

# South Plainfield OBSERVER

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DECEMBER 23, 2011

## 'TIS THE SEASON FOR GIVING



Holy Savior Academy eighth grade food drive leaders

### HSA Students Give to the Community

A recent television commercial has a character saying, "It's more blessed to receive than to give." Holy Savior Academy students think that's not true and set about to prove it.

In November of this year the eighth grade class led a food drive and collected hundreds of non-perishable food items, paper goods and toiletries from the student body.

"I was astonished by the student body generosity to the food drive request," said Holy Savior Academy Principal Melinda Hanlon. "All grades participated and the

items collected were donated to the South Plainfield Food Bank. In an economic climate which has seen a sharp rise in poverty levels in the past three years, these items are badly needed by many people."

In December, Holy Savior Academy teamed up with South Plainfield Social Services to provide Christmas gifts to four needy families in the South Plainfield area. A "Giving Tree" was decorated with ornaments that stated a child's gender and age, and was placed in the school lobby.

"Once again," said Hanlon, "the generosity of our school community was outstanding and very heartwarming. I couldn't be more proud of our kids. We collected over 200 gift packages including clothing, toys, games, gift cards and household items. It was truly overwhelming. Giving back to the community is an essential part of who we are as a Christian educational community."

The television commercial was proved wrong. To the students at Holy Savior Academy it is more blessed to give than to receive.



Students display some of the toys collected over three weeks by the Middle School Student Council and Peer Leadership. The toys will be donated to needy children in the borough and Middlesex County through the N.J. Chapter of the First Marine Division Association's (retired) annual Gifts for Kids program. The students, teachers and staff participation led to a very successful collection.



UNICO President Robert Bengivenga, Sr. and Councilman Dick Frank raise the Fort Sumter 33-star flag during the dedication at the Civil War Memorial stone in Monument Park on November 27. More than 70 were in attendance.

## Library Board Winds Up Year

By Libby Barsky

The Library Board of Trustees is looking ahead and making arrangements in preparation for a new year featuring a new library director and a cut of \$46,696 in operating funds. In 2011 the library received \$1,386,505 from the borough and in 2012 the library will receive \$1,340,808.

The board is using the services of

Pro Libra, a professional library service company that specializes in providing experienced personnel for libraries and information centers. Pro Libra will conduct a search for a new library director to fill the position of retiring director Sunnie Randolph. Randolph has been the library director in South Plainfield for 21 years. Earlier this year she announced her intention to retire in April.

Pro Libra has received 20 responses and has narrowed the search down to between seven or nine prospective candidates, Randolph reported. She also told the board that she will be at the February meeting, but the day after will undergo hip replacement surgery and expects to be working from home for a month.

Acknowledging the holiday season, the board voted to close the library Saturday, Dec. 24 through Monday, Dec. 26. The library will be open on Saturday, Dec. 31 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The library will be closed on Sunday, Jan. 1 and Monday, Jan. 2 in observance of the new year.

The trustees voted to donate \$1,000 to be used to purchase gift cards for food for the needy to be disbursed by South Plainfield Social Services Director Marge Ackerman. The library is also investing in internet security by upgrading and purchasing a \$6,350 firewall replacement computer system. Further new technology upgrades include purchasing two e-books: A Nook Color Plus for \$249 and a

(Continued on page 11)

### Learn What Scouting Has to Offer at Workshop

The first Be A Boy Scout Workshop will be held at VFW Post #6763 on Monday, Dec. 26. The event is open to boys fifth grade to 17 years old, as well as current Webelos 2. The purpose of the workshop is to introduce boys to what scouting has to offer—varied skills such as camping, cooking, first aid, fire building, and the other skills that may benefit them in their future endeavors.

The one-hour program begins at 7 p.m.; a social follows. There will be an area where the parents can learn about what the scouting program

can do for their sons. At the end of the event, parents and sons can opt to arrange a visit to the four troops in town, which includes: Troop 124-Riley School (meets Mondays 7-8:30 p.m.), Troop 125-VFW Post #6763 (meets Mondays 7:30-8:45 p.m.), Troop 207-American Legion (meets Thursdays 7:30-9 p.m.) and Troop 309-Wesley Methodist (meets Mondays 7:30-9 p.m.).

Register ASAP by emailing Jim Donelson at [rvtroop125@aol.com](mailto:rvtroop125@aol.com). There is no cost for this event.



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## Police Ask Help in Finding Missing Person



Marilyn Mitchell

The South Plainfield Police Department is asking the public help in locating Marilyn Mitchell, 43 of South Plainfield. Mitchell was listed as a missing suicidal person, having last been seen on December 20 at approximately noon.

Mitchell is a white female, approximately 5'4" inches tall, with reddish brown hair and brown eyes. She is possibly wearing a blue employee jacket from Woodbridge Township and black Sketcher sneakers.

If anyone has located Mitchell, or has any information concerning her, they are asked to contact the South Plainfield Police at (908) 226-7688.

**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

Meets twice a month on Mondays, \*except where noted.  
Borough Hall Council Chambers • Questions? 908-226-7605

**Agenda Meeting** **Public Meeting**  
Reorganization Meeting January 7 (1 p.m. at Senior Center)

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  
January 10-Reorganization Meeting at 6:45 p.m.

### 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  
January 12-Reorganization Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

### board of education

Meets Wednesdays at Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave.  
Committee of the Whole meetings (begin at 6:00 p.m.)  
Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 14 and April 4.  
Regular Public Meeting (begin at 7:30 p.m.) except where noted\*  
Jan. 18, Feb. 15, March 21, April 11.

### BOE curriculum/technology/student activities

Meets once a month at 4:30 p.m. in 2nd floor conference room,  
Roosevelt Administration Building on Jackson Ave.

### BOE buildings & grounds

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

### cultural arts commission

Meets the third Tuesday of the month at the PAL at 7:30 p.m.

### library board of trustees

Meets once a month on the second Tuesday, at the library at 7 p.m.

Too cold to go out? To get home delivery of the Observer, call (908) 668-0010 or email [spobserver@comcast.net](mailto:spobserver@comcast.net).

## South Plainfield Observer

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How to Reach Us



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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.



Plainfields' UNICO recently held its annual Christmas Party at Giovanna's in Plainfield. (L-R): Past National President Renato Biribin, Treasurer Carol Bednar, Secretary Janet DeAugustine, President John DeAndrea, Board of Directors Victoria DeAugustine, Past President Bob Tarte, 1st Vice President Michael Colucci, Vice President Connie Kozachek and Immediate Past President Anthony Bengivenga.

## In My Opinion

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

Dear Editor,

The family of Julius "Jules" Peterson wants to thank the members of the South Plainfield VFW Post #6763 and American Legion Post #243 for volunteering their time to honor the memory of our Dad. The ceremonies at the viewing were a beautiful and moving tribute to Dad, a member of the VFW for over 51 years and a 35 year continuous member of the American Legion. We also sincerely appreciate the help and generosity of the VFW #6763 with the lunch after the funeral services.

We would like to give special thanks to the VFW Honor Guard for standing post and performing a gun salute. This salute reminded everyone at the final services of the special dedication and commitment given by our Dad and all the members of the United States military to preserve our freedom.

We would also like to thank McCrisky-Gustafson Home For Funerals for all of their help with a special thanks to Danny Erickson. Danny made all the details come together to provide a wonderful tribute to our father. We thank you for the compassion and support shown to our family during this difficult time.

**THE DAUGHTERS OF JULES  
PETERSON, DAWN AND SUSAN**

Dear Editor,

I couldn't agree more with the letter writer who recently wrote to compliment the town on the job that was done with storm cleanup.

As a former councilwoman, I know how hard our borough employees work throughout the year, but I must say, Bobby Capparelli and our Public Works employees really rose to the occasion when it came to handling the hurricane and the surprise snowstorm in October.

