miele, Robyn Rusnak, Christopher Cioffi, Jonathan Walezak), Dr. Alice Tempel (South Plainfield Environmental Specialist), Robert Capparelli (head of the Department of Public Works), Glenn Cullen (Chief Financial Officer) and Christine Buteas (Environmental Commission Council Liaison).

The final step was taken by the governing body of South Plainfield when it approved a resolution on February 22 formally establishing the Green Team to identify, prioritize, select and enable sustainability initiatives that will benefit the residents and business people of South Plainfield by raising community awareness; engaging citizen volunteerism; maintaining fiscal responsibility; and attaining Sustainable Jersey certification.

A sustainable community seeks to optimize quality of life for its residents by ensuring that its environmental, economic and social objectives are balanced and mutually supportive. It strives to save tax dollars, assure clean land, air and water and improve working and living environments as steps to building a sustainable community that will thrive well into the next cen-



tury. Municipalities which attain Sustainable Jersey certification gain access to grants and program funding.

The Green Team will seek citizen participation as it moves forward with initiatives and programs designed to identify and implement best practices in the ways of natural resource protection, waste reduction, energy efficiency and in many other areas.

Sustainable Jersey is a partnership between the New Jersey League of Municipalities, Mayors Committee for a Green Future, New Jersey Sustainable State Institute at Rutgers University, Municipal Land Use Center at The College of New Jersey, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Rutgers Center for Green Building, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and a coalition of New Jersey nonprofits, state agencies and experts in various fields.

The Green Team meets from 7-8 p.m. the second Wednesday of the month in the conference room at Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave. The public is invited to attend.

Be active, be green and become a fan of South Plainfield Environmental Commission on Facebook.



The SPHS National Honor Society May 19 induction ceremony.

## NHS Inducts New Members

South Plainfield High School held the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony on May 19. President Michael Parello led the audience in the *Pledge of Allegiance* and welcomed the crowd. Acting Superintendent Dr. Gary Bowen gave his opening remarks along with Acting Assistant Superintendent Dr. Frank Cocchiola and Principal James Pedersen.

National Honor Society (NHS) Vice President Angela DeSantis spoke about the organization scholarship, Secretary Shruti Patel on leadership, Treasurer Rachel Alexa commented on character and Public Relations representative Joelle Butrico explained the meaning of the society's service to its peers.

The inductees then recited their pledge and the administration accepted the new members with a candle lighting ceremony. A reception was held in the cafeteria following the event.

Inductees are Alexis Alba, Casey Butrico, Brendan Berry, James Butrico, Amanda Calvi, Alexis Cargill, Jilian Cortese, Ken Crilley, Sabrina Del Piano, Nichole Firmin, Charles Huber, Rajath Kenath, Ashley Linick, Gina Longo, Brian Nguyen, Jamie Pagdonsolan, Jamie Quail, Sarah Roibal, Danielle Schaff, Nehal Selim, Emily Sella, Payal Sindha, Edward Sullivan, Jessica Thompson, Albert Vill, Kathleen Vincent, Allison Wagner and Allison M. White.

### CORRECTION



The May 27 article, "Twenty-five Honored at 8th Annual Junior Journalist Banquet," incorrectly reported Christopher Shine as the recipient of a \$50 savings bond courtesy of TD Bank. Sara Dabul (pictured) was the recipient of the bond. We apologize for the error.



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# events

## Around Town

### Country Breakfast, Troop 125 Car Wash

June 5

Come have breakfast at the South Plainfield VFW on Front Street on Sunday, June 5 from 8 to 11 a.m., and while you're eating breakfast have our Boy Scouts from Troop 125 wash your car from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Come and enjoy!

### Summer Drama Workshop Auditions

June 8-9

Summer Drama Workshop will present *High School Musical* for the 2011 season. Auditions will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, June 8 and 9 at the middle school from 5 to 9 p.m.

Bring a prepared song, preferably with sheet music and a non-returnable photo. A short dance routine will be taught. Those interested in crew can also register on these dates. If you are interested in orchestra, register on Monday, June 13; bring your instrument and be prepared to

do scales and play a piece of your choice. If necessary, call backs will also be held on June 13.

For more information, call (908) 561-5255.

### Community BBQ at Pilgrim Covenant

June 10

Pilgrim Covenant Church, 3121 Park Ave., will hold a community family BBQ on Friday, June 10 from 6-8 p.m., rain or shine. Bring something to BBQ for your family and a dish or dessert to share for about 6-8 people. There will be games for all ages and art activities for children 7-12.

For more information, call Dottie Harding at (908) 756-0366.

### Sacred Heart 5K Run/One Mile 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](http://www.sacredheartsp.net) or call Carl Adlassnig at (908) 757-1933.

### Cultural Arts Presents Line Dancing

June 11

The South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission invites you to an evening of line dancing on Saturday, June 11 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the South Plainfield Senior Center, 90 Maple Ave. Instructors Wanda and Jim York will teach line dancing to all ages, all levels. Free admission. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, call (908) 754-2381 or visit [www.countryline dancing.com](http://www.countryline dancing.com).

### GOP Comedy Night

June 11

The South Plainfield Republican Organization seventh annual comedy night will be held on Saturday, June 11 at 8 p.m. at the American Legion Post, 243 Oak Tree Ave. Three comedians, dinner and dessert, all for \$50 in advance; \$60 at the door. Reserve your tickets today before we sell out!

For tickets, call (908) 753-0247.

### Historical Society Monthly Meeting

June 14

The June meeting of the South Plainfield Historical Society will be held on Tuesday, June 14 at 7 p.m. at the history center located in the Board of Education Building. Parking and entrance is on Jackson Avenue.

This meeting will cover the final plans for the Labor Day quilt raffle.

Everyone is invited. Any questions, write to South Plainfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 11, South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

### Maszczyk 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. Proceeds will go to the

Maszczyk 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](mailto:openyourheartstrickytray@gmail.com).

### So. Plfd. Education Foundation Book Fair

June 18

The South Plainfield Education Foundation will hold a book fair on Saturday, June 18 at the Barnes & Noble in Menlo Park Mall and online between June 18-22 with Book Fair ID# 10489292. A flier and voucher will be available on the SPEF link on the Board of Education website: [www.spboe.org](http://www.spboe.org). The foundation provides scholarships and incentive programs for students year round. Members and educators will receive their usual discounts and most purchases for Father's Day and the Summer Reading selections will be eligible to earn funds for the organization using the Book Fair ID number. Please show your support.

