

South Plainfield OBSERVER

VOL. 15, NO. 22

Member New Jersey Press Association

60 CENTS

FEBRUARY 3, 2012



Columbiettes Officers—standing: The Rev. John Paul Alvarado, chaplain; Kathleen Wilson, financial secretary; Kathy Tracy, vice president; Nancy Stillman-Pender, treasurer; Connie Sprayberry, past president; Norma Padernal, sentinel; seated: JoAnn Martin, president, and Deborah Vokral, secretary.

15 Years and Going Strong

Charity, Fraternity, Church, Community Hallmark of Columbiettes

The South Plainfield Columbiettes celebrated their 15th anniversary on January 15 at an 11:30 a.m. Mass at the Church of the Sacred Heart, offered for the auxiliary's deceased members and followed by a luncheon buffet at Adelines Ristorante.

Among the invited guests were the Rev. John Paul Alvarado, pastor and auxiliary chaplain; Sister Kathleen Rooney, SSJ, Sacred Heart

pastoral associate; Sister Nadine Boyle of Sacred Heart; State Council of Columbiettes President Susan Kadar; and Grand Knight Joseph Scrudato of the Knights of Columbus Council #6203.

The auxiliary was established on January 12, 1997 after 35 Catholic women petitioned the Supreme Officers of Columbiettes requesting that a charter be granted to form an

auxiliary in South Plainfield. Victoria Sandin was elected first president to lead the fledgling auxiliary, which works alongside the local chapter of the Knights of Columbus.

The first year for the auxiliary was one of "charity, fraternity, church and community," and has remained so to this day. In the past 15 years, the group has supported seminarians, the Children's Specialized Hospital, Ronald McDonald House, Children's Miracle Network, women's shelters, our troops and various other organizations.

The group has participated at Sacred Heart's Ministry Fair and worked the carnivals at various local churches.

Money has been donated to the MS Foundation, Diabetes Association, Right to Life, Life Choices, lung cancer and breast cancer awareness, as well as local fire, police and EMS departments. Needy families have been assisted at Christmas time with

(Continued on page 10)

BOE Audit Shows \$3.9M in Surplus

The Board of Education (BOE) annual state audit performed by VM Associates of Mt. Arlington for the fiscal budget year July 2010 through June 2011 revealed that the board had amassed nearly \$3.9M in cash surplus during that time period. This included \$1.3M in an Excess Surplus Account, which exceeds the 2% surplus of total revenue based on the \$51M budget allowed by law for school districts to have on hand.

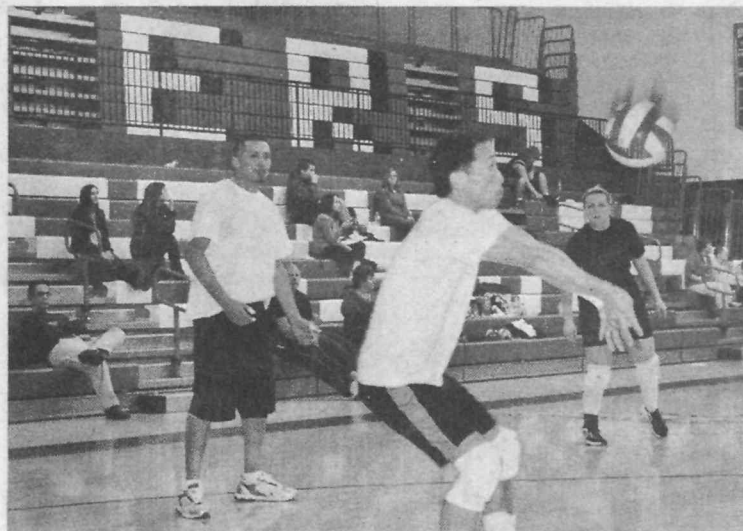
Additional surplus and reserve accounts totaling \$3,876,036 include \$196,533 in an Emergency Reserve Account, \$449,481 in Maintenance Reserve and \$551,600 in a Capital Reserve Account. Encumbrances and/or outstanding bills from 2010/2011 account for \$386,078 and \$600,000 designated for the following year's anticipated expenditures. Another \$348,943 in an Unassigned General Fund and \$678,000 in deferred state aid equal the maximum 2% surplus allowed by law which, according to Business Administrator Jim Olobardi, was placed into the 2011/2012 budget.

Olobardi also explained that the excess surplus came from over-budgeting for teachers' contract salary increase, which only amounted to 2.6% after negotiations, and medical insurance benefit increases of 18%, which came in much lower.

