

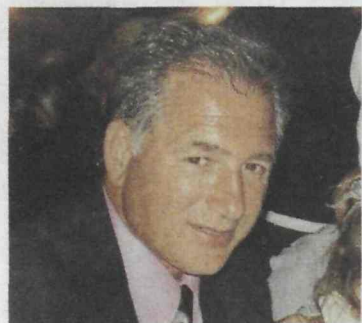
South Plainfield OBSERVER

VOL. 15, NO. 13

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60 CENTS

DECEMBER 2, 2011



Bill Ashnault

Ashnault to Join Ranks of Cappy Recipients

Longtime volunteer wrestling and baseball coach Bill Ashnault has been named the recipient of the ninth annual Cappy Award, and will be honored with a dinner tomorrow night at the Senior Center.

Named for late Deputy Police Chief Tulio "Cappy" Capparelli, the Cappy Award is a combined effort of the Recreation Commission and the Police Athletic League. The Cappy Award recognizes those individuals who selflessly donate their time for the betterment of the youth of South Plainfield.

Ashnault's career began in 1985 as a volunteer assistant wrestling coach with the high school, where he remained until 1998. For the next three years he served as the Middle School wrestling coach. In addition, from 1998 to the present, he has served in various capacities with the South Plainfield Wrestling Club, from coach to president. He currently serves on their board as a trustee.

He has not only been instrumental in the coaching of children, but has been a key figure in running tournaments, organizing fundraisers and helping lead the wrestling club to contribute to the PAL expansion.

Ashnault has also been a coach in the baseball community, from tee ball to teener ball, through to the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club from 1995 until 2008. In the SPJBC, he served as a member of the Executive Board and was on various committees including buildings and grounds and canning. In addition to regular season coaching, he was an all star coach for over 10 years. Ashnault was also a Pop Warner coach for a year.

In addition to his coaching exploits, Ashnault has been a member of the Recreation Commission since 2001. In that time the commission has been instrumental in upgrading the lights and facilities at the football, baseball and soccer complexes, as well as the PAL expansion and the building of Memorial Field behind the PAL.

Past recipients of the Cappy Award are Ed Niemczyk, Charles Decker Sr., Sal "Bubby" Severini, Art Fiore, Philip Aiello, Richard Curcio, Nancy Pauls, Owen Kelly, Jack English, Art Devine, Richard Plate and William Cochrane Sr.

Tickets for the dinner, which starts at 6:30 p.m., can be purchased at the PAL for \$15.

Labor Day Throat Slasher Gets 26½ Years

Anthony K. Cole, 25, of Woolworth Avenue was sentenced to 26½ years in prison with credit for two years served on Tuesday in Middlesex County Superior Court by Judge Bradley Ferencz on various charges, including the attempted murder of Department of Public Works (DPW) employee David Donatelli. The incident occurred after the Labor Day fireworks display in Spring Lake Park on September 7, 2009.

Cole was convicted on August 12 of attempted murder, unlawful possession of a weapon, possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose and hindering his apprehension after fleeing the scene. A separate indictment charged Cole with a count of certain persons not to have weapons. He was prohibited from possessing a weapon after he was found guilty and sentenced to a five year term on an aggravated sexual assault charge in Edison in 2001.

South Plainfield Police were able to prove that Donatelli, 53, was approached from behind by Cole who cut his neck with a knife as he was shutting off the park lights shortly before 8:48 p.m. Donatelli was taken to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick where he underwent emergency surgery for his injury. He has since retired from the DPW.

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Scalera to Head Up SPVFD



Fire Chief Tom Scalera

Deputy Chief Tom Scalera of the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department will take the reigns as chief this month from Larry Del-Negro who has held the position since 2002.

Scalera, known to many as "Bubba," is a lifelong resident. He has held the position of deputy chief for the past 11 years and is currently employed as a lieutenant with the Plainfield Fire Division for the past 25 years.

Scalera has served as a part time fire official for the Fanwood Fire Department for the past 15 years. He has also served as assistant commissioner with the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club for five years and is a member of the Knights of Columbus.

"It comes natural to me," said Scalera, whose family has been fighting fires in the borough since 1937. He and wife Sharon have three school-aged children, Dominick, Nicholas and Jemma.

In the 100 years since a volunteer fire department was established in South Plainfield, there have been only 10 elected fire chiefs. Chief Del-Negro still plans to stay involved in some capacity with fire department.



Richard Frank is sworn in as councilman by Municipal Clerk Joann Graf at the November 21 council meeting. Frank was elected to fill the one-year term vacated by Matt Anesh when he became mayor in January. He replaces Alex Barletta, who was appointed to the seat in January. Barletta, who was elected to a three-year term in the November 8 election, will be sworn in during the January reorganization meeting.

Rats Invade Eganey Street

By Jane Dornick

Property owners who live next door to an Eganey Street residence brought their concerns about rat infestation before the Borough Council at the November 21 meeting.

O'Donahue Avenue resident Jeff Seider spoke about his efforts over the past seven years to enlist the health department to fine the owner under borough property violations to rid the problem in their yards.

"This year the rats came out in the early spring and are still present," said Seider, who says they are avoiding the traps. "The health department tells them to clean up their property, which they do, and the rats are back three weeks later." He claims that after Hurricane Irene in August the problem worsened to where the rodents were burrowing under the deck of his home, which has been in the family since 1949, and also in an air conditioning unit.

Seider claims that findings by professional exterminators blame a rotting stump underneath the neighbor's shed for creating the problem. "We need to get to the root of the problem and need an inspection weekly. I'm not satisfied with the health department's response. Enough is enough."

Georgeann Cochrane, who lives next door to the property in question, said that the rat problem has been "unbelievable this year." She has two puppies and four granddaughters who cannot roam her yard. "I can't deal with it anymore. This has to be taken care of."

Seider, Cochrane, another neighbor who is experiencing the rat problem and the property owner met with CFO Glenn Cullen and members of the health department on Tuesday. Cullen said they agreed to hire another exterminator to inspect the property, and the homeowners agreed to abide by the findings. Cullen said the health department has been cooperative during the past seven years. No date has been set for the inspection.

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SPHS HOMECOMING—(L-R) First runners-up, Daniel Lyew and Miranda Garcia; Homecoming Queen and King, Alexis Alba and Shawn Gorman; and second runners-up, Michelle O'Sullivan and Guillermo Lopez. See related story on page 9.

Resident Arrested in Child Sex Scandal



Andrew Brown

Andrew Brown, 38, of Central Avenue was arrested on November 22 after exposing himself on the Internet to whom he believed to be a 14 year-old girl.

A teacher at Woodbrook Elementary School in Edison, Brown was charged with two counts of attempting to endanger the welfare of a child and two counts of attempted criminal sexual contact. All charges are for alleged third degree crimes.

According to an investigation conducted by the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office Computer Crimes Unit (BCPO), Brown used the Internet to engage in sexually explicit conversations with an individual he believed to be 14 years of age. During these conversations, he exposed himself via webcam in view of the purported child.

Edison Township Superintendent Richard O'Malley said that Brown is currently on administrative leave. He was arraigned on November 25. Bail was set at \$25,000 with no 10 percent option and he was banned from using the Internet. In lieu of bail, Brown has been remanded to the Bergen County Jail.

Two Assaulted on Pitt Street

South Plainfield Police responded to the report of a disturbance at Pitt Street and Jackson Avenue on Sunday at approximately 10:30 p.m. Upon arrival, officers located two males who stated they were assaulted. The males, age 27 of South Plainfield and age 50 of Smyrna, Ga., were walking on Pitt Street when they were confronted by a group of four individuals. The individuals were identified as Jared Jones, 22 of South Plainfield; Allen Pittman, 20 of Avenel; a juvenile male, 17 of South Amboy; and a 14 year-old female of South Plainfield.

According to police, a confrontation started when Jones approached the men and demanded a cigarette. When they refused, Jones allegedly

(Continued on page 10)



In My Opinion

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

Dear Editor,

I wish to express my sincere thanks to all of the voters who cast their vote on my behalf. Let me assure you that I shall do everything I can do to be a councilman for all the people in South Plainfield.

It is an honor for me to serve you, the general public, once again. I am particularly happy to be part of this historic event that just took place on election day. This is the first time in the history of South Plainfield that you have had a Republican mayor as well as an all Republican council. It has been the other way around several times before. Also, it will be my pleasure to serve as a member of the most diverse council in South Plainfield's history. We now have an opportunity to bring all of us closer together as a community than ever before.

With that said, I am well aware of the difficult task ahead. Our attempt to hold the taxes down, control spending and maintain the small town atmosphere will not be easy. We are about to take on this monumental task in spite of the unsustainable rise in county taxes

that have already risen more than 19% over the last two years.

Once again, I am proud to be part of this council that reduced municipal taxes by 8.2% during this same time period.

It is my desire to see all of us in this community pull together for a better South Plainfield.