I'm particularly proud of our town when I drive through neighboring towns and see branches and storm debris still sitting on the side of the road. Just look at the roads in Edison, Plainfield or Scotch Plains and you'll see what I mean. In fact only last week did they begin picking up branches on Oak Tree Road in Edison. By contrast, South Plainfield got the majority of its cleanup done in about three or four weeks.

Again, great job to everyone involved!

**DARLENE PINTO**

Dear Editor,

In response to the letter from Ed Kubala I would like to say it was a terrible thing for him to say about Santa coming late due to the lights on

### 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](mailto: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.

Hamilton Boulevard. He not only upset the children who could understand and read the letter, he is not Santa and put politics in with Christmas.

It was his party and while he was in office as a councilman that the wreaths were added as a decoration. As a former councilman, he should know that a committee was never formed by his party to take care of the lights or the wreaths and pavers along this route.

I call PSE&G when a light goes out and they are out in a few days to repair it. This is a practice that has been in effect with PSE&G for years. Last year I had nine lights repaired and two replaced completely that were missing by accidents.

It was a shame he had to mention Christmas, children and politics in a letter that didn't make sense. Maybe sour grapes since his party is not in power any longer and he is not an elected official.

If he feels there are too many lights out all he has to do is pick up the phone and call PSE&G and they will come out and resolve the situation to his satisfaction. The problem is not with the lights, it is the wreaths that are blocking the sensors which turn the lights on and off.

**TONY PISANIELLO**

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## Celebrate the Season While Caring for the Earth

By Dorothy Miele, SP Green Team

In the last installment, the South Plainfield Sustainable Jersey Green Team noted that garbage haulers collect 25% more trash between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. Nationally, a million tons of solid waste—food, gift wrapping and packaging—is generated weekly during the holiday period. Here are a few tips to reduce your carbon footprint for the holidays.

When gift shopping, think "green." Check where the item was manufactured. Transporting merchandise halfway around the world uses fuel and produces greenhouse emissions that contribute to global warming. Not every gift needs to be store-bought. Shop locally at craft fairs, boutiques or artisan shops. Look for gifts made from recycled materials and those that are battery-free. (Did you know that 40% of all battery sales occur during the holiday period? Improperly discarded batteries are an environmental hazard.)

Wrap your gifts in environmentally-friendly wrapping paper such as paper with post-consumer recycled content or hemp fiber. (Check the material content on the paper roll's label.) Don't use metallic and foil papers because they can not be recycled. Reuse gift wrap if possible. Large wrapped gifts may have larger sections

of gift wrap that are crease-free and unspoiled by tape. Be creative with wrapping. Use a fancy scarf or pillow sham. Or make a reusable fabric bag from sewing scraps. Wrap kid's toys in the Sunday comic strip sections of the newspaper. Use last year's calendar, wallpaper samples, kid's art and old maps. Gather family members and make your own personal holiday wrap using paper grocery bags, rubber stamps, markers and glitter glue. Or don't wrap at all. Use ribbons and bows recycled from last year.

As for the holiday tree, the artificial plastic ones made from petroleum products and twisted metal may be reusable from year to year, but once they start looking ratty and get tossed out, they can literally last forever in a landfill. A live farm-grown tree is a renewable resource which is replanted regularly. Trees contribute to air quality before cutting—and smell like Christmas, too. Live trees can be recycled into mulch for composting. If you have room in your yard, buy a live potted tree, replant it, and enjoy the holiday season 365 days a year. Think how beneficial that would be to the environment.

See [www.eartheasy.com/gift\\_wrap\\_ping.htm](http://www.eartheasy.com/gift_wrap_ping.htm) for fabric bag directions and creative ideas that are earth-friendly.

Happy holidays from the South Plainfield Green Team!

## Recycling Complex Holiday Schedule

Christmas and New Year's Day will not affect the South Plainfield Recycling Complex hours of operation. The recycling center will be open as usual from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 23 and 24, and from 12 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 27. Recycling will also be open regular hours from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 30 and 31, and from 12 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 3.

The yard waste site at the end of Kenneth Avenue will go on its winter schedule beginning December 25. Yard waste will be open only from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays through March 15. A current yard waste decal must be mounted on the vehicle for access. Decals are available from the municipal clerk in Borough Hall and at the road department at 405 Spicer Ave. Bring the registration of

the vehicle you will be using.

The curbside recycling collection schedule also will not be affected by the holidays. Section 1 pickup will take place as scheduled on December 26 and Section 6 pickup will be done on January 2.

For updates, call (908) 226-7620.

## SPHS Rotary Students of the Month

South Plainfield High School Principal, Dr. James Pedersen is pleased to announce the November and December Rotary Students of the Month. Each month, senior students are nominated for their volunteerism and community service. The students are recognized at a monthly breakfast organized by the Edison Rotary Club.

November's students are Alexis Cargill and Austin Jenkin.

While maintaining a 3.9 GPA, Alexis is actively involved in numerous activities at SPHS. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Jersey History Club, Yearbook Club, Tiger Times Newspaper, vice president of Juniorettes, Student Leadership, Heroes & Cool Kids and New Jersey Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership. Alexis has been an essential part of the Morning Announcers Club. She has used her technology and creative skills to enhance this year's Channel One announcements. Additionally, Alexis is captain of the volleyball and spring track teams. Alexis achieved All White Division for Middlesex County for spring track in 2009 and 2011.

Austin began his volunteer efforts in eighth grade. Austin is actively involved with many clubs and activities at SPHS. He is vice president of the Student Leadership club, charter chief to the non-profit volunteer organization of the South Plainfield Squires, Delegate to the 2011 Boy's State of NJ American Legion; he is also a member of Heroes & Cool Kids and on the varsity golf team. Austin maintains a 3.7 GPA while volunteering with the Susan G. Komen Foundation, Hands for Hope, Tiger 24 and Patriot's Stadium to fight child mental disorders. Austin plans on starting a charity to fight obesity and diabetes in the future.

December's Rotary students are Jared Aronowitz and Angela Tharp.

Jared maintains a 4.0 GPA while actively being involved in the Student Leadership club, Spanish Honor Society and is the Business Club president. Jared tutors students with



November Rotary Students of the Month Austin Jenkin and Alexis Cargill with advisors Al Czech and Bonnie Vigneri.



December Rotary Students of the Month Jared Aronowitz and Angela Tharp with advisor Maria Leonardis.

the Spanish Honor Society and in math and various other subjects. Jared has been involved with collecting holiday items with Student Leadership, worked to raise funds for breast cancer awareness, Hands of Hope, Tiger 24 and the Education Foundation Telethon. Jared plans on volunteering with "Your Grandmother's Cupboard," which collects money and food items to serve families each month in New Jersey.

Angela is new to SPHS; she was in three different schools before coming to South Plainfield last year. Angela became actively involved volunteering

her time with the Jersey History Club, the book club, as well as being the president and founder of the South Plainfield High School Word Archive Club. Angela assists in the Media Center with decorating and organizing the displays. She also had the opportunity to host an art activity for children at the library she used to work in prior to moving to South Plainfield. Angela's love of reading is demonstrated with her assisting fellow students improve their writing skills while having fun in her Word Archive Club.

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—Ralph A. Heiss, Author



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<b>MONDAY</b>	Late Night Happy Hour 9:00 pm-11:00 pm
<b>TUESDAY</b>	Ladies' Night-50% Off Drinks & Pub Menu, 9:00-12:00 am
<b>THURSDAY</b>	\$2 Miller Lite Pints • \$4 House Wines 7:00 pm-12:00 am
<b>SATURDAY</b>	



# events

## Around Town

### Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24 & 25

Join us for a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at First Baptist Church of South Plainfield, 201 Hamilton Blvd., on Saturday, Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. There will also be an 11 p.m. service with Communion and Christmas carol sing-along on Christmas morning at 10:30 a.m.