The school board also spent \$34,881 less than the revenue they received as well as collecting \$46,999 more from taxpayers in debt service payments on the \$1,183,120 balance left on an outstanding referendum to build Roosevelt School many years ago.

Former Business Administrator Rich Guarini was responsible for the 2010/2011 budget prior to his resignation in December 2010. Since that time the district has employed two interim business administrators, Nick Puleio, who took over for Guarini and worked until June 2011, and Mark Resnick, who left in September 2011

(Continued on page 12)



On court action at the second annual charity volleyball tournament.

Volleyball Fundraiser Nets \$3,000 For Graduating High School Seniors

By Patricia Abbott

The South Plainfield Middle School PTO with President Debbie Boyle and the South Plainfield PBA Local #100 recently teamed up to sponsor the second annual charity volleyball tournament. The all day event was held in the high school gym on January 29. The afternoon featured teams in three categories: high school, recreational and advanced. There were not enough participants for a middle school tournament.

Twenty-one teams participated in the day long competition. Four teams played in the main gym and two high school teams at a time competed in the upper gym. Several of the teams had played at last year's tournament.

Each team was guaranteed two games. Each player received a ticket for a hot dog, drink and chips, which

was donated by the PBA.

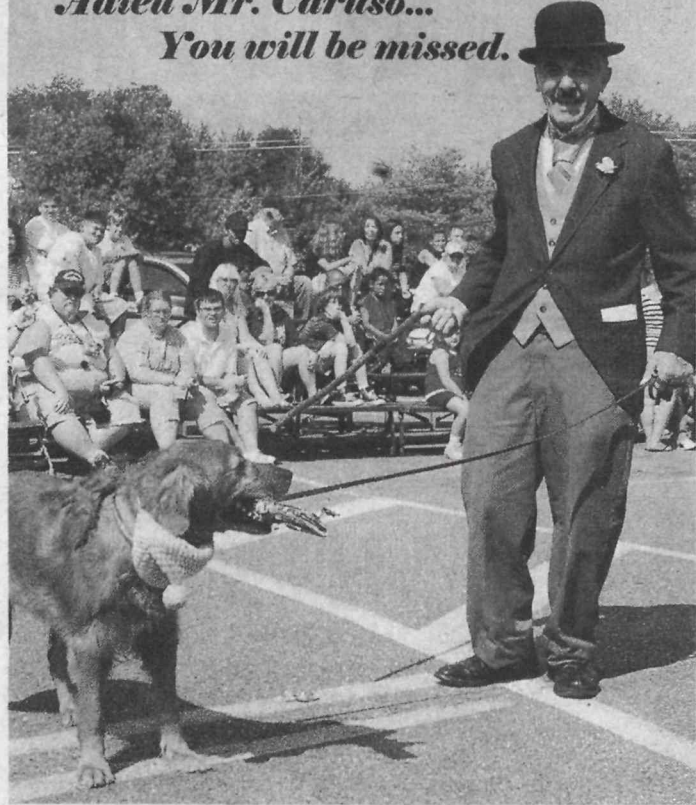
About 75 spectators were on hand to cheer on their favorite teams. The winning teams in the following categories were: recreational-PBA1, high school-Team Swag and advanced-Kaboom. Each winning team player was awarded a \$25 gift card, a volleyball and lunch.

The advanced and recreational teams also won court time in Metuchen.

The event raised \$3,000 which will be divided between the PBA and Middle School PTO.

Proceeds from the event will go toward scholarships for 2012 South Plainfield graduating seniors.

Adieu Mr. Caruso... You will be missed.



Louis Caruso, better known to South Plainfield Labor Day parade goes as Charlie Chaplin, passed away on January 22. He and his dog were regulars at the annual parade for more than 50 years. (Caruso is pictured above at the 2007 parade.) Mr. Caruso was 89. See page 9 for full obituary.

FROM OUR DOOR TO YOURS



The next borough wide issue will be delivered to every address in South Plainfield on March 23. Don't miss your chance to place your ad; deadline is March 2. Reserve early for best placement. Call 908-668-0010 to speak to an advertising sales representative.