Thanks again for your support.

**SEMPER FI,
COUNCILMAN DICK FRANK**

Dear Editor,

Thank you to the voters of the 18th District for your overwhelming support for Senator Buono, Assemblyman Barnes and my reelection. I must give particular thanks to the residents of my hometown.

As I look forward to my sixth term serving in the State Legislature, I commit myself to continue to advance the issues that matter to our hard working middle class families. We must put people back to work and provide relief to homeowners. It is time to end our overreliance on property taxes. I will continue to make the education of our children my top priority.

Serving as your assemblyman for the past decade has been an honor. I will never take it for granted. I commit myself to continue to bring South Plainfield family values to state government. If I can ever be of assistance, or if you want to talk about an issue or concern, please contact me at (908) 757-1677 or email me at Asmdiegnan@njleg.org. My office is located at 908 Oak Tree Road.

**VERY TRULY YOURS,
PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.**

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank the *Observer* for publishing the press releases for our annual food drive.

This year's annual Thanksgiving food drive was phenomenal—our most successful food drive yet! We delivered a full minivan of food to FISH on November 22.

On behalf of FISH and the homeless women and children who will benefit from your generous donations, I wish to sincerely thank all of you who have so graciously given food and money to this most worthy cause.

Again, thank you for assisting those who are so greatly in need.

I hope all of you had a very happy Thanksgiving! Thank you for caring and may God bless you.

DR. ANTHONY J. DECOSTA, DC

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the event listing in the *South Plainfield Observer* for the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Orthodox Church food fest/bake sale. It was a huge success! Many saw our sign outside of the church and others said they saw it in your newspaper, or in the *Courier News*, where we had to pay a fee (sigh). We are grateful to the *Observer* for posting it free for our church. We will have another one in January and I'll be in touch.

We are still selling pierogis each week, so please call (908) 561-6366 to order. Be sure to leave your name and telephone number.

ANITA ANDERSON

To the Editor:

The South Plainfield Education Foundation will be holding our telethon the week of December 5. Students from several groups in the high school will be making phone calls to the parents of every student in South Plainfield. The students will be asking for pledges for donations to the Education Foundation. You will have the ability to designate where your pledge money will be directed.

This is our most important fundraiser of the year. Through this fund-

raiser, we are able to continue to give out scholarships each June. We are also able to continue our Gold Card Program at the high school. There are several perpetual scholarships that we would like to continue as well.

The South Plainfield Education Foundation is a 501c3 non-profit organization. We have been in existence since 1994. Please be advised—the South Plainfield Education Foundation is not associated with the South Plainfield Board of Education. We are not funded by your local tax dollars. We rely on private donations through our fundraisers. If you would like further information on the foundation, please log on to our website: www.vision2001.org.

This year, we will be including a letter regarding a fundraiser for our Alumni Association. The alumni association was created to continue to fund our annual Hall of Fame, which honors former students of South Plainfield High School. We are going to be asking residents if they would be interested in a "buy-a-brick" program. Look for the insert in your letter—and also on our website.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the community of South Plainfield for your continued support of the South Plainfield Education Foundation.

**SINCERELY,
MARJORIE M. REEDY, PRESIDENT
SOUTH PLAINFIELD
EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

Dear Editor,

The members of Sacred Heart Social Concerns would like to thank the South Plainfield Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts who collected and delivered the groceries to the Sacred Heart Church Parish Pantry from their Thanksgiving Food Drive.

We also thank the Sacred Heart religious education students who volunteered their time to help sort, check and store the food pantry. We especially thank the residents of South Plainfield and the parishioners of Sacred Heart Church for donating the food and for their continued, generous support.

**FRANK STAHLIN,
SACRED HEART SOCIAL CONCERNS**

Dear Editor,

The holidays will soon be here. For many families, it is a time of joy and sharing. However, for some families, it is also a time of financial stress and worry. To address this situation, the Roosevelt Elementary School Student Council is hosting a fundraiser for the needy families in our community. The fundraiser will consist of collecting new

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.

sweatshirts from each classroom. The sweatshirts could range from Kindergarten size to teenage size, male and/or female.

Proceeds from this drive will go to Marge Ackerman of the South Plainfield Social Services Department. This is a wonderful opportunity for Roosevelt School students to participate in a worthy cause and, at the same time, practice the character trait of caring.

The fundraiser began on November 21 and ends Friday, Dec. 16. New sweatshirts can be sent directly to your child's classroom, Mrs. DeAndrea, or myself. As always, your support and generosity is greatly appreciated.

**SINCERELY YOURS,
MARGARET MOSLEY,
STUDENT COUNCIL ADVISOR,
ROOSEVELT ELEM. SCHOOL**

Dear Editor,

I'm a resident of Somerset Avenue in South Plainfield. This is normally a quiet, residential street located in a residential neighborhood that has the misfortune of being off of Hamilton Boulevard; a county road with an 18 wheel tractor trailer ban on it. As I sit here writing this letter, there goes another 18-wheeler past my house again and up to Hamilton. This is the third one today (that I know of) because I work. Remember there's a ban on tractor trailers on Hamilton and they're certainly not allowed on the side streets along that road either. This is a daily occurrence and it occurs all hours of the day and night, seven days a week. They're cutting through our neighborhood and not following the designated truck route through town just to save a mile or two. And for what? They travel in both directions, too. It just continues with no end or police cruiser in sight.

My family and I have lived on Somerset Avenue for almost 26 years and this problem has only worsened, especially over the last 11 years. I've gone to our elected officials, past and present, police officials and Halls Trucking management. I was told that this would stop after our initial meetings but it hasn't. Most of the tractor

(Continued on page 10)

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

FYI

Borough
Council
& BOE

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

December 5
December 19

Public Meeting

December 5
December 19

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
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
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.)
Dec. 14, Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 14 and April 4.
Regular Public Meeting (begin at 7:30 p.m.) except where noted*
Dec. 21, Jan. 18, Feb. 15, March 21, April 11.

**South Plainfield
Observer**

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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.

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(L-R) Harvest Market employees Renee Vanderveer and Jeanne Romanovsky with "Guess the Weight of the Pumpkin Contest" winners Connie and Tony Stanislaw. The borough residents picked up their 20 lb. fresh turkey prize just in time for Thanksgiving.

Czaplinski Charged With Several Counts Of Fraud and Theft

Christopher J. Czaplinski, 25, of South Plainfield was arrested on November 17 by South Plainfield Police detectives following a month long investigation by Detective Garrett Cassio. Czaplinski was charged with numerous counts of credit card fraud, identify theft and theft.

The investigation alleges that the victim, an acquaintance of Czaplinski, reported that over \$2,500 worth of credit card charges had been made at various locations between September and October 2011. The victim also reported that over \$4,000 worth of jewelry had been stolen from her South Plainfield residence.

Czaplinski was released on \$5,000 bail following his arrest.

POLICE REPORT

• On Nov. 10 Tara L. Battiste was arrested for obstruction and several outstanding warrants.

• On Nov. 11 Danilo Paul Gamboa was arrested for obstruction, making an improper turn and driving on a suspended license.

• A St. James Place resident reported an unsuccessful attempt to open five credit card accounts in their name.

• On Nov. 12 Staples reported that an unknown male fled the store without paying for \$293 worth of HP color Laserjet toner.

• Wells Fargo Bank on Stelton Road reported that the front door handle was hanging from the door. A credit card was also found in the vestibule.

• A South Plainfield Avenue resident reported that their credit card had been fraudulently used to make purchases in Canada.

• An Oak Tree Avenue resident reported the theft of a Blackberry phone from their garage during a yard sale.

• On Nov. 13 AJ Jersey Inc. on St. Nicholas Avenue reported the theft of brass fire hose connection from the outside of the building.

• On Nov. 15 a Dunham Avenue resident reported the theft of a blow up turkey from their lawn.

• On Nov. 16 Anthony Joseph Elkins was arrested for driving on a suspended license and two outstanding warrants.

• Heather M. Bernard was arrested for careless driving and an outstanding warrant.



Kennedy School Brownie Troop #65933 recently earned the Take Action Key Badge. The troop learned how to team up to identify a community place where they can "take action"—make a plan and carry out their Take Action project to improve the world. The girls decided that the flower beds at the Kennedy School entrance needed weeding and new flowers planted. The PTSO supplied the flowers, and the girls supplied the tools and manpower to get it done.

—Submitted by Michele Rabar

Volunteer Fire Department "Project Santa" Underway

It is that time of the year again when Santa will be travelling around town by fire truck, visiting the children and helping to raise money for the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Company. Can you imagine a fire truck with lights and sirens playing Christmas carols pulling up in front of your home with Santa Claus?

