



Next Week: Check your mailbox for the Special Graduation Issue!

South Plainfield Observer

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60 CENTS

JUNE 24, 2011



Tracy Murray is presented a *Fantasia* poster after the SPSHS Music Department's spring concert.

—Photo by Louis Mormile

Music Teacher Earns Kudos for 22 Years

By Libby Barsky

Most teens aren't eager to wake up and get to school earlier than needed, but the members of South Plainfield High School's A.M. chorus consistently make the 7:15 a.m. class. They are always ready to perform, representing SPSHS on their own time on weekends and after school for public events like singing Christmas carols at Spring Lake Park, and for public patriotic events like Memorial Day.

Vocal music teacher Tracy Murray, who is retiring after teaching for 22 years at SPSHS, has been conducting these morning groups since he began his teaching career at Immaculate Conception High School in Upper Montclair in 1985 after graduating from Montclair State College.

"Sister Maureen Crawley—the principal—wanted to start a chorus program that year. Everyone in the school would be in the chorus. I was responsible for teaching the entire student body. Each class had a session once a week. The classes were held every day in a trailer parked in the parking lot across from the school. I was responsible for the Christmas holiday and spring concerts, the Glee Club practice before school began and a rock band after school, and the school trustees wanted the school to

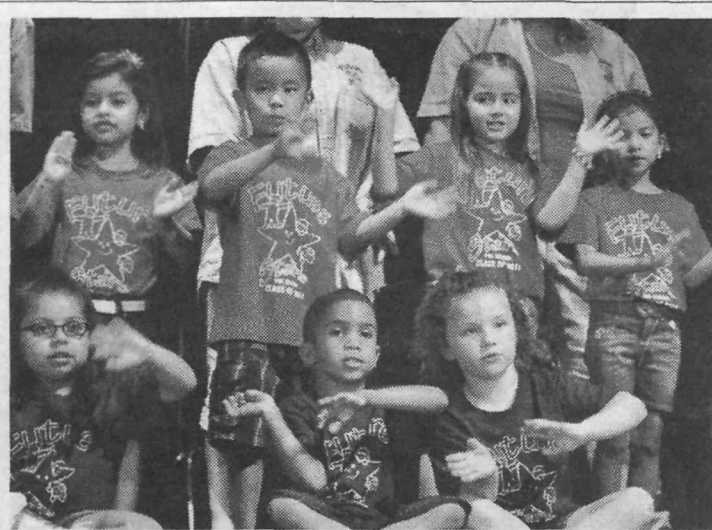
present the musical, *West Side Story*," recalled Murray. Sister Maureen, who was aware of Murray's schedule, nixed the idea. Murray was working without any books and had brought in an electronic keyboard to accompany his students. Later, the principal brought in a record playing stereo. Murray brought in his own records to use in class. He also had the school purchase their own plastic recorders to help the students learn to play an instrument.

While Murray was teaching the

students at Immaculate Conception, he was also performing on weekends with Hester Street, a Jewish Klesmer band, playing percussion and singing Yiddish songs, a situation he still finds humorous.

"I was teaching students Latin to understand and sing the music for Mass while I was learning Yiddish songs to sing with the Hester Street Band," Murray said. "Of course they got all kinds of bookings because they wanted to see the 'black

(Continued on page 6)



Future Stars Preschoolers perform at graduation ceremonies. See page 10 for story and photos.

BOE Reinstates Seventeen Teachers

Seventeen of the 21 tenured teachers whose positions were eliminated for the 2011/12 school year due to budget reductions have been recalled. They were approved with salaries retroactive to September 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012.

High school teachers include Matthew Connell, physical education; Stacey Closterman, social studies; and Nicholas Deremiah, English. Deremiah previously taught in the middle school.

Returning to the middle school will be Katie Wilson, English and Patrick Sarullo, math.

Returning to Grant School are teachers Megan Basile, mathematics; Carolyn White, science and math; Scott Culver, social studies; and Michelle Rafalowski, who taught English at the middle school.

Franklin School will see the return of kindergarten teacher Karen Masczak and reading teacher Christine Warian.

At Kennedy School, computer teacher Laura Von Till-Smith, kindergarten teacher Janine Turrise, reading teacher Ann Johnson and elementary teacher Alicia Vurchio will return.

Riley School will see the return of teacher Jennifer Gaster and Roosevelt

School will have Samantha Nicolay back in the classroom.

The four teachers who were not reappointed are Grant School music teacher Diane Lee, middle school music teacher Sarah LiVecchi, Grant School social studies teacher Elizabeth Mills and Roosevelt School kindergarten teacher Patricia Santillo.

Acting Superintendent of Schools Dr. Gary Bowen called the return of the teachers "a concerted effort on the part of the administration to our promise to bring back teachers." Bowen added that the effort to bring back teachers is ongoing.

Esteemed Pastor Bids Farewell to Community

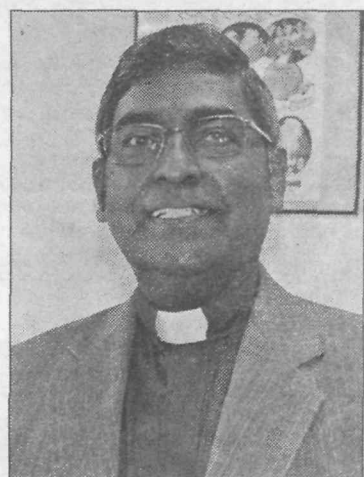
Wesley Church's longtime pastor, the Rev. Dr. Nehemiah Thompson, will be leaving South Plainfield for Milltown United Methodist Church in the Township of North Brunswick. His last sermon will be on Sunday, June 26 at the 10:30 a.m. service.

A farewell dinner will be held on Saturday, June 25 (by invitation only) and attended by church members, community church leaders and borough leaders.

Rev. Thompson has been visible in the South Plainfield community and was very ecumenical. "I cared deeply about South Plainfield," he said.

"The founder of the Methodist brand of Christianity, John Wesley, said that the world was his parish. So Methodist pastors have an eye on the welfare of the community at large," he added. He felt that an emerging need in South Plainfield was to bring together all people around fun activities, so he organized the South Plainfield Coalition of Cultural Diversity which conducted three successful multicultural events. "Unfortunately, this organization had to end temporarily because of my departure, but God will raise a new leader to continue this vital ministry," he said.

Rev. Thompson opened the mission of the church to the community. In the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004, Wesley invited the community to participate in a send-off service before the mission team departed for India. Attendees included church members, other churches of the community, school principals and borough leaders. A youth mission team went to India and started an orphanage for tsunami victims which is still going strong. He also involved high school students and teacher Fran Flannery on Wesley's Peace with Justice Sunday in which the students talked about their involvement in the



Rev. Dr. Nehemiah Thompson

Darfur issue.

"Together we kept the church vibrant. Children's ministry was strengthened. We kept the worship experience meaningful. The church grew. We started a second service. We started a ministry in Kenya. We supported the denomination in its mission to New Orleans and Haiti. We did not turn anyone away when they came for some help. We continued the shelter for homeless people at church. The church became more diverse," he said.

Rev. Thompson, a native of India, has been ministering in the U.S. for the last 30 years. He will start his new ministry in Milltown on July 1.

"I will definitely miss South Plainfield," he said. "It was a delight to serve Wesley. I met a lot of people here. Everyone was kind to me. But I look forward to a new beginning. I will do the same thing there. I will work hard, go into the community and will help that church to grow. I will challenge myself to try to be the presence of Christ in that town as well," said Thompson.

Grand Marshal Nominations Sought

South Plainfield's 54th annual Labor Day Parade will be quickly upon us, and the Public Celebrations Committee is seeking nominations for honorary grand marshal. The theme of this year's parade is "Honoring Our Heroes."

If you know of an individual you feel has contributed outstanding service to the Borough of South Plainfield, send the committee a detailed letter stating the reasons why this person should be considered for honorary grand marshal. Include candidate's name, address, evening phone number, your phone number and detailed list of volunteer activities and accomplishments. Deadline for nominations is July 25. Nominations may be sent to The Public Celebrations Committee, John Sorrentino, Chairman, 225 Hopkinson Street, South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

The Labor Day Parade is also a great opportunity for all to meet the community. If you or your organization is interested in marching in the parade, building a float, having a

concession stand or informational table at the middle school at the conclusion of the parade, complete an application available in Borough Hall or at www.southplainfieldnj.com. Send application to the Public Celebrations Committee, Borough of South Plainfield, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

Job Fair Postponed

The job fair sponsored by the Borough of South Plainfield, originally scheduled for Sunday, June 25 at the PAL Building on Maple Avenue, has been postponed due to scheduling conflicts. A date for a new job fair will be announced sometime in the future.



Want to stay informed about the business of your Council and BOE?