### Flea Market/Bake Sale

June 18

The First Baptist Church of South Plainfield, 201 Hamilton Blvd., will hold a flea market/bake sale on Saturday, June 18 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The kitchen will also be open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a light lunch. Items for sale include delicious home baked goods, new and used household goods, quilt books, children's items, craft items, holiday decorations, some clothing and other treasures seeing new homes. Come and join us!

### — Out of Town —

### National Walk for Suicide Prevention

June 4 & 5

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) will hold its Out of the Darkness Overnight Walk in New York City on Saturday and Sunday, June 4-5. The 18-mile walk from sunset to sunrise will raise money and awareness for suicide prevention.

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### SENIOR CENTER Calendar

June 16 Bally's

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](http://www.southplainfieldnj.com)

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

Register at [www.TheOvernight.org](http://www.TheOvernight.org) or call 888-The-Overnight.

### EAS Big Band Jazz

June 4

The Edison Arts Society presents the EAS Big Band Jazz Orchestra in a jazz concert on Saturday, June 4 at 7:30 p.m. at Metuchen High School, 400 Grove Ave. Tickets: \$20 for adults and \$15 for students.

For reservations and information, call (732) 225-1261 or visit [edisonarts.org](http://edisonarts.org).

### Medical Qi Gong Meditation Class

June 4

Medical QiGong is a free course of meditation exercises being offered at Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Rd. in Scotch Plains on Saturday, June 4 from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

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

### Lumberjack Show and Free BBQ

June 4

Professional lumberjacks will demonstrate centuries-old logging skills at the Lumberjack Show and BBQ on Saturday, June 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Kuiken Brothers, 33 Rt. 10 East in Succasunna. Free and fun for the whole family!

For more information, call (201) 705-5375.

### Annual Community Flea Market

June 4

Grace Alliance Church will hold a flea market on Saturday, June 4 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Timothy Christian School, 2008 Ethel Road in Piscataway. Vendors wanted! Rain date is Saturday, June 11.

For more information, call (732) 424-0404.

### Blackrose to Perform

June 4

Blackrose, the band, playing classic rock and roll music and today's hits, will be performing at Rug's & Riffy's

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# events

## Around Town

Bar and Grill, 493 Rahway Ave. in Woodbridge on Saturday, June 4 at 9 p.m. No cover charge.

### 21st Higgins Classic Golf Tournament

June 6

Golfers are invited to participate in the 21st annual Higgins Classic Golf Tournament on Monday, June 6 at Fiddler's Elbow Country Club in Far Hills. The event benefits more than 22,000 athletes of Special Olympics New Jersey. Tickets for the evening reception are \$95.

For information, call (609) 482-2280 or email HigginsClassic@sonj.org.

### Middlesex East WOWs Business Mtg.

June 6

Middlesex East Widows Or Widowers will conduct a business meeting on Monday, June 6 at 7 p.m. at the Carteret Community Center, Pershing and Cooke avenues in Carteret. All widows or widowers are invited to attend.

For more information, call (732) 969-2228 or (908) 757-0515.

### Livestrong at YMCA

June 7 and June 9

Livestrong, a 12-week free program for cancer survivors, will be presented at the Metuchen Branch YMCA. Evening sessions begin Tuesday, June 7 from 6 to 9 p.m. and day sessions begin Thursday, June 9 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The first hour is a support group setting with a facilitator. The second hour is a water-based exercise program.

For information or to register, call

Nicole Miller at (732) 548-2044, ext. 235.

### Woodbridge WOWs Business Mtg.

June 8

Woodbridge Widows Or Widowers will conduct a business meeting on Wednesday, June 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the children's room of the main library at the George Frederick Plaza, Rt. 35 in Woodbridge. All widows and widowers are welcome.

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

### Cape May Adventure

June 9

Metuchen Branch YMCA is sponsoring a trip to Cape May on Thursday, June 9 that will focus on the impact of World War II in the Cape May area including coastal fortifications at Cape May Point. Tea luncheon in the Carriage House. Fee: \$95 per person. Bus departs from Metuchen Municipal Pool parking lot at 8:30 a.m.

For more information or to reserve your spot, call Jean at (732) 548-2044.

### Giant Yard Sale

June 11

The Ladies Auxiliary of the North Stelton Volunteer Fire Company, 70 Haines Ave. in Piscataway, will be sponsoring its annual spring yard sale on Saturday, June 11 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Raindate: June 18. Vendors wanted; spaces available for \$15 each.

For more information or to reserve a space, call Lisa at (732) 985-0282.



THE STAFF AT ARISTACARE at Cedar Oak, an acute stroke recovery rehab center in South Plainfield, did a fabulous job in creating awareness for Stroke Awareness Month in May. They plan more events in June.

## Knights' Special Citizens Drive Raises \$10K

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 Special Citizens Drive raised over \$10,000 last month. The money was collected during a four day event from canning at local business.

The following local business—The Corner Deli, Sherban's Restaurant, Oak Tree Liquors and Mr. Sub—allowed the Knights to place a can inside their stores all year for customers to make donations. All proceeds collected will be donated to three local special needs organizations: The Keystone Community, The Midland

School and The McCauley School. The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus support these schools throughout the year.

The Knights would also like to thank the following businesses for allowing them to stand in front of their stores this year: Sherban's Restaurant, Mr. Subs, Quik Chek, CVS, A&P, Pathmark, Super Stop and Shop, Shop Rite, The Bagel Pantry, Ciccio's Pizza, 7-11, TD Bank, Front Street Farmers Market, Witty's Liquor Store and Oak Tree Liquors.

Chairman and Grand Knight Joe

Scudato would like to thank all of the Knights members, Sister Columbiettes and their family members who collected during this drive. The Knights would also like to thank each and every South Plainfield resident who supported the Special Citizens Drive this year.

Lastly, they would like to personally thank four people who came down each day to help count the money and put in a lot of hours over the weekend, Walter Kula, Theresa and Joe Bielinski and Irene Buttrico.

Submitted by Joe Scudato

## policereport

• On May 19 New Brunswick Saw Service on New Market Avenue reported that the handle had been broken off the entry door. Nothing was taken.

• On May 20 Mobile Storage Group Inc., reported the theft of a 45 ft. storage container that was left at Just Packaging Inc. on Oak Tree Avenue.