To pre-register, call (908) 753-2382 or visit our website at [www.fbsouthplainfield.com](http://www.fbsouthplainfield.com).

### St. Stephen Christmas Worship Schedule

December 24 & 25

St. Stephen Church, located at 3145 Park Ave., will hold Christmas Eve services at 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Christmas Day worship will be held at 10:30 a.m.

### Sacred Heart Christmas Schedule

December 24 & 25

Sacred Heart Church, located at 149 South Plainfield Ave., Christmas Eve Masses are 5 p.m. and midnight.

Come early, prelude concerts begin at 4:40 and 11:20 p.m.

Christmas Day Masses are 9:30 and 11 a.m.

### VFW Country Breakfast

January 8

The South Plainfield VFW, 155 Front St., is holding a country breakfast on Sunday, Jan. 8 from 8 to 11 a.m. The public is welcome.

For more information, call (908) 668-9751.

### — Out of Town —

### Singles Pre-New Year's Dance Party

December 30

Steppin' Out Singles will be hosting a pre-New Year's upscale singles dance party at the Woodbridge Hilton, 20 Wood Ave. South in Iselin on Friday, Dec. 30 at 8 p.m. Ages 40 and up. No jeans/t-shirts/sneakers/shorts. Admission: \$17.

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

Send Your Community Events to:

[spobserver@comcast.net](mailto:spobserver@comcast.net)

### SENIOR CENTER Calendar

Senior Center 2012 Annual Membership Fees (\$10) are now due!

Please stop in & check out our new and exciting programs.

#### 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

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

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

### Public Notice

Please take notice that on Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at 6:45 p.m., the Planning Board will hold its annual reorganization meeting in the council chambers/courtroom.

Please take notice that the regular Planning Board meeting will commence at 7 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary Beth Khidre,  
Board Secretary

### Public Notice

Please take notice that on Thursday, January 12, 2012 at 6:30 p.m., the Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold its annual reorganization meeting in the council chambers/courtroom.

Please take notice that the regular Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting will commence at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Beth Khidre,  
Board Secretary



Seniors select from the variety of fare at St. Stephen's Christmas party.

## St. Stephen's Church Hosts Christmas Party for Seniors

By Patricia Abbott

Residents of the South Plainfield Senior Complex were treated to a Christmas party on December 11 by the congregation of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church located on Park Avenue.

Seniors who attended were treated to an afternoon of Christmas caroling, party fair, sandwiches, veggies and dips, cheese and crackers, cakes, cookies and beverages. After the caroling and buffet, each guest received gifts.

There were over 30 guests in attendance at the party, many dressed up in their holiday finest for the event.

All food and gifts were donated by St. Stephen's congregation members.

On hand for the event were Pastor Chris Halverson, church organist Tom Baker and his wife Ingrid as well as over 15 congregation volunteers.

"The Christmas party was a wonderful experience; we sang our hearts out (or blew our voice out trying), gave out gifts, and shared a little of the joy which comes from the birth of Jesus, our savior," said Pastor Chris Halverson.

The church has been sponsoring the event at the housing complex for about eight years.

## American Legion Announces Two Year Scholarships

The past three years Chaumont Post #243 of the American Legion has awarded \$14,000 in scholarships to deserving high school seniors.

Commander Joe Penyak announced that four scholarships will be awarded in 2012. Two scholarships will be go to the sons/daughters or grandsons/granddaughters of current post members or deceased members who were on the rolls at the time of their death. A third scholarship will be awarded to a South Plainfield High School senior and a

fourth scholarship will be awarded to a deserving high school senior who resides in South Plainfield.

The unique feature of the \$1,000 award is that it will also be awarded for a second year as long as the recipient stays enrolled in his or her college or university.

Area high schools have application forms. The forms are also available at the Post Lounge at 243 Oak Tree Ave. Deadline for handing in the applications is May 1, 2012.

## Unity Bank Employees Donate to Food Pantries

Unity Bank and its employees will donate a total of \$14,000 to 14 food pantries in Central New Jersey and Easton, Pa. The funds were donated by Unity Bank employees and matched by the bank as part of a special holiday community service project.

"As a community bank, it is our responsibility to serve those in need in the towns and neighborhoods where we have branches," said Unity Bank President James A. Hughes.

"We are all so busy these days that it is easy to forget there are many people who are struggling to make ends meet so I am very proud of Unity Bank's employees for their generosity. The food pantry drive is just another way that Unity Bank and our employees show that we are committed to serving our communities."

Among the 14 organizations receiving \$1,000 is the South Plainfield Social Services Department.

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## Middle School First Marking Period Honor Roll

### Eighth Grade High Honor Roll

Kevin Adams, Thalia Alfaresa, Trevor Bali, Yunita Behari, Jonathan Blanco, Stephanie Bohn, Jeremy Brown, Sarah Cargill, Joshua Chavez, Daniel Cherrez, Hemanth Chiluka, Tyler Curtis, Katherine Dolinski, Jamie Donato, Amanda Duffy, Ryan DuHamel, Danielle Hurst, Krista Kaczka, Christopher Kuberiet, Kim Lam, Melissa Novak, Timothy Nuber, Sarah Oehler, Jacquelyn Orellana, Karan Patel, Neel Patel, Michael Pratts, Alyssa Russo, Nicholas Spadavecchia, Emily Sukenik, Stephanie Velez, Vita Viran, Matthew Waters

### Eighth Grade Honor Roll

Lisa Affinito, Karima Ahmed, Jacob Alba, Alex Aquilina, Stephanie Boettger, Miranda Bourbeau, Michaela Butrico, Vincent Cano, John Carone, Andrea Castillo, Lindsay Celenano, Jason Chen, Amanda Ciardiello, Jonathan Conrad, Alexandra Cruz, Brian Csobor, Brian Cullen, Brittany Dabel, Kristen DeSclafani, Karuna Dhaniram, Joshua Diaz, Nicholas DiFrancesco, Venkata Preeth Dwarsila, Habiba Elbastawisi, Marianna Fahmy, Madison Faustini, Dianne Ferraro, Michael Freddy

Matthew Gallant, Raul Garcia, Nicholas Gavilanes, Jack Gillis, Nicole Goitiandia, Zackary Gorman, Anthony Gray, Robert Gwiazda, Daniel

Hedden, Taylor Henry, Ailsa Hernandez, Nicole Horne, Jennifer Huber, Meghan Hughes, Manal Kandil, Jouni Khalaf, Sean Knowles, Victor Ladino Furque, Tony Le, Brianna Leonard, Victoria Liu, Thais Lopez, Ethan Lyte

Richard Marcovecchio, Stefanie Melchiorre, Nathan Mensah, Carly Miceli, Marissa Mulligan, Naome Nabi, Rebecca Ng, Julia Nguyen, Glenn O'Bryant, Jessica Ortiz, Ravi Patel, Ajay Persaud, Jason Petriello, Jamaal Ptah, Mark Ramjatan, Samantha Ratti, Emma Regan, Mason Resende, Justin Rochotte, Pablo Rodriguez, Maximilian Rohrer, Kevin Roperos, Nicholas Ruzicka

Alec V. Salvador, Brittany Santos, Katie Saravia, Bryan Scipio Jr., Thomas Scott, Zachary Severini, Matthew Siepmann, Bryan Silva, Cesar Souza, Sydney Surowiec, Ellie Tom, Danny Trieu, Allen Uzoma, Patrick Waldrop, Sarah Walsh, Anna Williams, Kyle Wong, Emily Zawadski