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.)

councilmeetings

Meets twice a month on Mondays, *except where noted.
Borough Hall Council Chambers • Questions? 908-226-7605
Agenda Meeting Public Meeting
July 11 July 11
August 15 August 15

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.

planningboard

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month, *except where noted.
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7641
June 28, July 12, July 26, Aug. 9, Aug. 23, Sept. 13, Sept. 27, Oct. 11, 25, Nov. 1, * Dec. 13*

zoningboardofadjustment

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month, *except where noted.
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7641
July 28, Aug. 11, Aug. 25, Sept. 8, Sept. 22, Oct. 13, Oct. 27, Nov. 10*, Dec. 8*

boardofeducation

Meets Wednesdays at Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave.
Committee of the Whole meetings (begin at 6:00 p.m.) 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.) July 13, Aug. 17, Sept. 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 16, Dec. 21, Jan. 18, Feb. 15, March 21 and April 11.

BOEcurriculum/technology/student activities

Meets once a month on Wednesdays at 4 p.m. in 2nd floor conference room, Roosevelt Administration Building on Jackson Ave.

BOEbuildings & grounds

Meets second Monday of the month at 7 p.m., 2nd floor conference room, Roosevelt Administration Building

culturalarts commission

Meets the third Tuesday of the month at the PAL at 7:30 p.m.
No meeting July and August, Sept. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 20

libraryboard of trustees

Meets once a month on the second Tuesday, at the library at 7 p.m.
July 12, Aug. 9, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13

recreationcommission

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
July and August—no meetings, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13

taxpayersadvisorygroup

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.

siteplansub-committee

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m.
July 19, Aug. 16, Sept. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 20

environmentalcommission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday) Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m.
Questions? 908-226-7621

businessadvisorygroup

Meets once a month (first Wednesday) Borough Hall Council Chambers, 5 p.m.

ad hocalternative truck route committee

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

In My Opinion

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

To the Editor:

I would personally like to thank the listed Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Office of Emergency Management (OEM) members whose assistance at several large scale events proved invaluable to the police department. The members provided traffic control, assistance at the NJSIAA Group and Sectional track meets and the Sacred Heart 5K Run/Family Fun Walk.

These members volunteered to assist our agency on some of the hottest days of the year and took time away from their families to assist the community. The CERT members are John Anesh, Marvin Bronstein, Tim Halloran, Larry Makoski, William Meixner, Joanne Missimer, Sharon Padula, Clifford Perrino and Derryck White.

The OEM members are John Abbruzzese, Mario Abbruzzese, Jon Dean and Michael Zushma.

I look forward to working with these and other members in the future as they provide a valuable service to our community.

**RESPECTFULLY,
LT. KEVIN MURTAGH, S.P. POLICE,
TRAFFIC SAFETY UNIT**

Dear Editor,

The governor of the State of New Jersey signed an anti-bullying bill into law in January 2011. This law will affect every public school system (625 districts) in the State of New Jersey. This law is a long time coming and answers an urgent cry for help from students, teachers, administrators and parents. Every district must implement this mandated law, which will involve the appointment/hiring of an anti-bullying district coordinator and an anti-bullying specialist, and each school must adopt a policy. Every teacher, staff member, coach, Board of Education member, aide, bus driver and student must be trained. The bullying must be stopped and the victims will be trained to obtain immediate help. The confrontations, taunting, harassment, cyber bullying and parent taunting must end.

The South Plainfield High School JV Baseball Team played a GMC game in Colonia on May 24 at 4 p.m. The JV team has played against the Colonia JV Team in two regular season games, whereas Colonia parents have

this year, as in years past, taunted our team players. They yelled and taunted the South Plainfield players while they were in the field and up at bat, making comments when balls were dropped, not caught in the outfield or when our players struck out. The South Plainfield parents had to move their seats so they did not have to listen to the comments.

The game on May 24 was the most horrific game of all time. South Plainfield parents sat at the far end of left field under the trees. During the entire game the Colonia parents continued to yell taunting comments to the South Plainfield team. One man in particular kept yelling out to the Colonia players conversing with them as they laughed and responded back to him regarding the innings and the score. Their outfielders kept taunting our parents with their remarks until my daughter had to finally ask the left fielder to please turn around because the game was in front of him. This same man commented that the umpires were his friend and that he could say whatever he wanted, which he did. He also noted that he was texting back and forth with the umpire as he held up his phone and he and the umpire waved at each other.

The Colonia team taunted and harassed the South Plainfield players each time they were on base and yet the umpire pointed his finger at the wrong group of parents. A remark from one of the Colonia players to the SP player was "nice fu--- rec specs" along with numerous comments to each of our players.

This is an example set by parents and umpires who allow this bullying/taunting behavior to continue. These are adults setting the bar that approves this type of behavior. This behavior must end. It is not part of the game.

Parents and students sign documents stating they will not taunt or harass team players, including parents harassing umpires/refs. In November a Colonia parent chest bumped a soccer referee in South Plainfield.

Before I sent this letter I spoke with the athletic director in Colonia about our concerns as parents. A very nice gentleman listened and apologized for this behavior and informed me that their teams and parents also sign contracts. He stated that he would remind his parents about the correct behavior at games. I thanked him for his comments.

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.

It is unacceptable that parents are proud of themselves for bullying and harassing players to make those players feel bad about themselves and for being so loud and obnoxious, and that the umpires did not stop the harassment that continued for the entire game. It is inappropriate that the Colonia team players posted inappropriate derogatory comments on Facebook about the South Plainfield baseball team players, or as they called our players, the slang version of "Little Cats."

South Plainfield High School has won the NJSIAA Sportsmanship Award for 2010/2011 which was voted on by every coach in the conference. Congratulations to all our South Plainfield students for achieving this most honored award; it shows!

DEBBIE BOYLE, PROUD SOUTH PLAINFIELD PARENT

Dear Editor,

At a recent council meeting, Councilman Robert Bengivenga, Jr. presented what I think is the ideal solution to the ongoing issues involving the library and the huge surplus the Library Board accumulated from our tax dollars.

As has been reported before, the Library Board has about \$2.1 million in surplus, which is almost twice what the board spends each year. Up until now, the board members have refused to return the money to the taxpayers, claiming they want to use it for a new library.

Councilman Bengivenga's proposal is the ideal solution. By renting 12,000 sq. ft. of space at the shopping center on South Plainfield Avenue, the library will double its size. The costs to move the library and upgrade the facilities come to about \$1.1 million, which I think is on the generous side. This is not the time to spend lavishly. But

(Continued on page 12)



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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.



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Anti-Bullying School Safety Teams, Counselors Set to Combat Bullying

By Libby Barsky

In order to comply with recent state legislation to prevent bullying, the Board of Education approved the rec-

ommendations of Acting Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Gary Bowen for installing each school's counselor as its anti-bullying specialist working in conjunction with a School Safety Team.

The designated high school anti-bullying specialist is Rhonda Green and the School Safety Team consists of Assistant Principal Joe Cirigliano, teachers Rhonda Greene and Marla Vandermark and parent Shehna Abdeljaber.

The middle school anti-bullying specialist is Guidance Counselor Robyn Mikaelian who is also a member of the school safety team along with teachers Meredith Garofalo, Michelle Hottendorf and Tamekia Grier and parent Debbie Boyle.

The Grant School anti-bullying specialist is Guidance Counselor Rowena Wu who is also a member of the School Safety Team, along with Lisa Silkowski SAC, Assistant Principal Robert Richkus, teachers Maureen Barnett and Kendall Ribar and parent Frances Elsmann.

At Roosevelt, Margaret Mosley is the anti-bullying specialist and will head the School Safety Team. Other members are Principal Robert Diehl, teacher Lisa Murray and parent Lisa Kuberiet.

At Riley, Margaret Mosely, is the anti-bullying specialist and a member of the School Safety Team along with Principal Al Czech, teachers Angela Raimondo-Hajduk and Eileen Stelakis and parent Kim Anesh.

At Kennedy, Joretta Strayhorn is the anti-bullying specialist and a member of the School Safety Team along with Principal Lisa Parker, teacher Alan Hook and parent Danielle Mendez, PTSO president.

Joretta Strayhorn is the anti-bullying specialist at Franklin and a member of the School Safety Team along with Principal Ellen Decker-Lorys, teacher Glenn Parisi and parent Kristin Orlowski.



Guy and Sandi Severini give out free hot dogs during customer appreciation day held June 4 at Twin City Pharmacy. Customers were able to have their blood pressure tested free, as well as receive glucose and sun exposure screenings and give-a-ways.

policereport

- On June 10 Jacquelin S. O'Farrell, 23, of Piscataway was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving, no insurance and failure to exhibit a drivers license, registration and insurance card.
- A Clifford Street resident reported the theft of a Kohl's credit card number.
- An employee of Keystone Com-

munity Residence reported the theft of a Hewlett Packard laptop.

• On June 11 Jamil L. Wright, 22, of Newark was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.

• A Garden Drive resident reported that their vehicle's driver side mirror door and fender had been damaged by a baseball bat.