Here's how it works: We are requesting a \$20 donation from each family who would like Santa to deliver their gifts by fire truck; oversized packages will require a \$30 donation. Bring the completed form that was mailed to every home along with a small, inexpensive wrapped gift and a check made payable to "SPVFD" to the firehouse on Maple Avenue. We are asking that you choose presents that Santa can easily handle, and that fit in a paper grocery bag. Then just sit back and relax and leave the rest to us.

Please make sure that you mark your child's name and address in big letters on the package.

Drop off dates to bring the gift and order form are Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 3 and 4 from noon to 4 p.m. and Tuesday, Dec. 6 from 6-9 p.m. Please note: packages brought after December 6 will be charged \$40. All families must reside within South Plainfield.

Santa will be delivering the gifts to various school districts December 12-15 between 6 and 9 p.m. A delivery schedule will be announced at a later date.

If you need a blank form, call Santa's hotline at (908) 412-8868. Leave a message and we will get back to you ASAP.

The South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department would like to thank you and wish you and your loved ones a safe and happy holiday season!

Public Invited to McCriskin Annual Tree Lighting and Caroling

Once again, McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals invites the public to attend the annual tree lighting and Christmas caroling event on Saturday, Dec. 10 at 4:30 p.m. on the main lawn of the funeral home at 2425 Plainfield Ave.

The tree lighting ceremony is dedicated to the memory of the men of Task Force 3-502 101st Airborne Division Screaming Eagles, who died on December 12, 1985 when their plane crashed over Gander, New Foundland on their way home from a tour of duty.

Members of the South Plainfield High School Traveling Choir will be performing. Following the tree lighting, everyone is invited to Christmas carol down Plainfield Avenue to Flanagan's Restaurant where appetizers and sandwiches will be served.

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Former Borough Payroll Clerk Charged with Theft

Middlesex County Prosecutor Bruce J. Kaplan and Chief James Parker of the South Plainfield Police Department announced that a former clerk was charged with stealing more than \$3,000 in overtime while she worked for the borough.

Marie K. Smith, 62 of Brennan Court was charged with a third degree count of theft by deception for paying herself overtime for work she never performed.

Smith was charged after Investigator Lisa M. Collins of the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office determined

that Smith gave herself overtime payments in various amounts after becoming the borough's payroll clerk in January 2010.

The investigation began after borough officials became suspicious and contacted police.

Smith, who worked for the borough for 23 years, was dismissed from her job on March 21, 2011.

As is the case with all criminal defendants, the charge against Smith is merely an accusation and she is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Accident Closes Park Avenue

Olivia M. Smith, 21, of South Plainfield was operating a 1997 Toyota Camry owned by her mother, Suzette Smith, northbound on Park Avenue near Oak Manor Parkway on November 24 at about 6 a.m. Smith struck a telephone pole at the southwest corner of Park Avenue at Oak Manor Parkway and knocked it down. The vehicle rolled onto its side and landed back on its tires facing southwest. Part of the telephone pole struck and damaged a fence at 3148 Park Ave.

Smith was extricated from the vehicle by the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department and treated by paramedics from Mercy 6 Muhlenberg Hospital and the South Plainfield Volunteer Rescue Squad.

She was transported to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick where she was admitted with serious injuries to her legs and torso.

Smith was charged with driving while intoxicated and reckless driving by Officer Mark Holman.

Park Avenue was closed due to low hanging wires for approximately seven hours. There was no loss of power or services to area residents.

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events

Around Town

Music Boosters TGI Fridays Fundraiser

December 2

Moms, don't cook tonight! TGI Fridays will donate 20% of food sales all day on Friday, Dec. 2 to support SPHS Music Boosters when you present the flyer. Print your flyer through our calendar at www.sphsmusicboosters.webs.com. Must bring flyer. Tell your friends, family and coworkers!

Vendor Night at Franklin School

December 2

Franklin Elementary School will host a vendor night on Friday, Dec. 2 from 6 to 9 p.m., featuring Dove Chocolate, Tastefully Simple, Arbonne Skincare, handcrafted jewelry, Tupperware and many more vendors. In addition, there will be raffle prizes and drawings for specialty items.

To make a raffle donation or for vendor information, please call Kim LaCross at (908) 963-1854.

Midnight Madness At High School

December 2

The SPHS boys and girls basketball team will kick off the season with a fun evening at Midnight Madness on Friday, Dec. 2 from 9-10:30 p.m. in the gym. Best fan costume, dunk and three-point shooting contests, mixed team scrimmage and special guest appearance. Admission is free. Come out-show your support.

UNICO Pig Roast

December 2

Plainfields' UNICO will host its annual pig roast on Friday, Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m. The event will be held at

the Scotch Plains Italian American Club, 1976 Valley Rd. in Scotch Plains. Tickets are \$40 and include beer and wine with the meal.

For tickets, call (908) 472-0164, (908) 561-6685 or (908) 757-5500.

Knights of Columbus Breakfast With Santa

December 3

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus will host the annual Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 3 from 9 a.m. to noon at the hall located at 334 Hamilton Blvd.

Cost for the breakfast (includes eggs, bacon, French toast, pancakes and more) is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children, or \$15 for a family of four or more. If you want Santa to give your child a present, please bring it with you.

For information or a reservation, call Tom Berry at (908) 531-0428.

VFW Country Breakfast

December 4

A country breakfast will be held at the VFW, located on Front Street on Sunday, Dec. 4 from 8 to 11 a.m. Come start with a tasty breakfast before going Christmas shopping. While there, enter to win a free breakfast for two. The public is welcome. For information, call (908) 668-9751.

Breakfast With Santa

December 10

Breakfast with Santa, benefiting Make-a-Wish Foundation, will be held on Saturday, Dec. 10 from 9-10:30 a.m. in the South Plainfield Senior Center. Complimentary pictures with Santa. Cost is \$6 per person.

For tickets, call Councilwoman Chrissy Buteas at (908) 447-3466 or email christinebuteas@comcast.net.

Chinese Auction & Family Fun Day

December 17 (New Date)

The Time2Shine Foundation, a non-profit organization formed in the memory of South Plainfield resident Mike Fry, will hold a Chinese Auction and Family Fun Day at the Italian American Club, 1001 Garibaldi Ave., from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults; children are free. Photos with Santa, face painting, food and bake sale. Door prizes. Theme baskets, gift cards, a TV, a laptop, iPad, Kindle, airline tickets and more will be raffled.

Proceeds are donated to young students interested in continuing their education in the arts and sports.

For more information or to make a donation, call Rosemary at (908) 816-0901 or Angela at (908) 400-7259.

— Out of Town —

Shabbat Around The World

December 2

Temple Shalom of Fanwood/Scotch Plains will hold a family-friendly Mexican fiesta Shabbat dinner followed by services on Friday, Dec. 2 at 6:30 p.m. This is the first in a series of Shabbat Around The World events.

Cost: \$12/adults, \$8/children four to 12, children three and younger are free. Maximum cost: \$40 per family.

To register, visit www.sholomnj.org or call (908) 889-4900.

MCC Dance Ensemble

December 2 & 3

The Middlesex County College Dance Ensemble will present its 11th annual fall dance concert entitled

"Moving Canvas" on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 2 and 3 at 7 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center on the college's Edison Campus at 7 p.m. Free.

St. Clement's Annual Craft Show

December 3

St. Clement's annual Christmas Craft Show will be held on Saturday, Dec. 3 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 172 Freneau Ave., Rt. 79 in Matawan. Handcrafted items of all kinds by almost 80 vendors. Santa and face painting. Raffles, 50/50s.

For more information, call (732) 566-3616 or (732) 591-1273 or email www.stclementmatawan.org.

Open House at Flight School

December 3

American Flyers Flight School, 50 Airport Rd. at the Morristown Airport, will be hosting an open house on Saturday, Dec. 3 at noon. Free lunch. For more information, call (973) 267-3223.

Blackrose to Perform

December 3

Blackrose, a band performing classic rock and roll music and today's hits, will perform at Rugs and Riffy's, located on Rahway Avenue in Woodbridge on Saturday, Dec. 3 at 9 p.m. No cover.

duCret School of Art Open House

December 4

duCret School of Art will hold its annual open house and miniature show on Sunday, Dec. 4 from

Senior Center Christmas Luncheon

December 17, 12 to 4 p.m.
\$12 per person

Delicious food and entertainment
Sign up at the Senior Center

SENIOR CENTER Calendar

HUNTERDON HILLS

December 8, 4:30-9:30 p.m. - \$80

MONDAYS

Active Seniors 8:30 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 9 am
Line Dancing 10 am
Computer.. 10 am, 11:30 am, 1 pm
Crocheting 1 pm
Tai Chi 2 pm

THURSDAYS

Active Seniors 9:30 am
Crafts Class 10 am
Computer.. 10, 11:30 am, 1:30 pm
Exercise Class 1:15 pm

FRIDAYS

Bingo 10 am-2 pm

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Looking for members 55 or older to join our Billiards Club. Ladies are welcome.

If you enjoy shooting pool, stop in the senior center to sign up. It's fun and FREE!