### Seventh Grade High Honor Roll

Jason Belanger, Ashli Bell, Divya Budhan, Cristian Butrico, Samuel Campbell, Ziad Elmasry, Nicholas Farinella, Megan Forster, Jake Giordano, Patrick Kopolka, Caleb Kuberiet, Emily Kuchinski, Michael Lampasona, Jared Marks, Ceara McCormick, Megan McDermott, Mary McNeil,

Claire Nagel, Helen Nguyen, Grace Ochoa, Raj Patel, Daniel Persaud, Nikolas Peterson, Meagan Praul, Daniel Ramotowski, Scott Riccardi, Sara Roman, Pooja Sindha, Kevin Soper, Drew Spahn, Ryan Stankan, Olivia Stragapede, Michael Tran, Ashley Veliz, Katherine Vill

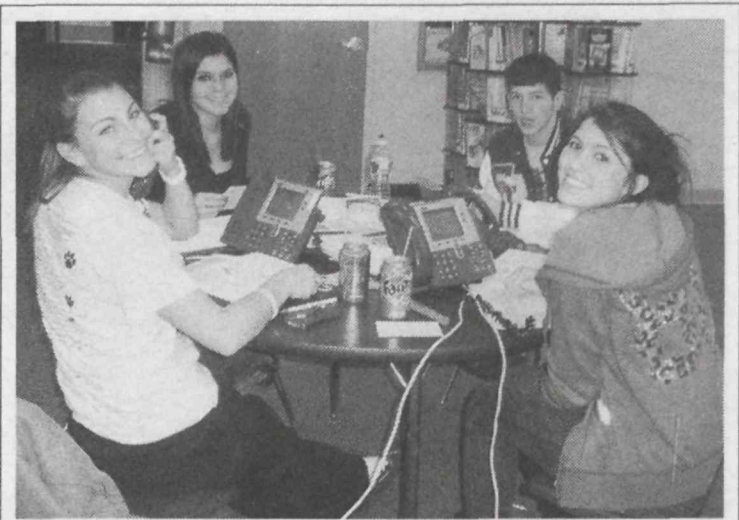
### Seventh Grade Honor Roll

Lanae Ali, Jose Arrubla, Surindra Boodhoo, Ariel Buenano, Gabriella Cangialosi, Connie Chen, Jason Cieszkiewicz, Jack Cochrane, Kyle Davisson, Megyn Decarlo, Leann DeCillis, Jessica Deepan, Anthony Doan, Anthony Eastman, Isiah Feeley-Sudeall, Gregory Forbes, Alexandria Frontz, Melissa Gallant, Gabriela Guerrero, Ishani Haldar, Stephanie Heim, Ryan Hu, Caitlin Hughes, Christa Iazzetta, Adanna Ibeke, Tatiana Ishod

Chace Jones, Gavin Jones, James Joyner, Andrew Kensey, Kayla Khan, Elijah Koyongian, Charles LaDelle, McKenzie Larsen, Nam Le, Elizabeth Lee, Lawrence Lenau, Thomas Licato, Benjamin Lundy, Adriel MacLean, Sarmad Mahmood, Allianna Makowski, Ryan Marston, Shanaya Martinez, Anthony Montuori, James Moore, Camila Mosquera, Bianca Murcelo, Liam Nagel, Steven Nguyen

Olivia O'Leary, Kimberly Ortiz-Samaya, Jacob Panton, Anthony Palmeri, Sebastian Paredes, Reina Patel, Riya Patel, Nicholas Pezzolla, James Piedilato, Nicholas Plate, Bryan Dominic Pontevedra, Kimber Reels, Jaime Rochotte, Natalie Romano

Harmanleep Saini, Kayla Santiago, Seth Santos, Jean Sapini, Camryn Schaeffer, John Serro, David Shawiak, Cody W. Soper, Owen Sprigle, Justin Spry, Tahirshah Syed, Nicholas Torchia, Sandra Vordzorgbe, Asadullah Waheed, Joshua Ward, Kyle Whalen, Talia Wilson, Zachary Wolpin, Arnold Zavala



Volunteers Nicole Cannalonga, Ashley Annetta, Danielle Butrico and Anthony Ashnault call parents of SPHS students during the annual telethon for the Education Foundation.

## Zach Szala Fundraiser Needs Your Help

Almost Famous Players (AFP) is organizing a fundraiser for young Zach Szala, the great-nephew of Plainfield Animal Hospital receptionist Barbara Drumgould. The eight year old was bitten twice by a rattle snake in his home state of South Carolina in late November. His condition is serious. He has regained movement in his lower limbs and can only communicate via squeezing someone's hand. The antivenin costs between \$2,500 and \$4,000 per vial. So far Zach has had 40 vials and is in need of more. The family has no medical insurance. He has a long haul in front of him and the financial toll on the family will be astronomical.

AFP is planning a coffee house with local performers of all ages. The tentative date is January 15 at the senior center. Numerous performers/bands have expressed an interest so far, but they are in need of more acts as well as donations of cash, refreshments, raffle baskets and door prizes. AFP also hopes to hold a separate children's show featuring a puppet act and a local professional juggling group.

They need help selling tickets, handling the concession, security and more. If you are interested in assisting, please contact Pattie Abbott at angelonly@aol.com or call (908) 346-2290. Without more help the event may not take place.

## World's Toughest Mudder Project for Wounded Warriors

The South Plainfield Middle School PTO will host a fundraiser in honor of South Plainfield Police DARE Officer Lloyd McNelly who participated in the Tough Mudder obstacle course in October. Officer McNelly also participated in the World's Toughest Mudder series final that consisted of a grueling 24 hour course involving laps, swimming through icy waters, diving through mud and top shape conditioning maneuvers, all to support our wounded warriors (military forces) injured while enlisted.

The PTO is requesting any monetary donation, per mile, which will benefit the wounded warriors. Please send in your pledges by Friday, Dec. 30 in an envelope marked "World's Toughest Mudder" and made payable to the South Plainfield Middle School PTO, which will then be donated to the Wounded Warriors Project.

The World's Toughest Mudder

series final took place on December 17 and 18 at Raceway Park in Englishtown.

Please join us in this heartfelt endeavor on behalf of Officer McNelly and the Middle School PTO. For more information, please do not hesitate to contact PTO President Debbie Boyle at (908) 803-1573. All checks are subject to a \$25 return check fee.

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Kennedy School teachers and staff collected and put together Christmas stockings filled with candy, books, toys, mittens, gloves and socks for needy children at the Seth Boyden housing complex in Newark. Everyone contributed items and money then met after school to put together 144 stockings and wrapped the many small gifts for the children. The stockings were distributed by The Relief Bus, a volunteer outreach program that serves low income communities in Newark and New York City with clothing, food and various referral services.

## POLICE REPORT

• On Nov. 28 Autumn C. Terry, 22, of Piscataway was arrested for failure to wear a seatbelt and an outstanding warrant.

• A Cedarbrook Avenue resident reported the theft of a Dell laptop, Garmin GPS and a staple gun from their unlocked vehicle.

• A Skene Drive resident reported the theft of their purse that was left on the floor at Marshalls.

• On Nov. 29 Jovannie A. Banks,

21, of Piscataway was arrested at Target for shoplifting a Wii bundle, Philips DVD player, Sony DVD player, PC software, speaker dock, full bedding, three DVDs, a blanket and Mickey and Minnie Mouse pants worth \$772.

• On Nov. 30 Bosch on Corporate Boulevard reported the theft of a cordless power drill that was on display.

• On Dec. 1 Miquel Chavez, 22, of North Plainfield was arrested for

driving while intoxicated.

• A Kenyon Avenue resident reported that an attempt had been made to use their credit card to purchase a MAC Airbook over the Internet.

• On Dec. 3 a W. 7th Street resident reported two fraudulent purchases on their credit card.

• On Dec. 4 Khiry B. Washington, 20, of North Plainfield was arrested for failure to exhibit a valid registration and an outstanding warrant.