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**
February 6
February 21**Public Meeting**
February 6
February 21

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**

Feb. 14, Feb. 28, March 13, March 27, April 10, April 24, May 8, May 22, June 12, June 26, July 10, July 23*, Aug. 14, Aug. 28, Sept. 11, Sept. 25, Oct. 9, Oct. 23, Nov. 13, Nov. 27, Dec. 11

zoning board of adjustment**Meets first and third Tuesdays of the month, *except where noted.****Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7641**

Feb. 7, March 6, March 20, April 3, April 17, May 1, May 15, June 5, June 19, July 3, July 17, Aug. 7, Aug. 21, Sept. 18, Oct. 2, Oct. 16, Nov. 20, Dec. 4, Dec. 18

board of education**Meets Wednesdays at Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave.****Committee of the Whole meetings (begin at 6:00 p.m.)**

Feb. 8, March 14 and April 4.

Regular Public Meeting (begin at 7:30 p.m.) except where noted*

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.**

Feb. 21, March 20, April 17, May 15, June 19, July & Aug.-No Meeting, Sept. 18, Oct. 16, Nov. 20, Dec. 18

library board of trustees**Meets once a month on the second Tuesday, at the library at 7 p.m.**

Feb. 15, March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, Aug. 14, Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec. 11

recreation commission**Meets once a month on the second Tuesday of the month, except July and August****PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7716**

Feb. 16 (Thursday), March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec. 11

taxpayers advisory group**The Taxpayers Advisory Group (TAG) meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at****Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave. at 7 p.m. Questions? 908-769-0786.****site plans sub-committee****Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m.**

Feb. 15, March 21, April 18, May 16, June 20, July 18, Aug. 15, Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 21, Dec. 19

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

Feb. 8, March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, Aug. 8, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 12, Jan. 9

business advisory group**Meets once a month (first Wednesday) Borough Hall Council Chambers, 5 p.m.****South Plainfield Observer**

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

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

SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLESWe encourage the submission of stories and photos. To have an article published: Type (double spaced) the article and mail, email or fax. Include name, address and telephone number. **Deadline for submission is Monday, 5 p.m.****LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

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

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

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

In My Opinion

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

To the Editor:

Boy Scouting in South Plainfield would like to thank the following who supported the Be-A-Scout Workshop: the *South Plainfield Observer*, VFW Post #6763, South Plainfield Library, Sherban's Diner, South Plainfield Elks, Holy Savior Academy, South Plainfield Polish Home, Grant School, and special thanks to Mayor Matt Anesh for his support.

It has been a real pleasure to work with everyone, and I look forward to doing so in the future as we promote the scouting movement.

If anyone would like more information about how to join boy scouts, or are looking for a troop, please email Jim at rvtroop125@aol.com or go to one of the troop meetings listed below: Troop 124-Mondays at Riley School, 7-8:30 p.m.; Troop 125-Mondays at VFW Post #6763, 7:30-8:45 p.m.; Troop 207-Thursdays at American Legion, 7:30-9 p.m.; and Troop 309-Mondays at Wesley Methodist Church 7:30-9 p.m.

**YOURS IN SCOUTING,
JIM DONELSON SM TROOP 125****Dear Editor,**

There were no flashing lights or red flags that let 4,000 women across this country know that cervical cancer was coming.

Most of these women—mothers, sisters, daughters, and aunts—felt no pain and lived normally unaware of the disease that in a matter of time would take their lives.

Most of these women—the majority of whom were under the age of 65—were survived by friends and family, neighbors and co-workers who loved them and miss their presence daily.

All of these women—casualties of an illness that is 100 percent preventable—should still be here today.

Although the ubiquitous pink ribbons we all see each October may be more prevalent than the teal and white emblems symbolizing cervical cancer awareness in January, we cannot ignore the fact that each year 12,000 women in the United States receive a life-changing diagnosis that they have the disease.

More than ever before, we have the resources to ensure that cervical cancer becomes a thing of the past. In addition to regular Pap smears that can lead to early detection and treatment of the disease, young women under the age of 26 may receive a vaccine against the human papillomavirus, or HPV, the most common cause of cervical cancer. Federal health care reform provisions effective this August will make these services more affordable and thus more accessible. It is critically important—and potentially life-saving—that every young woman meets with her doctor to discuss these preventative measures.

In the State of New Jersey, this is an important time to think about just how crucial funding for women's health centers really is. When Governor Christie cut \$7.5M of this support from the budget, he denied many women access to the examinations and care that help prevent and treat diseases that most affect them, including

cervical cancer. As a husband and the father of two beautiful young daughters, one would expect that the governor would acknowledge the gravity of this funding.