Daily Activities: Morning coffee, pool, cards, board games, art, yoga and crafts.

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.

2 to 4 p.m. Open to the public. Refreshments; hand crafted gifts for purchase. High school juniors and sophomores are invited to tour the school, sit with admissions reps and register for Spring/Fall 2012 semesters. Bring only three pieces of original art for review.

For more information, call (908) 757-7171 or visit www.ducet.edu.

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Youth Symphony Concert

December 4

The New Jersey Youth Symphony will present a concert on Sunday, Dec. 4 at 4 p.m. at the Union County Performing Arts Center, 1601 Irving St. in Rahway. Tickets: \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors.

Purchase tickets at the Union County Performing Arts Center box office website www.ucpac.org or by calling (732) 499-0441.

“Joy to the World” Holiday Dance

December 4

Edison Arts Society will present a holiday dance extravaganza, “Joy to the World” at JP Stevens High School, 855 Grove Ave. in Edison on Sunday, Dec. 4 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15.

Featured dance schools: Spotlight on Dance-South Plainfield; Yvonne’s School of Dance-Edison; A Step In Time Studio-Parlin; Dance-Force Front & Center Dance Company-Edison and Perna Dance Center-Hazlet.

For more information, call (732) 225-1261 or visit www.edisonarts.org.

Depression/Bipolar Monthly Meeting

December 7

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance will feature Adam J. Cohen, M.D. on Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 7:45 p.m. at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, 21 Normandy Heights Rd. The public is invited; a nominal donation is requested from non-members.

For information, call (973) 994-1143 or (800) 367-6274.

Cantata

December 10

Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church, 888 Stuyvesant Ave. in Union will hold a Cantata on Saturday, Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. Free; open to all.

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



Holy Savior students at Thanksgiving ceremony.

Students at Holy Savior Academy Observe Two Holidays

Led by Mrs. Sammon’s second grade class, the entire student body of Holy Savior Academy, its faculty and their guests observed Veteran’s Day and Thanksgiving with a simple ceremony.

In her welcoming remarks, Principal Melinda Hanlon noted that while the school was giving thanks for the many blessings given, that the day also saluted American veterans who had served their country and especially those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. She read a prayer for veterans which thanked and honored them for their service.

The half-hour ceremony was built around a traditional Indian Thanksgiving prayer which was instituted by the Iroquois Tribes and is still in use today. Before a table laden with the students’ stuffed toys which repre-

sented the wildlife of the nation, each student recited a section of the prayer representing one aspect of the world for which thanks was being given as a classmate displayed art work which illustrated that particular part of the prayer.

Following the simple ceremony Hanlon commented that while Holy Savior Academy may be the newest member of the South Plainfield community, “We would like to be involved in the life of the South Plainfield community, so it is important to teach our students to contribute to our community.”

Holy Savior Academy which opened on September 1, has an enrollment of about 275 students and serves several communities in Middlesex, Union and Somerset counties.

Frederick Sonnenfeld Memorial Exhibition

Longtime South Plainfield resident Frederick Sonnenfeld passed away on November 17, 2010 at the age of 88. As a final tribute to Fred’s artistic achievement, a memorial exhibition of his bird carvings will be displayed at a special presentation at the Hamilton Street Gallery, 6 Hamilton St. in Bound Brook on Sunday, Dec. 11 between 2 and 6 p.m.

A variety of 22 birds will be on

display, most of which will be for sale. The Sonnenfeld Family is offering this opportunity to Fred’s friends and loyal collectors.

Proceeds from this event will be donated to The Raptor Trust in Millington, which provides care to over 3,500 injured and orphaned wild birds each year with the goal of rehabilitating and releasing as many as possible back into the wild.

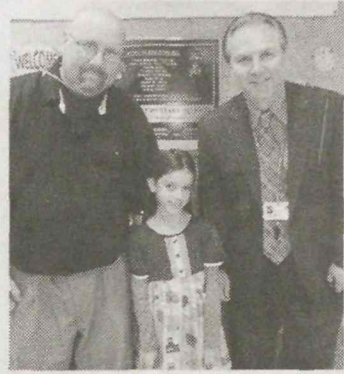


Olivia Santos Named Junior Journalist

Olivia Santos, a third grader at Roosevelt School, is this week’s winner in the Junior Journalist program. Her essay, “Olivia,” has earned Olivia dinner for her family, courtesy of Hometown Heros.

The program, which encourages students to express themselves through creative writing, is a joint cooperation between Hometown Heros and the South Plainfield Observer. Students should submit their original works to their teachers, the Observer or to Hometown Heros. Winners are selected weekly; students and their works are published in the Observer. Hometown Heros makes arrangements to deliver dinner for the winner’s entire family.

At the end of the school year in May, Hometown Heros and the Observer hosts a banquet celebrating all of the weekly winners and their families. A \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bond is



Junior Journalist winner Olivia Santos with teacher Mike Bertram and Principal Bob Diehl.

awarded to one student by Hometown Heros; additional U.S. Savings Bonds are also awarded. Students are recognized by the mayor and the state assembly as well.

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

Olivia...

By Olivia Santos

Twirl, twirl ... twist, twist,
Olivia spins like a top
At her dance recital.
Olivia does not stop,
Even to take a breath.
Olivia hugs her flowers
At the end,
Olivia’s face is beat red
And her family is cheering!
So happy!
So happy!
So happy!

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Franklin Students Honor Local Veterans



My Veterans

By Alexis Robinson

V is for the Veterans who fought for our freedom
E is for each and every one today in their honor
T is for treating our Veterans with respect
E is for the eleventh day, in the eleventh month
R is for remembering our Veterans every day
A is for America the Beautiful
N is for never forgetting their bravery



By Patricia Abbott

Franklin School's annual Veterans Day program is a much anticipated event for students and staff alike. This year's program was held on November 9.

The students spent several weeks learning how these brave men and women keep our country safe by listening to stories, drawing pictures, writing poems and more. Their efforts were rewarded with a large turnout of veterans of all ages, ranks and branches of the military. Many of the older veterans wore their original uniforms, some decades old. It was the largest

turnout in many years.

When students filed into the gym, many were wearing red, white and blue clothing. The younger students sported decorated paper bag hats. The children were joined by family and friends. Waiting on the risers were the guests of honor—approximately 30 local veterans including Grant School teacher Scott Culver, who brought along a photo of his father, Airman Henry Culver.

The afternoon began with the presentation of military flags. Flag bearers were E-Jay Jones, Jessica LaCross, Kishen Mangra, Victoria Meono, Tava Pham, Kevin Rosa and Cooper Smith. *Grand Old Flag* and *Armed Forces Medley* were played as they paraded down the center aisle. Principal Ralph Errico welcomed the guests and offered a salute to the veterans.

The highlight of the program was the reading of essays by the third and fourth grade students. Winning essays were read aloud by their young authors. Essay winners were Elisa Bermo, Jenny Giannakis, Kendell Harris, Madison Karcher, Nicole Marish, Cole Bartolotti, Alexis Robinson, Kyle Griswold and Mia Silverstein.

The veterans paid close attention, with smiles and sometimes the hint of tears as the youths paid tribute to them with the honest sincerity found only in children. Essays ranged from short poems to more lengthy memories culled from parents, grandparents and other relatives.

Veterans attending were:

Army—Private Metro Kopchak (past commander VFW), Sergeant Julius Peterson, Captain David Hamberg, Lt. Colonel Richard Dorr, Private 1st Class Joseph Moroney, Sgt. Joseph Lambert Sr., E4 Ronald Zaluska, Sgt. James Geritano, Sgt. E5 Joseph Kovacs, Private 1st Class James Bohl, Private 1st Class Joseph



Navy—Sergeant Artie Vi-tagliano, Sergeant Jeff Heine and Specialist 4 Dan Uken.

Navy—Electricians Mate 3rd Class Thomas C. Perry Sr., Petty Officer 3rd Class Brandon Griswold, Fireman 1st Class Ellsworth Bishop, HT3 Jake Martinez, 3rd Class Petty Officer George Fidecaro, 3rd Class Petty Officer Leo Grabowski Jr., Seaman 1st Class Harold Robinson and Fireman James Rennie.

Air Force—Airman 1st Class Scott Culver (also representing his father Airman Henry Culver) and Airman 1st Class Mike Borsos

Marines—Sergeant Steven Kolo-dziej, Private 1st Class Philip Cortese Jr., Lance Corporal Joseph Karch, Lance Corporal Fred Zebro, Corporal Raymond Costa, Sgt. Richard Gilson and Private Bernie Petroziello.

Additional guests included Board of Education President Jim Giannakis, BOE Vice President Debbie Boyle, Carol Byrne-BOE member, Interim Superintendent of Schools Gary Bowen, former Franklin principals Nancy Erickson and Ellen Decker-Lorys.

The event concluded with *Taps* played by teacher Glen Parisi.