• On Dec. 5 a Grove Street resident reported four fraudulent purchases on their credit card.

• On Dec. 7 Jean L. Coccaro, 52, of Delmore Avenue was arrested for reckless driving and driving while intoxicated.

• On Dec. 10 a Plainfield resident reported that their vehicle had been spray painted while parked at Shoppers World.

• On Dec. 13 Joel Cejour, 29, of Hillside was arrested for disorderly conduct.



## Kennedy Holds Winter Concert

By Jane Dornick

Kennedy Elementary School held its annual winter concert in the afternoon on December 16. Each grade level performed three selections. The Kindergarten class sang *Oh Christmas Tree*, *One Little Candle Fire* and *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*. First graders sang *Up on the House Top*, *Once Upon a Christmastime/Silent Night* medley and *Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree*. Playing the jingle bells were Michael Heim, Sahil Kanda, Dylan Magalong, Chidubem Onuoha and Anish Patel.

Second grade students performed *Jolly Old St. Nicholas*, *Oh Hanukkah*

and *Here Comes Santa Claus*. Playing tambourines were Chris Poggio, Chris Spadavecchia, Isabella Mont and Michael Lawrence. The third grade sang *Holly Jolly Christmas*, *It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year* and *Jingle Bells/Melekalikimaka* medley with Rayden Clapp and Dina Abdeljaber playing the jingle bells.

The show concluded with the fourth graders performing *Angels We Have Heard on High*, *Do You Hear What I Hear* and *Winter Wonderland*. The jingle bells were played by McKayla Grabinsky and Jordan Lovett and the bells were rung by Saru Castillo, Ailiyah Morgan, Colin Farrell and Mahnoor Waheed.

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Rev. John Paul Alvarado, Pastor

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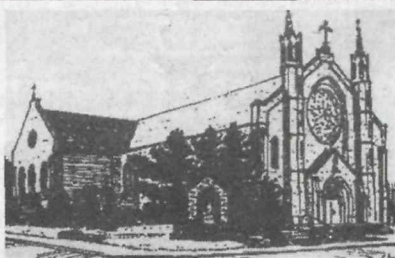
Sunday 9:00, 11:30 a.m.

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

7:00 p.m. Monday (Church), Thursday (Parish Center Chapel)

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Roosevelt School chorus members perform *Gloves*.

Roosevelt School Principal Robert Diehl accompanies the chorus on guitar.

## Roosevelt Holiday Concert Features Orchestra, Chorus



By Patricia Abbott

Roosevelt School annual holiday concert on December 13 featured the school orchestra and chorus. The orchestra, conducted by Bruce Milkolon, performed *March of the Cadets*, *Beginner Medley* and *Jolly Old St. Nick*.

Orchestra members are: Violins-Neeti Gupte, Hitha Harish, Upashna Purohit, Angela Ramos, Fiza Rizvi, Sebastian Cordoba, Alexa Diamant, Rena Li, Neel Panchwagh, Serena Patel, Nya Figueroa, Kelsey Hing, Mikayla Santiago, Sophia Sharif, Michael Barfo, Nicole Calavetta, Liesl Co, Andy Nguyen, Arjun Patel and Valencia Williams-Abbate; Violas-Tyla Baxter, Justin Billich, Ariya Blow, Nour Elmajdoui, Harshita Saravanakumar, Kourtney Scipio, Nidhi Patel, D'Andre Randolph, Gregory Algarin, Xavier Brown, Aliza Khan, Neena Vennamaneni and Nicholas Atehortua; Cellos-Sam-Fone Cheung and Augustus Brown; Bass-Ronald Petrick. Principal Robert Diehl assisted chiming in with the bells.

The chorus, directed by Sharon Perez, performed *Gloves*. It was a fun, unusual number in which the children wore gloves of all kinds; some matched, some did not. There was a child wearing boxing gloves and one wore a baseball glove. They also performed *Westminster Chimes/The Little Bells of Westminster*, *Kindle the Candles Tonight*, *Ordinary Miracle* and *Earth and Sky*, which featured special guest artist Robert Diehl on guitar and teacher Susan Gwiazda on flute. *The Man with the Bag* was the last number they performed.

The chorus includes fourth grade students Gregory Algarin, Alexis Ampabeng, Anmarie Aquino, Ariya Blow, Augustus Brown, Xavier Brown, Liesl Co, Deanna DeLisa, Nour Elmajdoui, Jenna Elmasry, Eleanor Englert, Neeti Gupte, Hitha Harish, Halyna Ho, Danielle Kuhn, Andy Nguyen, Rena Li, Neel Panchwagh, Arjun Patel, Nidhi Patel, Pragni Patel, Serena Patel, Upashna Purohit, Gianna Ruzicka, Angela Ramos, D'Andre Randolph, Fiza Rizvi, Harshita Saravanakumar, Kourtney Scipio and Kierra Sorhaindo. Third grade members are Helina Alamerew, Angelo Amil, Amirthavarshini Bharathan, Adrian Comayagua, Aidan Correll, Bhuvan Dwarasila, Vaishnavi Girirajan, Tyler Herzog, Andrew Hing, Lawrence Jimenez-Castro, Mikayla Kelly, Jonathan Le, Jennifer Nguy, Diana Nguyen, Steven Nguyen, Gabrielle Petrillo, Fatima Rizvi, Olivia Santos, Reva Sharma, Sarah Singh, Andrew Teclucksingh, Esha Tripathi, Ericka Uknus and Neha Yawalkar.

The Roosevelt School Holiday Concert was attended by Board of Education Vice President Debbie Boyle.



## Franklin School Presents Annual Winter Concert



By Patricia Abbott

South Plainfield School district's series of holiday concerts was kicked off by Franklin School on December 12. The concert featured the school's orchestra, chorus and Language, Arts, Music Program (LAMP) students. The two performances, one in the afternoon and one in the evening, offered everyone a chance to enjoy the sounds of the holiday season and appreciate the efforts of the children.

After welcoming comments by Principal Ralph Errico, the school's orchestra opened the evening of

music with *March of the Cadets*, *Beginner Medley* and *Jolly Old St. Nick*. The orchestra is conducted by Sarah Livecchi.

Next up was the Franklin School Chorus which was conducted by Glenn Parisi who performed *Sing a Song of Merry Christmas*, *Sing for Hanukkah* and *A Bell Carol*. Two additional songs, *Winter Fantasy* and *Gonna Catch That Santa*, were accompanied by the school's LAMP students.

BOE Vice President Debbie Boyle was in attendance saying she planned to attend all the holiday concerts at each of the schools this year.

Orchestra members are: Violins-Alexandria Nieves, Aaliah Howard, Abigail Lapp, Tiffany Pham, Amanda Bermo, Jake Kolodziej, Jessica LaCross, Tava Pham; Violas-Cooper Smith, Ellenie Mejias, Jordyn Aleksandrowicz, Faith Cantamessa, Kevin Rosa, Joseph Walker; Cellos-Kishen Mangra, Cameron Marks, Nicholas Stinemire, Ashley Wyber and Shantel Green.