• On May 21 Michael L. Schanck, 23, of Dunellen was arrested for obstruction and two outstanding warrants.

• Bernard Crawford, 60, of Edison was arrested for driving while intoxicated and careless driving.

• On May 22 Javier E. Alvarado, 22, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated and driving on a suspended license.

• On May 23 Jose L. Alicea, 19, of South Plainfield was arrested at Home Depot for taking \$600 cash from the cash register.

• On May 24 a Plainfield resident reported that the rear window of their vehicle had been broken while parked

at Conway Central Express, Inc. on Hollywood Avenue.

• On May 25 Robert S. Barnard, 46, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, failure to keep right, reckless driving and no insurance.



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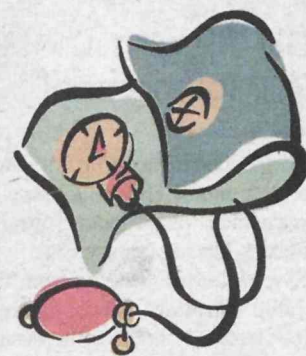
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## Fri., June 10, 2011

**Raffles—3 for \$5.00**

All proceeds to benefit the  
National Stroke Association.

## 8:00am-10:00am

1311 Durham Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080

Please come & join AristaCare at Cedar Oaks,  
South Plainfield's premier stroke recovery sub  
acute rehab center, for our morning event in  
honor of Stroke Awareness Month.

Please RSVP to Kathy Sherry,  
Admissions Director (by Tues, 6/7):

**732.287.9555, x123**

**ksherry@aristacare.com**

**Don't  
Miss  
Out!**

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TODAY!**





# A Day of Honor for the 1,250,000 Men and Women Who Gave Their Lives



Members of the American Legion Chaumont Post #243 and VFW Post #6763 were joined by South Plainfield officials, Boy Scout Troops 125 and 207, several past and present high school band students and local residents in honoring the fallen heroes who lost their lives while serving their country. In the history of the United States, approximately 1,250,000 men and women have given their lives in defense of their country. In prepara-

tion for the Memorial Day services, Scouts from Troop 207 placed between 1,900 and 2,000 flags on the veteran's graves. Opening ceremonies began at the American Legion where a wreath was placed in front of the building by Master Sergeant John Welgos, U.S. Army Special Forces (Ret.), and concluded at the VFW where a wreath was also placed in front of the building. In between, the group traveled to

the three local cemeteries and Veterans Park. At each stop members of the VFW and American Legion, along with Scouts from Troops 207 and 125, led the way to the grave sites as a drum roll was played. A prayer was offered by VFW member Bill Ruba, a wreath was placed at the site followed by a three-gun salute and the playing of *Taps* by bugler and South Plainfield High School student Corey Singer. The drum roll was performed by SPHS student Nick Taricani. They were joined by former SPHS band members Andy Keraga, who attends Centenary College; Paul Cantarella, who attends NJCU; James Sansone, who attends Middlesex County College; and Ricky Sierzega, who attends Towson University.

The ceremonies concluded at the VFW where Carla Scala, a graduate of SPHS who attends Middlesex County College, sang the National Anthem and Reverend Charles Mingle said a prayer for the fallen heroes before the last wreath was placed in front of the building.

More than 70 residents attended the ceremonies. After the ceremonies were completed, they enjoyed a lunch hosted by members of the VFW.



Corey Singer



## Students Reminded to Ponder Holiday's Meaning

The South Plainfield Middle School annual Memorial Day assembly was held on May 27. Once students were assembled in the courtyard, the middle school band opened the ceremony by playing the National Anthem. Principal Kevin Hajduk welcomed students, staff, veterans representing the South Plainfield VFW, Board of Education member Debbie Boyle, Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan and Councilwoman Chrissy Buteas.

Hajduk reminded students about the importance of the holiday, encouraging them to remember the sacrifices veterans make to serve our country.

Following Hajduk's remarks, the middle school chorus sang *God Bless America*. Student Council President Zaire Cone addressed the student body. After a moment of silence, the band performed *Taps*, *Amazing Grace* and *Armed Forces on Parade*.

Assemblyman Diegnan praised the band and chorus for their outstanding performance and recognized the veterans for their dedication in

protecting our country.

Hajduk closed the ceremony by telling students not to usher in the summer season over the weekend, but to understand the significance of why Memorial Day is celebrated.



Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan speaks at Middle School Memorial Day ceremony.

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BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

### PUBLIC NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE that the undersigned shall expose for sale in accordance with R.S. 39:10A-1, at public auction on June 10, 2011 at 11 a.m. at 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey, the below described motor vehicles which came into possession of the South Plainfield Police Department through abandonment or failure of owners to claim same. The motor vehicles may be examined by contacting Traffic Safety.

Year	Make	Vin#	Status	Description	Min. Bid
1995	Jeep	1J4GZ58S5SC645049	Resale	Cherokee	\$2,260
1999	Dodge	2B3HD46R0XH713573	Resale	Intrepid	\$2,000

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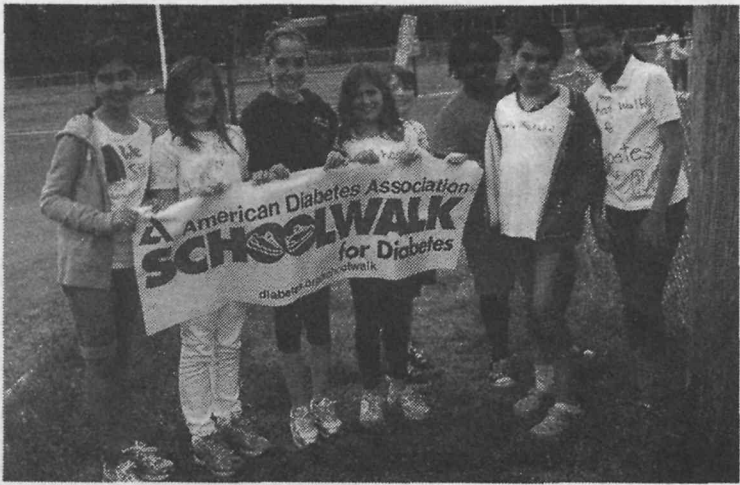


## Students Perform In Forum Theatre's Broadway Bound

Kennedy and Grant School students had the opportunity to perform in *Broadway Bound* at the Forum Theater in Metuchen on May 1. The theater offers a Stars on Stage program designed specifically for children interested in singing, dancing and performing on stage. In *Broadway Bound* they performed various songs from Broadway shows from the 1950s through present. Some of the shows featured were *Gypsy*, *Dolls*, *West Side Story*, *Annie* and *Wicked*.