Breakfast with Santa

Saturday
December 10, 2011
9:00 - 10:30
South Plainfield
Senior Center
\$6.00 per person

Complimentary
Pictures
with Santa

Proceeds to benefit
the Make-a-Wish
Foundation

Tickets are available by calling
Santa's Chief Elf Chrissy Buteas at 908-447-3466 or
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149 South Plainfield Ave.
 South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul
 Alvarado, Pastor

Mass Schedule:

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

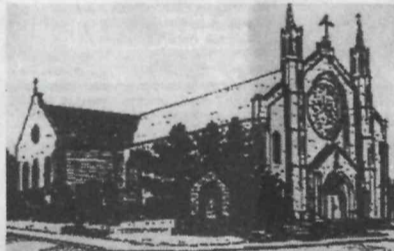
Sunday 9:00, 11:30 a.m.

Daily 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday

7:00 p.m. Monday (Church), Tuesday (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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Animal Hospital Pet Food Drive

Plainfield Animal Hospital is collecting pet food to be distributed to needy pets for the holiday season. Bring canned or dry pet foods through December 24 to the drop off box at the animal hospital, 2215 Park Ave. Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monetary donations are also welcomed for the purchase of pet food for those in need. Questions? Call (908) 755-2428.

Moretti/Prudential NJ Food Drive

Prudential New Jersey, Moretti Division, 225 Maple Ave. is holding a food drive for the holiday season. Non-perishable food items can be dropped off during business hours. All food will be donated to local food pantries to help those in need in our community. Questions? Call (908) 912-5298.

Christmas Dinner/Toy Donations

Once again, hot Christmas dinner and toys will be provided to families in town who need assistance. Dinner will also be delivered to senior citizens who rely on Meals on Wheels, which does not deliver on Christmas Day. Non-perishable food and toy donations, or gift cards that can be used to purchase food, toys or clothes for families in our community are being accepted through December 12. All items should be new and unwrapped: Book bags, childrens and teenager size clothing and pajamas, hats, gloves and scarves, socks, purses for teenagers, toys (no war toys), games, puzzles and coloring books. Tape needed to wrap the presents is also needed. All items should be age-appropriate for children in elementary through high school. Drop off locations are: 131 or 140 Montrose Ave. before 7 p.m.—place donations in container on the side porch; South Plainfield Rescue Squad—collection boxes are in the front of the building; or the *Observer* office, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Questions or to volunteer to help deliver the dinners? Call Shirley Thompson at (908) 756-7686.

Red Cross Launches Holiday Fundraising Campaign

The American Red Cross is urging people to give something that means something by donating to the Red Cross and helping those in need. The Red Cross has launched a holiday fundraising campaign. Visit www.redcross.org/gifts to make a donation in the name of people on their gift list this year. Donations can help

Holiday Giving from the Heart

provide food and shelter to a victim of disaster, members of the armed forces, or basic necessities to families in desperate need in countries across the world. Shoppers are invited to browse through the Red Cross Holiday Giving Catalog and view symbolic gifts they can "purchase" for, or in honor of, a loved one—things like infant care kits for babies in emergency shelters, comfort kits for wounded warriors, or water containers used when natural disasters disrupt a community's water supply overseas.

Roosevelt Fundraiser

For many families, the holidays are a time of joy and sharing. For some families, however, it is also a time of financial stress and worry. To address this situation, the Roosevelt Elementary School Student Council is hosting a fundraiser for the needy families in our community through December 16. The fundraiser will consist of collecting new sweatshirts from each classroom. The sweatshirts could range from kindergarten size to teenage size, male and/or female. The proceeds from this drive will go to Marge Ackerman of the South Plainfield Social Services Department. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to participate in a worthy cause and at the same time, practice the character trait of caring. New sweatshirts may be sent directly to your child's classroom, to Mrs. DeAndrea or Student Council Advisor Margaret Mosley.

CJFCU Collecting Food Items

The Central Jersey Federal Credit Union (CJFCU) will be collecting nonperishable food items for Middlesex County MCFOODS through December 23. Items collected will be distributed in the area. Bring your donated items to the credit union's South Plainfield Office, located in the Lakewood Shopping Center next to Ciccio's Pizza. Food donations will be accepted through December 23.

SPHS Athletic Department Toy Drive

The South Plainfield Athletic Department and the South Plainfield High School Athletic Booster Club are sponsoring a toy drive. Bring a new unwrapped toy (ages 12-17) suitable for a holiday gift by December 7 to the high school athletic office and receive free admission to one high school sports event in December. Donations will be made to South Plainfield families through the South Plainfield Social Service Department.

NEWS

Suburban Woman's Club

Members of the Suburban Woman's Club welcomed South Plainfield High School student Erica Fisher to the November meeting. Erica received a scholarship to be the club's delegate to the Girls Career Institute (GCI) weekend held at the Douglass Residential College at the Rutgers University Campus. She described her GCI experience and thanked the club for the scholarship. Payal Sindha, who also attended the GCI as an alternate delegate, was unable to make it.

Erika Fisher

The funding of scholarships to GCI by members of the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of the GFWC has been a program in existence for almost 180 years. The delegates are provided with workshops intended to encourage planning for higher education. These workshops give the delegates the opportunity to ask questions of various female professionals as diverse as a doctor, lawyer, mechanical engineer, business manager or state trooper. For four days the delegates form teams and work

together on original skits, and perform in a chorus, band or fashion show as well as learn about college financing, financial aid and scholarships.

The Special State Project luncheon/fashion show preparations are underway. The event takes place April 22 at the South Plainfield Senior Center. Fashions will be provided by Coldwater Creek. Marge Reidy is recruiting models for the show. Frieda Walker reported on the theater party at the Edison Playhouse on March 4 where *Plaza Suite* will be performed. Natalie Bergen reported on the profits realized from the recent yard sale.

Cathy Wells, legislation chairman, prepared two letters to be sent to congress—one for the proposed bill concerning animal fighting and prosecution of all participants and the other expanding the teen dating violence legislation.

Jeanine Kimmel, social services chairman, announced she is collecting food and funds for the Christmas baskets that she is preparing for needy families.

The meeting was concluded with a pound auction to raise funds for the club's general operating expenses.

Anyone interested in joining the club may contact Grace Bertucci at (732) 549-9633.

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sports

U-8 TERMINATORS

Submitted by Eileen Carey



South Plainfield Soccer Club's U8 Terminators celebrate a win.

Terminators Finish First Season

The South Plainfield Soccer Club U8 Terminators celebrated a big win on November 19 to finish their first season. The winning game defined the team's season and demonstrated how much the team learned and improved during their 10 weeks together.

The Terminators were brand new to the soccer club this year and began recruiting players and coaches in August. The recruiting efforts resulted in three hearty, parent coaches (who survived a combined total of 27 hours of training and certification) and a team of 12 young men who arrived at their first practice ready and eager to play.

The team practiced twice a week and focused on learning basic skills and the rules of the game. Week after week, game after game, the team improved: starting with a few losses, improving with several tie games and capping off the season with a couple of winning games. The boys started their season as strangers and finished as friends and teammates. The final game was the best of all because the Terminators played the same team that they lost to 3-0 during their first game. The emotional 5-1 win showed the team how far they had come in such a short period of time.

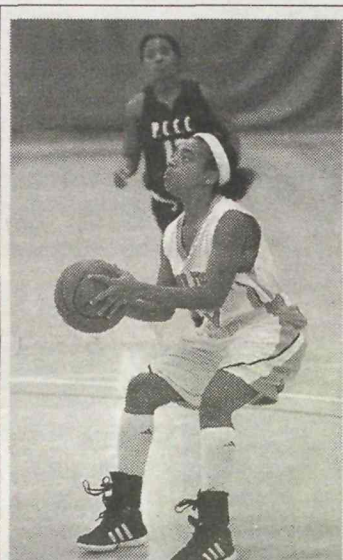
The team was supported throughout the entire season by a dedicated group of parents who cheered them on week after week and fueled them on the sidelines with plenty of Gatorade and oranges. The team also received support from U.K. Elite Soccer, Inc. and trainer Stewart Richardson, who worked with the boys every week to develop their skills.

The Terminators remain together as a team from year to year and will play again under the same name next year for the club. The 2011 squad included: David Amador, Alex Borto, Colin Carey, Rohan Castillo, Brady Farrell, Thomas O'Brien, Ankit Penmatcha, Dominic Ridge, Thomas Smiljanic, Christopher Spadavecchia, Samuel Strassburger and Edwin Veliz.