The chorus featured Abigail Lapp, Kalid Nasr, Abigail Gonzalez, Victoria Lienhard, Tiffany Pham, Jessica Tschopp, Samy Abdelsalam, Brianna Tapanes, Timson Nguyen, Kady Blend, Amy Heller, Sarah Housel, Bryan Cruz, Marissa Tamburro, Kendall Harris, Lauren Hutchison, Patrick Berry, Kishen Budham, Alyssa Cham-

bergo, Jake Jones, Danielle McParland, Jessica Vasquez, Anthony Laudani, Amanda Bermo, Patrick Joyner, Rachel Ann Fallet, Jordan Hamberg, Zoe Lambert, Jenny Giannakis, Benjamin Ullrich, Nadia Blouin, Jeanette Orellana, Joshua Estrella, Amber Smith, Alyssa Moffitt, Sean DeGraw, Kristina Shaw, Madison Karcher, Mia Silverstein, Riley Hummel, Aaliyah Howard, Braedon Dobrynio, Faith Cantamessa, Nicholas Aiello, Alexandria Nieves, Jake Kolodziej, Alexis Robinson, Joshua Liberato, Emma Morin, Krystal Acosta, Hailley Slyvchak, Kyle Griswold, Nicolle Marish, Daniel McLeod, Kimberly Fontana, Joshua Roesch, Lauren Borsos, Antionette Goldberg-Mota, Alexis Salter, Santiago Rincon, Jordyn Aleksandrowicz, Chase Atkinson, Ashley Wyber, Shantel Green, Saabir Ahmed, Ellenie Mejias, Makayla Cox, Dylan Page, Kimberly Velez, Gianna DeFort, Jada Brown, Riya Patel, Rachel Eggert, Tori Euston, Arliss Jones, Tanner Price and Erica Gilson.

The LAMP students are Nicholas Aiello, Chase Atkinson, Amanda Bermo, Faith Cantamessa, Rafael Estrella, Jordan Hamberg, Patrick Joyner, Abigail Lapp, Anthony Laudani, Keith Lehman, Danielle McParland, Jessica Tschopp and Ashley Wyber.

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# Pushcart Players Perform at Kennedy School



Pushcart Players in a scene from "Stone Soup and Other Stories," a collection of delightful folk tales from around the world. (L-R): Robyn Corujo, Robert Rivera, Harry Patrick Christian and Megan MacKenzie Lawrence.

—Photo courtesy of Melody Moore Photography

Pushcart Players, the Verona, New Jersey based professional theatre company for young audiences, performed its musical play, *Stone Soup and Other Stories*, last month at Kennedy Elementary School. The performance was done as an all-school assembly gathering of students and their teachers. *Stone Soup and Other Stories* is a musical collection of fabulous folk tales from around the world that stir up serious fun for young, very young and "young at heart" audiences. Pushcart's current production includes four actors who sing and dance their way through familiar tales from far away

places including *The Greatest Being In The World* from India; *The Long One* from Africa; *Freddie Lee Fisher* from Appalachia U.S.A.; and the title story, *Stone Soup* from Eastern Europe. A charming, well-seasoned blend, these carefully selected tales with universal themes and character-building conclusions offer a gentle introduction to theatre and support the literacy movement's emphasis on the joy of reading. The program also creates a perfect opportunity for further classroom discussion and activities.

Pushcart Players is an ensemble of professional (Actors' Equity Asso-

ciation) actors dedicated to enriching, enlightening and inspiring young people through the introduction and presentation of quality theatre and arts in education programming. Pushcart is in its 38th season and has traveled over two million miles to serve more than eight million children and their families. Based in New Jersey, this dynamic and highly acclaimed company brings the power of the arts to life in schools, theatres and community centers throughout the nation and abroad.

Pushcart is well-known for presenting productions filled with fun, facts, magic and wonder; and for bringing a little bit of "Broadway" to schools and local theaters. In addition to providing a splendid introduction to theatre and the arts, Pushcart productions are always filled with innovative settings, memorable music and lessons rich in character development and human values. All presentations are accompanied by a study guide for teachers and a question/answer session with the cast immediately following a performance.

In addition to *Stone Soup and Other Stories*, many other Pushcart productions continue to be available throughout the 2011-2012 school year and may be viewed by downloading the current brochure from [www.pushcartplayers.org](http://www.pushcartplayers.org). Pushcart's wide range of Arts In Education programs are also available and may be tailored to suit the needs of any school or organization upon request.

Representatives from schools and other sponsors of theatre and arts in education programming interested in previewing a performance or arts workshop should call (973) 857-1115.

For more information, email [information@pushcartplayers.org](mailto:information@pushcartplayers.org) or visit the website [www.pushcartplayers.org](http://www.pushcartplayers.org).

## sports

### SPHS

### WEEKLY SPORTS SCHEDULE

South Plainfield High School

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

3:30pm V Swimming-Woodbridge (A) Bus 2:30  
3:45pm G Fr Basketball-Piscataway (A) Bus 2:30  
7:00pm GV Basketball-Piscataway JV/ 5:15 Bus 4:15

#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 26

12:00pm BV Basketball-A. Cotoia Trn (H) Trn

#### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27

10:00am V Wrestling-Hillsborough/S Hall/Plfd  
11:30am B Fr Basketball-Rahway Trn (A) Bus 10:00am  
1:00pm B JV Basketball-Rahway Trn (A) Bus 11:30am  
G Fr Basketball-New Brunswick (A) Bus TBA

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

9:00am BV Basketball-A. Cotoia Trn (H)  
7:00pm V Wrestling-P. Amboy (H)  
G V Basketball-Wardlaw Trn (A) Bus 12:30  
B FR Basketball-Rahway Trn (A) Bus TBA  
B JV Basketball-Rahway Trn (A) Bus TBA  
G Fr Basketball- New Brunswick (A) Bus TBA

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29

12:00pm BV Basketball - A. Cotoia Trn (H)  
GV Basketball - Wardlaw Trn (A) Bus TBA

## PBA, Middle School PTO Benefit Volleyball Tournament

The second annual benefit volleyball tournament is slated for Sunday, Jan. 29. 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 additional 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 product for the event, please contact Officer Pete Magnani at (908) 226-7678 or email [pmagnani@southplainfieldnj.com](mailto:pmagnani@southplainfieldnj.com) or call Debbie Boyle at (908) 803-1573.

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Cavit Pinot Grigio 1.5L	\$12.99	Vista Pinot Grigio 1.5L	\$9.99
Corbett Canyon all types 1.5L	\$5.99	Crane Lake all types 750mL	\$3.99
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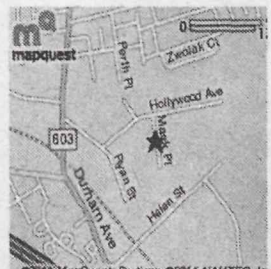
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## Obituaries

### Frank J. Sendzik, 82

Frank J. Sendzik passed away on Sunday, Dec. 18 at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born and raised in Old Forge, Pa., Frank had resided in Atlantic County for many years before settling in South Plainfield in 1986.

A veteran of the U.S. Army, Frank served during the Korean Conflict as a corporal in the artillery division prior to his honorable discharge in 1954. He was awarded the Army of Occupation Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

He retired from the Atlantic County Sheriff's Department after 25 years of service where he was the deputy sheriff.

Frank's true passion was the love of music. He was a skilled accordion player specializing in German and Polish Polka music. He was a long time member of the "Happy Tones" where they could be found regularly playing at Kilmeyer's Pub in Staten Island. In addition, he was an active member of Our Lady of Czestochowa Church serving as an usher and annually played his favorite tunes at the feast of St. Anthony. He was also a member of the South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203.

Frank is predeceased by his wife, Christine (Grabowski), who died in 2008; and by four siblings, Florence Malecki, Margaret Vrable, Jean Grigalonas and Jackie Sendzik.

His is survived by his wife's children, David Wiater and wife Jill of High Point NC., Karen Leonardi and husband Thomas of York, Pa. and Lynnette Nagle and husband Robert of Allamuchy. He is also survived by six grandchildren, Meaghan, Philip, Stephen, Marissa, Timmy and Gracie.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, 120 Kosciusko Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

### Patricia Reagan Stahlin, 86

Patricia Reagan Stahlin died on Tuesday, Dec. 13.

Born in Kearny, she grew up in Harrison and attended Good Counsel High School in Newark, was a graduate of the College of Saint Elizabeth, Class of 1947 and later was recognized by the college with the Distinguished Alumna Award. She furthered her education and received her master's degree at Kean University.