In celebration of South Plainfield's 85th anniversary, the Boyle Foundation, along with the mayor and council, sponsored a writing contest. Participants were required to write a 500 word essay on "The Roots of South Plainfield." Pictured above with Mayor Matt Anesh and Debbie Boyle are essay winners Christopher Rodriguez, Aishwarya Rajesh and Riley Principal Al Czech and Roosevelt Principal Robert Diehl. Below are winners Angela Tharp, Emily Wong, Anna Williams, David Jaipersaud, Kishen Mangra and Olivia O'Leary. Winners received proclamations from the mayor and council and a \$25 Visa gift card.



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events

Around Town

Singin' with Spaghetti Benefit Dinner

June 24

Singin' with Spaghetti Benefit Dinner for Brittany Jeffers will be held on Friday, June 24 from 5 to 8 p.m. at VFW Post #6763, 155 Front St. Brittany is a South Plainfield girl who has been battling leukemia for six years, since she was 14-years-old. Food, fun and karaoke. Adults: \$10; children three to 12: \$5; two and under are free.

For more information, call Camille at (732) 983-2288.

SP Community Health Survey

June 25

A community health survey will be held on Saturday, June 25 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the PAL Building on Maple Ave. Must be at least 18 years old. Free literature about environmental issues in your community. Everyone completing a survey receives a \$5 gift card for a local store. Refreshments.

For more information, email robinsonw2145@duq.edu.

Eighth Annual Art Muglia Golf Outing

July 8

The eighth annual Art Muglia Memorial Golf Outing will take place on Friday, July 8 at The Shawnee Inn Country Club in the Pocos. All net proceeds will go to Art's favorite charity, The Matheny School

for those with disabilities. The cost for golf, continental breakfast, cart, prizes and barbeque lunch is \$125 per golfer.

Those interested, please call Jim Muglia at (973) 667-2466 or email Artsmemorialgolf@yahoo.com.

Blood Drive

July 23

A community blood drive will be held on Saturday, July 23 at the municipal building, located at 2480 Plainfield Ave., from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Donors will receive two Mets tickets. One donation can save up to three lives. Walk-ins welcome.

For an appointment, call 1-800-933-2566 or go to www.nybloodcenter.org.

Cedarcroft Free Bible School

July 25-29

Cedarcroft Bible Chapel, located at 1715 Kenyon Ave., will hold a free Bible School entitled, "Gospel Light's SunSurf Beach Bash VBS," Monday, July 25 to Friday, July 29 from 9:30 a.m. to noon for ages four to those entering eighth grade. (Mothers' class is Tuesday-Friday.) Bible stories, crafts, skits, games and songs.

For more information, call (908) 757-7598.

American Legion Annual Picnic

July 30

Chaumont Post #243 will host its annual scholarship picnic on Sat-

urday, July 30 from 1-6 p.m. on the grounds at 243 Oak Tree Ave. Music will be provided by DJ Aldo Velez. Wipeout water slide for children and rock climbing wall for ages 16 and older. Cost for adults is \$16; youth six to 20, \$8; children five and under are free. Early tickets available in the post lounge, or purchase at the door on July 30.

For more information, call (908) 668-9414.

St. Stephen Vacation Bible School

August 8-12

St. Stephen Lutheran Church, 3145 Park Ave., will celebrate its third annual Vacation Bible School Monday-Friday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each night August 8-12. This year's theme is "ReNew: The Green VBS."

Registrations are being accepted for children in pre-K through sixth grade by emailing Michele Billich at Billich@att.net or calling (908) 756-2537. Provide your child's name, age and grade they will be entering in September. Kindly reply no later than July 15.

— Out of Town —

Hydewood Vacation Bible School

June 24

Hydewood Park Baptist Church will hold its 2011 Vacation Bible School from Friday, June 24 to Sunday, June 26.

This year's theme is, "A Marketplace Adventure: In the Desert." Classes will be held on Friday, June 24 from 6-8 p.m. and Saturday, June 25 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. for ages kindergarten to sixth grade. Refreshments will be served. The VBS closing program will be held Sunday, June 26 at 10 a.m., followed by a church picnic at 11:15 a.m. Children and their parents are welcome to attend.

Hydewood Park Baptist Church is located at 100 Norwood Ave. in North Plainfield. For information, call the church office at (908) 754-6363, or visit www.hydewood.org. You may also register for VBS at www.HPBCkids.vze.com.

Trip to See Sister Act

June 25

Come see the lively and extremely funny musical comedy, *Sister Act*, on Saturday, June 25. Tickets are \$135 and include orchestra seats and transportation in a luxury bus, raffle prizes and lots of fun. Bus departs from the Metuchen Municipal Pool parking lot at 12:30 p.m.

For more information, call Pat Colandra at (732) 548-2044.

Singles Dance Party

June 25

Steppin' Out Singles is hosting an upscale singles dance party on Saturday, June 25 at 8:30 p.m. at the PNC Bank Arts Center Reception Hall in Holmdel. Ages 40 and up; no jeans/t-shirts/sneakers/shorts. Admission: \$17.

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

Westfield Art Show

June 25

The Westfield Art Association will present "Art in Westfield," a sidewalk show and sale of original fine art including paintings, sculpture,

printmaking and photography on Saturday, June 25 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in downtown Westfield.

Depression/Bipolar Support Meeting

June 29

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance monthly educational meeting featuring Debra E. Koss, M.D., board certified in child and adolescent psychiatry, will be held on Wednesday, June 29 at 7:45 p.m. using the facilities of the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, 21 Normandy Heights Road. The public is cordially invited; a nominal donation is requested from non-members.

For further local information, call (973) 994-1143.

One Voice Coalition Kickoff Dinner

June 29

The Italian American One Voice Coalition kickoff dinner will be held on Wednesday, June 29 at 7 p.m. at Al Di La Ristorante in East Rutherford. New members are encouraged to join; the public is welcome. Tickets: \$45, includes four-course meal (choice of seven entrées), wine, soda, coffee or tea. To reserve, make checks payable to Italian American One Voice Coalition and mail to Gene Antonio, 436 Joralemon St., Belleville, N.J. 07109.

For more information, call (973) 759-9259.

Art in the Cellar

July 9

Art In The Cellar, hosted by local artist, consultant, graphic artist Michael A. Tudor, Jr. of Paperface, will be held at the Wine Chateau, 1378 Centennial Ave. in Piscataway on Saturday, July 9 at 4 p.m. View, listen, and enjoy; wine tasting and snacks will be provided.

SENIOR CENTER Calendar

MONDAYS

Silver Sneakers.....8:45 am
Crocheting9:30 am
Yoga10:30 am
Art Class.....11:30 am

TUESDAYS

Bingo.....10 am-2 pm
Ladies Group10 am

WEDNESDAYS

Aerobics.....8:45 am
Shopping Trip9 am
Line Dancing.....10 am
Computer..10 am, 11:30 am, 1 pm
Crocheting1 pm
Tai Chi.....2 pm

THURSDAYS

Active Seniors8:45 am
Crafts Class10 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.

If you plan to attend, please register at www.eventbrite.com/event/1715859181/efbnen.

Deutscher Club Country Western Night

July 9

Deutscher Club of Clark, 787 Featherbed Lane, will hold a Country Western night on Saturday, July 9 from 6 to 10 p.m. Open to the public; outdoors; rain or shine. Listen and dance to Thunderhill Band. German and American food and beverages available; no outside food or beverages permitted. Donation: \$5 per person; children under 12 are free.

For more information, call (732) 574-8600.



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Dinner Specials served 7 Days a Week from 4-9pm, May-July
2 for \$20.00
Cup of Soup, Toss Salad, Our Famous Cucumber Salad, Potato, Vegetable, or Spaghetti
Meat & Poultry
Chicken Marsala • Chicken Francaise
Roast Turkey or Roast Chicken
Fresh Ham • Beef Stew
Beef Stroganoff • Beef Goulash
Chopped Steak • Jr. Prime Rib
Jr. NY Strip Steak • London Broil
BBQ Spare Ribs • Roast Loin of Pork
2 Broiled Pork Chops, Plain or Murphy
Seafood
Fried Shrimp in the Basket • Broiled Scrod
Broiled Tilapia • Broiled Filet of Sole
Seafood Fra Diavolo w/Scallops, Shrimp, Mussels & Clams
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If qualified, Medicare may cover part of the cost of your lift chair. Your supplemental insurance may also pay a portion. Assignment is not accepted but we will bill on your behalf to assist you in any reimbursement available. This also depends on the type of policy you have and whether or not we are listed as providers for this insurance company. Our staff will be more than happy to assist you in any questions you may have concerning insurance.

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South Plainfield Bad Case of Big Mouth band members Chris Grzan, (second from the left) and Brian Hartman (far right).

Local Band to Play at Warped Tour

Local pop-punk band, Bad Case of Big Mouth, will be performing at this year's Warped Tour in Oceanport on Friday, July 24.

The band has performed at venues such as Bamboozle at the Meadowlands and The Stone Pony in Asbury Park. Two South Plainfield residents, Chris Grzan and Brian Hartman

are members of Bad Case of Big Mouth.

The band's influences include Metallica, Blink-182, Hit the Lights, Set Your Goals, Four Year Strong and many more.

Upcoming shows include a performance at United Methodist Church in Neptune on Saturday, July 9.