Tala Abdeljaber and her sister, Dina Abdeljaber, performed a duet of the song *Anything You Can Do*; Dania Mohtadi and her sister, Idi Mohtadi, performed a duet of *Sisters*; Skylar Davison sang *If Mamma Was Married*; Natalie Stilo performed in *Dancing Queen* and Mikey Behr performed the song *Gypsy* and *Dolls*. All the children also sang and danced in group ensembles and some had speaking parts as well.

"I am so impressed to see all the things they have learned about performing live. I feel very fortunate to be able to work with these talented children at Kennedy School," said music teacher Barbara Habeeb.



Fifth graders Neha Lund, Kristi Maher, Kristen Brady, Isabella Ardito, Jason Rossow, Courtney Lee, Angella Alavarado and Maricelys Inoa.

## Students Walk for Diabetes

By Libby Barsky

Defying superstition about the number 13, Grant School students took part in a Walk for Diabetes on Friday, May 13 at Spring Lake Park to raise funds for the American Diabetes Association. The day was not an unlucky one; students raised \$6,000, the highest amount ever.

The walk took place during the last period of the day when students poured out of the building and began to march behind those holding a sign that read American Diabetes Association Schoolwalk. They continued on to Spring Lake Park where they

walked around the lake for the remainder of the period.

The Grant School Student Council and teacher and advisor Allison Schneider began planning the walk on April 1. Students pledged a minimum of two dollars to participate. Prizes were awarded for those who brought in the most donations. Jackie Battista had \$350, the highest amount; the highest amount raised by a boy was \$200 by Joshua Ward. They each received tickets to see a Somerset Patriots Baseball game this summer. Classes also vied for the prize of a class breakfast; Dana Hauck's class was named the winner.

## Grant School Announces Third Quarter Honor Roll

### High Honor Roll

Alejandra Arboleda, Isabella Ardito, Andrea Avelar, Jacquelyn Battista, Michael Behr, Jason Belanger, Ashli Bell, Surindra Boodhoo, Bradley Butler, Deanna DeVizio, Ziad Elmasry, Jake Elsmann, Nicholas Farinella, Megan Forster, Melissa Gallant, Allison Graves, Ishani Haldar, Ryan Hu, Adanna Ibeku, Gavin Jones, Mehdi Kamal, William Keane, Joseph Kelly, Caleb Kuberiet, Tiffany Le, Christina Lobosco, Charles Lovett, Kaylie Macpherson, Kristi Maher, Megan McDermott, Adia Menendez, Kian Morgan, Helen Nguyen, Grace Ochoa, Haley Olsen, Genesis Ortiz-Samayoa, Amit Patel, Harshit Patel, Parth Patel, Raj Patel, Roshni Patel, Daniel Persaud, Shea Price, Rhea Rajpal, Daniel Ramotowski, Neelam Rana, Sarah Regan, Scott Riccardi, John Roarty, Laura Rodriguez, Jade Scotti, Courtney Smith, Ria Soni, Tatianna Sutor, Nancy Tran, Akachukwu Uba, Edwin Vasquez, Ashley Veliz, Jonathan Veliz, Katherine Vill, Rachel Voelkel, Alexis Walker, Stephanie Waters, Samantha Williams

### Honor Roll

Mary Abate, Tala Abdeljaber, Emily

Abrego, Sabrina Ahmed, Eric Akpan, Connor Aleksandrowicz, Lanae Ali, Irvin Caraballo-Arevalo, Brianna Atkinson, Ryan Berardi, Andrew Bisgaard, Kristen Brady, Eric Brinks, David Bui, Cristian Butrico, Noah Cabrera, Gabriella Cangialosi, Cara Capone, Michael Castagno, James Cavanagh, Megan Celentano, David Chatel, Amanda Cheng, Jack Cochran, Steven Colicchio, Laianna Correa, Brianna Crabtree, Jenna DaSilva, Leon Dass, Isaiah David, Megyn Decarlo, Jessica Deepan, Philip DeFort, Jared DeGraw, Marisa DeSimone

Maryaim Elmajdouli, Francine Esiape, Isiah Feeley-Sudeall, Gregory Forbes, Alejandro Garcia, Carlos Gil, Jake Giordano, Lailah Goldberg-Motta, Mariana Gomez, Donald Grabinsky, Jennifer Grasso, Kayla Greenleaf, Brad Guerrero, Gabriela Guerrero, Grace Hageman, Brian Harper, Joseph Heilmann, Stephanie Heim, Dishon Hessing, Jake Hoffman, Caitlin Hughes, Maricelys Inoa, Tatiana Ishod, Chace Jones, James Joyner, Patrick Kopolka, Emily Kuchinski, Michael Lampasona, Michael Lapolla, McKenzie Larsen, Kathleen LeBlanc, Julian Lee, Lawrence Lenau, Maggi Li, Thomas Licato, Neha Lund, Benjamin Lundy, Adriel MacLean, Aubrey Marish, Jared Marks, Ryan Marston, Shanaya Martinez, Mikayla Mastroianni, Ceara McCormick, Jessica McGuinness, Mary McNeil, Gabriela Medina, Hailey Medina, Michael Menkin, Tatyana Mercado-Navarro, Simran Modhera, Anthony Montuori, Camila Mosquera, Darius Mullens, Bianca Murcelo

Claire Nagel, Liam Nagel, Sahith Nagireddy, Brian Nassy, Jackson Nguyen, Anthony Nunez, Chisom Nwankwo, Angel O'Connell, Olivia O'Leary, Uchenna Obadike, Alexandria Obregon, Jacob Panton, Anthony Palmeri, Matthew Pangani-ban, Sebastian Paredes, Maulin Patel, Reina Patel, Riya Patel, Erwin Pelaez, Henrique Pereira, Joshua Persad, Cole Peterson, Nikolas Peterson, Bao Pham, James Piedilato, Nicholas Plate, Jose Ponce, Meagan Praul, Alona Prokofieva, Abigail Ramirez, Pratyusha Ravulapalli, Hannah Rhoads, Tyenah Rivera, Isabella Rochford, Jaime Rochotte, Sara Roman, Natalie Romano, Jason Rossow, Megan Russo