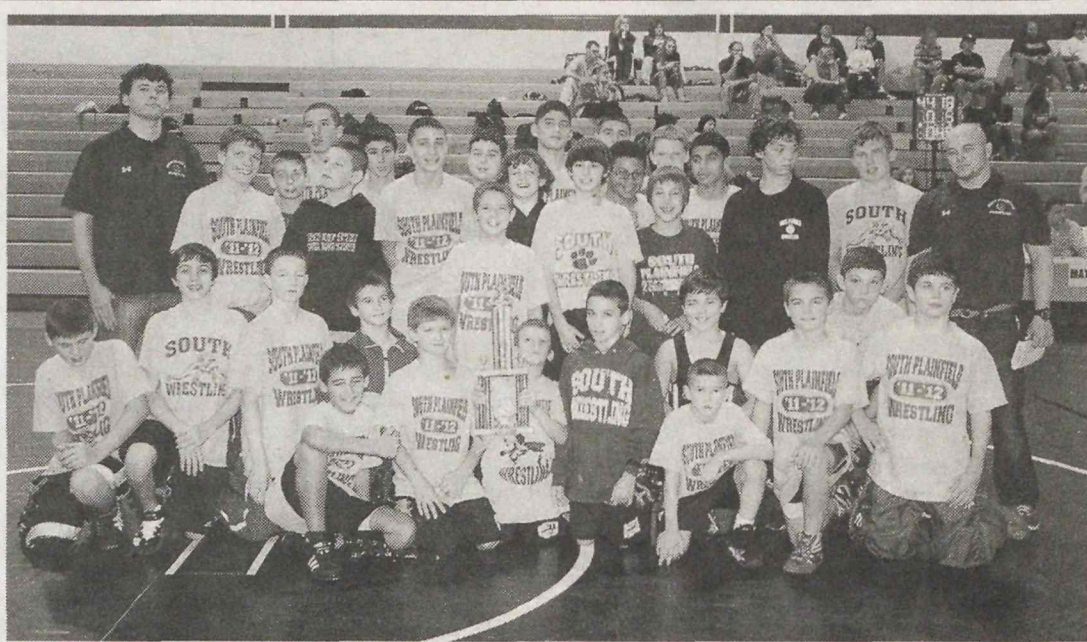
Special thanks to the South Plainfield Soccer Club, Dawn Farinella,

Gino Leonardis, Team Manager Erin Farrell, Head Coach Eileen Carey and Assistant Coaches Mark O'Brien and Scott Carey for supporting the team during their first season.

If you're interested in becoming a member of the Terminator team in 2012, please contact Eileen Carey at (908) 337-5647.



The Middlesex County College women's basketball team is off to a 2-1 start after a 93-71 victory over Passaic County Community College November 15. Here Katiyah Cisson (South Plainfield) takes a jump shot.



The South Plainfield Middle School Wrestling Team placed second at the Randolph Duals. In a 12-team field that featured top wrestling towns including Jackson, High Point, Howell and Parsippany, the Tigers scored big wins over Jackson, Randolph and Roxbury before dropping a close 46-40 decision in the championship final to Danbury, Conn. Congratulations coaches and boys.

-Photo courtesy of Kristine Giordano

Sponsorships Are Available for Annual Benefit Tournament

The second annual benefit volleyball tournament is slated for Sunday, Jan. 29, 2012. The event is being co-sponsored by the South Plainfield PBA Local #100 and the South Plainfield Middle School PTO. The tournament will be held at the high school and middle school and will feature three divisions: adults, teenagers and kids.

All proceeds from the tournament will go towards scholarships for borough high school students in 2012. Each year, the South Plainfield PBA Local #100 and South Plainfield Middle School PTO offer multiple scholarships to graduating seniors based on merit, school activities and community involvement. These proceeds will help each organization reward additional deserving students from South Plainfield.

More information about registering and other activities that day will be released in the coming weeks. If you would like to sponsor prizes and/or products for the event, contact Officer Pete Magnani at (908) 226-7678 or email pmagnani@southplainfieldnj.com or call Debbie Boyle at (908) 803-1573.

BY GARY LAMPASONA

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

Spring 2012 Registration—Please be reminded that this year's last registration for the Spring 2012 season will be held at the clubhouse on Saturday, Dec. 3 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Children ages seven to 18 years-old can sign up to play next season. Your child must turn seven years old before May 1, 2012 to be eligible to play. If your child is a first time player, please bring their birth certificate. If you are interested in managing or coaching, please sign up at the time you register your child. If you or your child are interested in becoming an umpire, the sign up sheet for classes will be available. Umpires must be 13 years old or older.

Early registration fees are \$110 for a single child, \$160 for two children and \$210 for three children. If you prefer, you can also download

the forms directly from our website, www.leaguelineup.com/spjbc and mail them to the address on the form. We look forward to seeing you.

Sign Sponsors: Attention all South Plainfield businesses! Want a great way to attract local patrons to your business? Become a sign sponsor with the SPJBC. Put your name in front of thousands of local residents. Just download the forms from our website for more information.

General Meeting: Our next general meeting will be held on Monday, Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse. Come on down and find out what's going on!



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Obituaries

George and Anna (Sterenchalk) Spangler

George and Anna (Sterenchalk) Spangler, beloved husband and wife of 64 years, died last week at their home.

George and Anna were both born in Hazleton, Pa. and had resided in South Plainfield before settling in Toms River in 2001.

Anna had been a cafeteria worker for the South Plainfield Board of Education and George was a purchasing agent for Metz Metallurgical Company in South Plainfield. George was a veteran of the United States Army, serving as a medic in the infantry division during WWII, and was awarded the bronze star.

Surviving are two sons, George and wife Brenda of Virginia Beach, Va. and Michael and wife Sue of South Plainfield; three grandchildren, George Spangler Jr. of Buckeye, Ariz., Nicole Spangler of Simpsonville, S.C. and Michael Spangler of Allamuchy; and two step-grandchildren, Cindy Winslow and BobbieJo Taylor of Virginia Beach, Va.

Funerals services were held under the direction of McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals.

Mary "Molly" H. Russo, 80

Mary "Molly" H. Russo passed away on Thursday, Nov. 17 at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born on June 11, 1931 in Scotch Plains to Luigi and Philomena (Iarussi) Appezato, she lived in Plainfield before moving to South Plainfield in 1967.

Mrs. Russo was a homemaker and attended mass at Our Lady of Czestohowa Church in South Plainfield. She was a member of the South Plainfield Senior Center and enjoyed spending afternoons at Spring Lake Park.

Mrs. Russo was predeceased by her husband, Philip J. Russo, Sr. in 2003. She is survived by a son, Philip J.

Russo, Jr. and wife Heidi of South Bound Brook; two daughters, Lee-Ann Graziano and husband Alan and Diane Russo and husband Steve of South Plainfield and a son, Anthony P. Russo and wife Sarika of South Plainfield; 13 grandchildren, Philip, Jessica, Christopher, Brittany, Michael, Danielle, Alan, Shelly, Kaitlyn, Jay, Alyssa, Megan and Tyler; and seven great-grandchildren, Brooke, Summer, Landon, Autumn, Tyler, Mia and Lily.

She is also survived by a brother, Joseph Appezato and wife Phil of Scotch Plains and a sister, Clara Bavozi and husband Frank of Freehold.

Funeral services were held at South Plainfield Funeral Home.

Estelle (Wnoroski) Kolodziej, 80

Estelle (Wnoroski) Kolodziej died suddenly at her residence on Thursday, Nov. 17.

Born and raised in Newark, Estelle lived in South Plainfield since 1966.

Retiring in 1997, Estelle worked for Napa Auto Parts where she assisted in the warehouse. She was a longtime communicant of Sacred Heart RC Church and was active with the South Plainfield Senior Citizens, especially enjoying their trips to Atlantic City.

She is predeceased by her husband, John J. Kolodziej, who died June 22, 1993 and by seven siblings.

Estelle leaves behind three children

and their spouses, John and Cheryl of Branchburg, Michael and Kathy of Bound Brook and Barbara Degen and Eric of Long Valley. She will be missed by seven grandchildren; and four siblings, Josephine Allocco and Vinnie, Peter and Stanley Wnoroski.

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

Helen M. Lynch, 97

Helen M. Lynch passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 15 at Ocean Medical Center in Brick.

Born in Manville, Helen had resided in Scotch Plains and South Plainfield before moving to the Inman Grove Senior Complex in Edison in 1995.

Helen had been employed as a sales clerk at the former Gift Garden Store in the Golden Acres Shopping Mall located in South Plainfield.

She was an active member of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield where she had served as a lector. In addition, she had been a longtime volunteer at the former Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Her husband, James A. Lynch, died in 1968, and a daughter, Patricia Griffin, died in 2006.

Surviving are two daughters, Mary Ellen "Midge" Di Quollo and husband Dan of Merritt Island, Fla. and Kathleen Schuld and husband John of Normandy Beach; nine grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

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

SPHS Homecoming Queen and King Crowned

By Patricia Abbott

South Plainfield High School has many traditions that are part of the Thanksgiving holiday. The oldest is probably the Homecoming Pageant. This year's event was held on November 22 in the high school auditorium.