"Seniors For Seniors" Program

All Star Pet Rescue, in an effort to help older dogs get out of the pound and into safe and loving homes, has announced its "Seniors for Seniors" program thanks to a generous grant from the "100 Women Making a Difference" organization.

For a nominal adoption fee, a senior dog will come fully vetted along with the basic necessities a dog will need to get started out in their new lives. This includes a leash, collar, ID tag, food/water bowls, a comfy dog bed, some toys, treats and enough

food for the first two months. Anyone over the age of 60 who adopts a dog older than seven years old is eligible for this program. You'll have a loyal companion to keep you company and you'll be helping out a dog who's looking for a comfortable place to spend their twilight years.

For more information, email Ginny Werner, program director, at werner.ginny@gmail.com.

For more information about All Star Pet Rescue, visit them on the web at www.allstar.petfinder.com.

Nominations Being Accepted For Cappy Award

The Police Athletic League, along with the Recreation Commission, will be choosing the 2011 "Cappy" Award winner.

Recommendations for nominations through July 20 can be made by anyone from the public by sending a letter stating the qualifications of the candidate. Once recommendations have been received, two Police Athletic League and/or recreational peers will have to approve the recommendations for consideration.

The requirements are as follows:

Service: 10 years of service in youth sports and/or recreation; not just service as a parent-coach to his/her own children, but will be judged on a case by case basis; preferably voluntary service. During period of service, nominee must have been a resident of South Plainfield.

Character: Exemplifies high moral values and ethical judgment; never been convicted of a felony; possess dedication and commitment to the youth of South Plainfield.

Nominations can be sent to the Police Department, 2480 Plainfield Ave., Attn: Chris Colucci, PAL President, or to the Recreation Department, 1250 Maple Ave., Attn: Kevin Hughes, Recreation Director.

Discount Tickets for Barclay's Classic Now on Sale

United Way Greater Union County (UWGUC) has announced that they will be offering discount tickets for this year's The Barclay's Classic golf tournament through the PGA's tickets for charity program.



To Promote & Protect Public Health & Welfare

MIDDLESEX COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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

Uniform School Safety Procedure

As the chair of the Frecholders' Law and Public Safety Committee, it is my responsibility to help ensure the safety of the residents of our county. To make that happen, I am very fortunate to have a dedicated team of law enforcement personnel to back me up. That committed team, guided by Prosecutor Bruce J. Kaplan and with the support of the Middlesex County Association of Chiefs of Police, is always striving to find better ways to serve and protect the residents of Middlesex County.

I am especially grateful for their efforts on behalf of our youngest residents. Recently at a special meeting with Middlesex County's public schools superintendents, the Middlesex County Association of Chiefs of Police reviewed and adopted a new policy designed to protect our school children from outside threats and unfortunate incidents where a gun or other weapon is brought into a classroom.

This uniform school lockdown procedure establishes a clear set of guidelines for police and school administrators so they can quickly and safely deal with crisis situations. Thanks to the direction of Prosecutor Kaplan and the Middlesex County Association of Chiefs of Police, each of our municipal police departments will have a set of rules that will enable them to handle emergency situations in their schools. They also will be prepared and able to assist neighboring communities without risking tactical delays that arise when law enforcement personnel work from different scripts.

While we all hope there will never again be an emergency that demands a school lockdown, it is important to know that the men and women in law enforcement in Middlesex County will be ready to respond quickly and efficiently to ensure the safety of our students, school staff members and the police officers who respond.

Plainfield Country Club in Edison. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (908) 353-7171, ext. 100 or visit brownpapertickets.com/event/179290.

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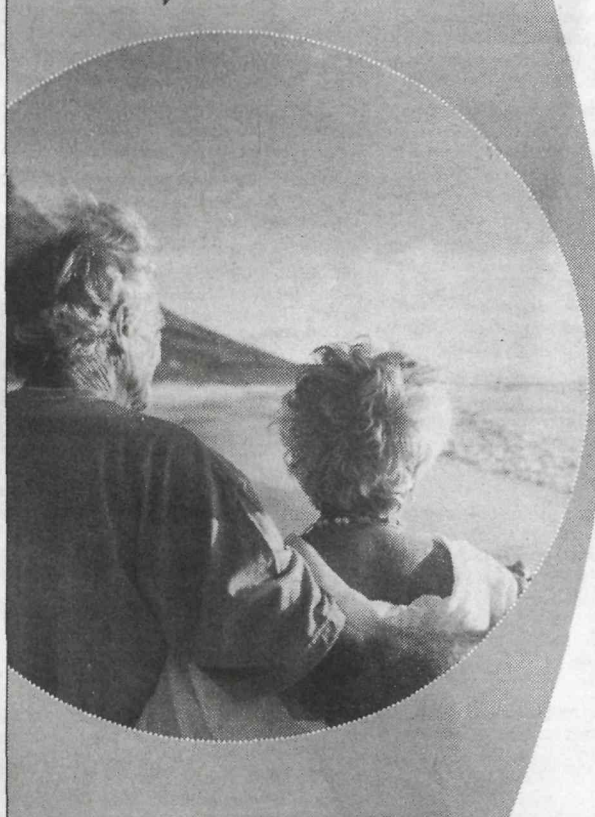
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DaVita Edison Dialysis
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DaVita Plainfield: Plainfield, NJ (908)-757-6030
DaVita Edison: Edison, NJ (732)-205-9883
DaVita Perth Amboy: Perth Amboy, NJ (732)-324-2406
DaVita Old Bridge: Old Bridge, NJ (732)-360-1034

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Music Teacher Earns Kudos for 22 Years of Dedication

(Continued from page 1)

guy' sing Yiddish songs," he said.

Not wanting to commute to school on two busses for another year, Murray opted to take a position to substitute at East Brunswick High School in 1986 for a teacher who was on maternity leave. Then, for three years, he worked in Union Township teaching music. At first he was teaching grades K-5 at Connecticut Farms Elementary School, then when the high school music teacher resigned during the year, he began teaching in both the high school (in the morning) and in the elementary school (in the afternoon). After school he worked as an assistant for the marching band. About to receive tenure after three years, the school budget didn't pass and all non-tenured teachers, including Murray, were cut.

In 1990 Murray interviewed in South Plainfield with Dr. Leroy Seitz and Peter Franks for the vocal music position being vacated by Franks. As Murray recalls, after the interview was over, Franks auditioned Murray by having him sit at a keyboard and play two compositions, and play *O Holy Night* and *The Hallelujah Chorus* from Handel's *The Messiah*.

Franks started the tradition of having the entire chorus sing *The Hallelujah Chorus* during the winter concert and inviting all alumni present to join the chorus in their section and sing. Murray continues that tradition and also continues with the high school musical groups Franks worked with—the Jades (the male vocal ensemble), the Emeralds (the female vocal ensemble), the Combined Chorus and the Traveling Chorus.

After playing the two pieces for Franks, Murray went home.

"Fifteen minutes after I got home, I got a call from the principal telling me 'Congratulations, you've got the job! And by the way, your first performance is the day before school starts,'" said Murray.

"I had to meet with students I never



Tracy Murray is congratulated by current and former students during a surprise celebration in his honor.

saw before. We had to work with them in August because they had to perform for the staff on the day before school began. And I have been doing it ever since, except this year," said Murray.

Aside from the five classes Murray teaches during the school day and following the legacy of continuing the vocal groups, he has enlarged the scope of his student's involvement in music through trips to the Metropolitan Opera, competitions abroad and bringing Broadway musicals to SPHS to be performed by the high school students.

In 1992 Murray took the SPHS choir to Ireland to compete, and they received the Best Chorus Award. The following year they went to Orlando, where the Mixed Choir, Men's Chorus and Chamber Choir received first place awards and the Women's Chorus won second place. He has returned to Florida several times where the chorus has performed at the Walt Disney World Resort and Universal Studios.

Murray has broadened his students' interest in music to include opera, and over time has almost doubled the number of tickets available from 16 to 30 for students to see special matinee performances at the Metropolitan Opera. His students perform annually at the New Jersey All State Opera Festival. Students Josef Rodriguez and Adam Tamzoke won the ensemble award for their interpretation of the duet in Act 4 of Pucini's *La Boheme*. In 1996 Murray conducted the Opera Festival's presentation of Bizet's *Carmen*.

During the summer Murray served as vocal music director for the South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop productions of *Grease*, *Oklahoma*, *Bye, Bye Birdie*, *Oliver!* and *The Wizard of Oz*.

His interest in musical drama led him to also provide vocal musical direction for Cranford Drama Club's theatre productions of *South Pacific*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Smoky Joe's Cafe* and *Aida*.

Almost every spring the SPHS Drama Club performs a musical. Murray has been the vocal director for the

productions of *Starmites*, *Once Upon A Mattress*, *Cinderella*, *Godspell*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, the *Who's Tommy*, *Damn Yankees*, *Hello Dolly*, *South Pacific* and *My Fair Lady*. For the 1997 production of *Jekyll & Hyde*, Murray wore most of the hats, including vocal director, pit orchestra conductor and rehearsal accompanist and, for the first time, acted as the director of a play performance.