Mrs. Stahlin taught in Iselin, Manville and Harrison. She was active in the Laurel League of Plainfield, a past president of the Junior A'Kempis of Newark, an active member of the College of St. Elizabeth Alumnae Assn. and its Monmouth County Chapter, and a longtime volunteer at Collier Services in Wickatunk.

Mrs. Stahlin was predeceased by her parents, Thomas and Alyce Barry Reagan; her husband, Frank, in 1969; and by a son, Donald, in 2006.

Surviving are three loving children; Frank and wife Barbara, Clare Stahlin and Patrice (Dee) Allara and husband Jack, all of South Plainfield; a daughter-in-law, Kathy Stahlin of Orange, Calif.; a granddaughter, Stephanie Dudley and husband Derek; a great-granddaughter, Brooklyn of Corona, Calif.; a grandson, Frank of South Plainfield; and a brother, Thomas J. Reagan. Mrs. Stahlin leaves behind nieces, nephews, many cousins and special friends who were a very important part of her life.

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

Those planning an expression of sympathy are asked to consider contributions to Collier Youth Services, P.O. Box 300, Wickatunk, N.J. 07765-0300 or College of St. Elizabeth Development Fund, 2 Convent Road, Convent Station, N.J. 07961.

### Patricia Ann DiCuollo, 51

Patricia Ann DiCuollo passed away on Friday, Dec. 9 at Overlook Medical Center in Summit after a courageous and hard fought battle against pancreatic cancer.

Patty, as she is known to all, was one of nine children born to Esther and Dominick Grassifulli in Plainfield. She was raised by Anna Tom in South Plainfield and had resided in the borough before moving to Seaside Heights and settling in Brick in 1987.

Patty attended school in South Plainfield and attended Middlesex County College. She began her career at AT&T in Holmdel as a secretary, then as an administrative assistant and later as the personal assistant to the president before her retirement. After her retirement she assisted as the office manager for the start up software company, ISP in Red Bank.

She had a natural ability to help others, a beautiful personality and was a devoted wife, mother, sister, aunt and friend.

Surviving are her husband of 29 years, Philip; a daughter, Gabrielle; seven biological siblings; her mother, Anna Tom Goody; and four sisters.

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

Donations in her memory may be made to the American Cancer Society for Pancreatic Research, or to



Patricia Ann DiCuollo

further Gabrielle DiCuollo's nursing education.

### Marianne B. (Santos) Wimberly, 76

Marianne B. (Santos) Wimberly passed away on Sunday, Dec. 11 at the Woodlands Care Center in Plainfield.

Born and raised in Boston, Mass., Marianne has been living in New Jersey since 1978.

Marianne was employed as an educator for the East Orange School System. She enjoyed reading and liked to travel, especially to California.

She is predeceased by her parents, Frank and Eva (Freeman) Santos; a son, Anthony who passed away in 2010; and by five siblings.

Marianne leaves behind a son, William and wife Renee of South Plainfield; and three grandchildren, Anthony, Brianne and Aliyah. She also leaves behind many nieces and nephews.

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

### Arthur E. Katzer, 76

Arthur E. Katzer died Monday, Dec. 19 at his residence.

Born in Brooklyn to Philip and Sylvia (Hertzberg) Katzer, he was raised in North Plainfield and had lived in Union, Middlesex, Baltimore and Piscataway before settling in South Plainfield in 1999, and most recently living in Edison since 2004.

Arthur attended Marshall University in West Virginia and worked as an accounting clerk with the Buffalo Tank Division in Dunellen, retiring in 1996 from Research Cottrell in Branchburg.

He was an avid fan of the N.Y. Yankees and Jets.

He is predeceased by his wife, Edie, who died in 1994.

Arthur is survived by his companion, Edie Fitzel, and two children, Francine Ciliberto and husband Peter of Middlesex and Gregg Katzer of Dayton. Arthur also leaves behind three stepchildren, Randi Gregorio, Shelley Lampf and husband Mark and Melody Fitzel; a sister, Neila Pesca and husband Joseph; nine grandchildren, Matthew, Philip, Michelle, Jessica, Stefanie, Philip, Sean, Carolyn and Scott; and a great-grandson, Joey. He will be missed by many nieces and nephews.

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

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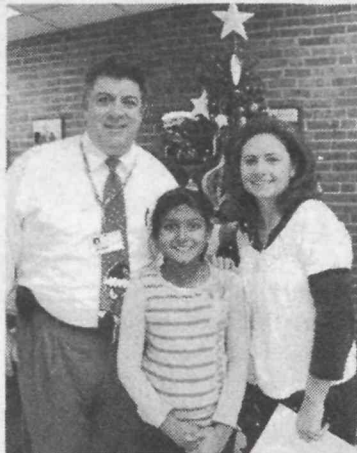
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## Riya Patel Named Junior Journalist



Riya Patel with Principal Ralph Errico and teacher Lara Kensey.

Franklin Elementary third grader Riya Patel is this week's winner in the Junior Journalist program. Her short story, "Can You SENSE What Season is Coming?" has earned Riya 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.

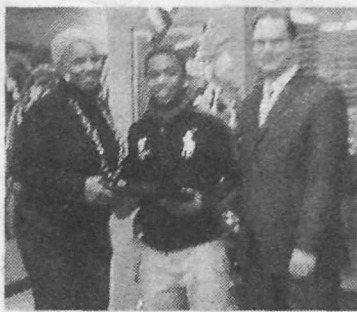
At the end of the school year in May, Hometown Heros and the *Observer* host a banquet celebrating all of the weekly winners and their families. A \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bond is awarded to one student by Hometown Heros; additional U.S. Savings Bonds are also awarded. Students are recognized by the mayor and the state assembly as well.

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

### Can You SENSE What Season is Coming?

By Riya Patel

Delicate snowflakes stick to your warm hands  
as chilly breezes flow in your hair.  
Bundled up children leap around snowmen  
as snowballs fly through the sky.  
Sweet delicious smells of chocolate chip cookies  
and hot cocoa tickle your nose.  
Eager kids wait to unwrap brightly colored presents  
under the decorated trees.  
Crackling fire fills the air making the cold turn warm and cozy.



Sharon Lilly, Antunee Adams and Assistant Principal, Ronnie Spring.

## Hewlett Packard Donates Laptop To SPHS Student

The Hewlett Packard Financial Services Family recently donated a laptop and a cell phone to sophomore Antunee Adams for Christmas.

Antunee's mother, who recently passed away, was an employee at Hewlett Packard Financial Services. Longtime friend and co-worker Sharon Lilly organized a group to donate the items. She had worked with Antunee's mother for over 12 years, saying, "Antunee was the joy of his mother's life and she was his greatest cheerleader!"

Lilly, along with the HP family, intend to keep his mother's cheers alive by supporting Antunee in his academics and athletics.

## From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Chris Grippio

The library is happy to extend best wishes to all our patrons in this holiday season. Because of the holidays we will be closed Saturday, Dec. 24 through Monday, Dec. 26 and will reopen on Tuesday, Dec. 27 at 10 a.m. Of course, while we are closed our online catalogue and databases are available through our website ([www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us)).

We know that many of our patrons will be receiving e-readers (Nooks, Kindles, etc.) for presents. The ListenNJ database, which cardholding patrons of the South Plainfield Public Library can access through our website, has e-books, as well as audio books. The titles available include a variety of e-readers and you can check to see if your device is supported. There are also instructions on how to download. To further assist patrons who have received these devices we will be offering classes on how to download books on Monday, Jan. 23 at 10 a.m. and Thursday, Jan. 26 at 7 p.m. There is no registration required for these classes but you will need to bring your e-reader so we can

address specific questions.