Alexis Salernitano, Christian Santiago, Seth Santos, Camryn Schaeffer, Jack Scudato, Brian Sesta, Grace Sesta, Rutvik Shah, David Shawiak, Jordyn Simmons, Pooja Sindha, Cody Soper, Kevin Soper, Lindsey Soper, Drew Spahn, Zion Spears, Owen Sprigle, Justin Spry, Ryan Stankan, Melanie Stewart, Olivia Stragapede, Nicoela Sutor, Tahirsha Syed, Lucas Tamburro, Tomasz Tarnawski, Siddharth Thuppil, Bridgette Titus, Michael Tran, Daria Turner, Emily Velasco, Michael Villany, Asadullah Waheed, Alea Watson, Kyle Whalen, Ian Wietrzykowski, Edward Wilinski, Chloe Wilson, Talia Wilson, Brandon Wizda, Connor Wolpin, Hao Bang Yang, Azreen Zaman, Arnold Zavala, Nicole Zultowski

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

Saturday June 11, 2011

Check In 7:30 AM Race Time 9:00 AM

Sacred Heart School  
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Entry Fees: 5K Race \$25.00 application fee  
\$5.00 for students with valid school ID or report card copy  
1 Mile Walk \$10.00 per family or individual

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Register @ [www.sacredheartsp.net](http://www.sacredheartsp.net) or mail completed application with check payable to Sacred Heart to the above address. Contact Info: Carl Adlassnig [randcautobody@aol.com](mailto: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.

## LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
LEGAL NOTICE

May 27, 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 26, 2011.

A. Case # 9-11-Jim & Tracey Lundy, Block 240; Lot 5; 108 Vakarich Place. The applicant's request for a 4' 6" side yard setback in order to erect a pool deck was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary Beth Khidre  
Secretary-Board of Adjustment



# Sports

## Notes from the **Jim Pomovets Memorial Golf League**



By Bob Nilan

There was an error in the scoring of the Roughriders-KC's Korner match on May 11, and it turned out that the Roughriders did not win, 11-9, as initially reported, but actually lost the match by the same score. Consequently, the Roughriders were not undefeated when they teed off against Twin City Pharmacy, and both teams had the same 2-1 records.

Led by Guy Severini's solid round of 36, Twin City hardily defeated the Roughriders, 15-5, to move into a tie for first place with Witty's Liquors. Andy Hayward earned the medal for the Roughriders with a 38.

Bob Chase had a nifty 35, Sean Brooks posted a 36 and Nick Tonzetich pitched in with a 38 as Witty's Liquors put on a display of their firepower in whipping Oak Tree Dental, 12-8. Brooks almost earned the distinction of being the first player in league history ever to hit a ball out-of-bounds on the second hole. He is still bewildered how he could ever hit such a horrendous drive that almost wound up on Woodland Avenue. Somehow, from his most unusual lie, he made a miraculous par. Making that extraordinary four was important in what developed into a very close match. Efrin Solis had a good night with a 36 in a losing effort for Oak Tree Dental.

### LEAGUE STANDINGS

American Division				National Division			
	W.....	L.....	T.....		W.....	L.....	T.....
Witty's Liquors .....	3	1	0	KC's Korner .....	4	0	0
Twin City .....	3	1	0	Polish Home .....	3	1	0
Unique Sports .....	2	2	0	Alfie's Boys .....	2	2	0
Oak Tree Dental.....	2	2	0	Sport & Social .....	1	3	0
Roughriders .....	2	2	0	Italian American Club .....	1	3	0
2 Buds, 2 Dubs.....	1	3	0	McCriskin's .....	0	4	0

Ted Stanik of Unique Sports Accessories has been playing some of the best golf of his life this past month. Stanik recently fired a superb round of 67 at Ash Brook and continued his excellent play by shooting a marvelous even-par 33, the best round of the night, to spark his team to a convincing 15-5 triumph over the defending league champions, 2 Buds, 2 Dubs. Captain Chris Dillon made a fine contribution with his 36 for the victors. Jeff Orth of 2 Buds, 2 Dubs, was the medalist for his team with a 39. Captain Dale Dube returned to his team's line-up after being out because of knee surgery. Dale has resumed his regular playing schedule, but it's obviously going to take more time before he regains his old form.

When the season began, it clearly looked like Alfie's Boys was the team to beat for the National Division title. Now it looks like Alfie's Boys has some unexpected problems in fielding

a full four-man team. Bill Mann was the only golfer present for Alfie's Boys so KC's Korner waltzed to an easy 16-4 victory. Mann won all four of his points on his way to a 38. Dan Conti just loves playing from the middle of the fairways so he plans to continue to sleep with his driver over the objections of his wife. Conti registered a 38 to lead the undefeated KC's Korner to sole possession of first place.

Last week Captain Frank Matthews called a meeting and gave a stirring motivational speech to light a fire under his team, and the oratory worked—Matthews got his own message and shot a 39 to move Sport & Social to a 14-6 win over the Italian American Club. Frank Ferraro had a 43 for medalist honors in a losing effort.

Tom Kaufman did not have the services of his usual partner, last season's Player-of-the-Year, Ray Starnick, but he still managed to post a good number, a 36, as the Polish National Home edged out McCriskin's Home For Funerals, 11-9. Steve Schock had a 38 for McCriskin's who lost a very tough match.

**Low scores for the night:** Bob Chase, 35; Sean Brooks, 36; Chris Dillon, 36; Tom Kaufman, 36; Guy Severini, 36; Efrin Solis, 36; Ted Stanik, 37.

## Volunteer at Barclays Golf Tourney

The greatest golfers in the world will be competing for a \$10,000,000 top prize at the Barclays 2011 Golf Tournament from August 23-28 at the Plainfield Country Club in Edison.

You can be a part of this spectacular event by volunteering to help at the tournament. You get close to the action; create memories of a lifetime, and best of all, you help the YMCA of Metuchen, Edison, Woodbridge and South Amboy Send a Kid to Camp Campaign. Barclays makes a donation to the YMCA for each volunteer who signs up through their volunteer program.

Volunteers help out on an assortment of tasks, from acting as marshals to helping in the media center. In addition to being a part of the action, volunteers receive: A Barclays's logo

polo and volunteer pin, a Barclay's logo baseball cap, lunch on days worked, admission to a volunteers reception party and a free parking pass and free admission pass for you and a friend for the entire week.