Jekyll & Hyde was Murray's last musical. He suffered a stroke a few months later and then underwent heart surgery. Now, after therapy, he can still use his right hand but he can't use his left arm.

"I lost most of my vocal abilities. I still can't sing to the soprano's part which is really why I have to throw in the towel," he said.

Students, Alumni Gather for Surprise Celebration

Murray recently was honored at the high school music department's spring concert on June 7 in the Joseph A. Mondoro Auditorium.

After the chorus left the stage, Roger Vroom and Murray entered to thank the audience; instead Vroom had Tracy take a seat on stage. Alumni began to file in and fill the risers, some who returned from as early as when Murray began teaching at SPHS more than 20 years ago. As Murray turned to see what was happening, his hand went over his mouth and his eyes grew wide with shock. Over 100 chorus alumni had come together to pay tribute to him at his final concert.

Vroom explained how the surprise concert became a reality: "To get the word out to as many alumni as possible, we created event pages on Facebook. Once people were added to the event, we created other administrators who could add the friends they kept in touch with from their years in chorus. I set up a Google site that I uploaded practice recordings and sheet music so that others could practice. We held one rehearsal the Sunday before the concert and decided to add Randall Thompson's *Alleluia*. When the evening of the performance came, I was truly amazed at how many alumni showed up. The performance was a fitting send off for a truly amazing teacher. Tracy Murray will certainly be missed."

The surprises for Tracy were not over yet. Tucked away at the end of the hall was a large *Fantasia* poster with Murray's face superimposed over that of Mickey Mouse. Current and former students and alumni lined up for a chance to sign it. *Fantasia* is Murray's favorite Disney movie.

After the presentation students old and new surrounded Murray, who described the evening saying, "I was amazed when I saw all of the alumni show up on the stage. The number of people appearing had me absolutely flabbergasted. I was not prepared for what was to follow. It literally became a 21 year reunion. I had a surreal experience that rivals the ending of *Mr. Holland's Opus*. It was shocking, amazing and moving all at the same time."

LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE
ORDINANCE NO.1932

An Ordinance regulating Off-Road Vehicles within the Borough of South Plainfield,
Middlesex County, New Jersey was adopted after a Public Hearing and final reading were conducted on Monday, June 20, 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, June 24, 2011.
Joann L. Graf, RMC
Municipal Clerk
\$27.56 June 24, 2011

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE
ORDINANCE NO.1933

An Ordinance authorizing the "acquisition of six P7300 Portable Radios and the installation of new Antennas And Communication Systems at Borough Hall for use by the South Plainfield Rescue Squad located in the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey was adopted after a Public Hearing and final reading were conducted on Monday, June 20, 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, June 24, 2011.
Joann L. Graf, RMC
Municipal Clerk
\$28.95 June 24, 2011

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE
ORDINANCE NO.1934

AN ORDINANCE VACATING THE BOROUGH'S AUTHORITY OVER A PORTION OF WOODEN AVENUE, BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY was adopted on first reading and advertised in the Observer on Friday, June 10, 2011 and that a public hearing be scheduled for Monday, June 20, 2011 at the Public Meeting which will begin immediately following the 7:00pm Agenda Meeting in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 as follows:
WHEREAS, there exists within the Borough of South Plainfield, Middlesex County, New Jersey a street which is in, in part, a "paper street" known as Wooden Avenue as shown on the official Tax Map of the Borough of South Plainfield; and
WHEREAS, the Borough Council has determined such property to be surplus property, and has

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE
ORDINANCE NO.1935

offered for sale to the only contiguous property owner, other than the Borough, a portion of Wooden Avenue, which portion is less than the minimum size required for development, and has no capital improvements; and
WHEREAS, the contiguous property owner, Susan Krystopik, has expressed interest in purchasing the property, and had the property appraised by the Borough's appraiser, Russell K. Sterling, who has appraised a fair market value of \$12,500.00; and
WHEREAS, Susan Krystopik desires to purchase the referenced property, and the Borough of South Plainfield desires to sell the referenced property; and
WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40:67-19 authorizes the Borough to release and extinguish public rights, and the rights of the Borough arising from the dedication of a street;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey as follows:
1. The rights of the public and the Borough of South Plainfield in and to a portion of Wooden Avenue which abuts Lot 4.01, Block 380, as described more particularly in Schedule A annexed hereto and made a part hereof, are hereby extinguished and vacated;
2. As Susan Krystopik is the only owner of the property contiguous to the property to be sold, the Borough of South Plainfield owning all other property contiguous to the property to be sold, notice of this Ordinance need not be provided, as no other person owns land that may be effected by the Ordinance; and
3. The Borough Clerk shall, within 60 days of the effective date of this Ordinance, file a copy of this Ordinance certified by her under the Seal of the Borough to be a true copy thereof, together with proof of publication thereof in the office of the Clerk, County of Middlesex in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40:67-21.
This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication in accordance with New Jersey law.
Joann L. Graf
Municipal Clerk
\$51.65 June 24, 2011

MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE
ORDINANCE NO.1935

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SURPLUS MUNICIPAL PROPERTY PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 48:12-13 was adopted on first reading and advertised in the Observer on Friday, June 10, 2011 and that a public hearing be scheduled for Monday, June 20, 2011 at the Public Meeting which will begin immediately following the 7:00pm Agenda

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE
ORDINANCE NO.1936

Meeting in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 as follows:
BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey as follows:
WHEREAS, the Borough of South Plainfield in the County of Middlesex is the owner of a right-of-way which abuts Lot 4.01, Block 380 located within the Borough of South Plainfield (hereinafter referred to as "the Property"); and
WHEREAS, the Council of the Borough of South Plainfield has determined that the property is no longer needed for public use; and
WHEREAS, the Borough Council has determined it to be in the public interest to sell said Property to the contiguous property owner in accordance with N.J.S.A. 48:12-13(b);
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey as follows:
1. The Borough Mayor and Council declare the Property to be surplus and not needed for public use;
2. The Property may be sold to the contiguous property owner, Susan Krystopik, by private sale for \$12,500.00 in accordance with an appraisal performed by Russell K. Sterling on May 17, 2011;
3. The Mayor, Borough Clerk, Borough Attorney or such other Borough officials as the law may provide are hereby authorized to prepare and execute such documents as may be required to close and transfer title to the Property to the contiguous owner;
4. The Property may be sold subject to any existing encumbrances, liens, zoning regulations, easements or other restrictions, as such facts in an accurate survey would reveal, and any present or future assessments for the construction of improvements benefitting said property;
5. If any article, section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not effect the remaining portions of this Ordinance, and they shall remain in full force and effect;
6. In the event of any inconsistencies between the provisions of this Ordinance and any prior Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield, the provisions hereof shall be determined to govern. All other parts, portions or provisions of the revised general ordinances of the Borough of South Plainfield are hereby ratified and confirmed, except where inconsistent with the terms hereof.
This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication in accordance with New Jersey law.
Joann L. Graf, RMC
Municipal Clerk

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE
ORDINANCE NO.1936

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SALARY ORDINANCE # 1777 ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE COMPENSATION OF VARIOUS BOROUGH EMPLOYEES AND THE METHOD OF PAYMENT OF SAID COMPENSATION was adopted on first reading and advertised in the Observer on Friday, June 10, 2011 and that a public hearing be scheduled for Monday, June 20, 2011 at the Public Meeting which will begin immediately following the 7:00pm Agenda Meeting in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 as follows:
WHEREAS, the Salary Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield confirms the titles of officers and employees of the Borough and establishes their respective compensation, and the Ordinance remains in effect until amended or superseded; and
WHEREAS, Borough Council wishes to amend Salary Ordinance #1777 to include a part time position of Recreation Leader - Senior Center;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield as follows:
SECTION 1. The aforesaid Salary Ordinance is hereby amended and supplemented as follows:
The ordinance is amended to include the Part Time position of "Recreation Leader, Senior Center" with an annual salary range of \$20,800 to \$26,000 based on an hourly rate of \$20.00 to \$25.00 per hour
SECTION 2. INCONSISTENCY - All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of the inconsistency.

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 July 8, 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 vehicles can be inspected by contacting Traffic Safety.