Also, we know that there are still patrons who do not have an email account (something that is a requirement in 21st Century American society). If you need help in setting up an email account, please call the Reference Desk at the library at (908) 754-7885 so one of us can schedule an appointment to work one-on-one with you.

Speaking of holidays, we have different hours for New Year's weekend. We will be open, Saturday, Dec. 31 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and will be closed Sunday and Monday, Jan. 1 and 2, reopening at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 3. And on Tuesday, Jan. 3, Miss Linda and Miss Mija start up their story and craft times for the new year. For three year olds and up, they are at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday and 1:15 p.m. on Thursday. Time for 2s and 3s are Wednesday and Thursday at 10:30 a.m., and Books and Babies is 10:30 a.m. on Friday. No registration is required, and you can note on your calendar that Mr. Kurt will be making his first appearance of 2012 on Wednesday, Jan. 11 at 6:30 p.m.

Finally, the Friends of the South Plainfield Public Library will be starting a recruitment drive beginning in January. If you have any questions, the easiest way to get them answered is to call the library and speak to Mija Clemente.

If you want to visit us we are next to Borough Hall at 2484 Plainfield Avenue. Our hours are 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday and 1:30-5 p.m. on Sunday.

## Knights Annual Youth Free Throw

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus #6203 is sponsoring the annual youth free throw contest on Sunday, Jan. 8 at the Holy Savior Academy Gym (old Sacred Heart School) located at 200 Randolph Ave.

All boys and girls ages 10 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition. Winners will move on to the District Championships. Registration for this event will be

held at 8:30 a.m. The competition will start at 9 a.m.

All contestants on the local level are recognized for their participation in the event. Participants are required to furnish proof of age (birth certificate) and written parental consent.

For more information, call Robbi Matusz at (973) 534-6447.

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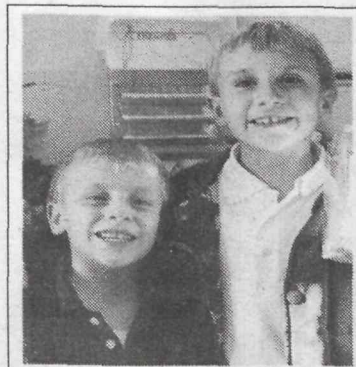
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Dominick and Nicklaus Nuzzo

A Gift from the Heart

Nicklaus Nuzzo, 7, and his brother Dominick, 4, brought a container of coins to the Observer office last week to donate to Shirley Thompson to be used for local children in need. Nicklaus, a South Plainfield resident who attends St. Bartholomew School in Scotch Plains, collected the money from his relatives and added some from his own piggy bank.

Library Board

(Continued from page 1)  
\$199 Kindle Fire. Both items will only be available for use in the library.

Interim Superintendent of Schools Dr. Gary Bowen was a surprise visitor during the meeting and was invited to sit with the board members. Bowen said he was impressed with the recently renovated library, as well as Randolph and the members of the Library Board of Trustees.

During the public comment session, Councilwoman Chrissy Buteas asked about the status of plans to lease a portion of Walgreen's to accommodate additional space for the library if it is moved.

According to Eric Aronowitz, president of the Library Board of Trustees, the library is no longer in negotiations with the owner of the property because Walgreen's management didn't specify how much of their space would be available, and the property owner expected the library to pay for all alterations necessary, essentially rebuilding two empty storefronts.

Observer Classifieds

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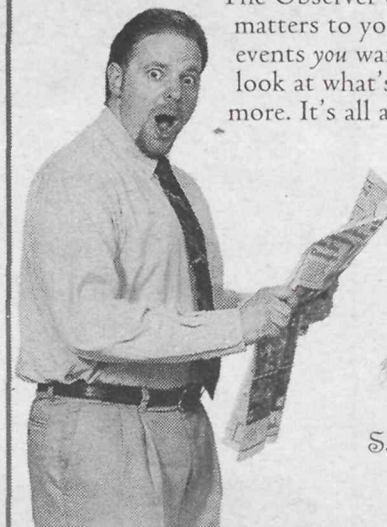
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## LEGAL NOTICES

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Jaswinder S. Pinghla requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit pre-existing nonconforming residential home in an M-3 zone and the storage of (3) trailers and (2) tractors; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 3046 S. Clinton Ave., Block 449, Lot 10, M-3 zone on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, January 12, 2012 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey at 7:00 p.m.

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

\$38.50 December 23, 2011

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Vivek Patel requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit proposed addition which requires a 30' front setback; 22' is proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 10 Trista's Way, Block 282, Lot 51.06, R-10 zone on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, January 12, 2012 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey at 7:00 p.m.

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

\$38.50 December 23, 2011

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

#### LEGAL NOTICE ORDINANCE No. 1943 BOND ORDINANCE STATEMENT AND SUMMARY

The bond ordinance, the summary terms of which are included herein, has been finally adopted by the Borough of South Plainfield, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey on December 19, 2011 and the 20 day period of limitation within which a suit, action or proceeding questioning the validity of such ordinance can be commenced, as provided in the Local Bond Law, has begun to run from the date of the first publication of this statement. Copies of the full ordinance are available at no cost and during regular business hours, at the Clerk's office for members of the general public who request the same. The summary of the terms of such bond ordinance follows:

Title: "Bond Ordinance Providing for Various Road Improvements and the Acquisition of Road Easements in and by the Borough of South Plainfield, in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey, Appropriating \$680,000 Therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of \$645,000 Bonds or Notes of the Borough to Finance Part of the Cost Thereof."

Purposes: Various road improvements and the acquisition of road easements, consisting of improvements and acquisitions to West 7th Street, easement acquisitions for Corporate Court, New Durham Road, New Durham Avenue and Stelton Road, New Market Avenue extension, the resurfacing of Oak Tree Avenue, and improvements to the Truck Bypass Route, including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto.

Appropriation: \$680,000

Bonds/Notes Authorized: \$645,000

Grant Appropriated: N/A

Section 20 Costs: \$85,000

Useful Life: 10 years

Joann Graf, Clerk

\$40.32 December 23, 2011

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

#### LEGAL NOTICE

December 15, 2011

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Planning Board at its meeting held on December 13, 2011.

A. Case #05-07-GEM ESTATES, Block 81; Lot 19; 2518 Woodland Avenue. The applicant's request that the February 14, 2006 resolution be amended so that bond fees would be refunded was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary Beth Khidre  
Recording Secretary-Planning Board

\$28.50 December 23, 2011

## Local Students Perform in 38th Annual Tuba Christmas

Many South Plainfield Public School students performed at the 38th annual Tuba Christmas Concert on December 11. This concert was conceived by tuba virtuoso Harvey Phillips to honor his teacher, the late great William J. Bell. The first Tuba Christmas was presented in Rockefeller Center in 1974, and was conducted by Paul LaValle of Band of America fame. This unusual Christmas tradition is firmly established in over 200 cities around the world. Enthusiastic audiences become an important part of the concert by singing along with Christmas carols especially arranged for the tuba choir by American composer Alec Wilder.

It was a cold day, but the turnout for this year's concert was the largest on record. Approximately 582 tubas, baritones and euphoniums performed 30 minutes of Christmas carols on the ice rink under the gigantic Rockefeller Center Christmas tree. The conductor of the celebration was C. Christian Wilhelm, the former conductor of New York's Famous Goldman Band and current conductor of the Ridgewood Concert Band.

The event has become a tradition in the middle school and throughout the district, which has had students



participating in the concert for the past nine years. The middle school students who participated are Brian Csobor, Jonathan Blanco, Tony

Le, Tim Nuber, Scott O'Brien, Joe Reo and Samantha Reo. Chris Cieszkiewicz; James O'Connor represented the high school. Also attending was South

Plainfield alumni, Richard Rotella. Students were accompanied by Middle and Riley school teachers, Andrew Veiss and Tobie Baldwin, respectively.

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