The real winners of the Barclays will be the charities that benefit from the contributions the Barclays and the Professional Golfers Association make at their event. Be a volunteer! Help the YMCA of Metuchen, Edison, Woodbridge and South Amboy Send a Kid to Camp Campaign. What a great opportunity to model for the children by showing them that volunteerism can be fun, and something you can do at every stage of life.

To register online, visit the Barclays volunteer website at <http://barclaysvolunteers.pgatourhq.com/>.

## Obituaries

### Jeffrey J. Abrams, 61

Jeffrey J. Abrams died on Thursday, May 26 at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born in New York, Jeff was raised in Colonia and resided in Edison before moving to South Plainfield 20 years ago.

For 17 years, Mr. Abrams worked at the Middlesex County Adult Corrections in North Brunswick prior to retiring as a lieutenant. He also served as vice president of safety and security for the Archdiocese of Newark St. James Hospital. In addition, Jeff took pride in his family and loved all of his friends.

He is predeceased by his parents, Irwin and Claire Abrams; and by his brother, Mitchell.

Surviving are his wife Bonnie (Williams) Abrams; two sons, Jeffrey J. Abrams, Jr. and wife Yvonne and Scott M. Abrams and wife Vicki, both of Edison; a sister, Jodi Smyth (Bob)

also of Edison; six grandchildren, Gavin, Ty, Delancy, Rylie, Avery and Jake; his mother-in-law, Julie Williams of South Plainfield; a sister-in-law, Karen Abrams of Hillsborough; two nephews, Joshua Abrams and wife Kristin of Staten Island, N.Y. and David Aubrey of Little Falls, as well as many loving friends.

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

## Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Ave.  
South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul Alvarado, Pastor

### Mass Schedule:

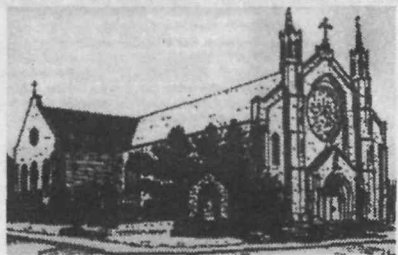
Saturday Mass 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

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

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

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

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



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From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Danielle Aronowitz

Greetings from the library.

Why pay for movie rentals? Come to the library where renting movies is free! We have a great selection from hot new releases to television shows to classics. Some recent new movies that we own are *The Mechanic*, *I Am Number Four*, *The Other Woman*, *Blue Valentine*, *No Strings Attached*, *Justin Bieber: Never Say Never*, *The Roommate*, *Gnomeo and Juliet*, *Waiting for Forever*, *The Green Hornet*, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1* and *The Kings Speech*.

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We also have MP3 books on CD that patrons can borrow. The MP3 disc contains the entire book on one or two CDs as opposed to a regular book on CD which can contain seven or more CDs. These discs can be played

in compatible cars, CD and DVD players, computers and can be transferred to your MP3 player or iPod as well. Most new cars since 2006 are equipped with players that are MP3 compatible, so come in and check one out and see if it works for you. We have numerous bestsellers available in this format.

For those interested in learning a foreign language, we have recently purchased a new database: BYKI (Before You Know It) which has over 80 different languages to choose from as well as ESL for non-English speakers. You can sign up through the library's website. You will have to create your own personal username. There is a tutorial video that will provide help in how to use this resource. One of the cool features is that you can actually hear how the word or phrase is supposed to be pronounced, which makes learning it easier. There is also a BYKI app for cell phones and other portable devices so you can use BYKI on the go!

The library now has a Facebook page where we post information about upcoming events and special programs. You can find it at [www.facebook.com/southplainfieldlibrary](http://www.facebook.com/southplainfieldlibrary).

We will be following the regular schedule for children's programs. The Storytime program for age two and three is held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings at 10:30. Storytime for ages four and up is held Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. The Babytime program for ages up to two years old is held Friday morning at 10:30. These programs do not require registration. Please try to get to the storytime programs on time because it can get very disruptive for Miss Linda and Miss Mija and the children if people come in the middle of the program.

For more information about the programs, call (908) 754-7885.



South Plainfield Middle School students held a campus cleanup on April 30. Principal Kevin Hajduk along with teachers and students raked debris, cleaned the center courtyard and pond, planted flowers around the building and hung CDs from trees to protect a pregnant duck that is nesting there from predators.

## In My Opinion

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

(Continued from page 2)

I was at one time in favor of an addition to the library and it was the Republicans who found out you can add on with the building but again that was not good enough and the Democrats keep insisting we need a new library. The library now is not well managed or well kept. I think what we have now is more than needed and the town of South Plainfield is not suffering without a new building. This library can be cleared up and used as a library should. No computer games to make it just a hang out or video rentals since Blockbuster closed their stores.

Councilman Robert Bengivenga has done all he can to help out the situation and only was given a fight in the papers by this person on the board.

During these times anything new should not even be considered to be

built. Why should our taxes be raised to make a few people happy when a library is not needed. I said this before and say it again, bring a company in to organize this library and move on with it. We don't need any new taxes at this time. Our country is 114 trillion dollars in debt. For every child born today he or she will owe \$48,000 dollars in taxes already. I am sure George Washington and Thomas Jefferson would have a problem with that.

Now with the Board of Education. Why cut middle school sports when they are important stepping stones to playing sports in high school that might give a student an edge to continue his or her education. You can't compare that to Little League or Pop Warner football or other programs.

Why weren't the teacher aids let go? Why do we need teacher aids? Fire them! We have teachers, do we need

## Library to Host Motivational Speaker

The motivational program, "It's Your Lucky Day," will be held at the South Plainfield Public Library on Thursday, June 23 at 7 p.m.

The program will be conducted by motivational speaker, Judy England-McCarthy, RN, who will talk about how people are frequently overwhelmed by life's daily experiences, and how to gain perspective and live life fully in the moment. The program will include audience discussion. It is being presented free of charge; no pre-registration is required.

For more information, call (908) 754-7885, visit [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/southplainfieldlibrary](http://www.facebook.com/southplainfieldlibrary).

to have aids for them also? I never had them when I attended school, then we could have saved teachers jobs. I also think the schools clerical staff should be looked into. I am sure they can be cut or have jobs eliminated to save money that would have saved teachers if that is desired.

You never take away a sports program or any other programs when we are paying teacher aids that are not needed and clerical people who are milking the system dry. We finally have a mayor and council trying to save any additional taxes and we don't need a library and I think more cuts could have been made in the Board of Education with the aids and clerical people. Times are tough and will continue to be, we don't need to be wasting money.