Year	Make	Vin#	Status	Description	Min. Bid
1997	Nissan	3N1AB41D2VL019721	Resale	Sentra	\$1,670.00
1992	Pontiac	1G2HX53LBN1251579	Resale	Bonneville	\$1,200.00
1996	Nissan	JN1CA21D6TT743341	Resale	Maxima	\$1,910.00
1995	Honda	JHMEH9690SS011630	Resale	Civic	\$1,885.00
1998	Toyota	2T1BR18E9WC047577	Resale	Corolla	\$2,810.00
1997	Ford	1FMDU34E1VZA77214	Resale	Explorer	\$1,575.00

South Plainfield Police Dept.
Pltm. Peter Magnani
Traffic Safety Officer
\$38.90 June 24, 2011

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE
ORDINANCE NO.1936

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE: This Ordinance shall become effective and operative ten days after publication thereof after final passage.
Joann L. Graf
Municipal Clerk
\$39.38 June 24, 2011

South Plainfield Board of Education
Legal Notice
Notice of Contract Awarded

The South Plainfield Board of Education has hired the Architectural firm of DiCora|Rubino to perform architectural design and related services for the following projects, at the fees listed.
Toilet Room Renovations at Franklin School, Grant School, Kennedy School, Riley School and South Plainfield Middle School - Base Contract of \$79,200.00
Full Day Kindergarten Classroom Conversion at Franklin School, Kennedy School, Riley School and Roosevelt School - Base Contract of \$34,400.00
Gym Bleacher Replacement at South Plainfield Middle School - Base Contract of \$19,800.00
Fire Alarm Replacement at South Plainfield Middle School - Base Contract of \$70,000.00
HVAC and Electrical Upgrade at South Plainfield High School - Base Contract of \$175,000.00
The resolutions and contracts relative to these appointments are on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Board of Education.
Nicholas C. Puleio
Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary
\$32.75 June 24, 2011



Girl Scouts present nine flags that have represented our country at the Elks Flag Day ceremony.

Elks Ceremony Honors the Flag

By Patricia Abbott

The American Flag as we know it today has changed designs more than any other flag in the world. Each year on June 14, Flag Day is celebrated across the United States.

The South Plainfield Elks Lodge #2298 held its annual Flag Day ceremony last week to a full house. The evening began with a welcome by Elks Exalted Ruler Dan Uken, followed by the singing of the *Star Spangled Banner* by South Plainfield High School senior Lainie Harris and the audience. Introductory exercises were read by Exalted Ruler Uken and Elks officers and a prayer was offered by Elks Chaplain Celeste Ginder.

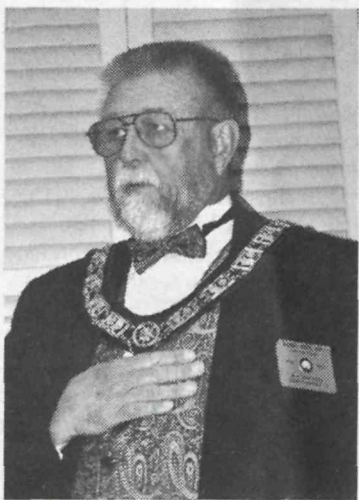
Next on the agenda was the presentation of the flags where nine flags were presented in chronological order. The flags were carried by members of Girl Scout Troops #65091 and #65137. As each scout entered bearing a different version of the flag, an Elks officer read the history of that flag. Dan Uken also read a presentation on Patriotism Day.

South Plainfield Mayor Matthew Anesh gave a heartwarming speech

about his own patriotism and his recent visit to the construction site of the Freedom Tower at Ground Zero. Barbara Muller PER, previous Exalted Ruler, talked about Flag Day. Borough Council candidate Dick Frank also spoke about the importance of teaching school children about the history and reverence of the American Flag.

After the flag service, the Gery Fantazir and Rose Napoliello Scholarship awards were presented by Elks members Barbara Muller and John Muller, PER. The 2011 recipients were Maryann Slater of Metuchen High School and Christine Easton of Watchung Hills Regional High School, who were chosen through an evaluation of their grades, accomplishments and volunteerism. At the end of the evening guests enjoyed a variety of baked goodies and cold drinks.

Scouts participating in the ceremony from Junior Troop #65137 were Puja Vengadasalam, Saru Castillo, Kelsey MacPherson, Deanna Delisa, Rebecca Veit, Kristina Kuchinski, Skylar Cochran and Chloe Ferigno; and from Cadette Troop #65091 were Kayla Santiago, Sydney Chris-



Elks Exalted Ruler Dan Uken

tian, Melissa Gallant and Emily Kuchinski.

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation that officially established June 14 as Flag Day; in August 1949 National Flag Day was established by an Act of Congress. Flag Day was not an official federal holiday although on June 14, 1937, Pennsylvania became the first and only U.S. state to celebrate Flag Day as a state holiday.

Help Plan the September 11th National Memorial Trail

This year as America approaches the tenth anniversary of September 11, 2001 when the United States and the world were shocked by an act of terrorism beyond imagination, our citizens throughout the country have an opportunity to be part of a national trail to be called the September 11th National Memorial Trail. It will be built as a tribute to all those who perished in America's single worst terrorist attack. The establishment of a hiking, biking and driving trail will provide a physical linkage connecting the three national memorials commemorating the tragic events that occurred at the Flight 93 National Memorial, the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Join us in planning the New Jersey section of the September 11th National Memorial Trail. We need your help identifying the best routes. With support from the Morris County Park Commission, the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program, and trail

and outdoors organizations, a public planning meeting/open house will be held. Attend all or part of the meeting on Wednesday, July 6 from 2 to 5 p.m. at Morris County Park Commission Headquarters, 353 East Hanover Ave. in Morris Township.

The trail will eventually be a 1,100-mile motorized route and non-motorized hiking and cycling trail connecting the three national memorials. Localities along the planned route would be vital hubs with the trail serving as an important recreational and transportation venue for promoting tourism, economic development, healthy bodies and minds, and cultural and educational opportunities for generations to come. The goal is to have the route established with a number of segments open for use in time for the tenth anniversary of the terrorist attacks.

For information, call (973) 631-5136 or (703) 628-5007, email mee@morrissparks.net or 911Trail@comcast.net, or visit www.morrissparks.net

Senior Center Sponsoring Wildwood Vacation Package

The Senior Center is sponsoring a Wildwood vacation package which includes four nights lodging, four breakfasts, two full course dinners, two visits to Atlantic City and the casinos including a casino bonus, a Dolphin Watch sightseeing cruise, a visit to historic Cape May, a visit to the Towne of Historic Smithville, a souvenir gift, luggage handling, all taxes and meal gratuities and motor-coach transportation.

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Funeral Home Renews Adopt- A-Spot Contract

Michael Castoral, manager of the South Plainfield James W. Conroy Funeral Home, has renewed the funeral home's Adopt-A-Spot agreement with the South Plainfield Clean Business Association for the next two years. They will remove litter along a half-mile stretch of New Market Avenue, from Pulaski Street to Highland Avenue.

This spot was originally adopted in 2007 when the funeral home was under the management of Franklin Rinear. The contract was continued under the next manager, Jason Oszczakiewicz. Castoral learned of the contract when he and his family participated in this spring's Volunteer Litter Cleanup. He expects to have a crew of four people out picking up litter from the roadsides monthly.

New Market Avenue is a mixed-use road. It carries heavy automobile and truck traffic past residences, businesses and vacant land. Part of the Highland Woods Nature Reserve fronts on New Market Avenue. With so many litter sources and so many sensitive receptors, this stretch of road needs regular litter removal to keep the area well-kept and prosperous-looking. Joe Diegnan, CBA president, is pleased that Castoral has stepped up and taken over responsibility for the adoption.

The CBA is looking for more roadside adopters. Stretches of Metuchen Road, Coolidge Street and Tyler Place need attention.

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



The Ugly Club—Ryan Egan, Joe Stasio, Taylor Mandel, Rick Sue-Poi and Ryan McNulty.

The Ugly Club Releases Their Second EP

The Ugly Club is celebrating the release of their second EP, "Visions of Tall Girl." If you have yet to hear of this NJ-based indie-rock group, chances are you will have a hard time missing their name in the coming weeks as they continue to build hype all throughout the tri-state area.

The band features three South Plainfield residents, Ryan Egan, Joe Stasio and Taylor Mandel, as well as Union County residents Rick Sue-Poi and Ryan McNulty. The record was produced by guitarist Joe Stasio at Soundwaves Studio in Union and released on June 10 to iTunes, Amazon and other digital music stores.

Reminiscent of bands like My Morning Jacket and The Arcade Fire,

the sound is progressive and eclectic, never losing focus on unique musicality and masterful lyricism.

Over the course of two years, The Ugly Club has opened for acts like Third Eye Blind and Sharon Jones, self-produced two EPs, toured regionally, and played venues such as the Starland Ballroom, Maxwell's and Webster Hall. This is a band that transcends genre and clearly sets no limit to how far they will grow as a business or as a musical force. Follow them closely on Facebook, Twitter, Myspace and other social networking sites to stay updated on concerts, merchandise and future releases.

—Submitted by Steven Buckley with photo by Kyle Nemick

From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Chris Grippo

It's that time of year again. Registration for the South Plainfield Public Library Summer Reading Program for children and young adults begins on Monday, June 27. The theme this year is One World Many Stories. There will be many activities (besides our usual story times) in which children and young adults may participate. These include everything from gaming—chess and Wii—to Tuesday Tales, longer stories for children entering the first grade, to Monday night crafts to visits by entertainers. Students in grades seven and eight will be assigned a summer reading assignment by South Plainfield Middle School, part of which will include visiting the public library and joining the Summer Reading Club.