Senior nominees were escorted on stage while emcee Bill Cochrane read a brief bio describing their qualifications and various school activities. The nominees flashed smiles while family and friends' cameras flashed.

There were a few moments of nervous tension as Cochrane read the names of the Homecoming Queen and King, Alexis Alba and Shawn Gorman. First runners up were Daniel Lyew and Miranda Garcia. Second runners up were Michelle O'Sullivan and Guillermo Lopez. The king and queen were introduced during the annual pep rally and bonfire held on November 23 the day before the annual North vs. South game on Thanksgiving morning in North Plainfield.

There were many requirements candidates had to meet to become a nominee, including maintaining a 3.0 GPA. This year the student council decided to increase the requirements. Candidates were required to obtain 25 signatures their peers, five signatures from teachers and two signatures from an activity advisor or coach.

The homecoming event has changed to reflect the times. In the early decades of SPHS there was only a queen named and only girlfriends of football players were nominated. Over the years the name has changed a few times. It was briefly known as Fall Sports Queen before reverting back to Homecoming Queen. Now any student who can meet the requirements is eligible to become a nominee. A Homecoming King was added in the late 1970s.

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It's a Winner!

Charlie and Debbie Kurland of Hometown Heros deliver dinner to Junior Journalist winner Kyle Griswold pictured with his mom Heidi, dad Brandon and brother Sean.



It's a Winner!

Charlie and Debbie Kurland of Hometown Heros deliver dinner to Junior Journalist winner Brandon O'Leary pictured with his mom Simone, dad Sean, sister Olivia and cousins Connor, Jackson and Sinaj.



LET'S REMEMBER

Together

Facing the holiday season without a loved one who has passed away can be one of the most challenging and difficult experiences one can go through. During a season when everyone is expected to feel joy, you may be feeling sad, lonely or even resentful.

No one has to suffer passively through the season. Whether your loss occurred a week ago or many years ago, this seminar may help you cope with the emotional pain that often accompanies the holiday season.

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Who: Certified Grief Specialist
Jessie Flynn will speak and pay tribute to families who have lost a loved one during this year.

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In My Opinion

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

(Continued from page 2)

trailers passing by are headed for Halls. There's also U.S. Mail Service and FedEx tractor trailers, oil tankers and steel carriers, too.

I've given up calling any of the above because nothing changes. I've been told to call the police when one is here, but the truck is long gone by the time a police cruiser arrives. This is a very dangerous situation and those who should do something have not. I'm very frustrated and cannot understand why I am the only resident on Somerset Avenue who notices, feels them driving by and sees them. I know we all have lives but this is a real shame. Does someone's child need to get run over before we wake up and do something?

I've been told that the drivers are lost. That's so far from the truth. My

street is a short cut to Hamilton, then to Belmont and Metuchen Road. They all know that they don't belong on Hamilton; let alone Bell, Second Place and Somerset Avenue. I guess the drivers feel that if they sneak onto a side street instead of Hamilton, they're less likely to be noticed and they could avoid a possible ticket and get to their destination quicker.

Kids walk to school, ride their bikes and we walk our dogs in the neighborhood. God forbid someone should get hurt or killed. So I'm turning to the newspapers now to hopefully get some help. I don't know where to turn anymore. Do you think the town and its officials would be immune from a lawsuit should something happen? Could they live with themselves if they could have done something and haven't? They've suggested, "We

could install speed bumps." What's that going to do? Cause my china to fall out of the cabinet instead of rattle as they bounce around in the street?

I've also been told that the town does not have the manpower to put a police cruiser here. What? How much crime is going on in town that we can't handle this? I pay taxes just like the rest of the residents in town, and I don't think over the last 30 years as a South Plainfield resident I've asked for much in return.

I demand a resolution to this continued problem and I'm available to meet again with town officials. Also, look at the lost revenue through ticket fines by taking a blind eye to this problem. It could help offset the cost of a police officer's time.

SINCERELY,
VICKI SPISIO

Two Assaulted on Pitt Street

(Continued from page 1)

struck the 27 year-old male on the head with a glass bottle, knocking him to the ground. The other three individuals then began beating and stomping the male who became unconscious. During the assault, the group attempted to steal a gold chain and the victim's wallet. The male was transported to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick for treatment. The 50 year-old male was also injured in the attack and was treated on the scene.

The group fled the area and was later located on Frederick Avenue

by Officer Daniel Hoppe. Jones was charged with aggravated assault, robbery, unlawful possession of a weapon for unlawful purpose and simple assault. He is being held on \$10,000 bail. Pittman was charged with aggravated assault, robbery, unlawful weapons possession, unlawful possession of a weapon and contempt of court. He was also held on \$10,000 bail.

Both of the juveniles were charged with aggravated assault and robbery and committed to the Middlesex County Youth Detention Center in North Brunswick.

The incident was investigated by Detective Garrett Cassio. Anyone with information should contact Detective Cassio at (908) 226-7662 or the South Plainfield Police tip line at (908) 226-7675 where all information will be kept confidential.

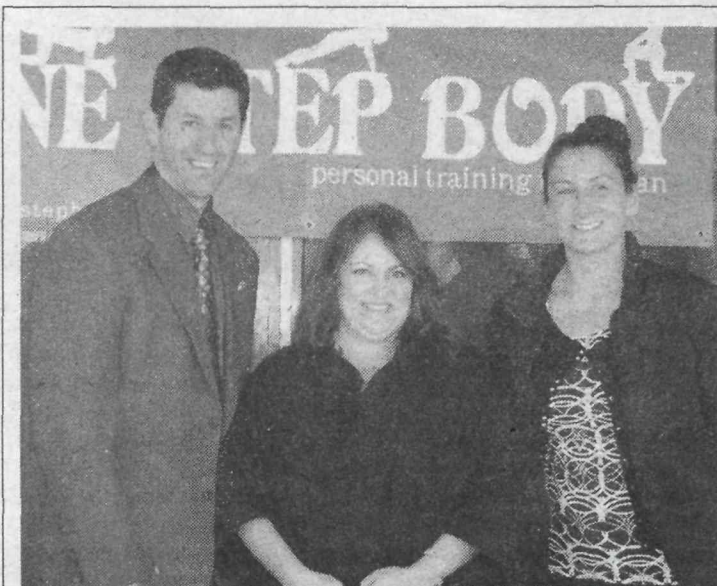
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MCC Saturday Hours Tomorrow

Students and future students who need enrollment services at Middlesex County College may take advantage of special hours tomorrow. The offices will be open from 8:30 a.m. to noon. The college is located at 2600 Woodbridge Ave. in Edison.

Offices that will be open include the Enrollment Center, Bursar's Office, Admissions, Financial Aid, Registrar's Office, Testing Center, Counseling and Career Services, Student Activities, Academic Advisement and the College Bookstore.

If you can't make it to the main campus in Edison, visit the New Brunswick Center at 140 New St., or the Perth Amboy Center, 60 Washington St. Both will be open from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday.



Mayor Matt Anesh and Councilwoman Chrissy Buteas join Jill Pavel (center) at the grand re-opening of One Step Body on November 18.

Dear South Plainfield Residents:

I would like to thank everyone who came out November 18 to celebrate the grand re-opening of my personal training studio, One Step Body Personal Training For Women. My business was one of the casualties of Hurricane Irene. I lost equipment, furnishings, my place of business and revenue. Unfortunately, I was not the beneficiary of financial recovery from FEMA because my landlord would not submit a claim.

There are so many people I need to thank for their selfless devotion to helping me re-open my new doors: The DeAndrea Family for providing a new home for One Step Body, Mayor Matthew Anesh, Councilwoman Chrissy Buteas, John Cecchitini Insurance Agency, Patty, Alex and Kimmy Petronko, Irene Pappas (notary), members of the Wednesday at 7 Networking

Group, students of South Plainfield High School, Lowes of Piscataway (donated supplies), Tim Sheehy (donated his time to re-construct a portion of my new space), EMG Live Fitness, Maria Melendez, Magda Santiago, Dr. Ozbalik of Advanced Chiropractic and Wellness Center, Craig McCoy, Lawn Rangers, Muscle Maker Grill, employees of Home Depot, South Plainfield; Wish Upon A Hero Foundation (equipment donations) and the 30-plus members of the community who showed up during the renovation to lend a hand, because that is how we do it in South Plainfield!

On behalf of myself, my staff and my son Cory Singer, I thank you. Please visit our website at www.onestepbody.com and feel free to stop in and visit our new location at 2201 South Clinton Avenue.

Have a blessed holiday season.
-Jill Pavel, Owner,
One Step Body Personal Training

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ROOFING

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Danielle Aronowitz

We are finally up and running and glad to be reopened. If you have items that were due during the time we were closed that weren't renewed, there will be no overdue fines.

Our circulation system will now allow you to be notified through email that your holds are available, when items are overdue and it will also be able to notify you a couple of days in advance of when an item is going to be due. This should help to avoid overdue charges. If you would like this to be available to you, then you need to see the Circulation Desk and provide us with your email address to receive these notifications.