TONY PISANIELLO

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# 299 Fifth Graders Complete Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program

## Sacred Heart DARE Program Graduates 20

By Jane Dornick

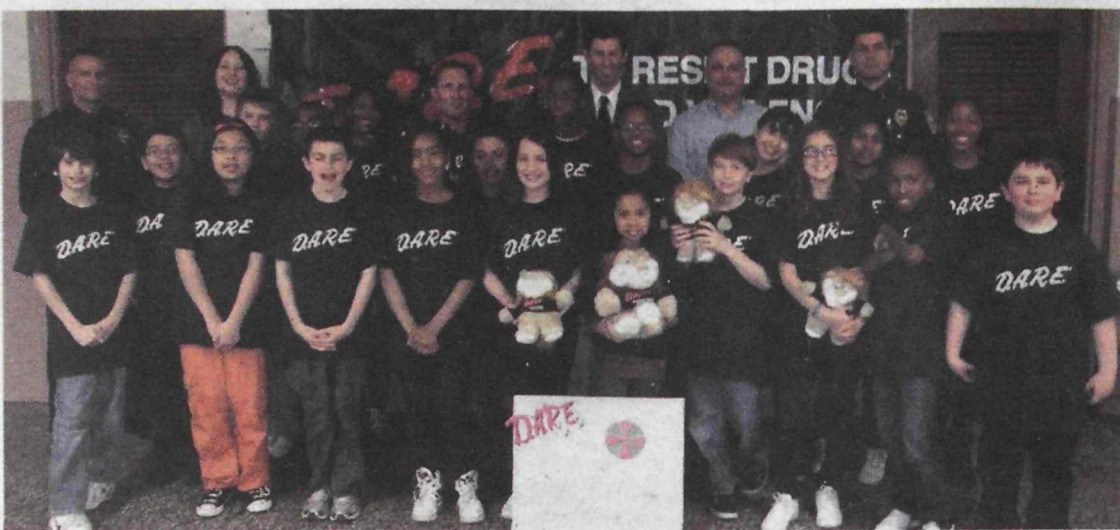
A graduation ceremony was held at Sacred Heart School on May 23 for the fifth grade DARE class.

Specially trained South Plainfield Police Officer Lloyd McNelly spent 16 weeks teaching the children the skills they need to avoid involvement in drugs, gangs and violence. Attending the ceremony was Police Chief Jim Parker, Capt. Matt Koep, Mayor Matt Anesh and Councilman Alex Barletta.

The essay contest winners were

Rylie Campagna, Alyssa Waldron and Zack Werrlein and the poster contest winner was Kathryn Guiang.

The DARE graduates are Rylie Campagna, Christopher Dzioba, Alyssa Fernandez, Rain Fuentas, Joey Gualtieri, Kathryn Guiang, Nick Iarrapino, Janelle Kelly, Sean Lavelle, Walter Lopez, Joseph Makoski, Cornel Mends-Cole, Zyasia Nash, Neve Ruiz, Stephanie Sequeira, Sterling Stokes, Romey Talley, Alyssa Waldron, Jamil Ward and Zachery Werrlein.



(L-R) Officer Lloyd McNelly, Sacred Heart Principal Terrance Golden, teacher Nicole Kagan, Mayor Matt Anesh, Councilman Alex Barletta and Chief Jim Parker with Sacred Heart DARE graduates.

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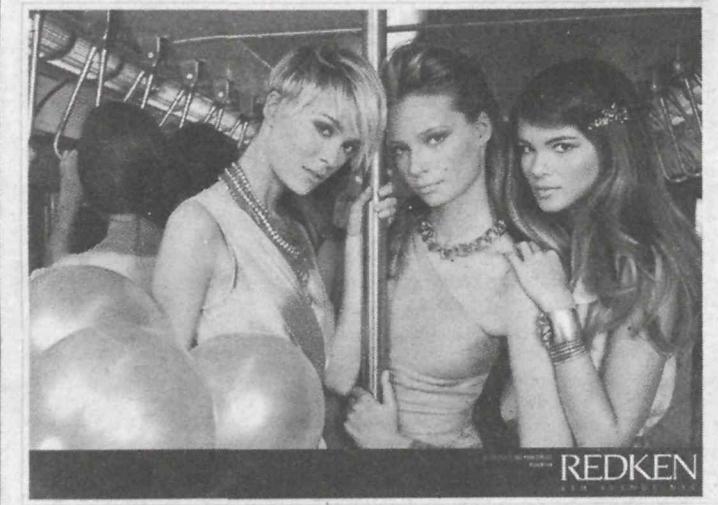


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(L-R) Grant School Principal Leo Whalen, DARE Officer Lloyd McNelly, Councilman Alex Barletta, Mayor Matt Anesh, BOE Member Debbie Boyle, Councilman Rob Bengivenga, CFO Glenn Cullen, Chief James Parker and Grant School Vice Principal Rob Richkus with the winners of the DARE poster and essay contest.

## Grant School DARE Program Graduates 279 Students

By Jean Fultz

The graduation ceremony for the 279 fifth grade students at Grant School who completed the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program was held on May 23 during a morning assembly. This is the first year that the DARE program was taught by Police Officer Lloyd McNelly.

Prior to announcing the winners of the poster and essay contest, Officer McNelly spoke about the experience of teaching the students about the dangers of drug and alcohol use, saying, "We learned about making good decisions. I can't begin to explain the joy that teaching this class has brought me. For eight years I worked midnights, and no one ever called to thank me."

Grant School Principal Leo Whalen then thanked McNelly saying, "This is the first year Officer McNelly ran the DARE program and I have to compliment him. He did a really, really great job this year with the kids."

The winners of the poster contest for the second marking period were Alesandra Arboleda, Joseph Nardacci, Roshni Patel, Mike LaPolla, Cara Capone, Anyssa Silva; the overall winner was Steven Colicchio and the essay winner was Niko Vasquez. The winners of the poster contest for the third marking period were Hailey Medina, Emily Velasco, Connor Wolpin, Isabella Ardito, Amanda Chang and Neelam Rana; the overall winner was Christian Santiago and the essay winner was Stephanie Waters. The 2011 DARE overall poster winner was Emily Abrego.

Also attending were Police Chief James Parker, Mayor Matt Anesh,

Councilmen Rob Bengivenga and Alex Barletta, Board of Education member Debbie Boyle, Vice Principal Rob Richkus and Borough CFO Glenn Cullen.