A point to consider before you come to sign your children up concerns for which of the three parts of the Summer Reading Program is your child best suited. The first level is picture books, second comes chapter books and third is young adult. It will make your registration go much faster if you know which one you want. Also, the prizes for the young adults are more suited for older children and are awarded on a different basis than those for the younger children.

Another enriching summer activity for South Plainfield High School students is their required reading program. As in the past the staff has pulled all the titles on the various reading lists and placed them upstairs by the graphic novels. This makes it much more convenient for students since there is only one place to look and if the book is not there it must

be checked out; however, the library does have another resource for many of these books. We subscribe to the audio and e-book program, *ListenNJ*, and you can find some of the titles you need on that database.

ListenNJ is just one of the many databases available on our website, www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us. You can access your South Plainfield Library account, find directions on repairing your car at *Chilton's*, learn a language at *Byki*, find the answer to a legal question at *LawDepot*, take a class in which you can learn everything in a wide range of topics from lessons to help you with getting your GED to updating your computer skills at *Universal Class*, or (starting July 2011) find a job with *Career Transitions*.

As a reminder, Miss Linda and Miss Mija will still have their story and craft times Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday at 1:15 p.m. for three year olds and up; Wednesday and Thursday at 10:30 a.m. for Time for Twos and Threes and Friday at 10:30 a.m. for Books and Babies. Also, again this summer Miss Mija will be showing movies on Monday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Parents and caregivers should get here before the start of the program. This gives them the opportunity to make name badges for participants and to settle the children down to enjoy the program.

If you have any questions, feel free to call us at (908) 754-7885 or visit the library at 2484 Plainfield Ave. (next to Borough Hall). Our website, www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us, is available 24/7 and does include a calendar of events.

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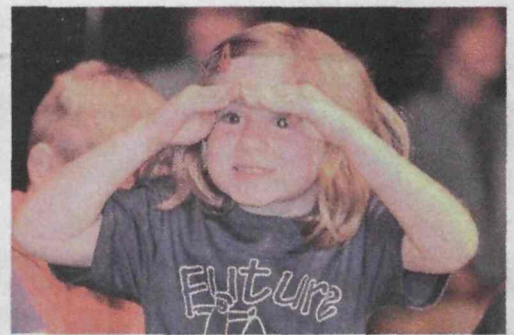
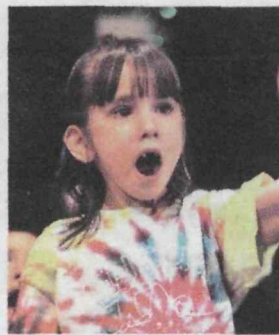
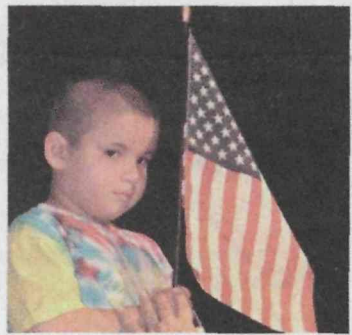
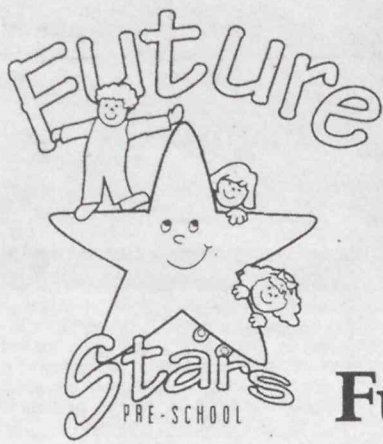
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Future Stars Graduates Head for Kindergarten

By Patricia Abbott

June 6 was a big day for the five-year-old Future Star students. The children, wearing their class t-shirts, gathered with their parents in the cafeteria of South Plainfield High School anxiously awaiting the last few minutes before the start of their graduation ceremony.

Two ceremonies were held to accommodate both the A.M. and P.M. sessions, representing a total of nine graduating classes.

The first ceremony began promptly at 5 p.m. The auditorium was full of family and friends, cameras in hand, who turned to watch as the children marched down the aisles and mounted the stage. There was much waving, giggling and 'hi mommy' en route. The evening began with *The Pledge of Allegiance* followed by *My Country 'Tis of Thee*. The A.M. flag holder was Yellow Room student Lindsey Oller; Rainbow Room student Jonathan Callejas held the flag for the second graduation.

At the first session Interim Assistant Superintendent Dr. Frank Cocchiola welcomed the audience. He was followed by Adult Continuing Education Director Dr. Sophia Domogala. Also on hand were Board of Education members Debbie Boyle, Bill Scesselberg and Sharon Miller. Borough Councilman Alex Barletta joined them on stage to present a diploma to his nephew.

During both sessions the children entertained the audience with songs and dances, including *Get Ready, Let's Dance*, *Finger Poppin*, *Dance With Me*, *Music, Music, Music* and *Tooty At*. During each graduation the students had the chance to jump up and announce their names.

The highlight of the evening was the moment when the children's name were announced. One by one they climbed a piece of play equipment, waved and blew kisses, scrambled down the slide, proudly walked across the bridge marked, "This Way to Kindergarten," and received their diplomas from Board of Education members and Dr. Domogala. Cameras flashed; there were cheers and tears as parents watched their youngsters take the first step towards elementary school.

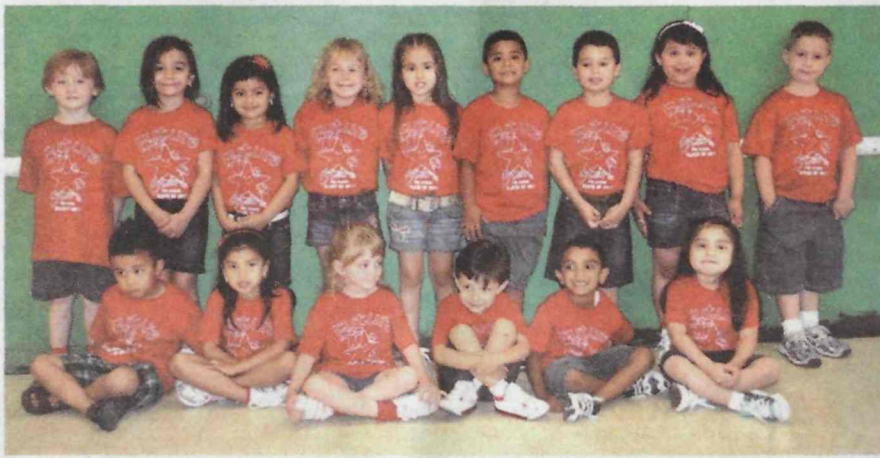
Dr. Domogala has been director of the Adult Continuing Education program that includes Future Stars for about 12 years. She is proud of the program and believes it gives children a solid foundation for the school years ahead of them.



Red Room—Monday/Wednesday/Friday A.M.



Red Room—Tuesday/Thursday A.M.



Red Room—Monday-Friday P.M.



Starlight Room—Monday-Friday P.M.



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Sports

Green Machine Record Successful Season



The 11U Green Machine Spring All-Star Team

The 11U South Plainfield Green Machine Spring All-Star Team finished a very successful spring baseball season. The league consisted of teams from Staten Island AAU Cyclones, West Shore United AAU team, Old Bridge, Montgomery Cougars,

South Brunswick and South Plainfield.

In the regular season, the Green Machine finished in a tie for first place with a record of 6-2, outscoring their opponents 67-42. In the semifinals, the Green Machine defeated the Montgomery Cougars, 12-2. Unfortunately,

in the championship game, the Green Machine was defeated by the West Shore United AAU Team, 10-6, in a very exciting and tense game.

All season the Green Machine was backed by solid pitching from Andrew Bisgaard, Shaun O'Brien, Joey Heilmann and Jack Scrudato. The team also had many star hitters throughout the season. Andrew Bisgaard and Shaun O'Brien hit monster home runs and Brandon Wizda's many successful bunts set the table for the middle of the lineup. Niko Vasquez, Donny Grabinsky, David Chatel and Jack Scrudato had many clutch hits all year. Every Green Machine player contributed in making this a great season.

On defense, there were many shining moments. Niko Vasquez became the team's everyday catcher and had a breakout season behind the plate. Niko did a terrific job behind the plate in controlling the pitching staff, throwing out runners and blocking almost every ball in the dirt. Conner Wolpin made many scoops at first base. Jacob Rivera and David Chatel played a great defensive third base, as well as Justin Newman and Joey Heilmann at second base and Luke Tamboro, Brandon Wizda, Donny Grabinsky and Jack Scrudato in the outfield.

In the championship game against West Shore United, South Plainfield fell behind early 8-0 after playing nervous in the first two innings, but battled back to get within two runs in the fifth inning. Then West Shore scored two runs in the bottom of the fifth inning for insurance runs. In the bottom of the fifth and sixth inning the Green Machine had chances to tie or take the lead, but was only able to score two runs and was not able to complete the comeback. Even though the Green Machine lost in the championship game, the team had grown in front of the coaches' eyes all year and played as a team and most of all had fun doing it, which is the most important thing. All of the coaches are very proud of what the Spring All-Star team accomplished this year.