Now that kids are in school, our policy regarding children under the age of 18 is back in effect. Between the hours of 2:30 and 6 p.m., people who are 17 and younger must have their library card with a photo either on their account or a photo ID with them before entering the library. Parents must come in with their children if they wish to put a photo on the child's library card. Children under 14 who wish to use the Internet must have a parent or guardian who needs to stay with them while they are on the computer.

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 recently released DVDs that we own are: *Cars 2*, *The Lion King*, *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides*, *Captain America*, *Bridesmaids*, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2*, *X-Men First Class*, *Fast Five*, *Thor*, *Transformers Dark of the Moon*, *Green Lantern*, *Bad Teacher*, *Monte Carlo*, *Zookeeper*, *Horrible Bosses*, *Scream 4*, *Water for Elephants*, *Winnie the Pooh*, *Crazy Stupid Love*, *The Change-Up*, *Larry*

Crowne and Super 8.

We also have new music from Justin Bieber, Foster the People, Kelly Clarkson, Coldplay, Glee, Blake Shelton, Blink 182, Lady Antebellum, and others.

We will be following our regular schedule for the children's programs. The Storytime program for 2s & 3s is held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings at 10:30. Storytime for ages four and up is held Wednesday night at 6:30, and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. The Babytime program for ages up to two years 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 and ask for Miss Linda or Miss Mija.

On Monday, Dec. 12 at 6:30 p.m. there will be a special holiday kidcraft at the library. Kids will be making things that can be given as holiday gifts. There is a \$1 materials fee and registration is required, so please sign up as soon as possible.

On Monday Jan. 30, 2012, at 6:30 p.m., there will be a jewelry making program for young adults. Kids will be able to make beaded necklaces or bracelets. We will have beads in a variety of colors. The program is limited to kids in grades seven and up and registration is required, so please sign up as soon as possible.

We are open seven days a week except on holidays during the school year: Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Tuesdays and Fridays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays 1:30 to 5 p.m.

To find out more, call (908) 754-7885 or visit us on the Internet at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

Classifieds

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\$15 for three lines; each additional line is \$1. 10% discount for 4 consecutive insertions. Call 908-668-0010

LOCAL CLASSIFIEDS

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Call by 5 p.m. on Monday to place an ad.

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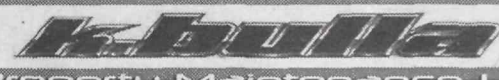
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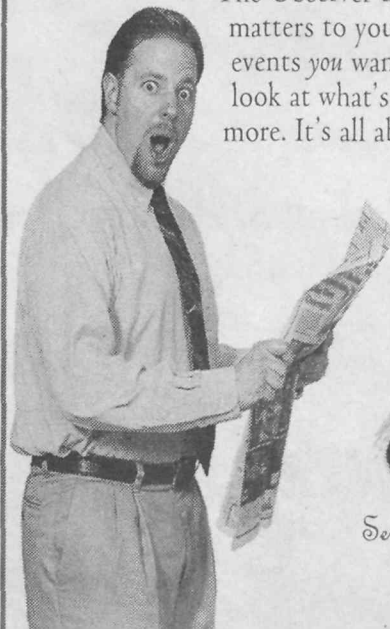
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YOUR BUSINESS IS OUR BUSINESS



Students, dressed as Pilgrims and Indians, encircle the Thanksgiving food donations they collected.

Kennedy Students Celebrate Thanksgiving

By Jane Dornick

With the start of the holiday season, Kennedy School students have been learning about the importance of giving. Prior to Thanksgiving, the children collected food for baskets and teachers donated turkeys to be distributed to the needy.

The event culminated with an assembly on November 23. Each grade level sang Thanksgiving and turkey songs, led by music teacher Barbara Habeeb. Select fourth grade students read their writings on "Why It is So Important to Give."

The readings were followed by a "parade through our country's his-

tory." Children dressed as Presidents Abraham Lincoln, George Washington and John F. Kennedy, and Betsy Ross and the Statue of Liberty, spoke about how caring for others is an important part of history. The program ended with the singing of *I'm Proud to be An American*.



The following 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.

A Bright Idea For Holiday Savings

By Dorothy Miele,
South Plainfield Green Team

Save money and energy this holiday season by switching to strings of LED decorative lights for your house and Christmas tree. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, *Consumer Reports* and dozens of other environmental resources, the switch is a really bright idea.

LED (light-emitting diode) lights are a great alternative to strings of traditional incandescent lamp lights. The most attractive benefit of using LEDs may be the significant savings on the holiday utility bill. LEDs use 90% less electricity than the glass incandescent type. Because they use less power, plastic LEDs also run cooler, reducing fire risk, are safer to connect end-to-end sets without overloading the wall socket, and are more durable because there are no filaments to burn out (thus no bulbs to replace).

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, LEDs last longer and have an operational life span of approximately 20,000 hours. That's enough to last for 40 holiday seasons.

Is there a downside to LEDs? Yes. The C7 and C9 size incandescent bulbs are five to six times brighter, and LEDs may cost a little more; however, for long-term monetary savings, longevity of light sets and reduction of fire risk, LEDs might be worth the purchase. Check out the sales at local retailers.

Whatever your choice of decorative lights, be aware that Christmas trees are involved in about 300 fires every year, according to *Consumer Reports*. Be sure to inspect your light sets before you hang them. Check to see if each string has a holographic "UL Listed" tag. It is imperative to discard strings with broken sockets, frayed or bare wires or loose connections. Do not plug more than three strings of lights into an extension cord, and be sure to turn off all your holiday lights when leaving home or going to bed.

Have a safe and bright holiday.

LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

November 23, 2011—Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Planning Board at its meeting held on November 22, 2011.

- Case #722/Site-TRM Group/dba: Dunkin Donuts. Block 65; Lot 10; OBC-1 Zone. 2007 Park Avenue. The applicant's request for final site plan approval was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.
- Case #743/Site-PSE&G. Block 528.01; Lot 48.01; M-2 Zone. 4000 Hadley Road. The applicant's request for a parking space variance, (3) waivers and preliminary and final site plan approval was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Beth Khidre
Recording Secretary-Planning Board

\$30.40 December 2, 2011

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
SOUTH PLAINFIELD BOROUGH
PLANNING BOARD
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX,
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that on December 13, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the South Plainfield Borough Hall, located at 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey, or at such other time and place as the South Plainfield Planning Board (the "Board") may adjourn to thereafter, the Board will hold a public hearing to consider the application made by Cragwood LLC (the "Applicant") for preliminary and final major site plan approval for property located at 40 Cragwood Road in South Plainfield and designated as Block 528.01, Lot 47 as shown on the Official Tax Map of the Borough of South Plainfield (the "Property").

The Property is located in the M-2 zoning district and contains an existing multi-tenant commercial/ office building and related facilities. The Applicant is seeking permission for PSE&G to occupy approximately 55,775 s.f. of space within the existing building for executive and administrative offices, laboratory use and a training facility. The Applicant is also seeking permission for various site improvements to the existing facility to accommodate PSE&G's occupancy, including: (i) enclosing a portion of the existing parking spaces with a gated security fence; (ii) installing accessory sheds; (iii) re-striping 24 existing car parking spaces to create 9 new trailer spaces within the fenced parking area; (iv) making facade and interior building improvements; (v) constructing a fenced enclosure for gas storage tanks; and (vi) other related improvements. The Applicant will also apply for such other variances, waivers and/or approvals that may be required upon an analysis of the plans and the testimony at the public hearing.

A copy of the application and supporting documentation has been filed in the office of Planning and Zoning, in the Borough Hall, located at 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey and may be inspected by the public weekdays during regular municipal business hours (between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.). This notice is given pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-12. Any interested person or through his/her attorney or designated agent at the aforesaid public hearing, may be heard on this application.

DAY PITNEY LLP
Attorneys for the Applicant
Cragwood LLC

\$43.62 December 2, 2011

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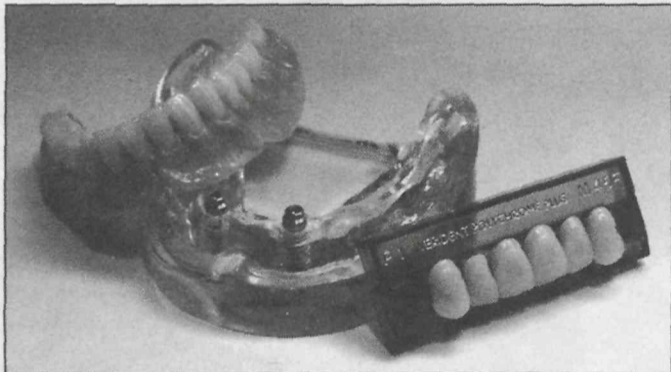
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