The DARE graduates are Mary Abate, Tala Abdeljaber, Emily Abrego, Matthew Abreu, Connor Adams, David Adams, Sabrina Ahmed, Eric Akpan, Kimberly Albrecht, Connor Aleksandrowicz, Asher Ali, Ryan Ali, Angela Alvarado, Gavin Appgar, Alejandra Arboleda, Isabella Ardito, Caraballo Arevalo, Brianna Atkinson, Andrea Avelar, Trevor Barry, Jacquelyn Battista, Karandeo Behari, Michael Behr, Lindsay Benko, Ryan Berardi, Kathryn Berry, John-Preston Boyce, Kristen Brady, Eric Brinks, Roshan Budhan, David Bui, Bradley Butler

Noah Cabrera, Nubia Calderon, Cara Capone, Scott Cardona, Michael Castagno, James Cavanagh, Katherin Ceballos, Megan Celentano, Noah Chainey, David Chatel, Christine Chen, Amanda Cheng, Jennifer Christilles, Erica Cieszkiewicz, Samayoa Citalan, Steven Clemente, Karli Colapietro, Steven Colicchio, Laianna Correa, Brianna Crabtree, Steven Dang, Jenna DaSilva, Isaiah David, Philip DeFort, Jared DeGraw, Leanna DeLisa, Marisa DeSimone, Deanna DeVizio, Adamjeet Dhindsa, Benjamin Dobson, Hanna Dunn, Maryaim Elmajdouli, Jake Elsmann, Milena Erazo, Francine Esiape, Mark Etwarroo, Anouar Faïda, Sherin Fawaz, Anna Feldman

Brendan Gamble, Alejandro Garcia, Natalie Garcia, Lailah Goldberg-Mota, Mariana Gomez, Bryan Gonzalez, Donald Grabinsky, Jennifer Grasso, Allison Graves, Kayla Greenleaf, Bryce Griffin, Colin Griffin, Brad Guerrero, Kevin Hagy, Brian Harper, Troy Harzula, Joseph Heilmann, Jeffrey Heine, Michael Hernandez, Dishon Hessing, Kaylee Horn, Maricelys Inoa, Chelsea Irwaru, Jailine Jaramillo, Emilia Jastrzebski, Alize Jefferson, Julia Jelall, Mehdi Kamal, William Keane, Joseph Kelly, Kyle Kelly, Aysten Kitchens, Kyle Klemser, Kevin Kolodiy, Joseph Kolodziej

Christopher Lacasale, Joseph Lanzetta, Michael Lapolla, Tiffany Le, Kathleen LeBlanc, Courtney Lee, Joshua Lee, Julian Lee, Maggi Li, Christina Lobosco, Alia Lopez, Ivelis Lopez, Charles Lovett, Neha Lund, Noah Lynch, Kaylie Macpherson, Kristi Maher, Sasha Maldonado, Aubrey Marish, Michael Marrero, Alyssa Martinez, Mikayla Mastroianni, Sean McConville, Jessica McGuinness, Elijah McNeill, Hailey Medina, Jagger Mendez, Michael

Menkin, Navarro Mercado, Quinn Milane, Gabrielle Mine, Simran Modhera, Dania Mohtadi, Amaya Moore, Mayra Moreno, Darius Mullens, Sahith Naggireddy, Joseph Nardacci, Brian Nassy, Justin Newman, Dejah Nguyen, Jackson Nguyen, Briana Noriega, Anthony Nunez, Angel O'Connell, Uchenna Obadike, Alexandria Obregon, Haley Olsen, Jade Orth, Gabriella Ortiz, Kelly Ortiz, Genesis Ortiz-Samayoa, Samuel Owens, Jalil Palms, Matthew Panganiban, Alisia Parra, Haley Passarelli, Amit Patel, Dheer Patel, Harshit Patel, Maulin Patel, Parth Patel, Prachi Patel, Roshni Patel, Erwin Pelaez, Anna Pellegrino, Nicholas Penyak, Henrique Pereira, Colin Perrette, Joshua Persad, Nicholas Persaud, Cole Peterson, Julia Petrick, Bao Pham, Kaitlyn Piro, Jose Ponce, Andrew Pornovets, Shea Price, Alona Prokofieva

Alkeim Raines, Rhea Rajpal, Joshua Rambharose, Sean Ramos, Neelam Rana, Pratyusha Ravulapalli, Sarah Regan, Hannah Rhoads, Diamond Rivera, Marriam Rizvi, John Roarty, Isabella Rochford, Laura Rodriguez, Kenneth Rosenblatt, Clarence Ross, Jason Rossow, Bryan Rudnick, Megan Russo, Natalie Rutkowski, Alexa Ryan, Angelo Salici, Emily Samayoa, Danaysha Samuels, Allyson Sanchez, Benjamin Sanko, Christian Santiago, Elizabeth Santiago, Ashley Saravia, Franko Savoca, Matthew Scott, Jade Scotti, Jack Scrudato, Brian Sesta, Grace Sesta, Stevie Severini, Rutvik Shah, Christine Shawiak, Jada Shuai, Anyssa Silva, Jordyn Simmons, Jonathan Simpson, Alexis Skoczynski, Courtney Smith, Eduardo Solano, Ria Soni, Lindsey Soper, MaKayla Sosa, Brandon Souza, Zion Spears, Angela Squero, Skyler Statz, Michael Stanczak, Melanie Stewart, Natalie Stilo, Tatianna Sutor

Christina Tamburri, Lucas Tamburro, Zahveac Thorne, Siddharth Thuppil, Alexis Tirado, Bridgette Titus, Andrew Toapanta, Nancy Iran, Andrew Truong, Daria Turner, Akachukwu Uba, Hamilton Uzoma, Siana-Lee Valdez, Edwin Vasquez, Lisette Vega, Douglas Veit, Dayana Velasco, Emily Velasco, Jonathan Veliz, Joseph Venitelli, Kyle Ventura, Michael Villany, Rachel Voelkel, Alexis Walker, Stephanie Waters, Alca Watson, Denise Weber, Devin Weinberger, Ian Wietrzykowski, Edward Wilinski, Samantha Williams, Chloe Wilson, Brandon Wizda, Connor Wolpin, Crystal Woodring, Jason Yanchapanta, Hao Bang Yang, Azreen Zaman, Genevieve Zipp

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