The 11U South Plainfield Green Machine Spring All Star Team is Andrew Bisgaard, David Chatel, Donny Grabinsky, Joey Heilmann, Justin Newman, Shaun O'Brien, Jacob Rivera, Jack Scrudato, Luke Tamboro, Niko Vasquez, Conner Wolpin and Brandon Wizda. The team was managed by Joe Scrudato with Assistant Coaches John Wizda, Dave Delrio, Dan Tamboro and Angelo Rivera.

The coaches would like to thank the parents, family members and all the South Plainfield residents for coming to all of the games this year supporting the Green Machine team this spring. Your loud cheers were heard all year long.



Michael Verga of St. Rose High School in Belmar (left) takes the baton during a 4x100 heat at Penn Relays at Franklin Field at the University of Pennsylvania. Michael is the son of John and Deborah Verga of Sea Girt. Deborah graduated from SPHS in 1977. Michael is the grandson of Lorraine Beyer and the late Walter L. Beyer of South Plainfield.

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The following information is from the South Plainfield Sustainable Jersey Green Team. This and future news releases are meant to provide the community with an understanding of how the choices they make can lead to a more sustainable future for themselves and the Borough of South Plainfield.

Getting the Lead Out

By Sandy Pleeter,
Green Team Associate Member

South Plainfield's Green Team is launching an initiative regarding lead that will focus on public outreach and education. By informing residents about the dangers of lead, the group hopes to spur changes that will benefit the health of the community for years to come.

Lead is a toxic metal that is easily absorbed in the body when ingested or inhaled. Anyone can develop lead poisoning, but it is more often found in children under the age of six, many of whom inhale the substance through the dust of lead-based paint that has deteriorated over time. In fact, lead poisoning is the number one preventable environmental health problem facing young children today. Each year 310,000 one- to five-year-olds are found to have unsafe blood levels of lead.

There is no safe level of lead in the blood. Even low levels can cause cognitive deficits or, in more severe cases, permanent and irreversible learning disorders, developmental delays, decreased I.Q. and neurological problems. In extreme cases, coma and death may occur.

Treatment for lead poisoning de-

pends on the level of lead in the blood. Small amounts can be treated by simply stopping exposure, as the body will naturally eliminate the lead over time. Severe cases, however, may cause hospitalization and treatment with a medication called a chelating agent, which binds with the lead, allowing the body to rid it naturally.

Lead can be found in other products such as ink, water pipes, batteries, jewelry, crayons and toys. It is important that children get tested for lead exposure at both ages one and two. Signs of lead poisoning include: irritability or behavioral problems, headaches, abdominal pain, loss of appetite, weight loss, muscle and joint weakness or pain, and seizures.

New Jersey banned the use of lead-based paint in homes in 1971. But, according to Sustainable Jersey literature, "nearly one million homes, or 30% of the State's housing, were built before 1950, the time when the use of lead-based paint was most prominent." The County of Middlesex alone has more than 9,000 housing units built before 1950. People can consult the link from the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services for information about precautions to take if renovating an older home that still has its original paint layer.

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Obituaries

Violet Ruzicka, 67

Violet Ruzicka died on Friday, June 17 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

Born in Newark, Violet resided in South Plainfield for most of her life before moving to Plainfield in 2007.

She worked for the Diocese of Metuchen as a secretary.

Surviving are a daughter, Louise Ruzicka of South Plainfield; a son, Joseph and wife Geannine, also of South Plainfield; a sister, Gloria Deberadinis of Pennsylvania; and three grandchildren.

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

D. Bogden of South Plainfield; her very dear friend, Edward Allen of New Port Richey, Fla.; two granddaughters, Jennifer Roberts and husband Geoffrey of Hillsborough and Kimberly Ann Bogden of Hillsborough and fiancé John Heald of Manchester, England as well as three great-grandchildren, Cassandra, John and Travis Roberts of Hillsborough. She also leaves behind three siblings, Margaret Hansen of Sanford, N.C., John Wilchuck of Nova Scotia and Michael Wilchuck of Toms River.

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

Charlotte J. Matticola, 73

Charlotte J. Matticola, a loving wife, mother and "nanny," passed away on Friday, June 17 surrounded by her loving family at the AristaCare at Norwood Terrace in Plainfield.



Charlotte Matticola

She was born in Palisades Park and resided in Belleville before settling in South Plainfield in 1968.

For seven years, Mrs. Matticola worked at New Milford High School as a physical education teacher before moving to South Plainfield where she raised her three children. After, Charlotte returned to teaching as a substitute teacher in South Plainfield for many years.

In addition, Charlotte was a communicant of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield.

Surviving are her loving husband of 50 years, Joseph Matticola; a daughter, Laurie Venetucci and husband Vito of South Plainfield; two sons, Robert, also of South Plainfield and Mark of Trenton. Also surviving are three grandchildren, Jordanna, Vincenzo and Donato.

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

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the N.J. Chapter M.S. Society, 246 Monmouth Rd., Oakhurst N.J. 07755, www.nationalmssociety.org or to the 9/11 Families Fund, 22 Cortlandt, St., Eighth Floor, New York, N.Y. 10007.

Fourth Anniversary



In Loving Memory of
Trista L. Moretti
Who Passed Away
June 25, 2007

You are not forgotten loved one,
Nor will you ever be.
As long as life and memory last,
We will miss thee.
We will miss you now,
Our hearts are sore.
As time goes by,
We will miss you more.
Your loving smile,
Your gentle face,
No one can fill your vacant place.

Sadly Missed,
Mom Judy, Dad Fred, and Sister
Jennifer and husband and son,
Juan and Mateo.

Knights Say "Thank You" to Volunteers

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus #6203 held their 2011 Sacred Heart Lenten fish dinners during Lent. Over \$7,000 was collected during the five weeks of dinners.

On May 25 the Knights said "thank you" to all of the volunteers who supported the dinners with an appreciation dinner at their hall.

Knights member Joe McGeehan cooked a great meal, and about 60 volunteers came for a relaxing evening while the Knights donated the proceeds from the fish dinners. Thanks were extended to Rich from Presto Printing for donating the placemats; brother Knights Rick McCriskin and Jim Gustafson from McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals and to the South Plainfield Funeral Home for donating money for start up expenses.

Grand Knight Joe Scrudato presented \$2,300 to Father John Alvarado from Sacred Heart Church; \$2,300 to Terry Golden, principal



(L-R) Terry Golden, Grand Knight Joe Scrudato, Father John Alvarado, Frank Stahlin, Audrey Ginda and Neil Towey.

of Sacred Heart School; and \$2,000 to Frank Stahlin and Audrey Ginda from Sacred Heart Church Social Concerns Committee to be used for parishioners and residents who need

financial help in paying their bills or for purchasing food. Scrudato thanked all of the groups who made the Lenten fish dinners a great success again this year.

In My Opinion

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

(Continued from page 2)

even using that figure, there is plenty left so that taxpayers can get tax relief too.

I also think that renting a facility is better than borrowing \$5M to build one. We're at a time when libraries are on the verge of becoming obsolete. People can perform research online and get books over the Internet by downloading them to a Kindle or iPad. Let's see where the technology takes us before spending millions on a huge new facility.

I appreciate Councilman Bengivena's hard work on this issue. It's nice to see someone approach things with common sense and with concern for the people who have to pay the bills, the taxpayer.

FRANK LEMOS

Residents of South Plainfield:

I have been conducting a survey in South Plainfield as part of my doctoral research, to understand what information and services community residents (and people who work in the community) believe are needed to make the community healthier, what information they need to be more informed about environmental health issues, and which needs can be fulfilled by nurses. The South Plainfield community was selected because it has two environmentally contaminated Superfund Sites (Cornell Dubilier and Edison Wetlands).

I am a certified family nurse practitioner, and a doctoral student in nursing at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pa. I have a post-masters certificate in forensic nursing, and am

the vice president for Academic Affairs at Helene Fuld College of Nursing in New York City, where I also teach nursing.

The questionnaire is provided to people over the age of 18 years. It consists of 25 questions, and takes about 15 minutes to complete. The questions ask respondents to select the most important environmental problems in their community, how healthy they think their community is, what information they would like to have about environmental issues, and who would they trust to provide them with information about the environment. All information obtained from this study is kept strictly confidential, and no respondents will be individually identified. The questionnaire has been approved by Duquesne University's Institutional Review Board.

South Plainfield residents who filled

out the questionnaire at the Family Health Fair at the Senior Center last Saturday were able to obtain and share environmental information about their community. Many stated that merely filling the questionnaire stimulated their thinking about the environment.

On Saturday, June 25 there will be another opportunity for people who live or work in South Plainfield to complete the survey. From 11 a.m. until 3 p.m., I encourage the community to stop by the PAL Building to complete the survey. They will receive a \$5 A&P gift card and environmental literature as a small thank you for participating. Refreshments will be provided.

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Third Anniversary

Katherine Seesselberg

June 30, 2008

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