Just last year, a young woman from Marlboro, through strength and faith, was able to overcome cervical cancer. But her road to being cancer-free was not an easy one. After starting her first full time job, she went to the doctor for the first time in three years, a practice that had become irregular due to her lack of health insurance after graduating from college. Shortly after that visit, she was diagnosed with cervical cancer. She did not feel sick. She did not look sick. But it took a decade of chemotherapy, radiation and a hysterectomy—which left her infertile—for her to make a full recovery. She is just 35.

This is not a matter of our principles and personal beliefs; it's about memorializing the 4,000 women who died last year and honoring the young woman from Marlboro and other survivors by making sure that we learn, act, and move forward.

I urge you to join me in informing the women in your life—and those who love and depend on them—about the risk of cervical cancer this month and every month.

**SINCERELY,
SENATOR BARBARA BUONO****Dear Editor,**

At a recent borough council meeting, the financial reserve of the Board of Education was addressed. Council President Ray Rusnak and Borough Administrator Glenn Cullen, along with Frank Mikorski, analyst for the Senior Forum, had been informed by the Board of Education auditor that the BOE had an excess surplus

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.

of \$1,343,000. When the superintendent and the BOE administrator were questioned about this amount, they both denied any surplus. When they were shown a copy of the audit report, they were visibly embarrassed. When Council President Rusnak requested a fair amount of money to be given back to the borough, the request was denied.

A few weeks later, Mrs. Burns stated a roof in one of the schools was in need of repair. Was that before or after the audit was taken? How do they account for giving the head of Special Services a raise and then they justify it by changing her title? The people of South Plainfield have always been known to help their neighbors in need, but it appears that the board members don't see the foreclosures that are occurring, or the fact that people are selling their homes because of job losses. Our elderly are facing hardships of skyrocketing medical bills and are having a hard time paying their taxes. Nevertheless, the board does not want to give back money that belongs to the people to help counterbalance the situation. They feel that giving particular teachers inside raises is money well spent and not bothering to see that the town could obviously use the money to offset taxes. For example, the money

(Continued on page 10)

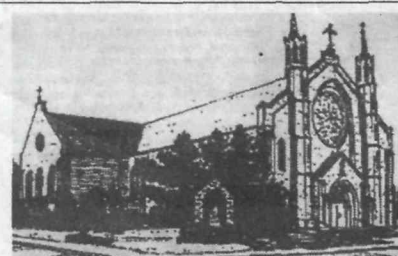
Sacred Heart Church149 South Plainfield Ave.
South Plainfield, NJRev. John Paul
Alvarado, Pastor**Mass Schedule:**

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

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

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

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

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

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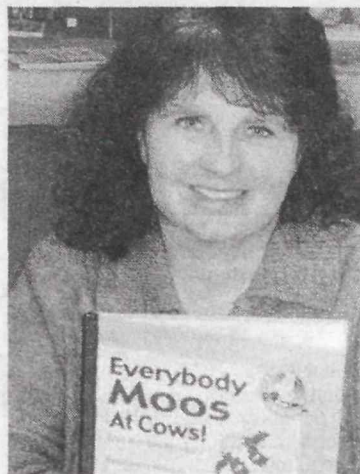
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Author Encourages Franklin School Students to Find Stories in Their Own Lives



Children's book author, Lisa Funari-Willever

By Libby Barsky

Lisa Funari-Willever is a masterful storyteller who weaves her experiences into wonderful rhyme patterns for the children's picture books she writes. When she talks to students she encourages them to find stories in their lives they can write about.

"The best part of writing is that when you write a story you can make anything up... You can be the boss of the story," she told the Franklin School kindergarteners during a recent visit. She went on to tell the children how she did it with her book *Chumpkin*.

Before reading *Chumpkin* to the students, she spoke about her experience as a girl negotiating with her father over the size of the pumpkin she wanted. The largest pumpkin was her choice. "No," her father said. "It's too heavy. It won't fit in the car." Her brother and sister always picked a small pumpkin and her father expected her to do the same.

Funari-Willever used this experience

and revised it a bit for *Chumpkin*, transforming the large pumpkin she had always wanted into a pumpkin that couldn't be purchased—not because it was too big to be sold—but because it wasn't for sale. Instead, it intended to be a surprise gift for the farmer's son. *Chumpkin* was written in 2001, and it became a favorite of former librarian Laura Bush, wife of President George W. Bush. During the Christmas season in 2003, Mrs. Bush decorated the White House with her favorite children's books, placing them in a sled along with some of her other favorites.

Although many of the authors of the books selected by Mrs. Bush are deceased, those living were invited to the White House, but an invitation never reached Funari-Willever. It was only when she saw her book on television in the sled being displayed as one of the White House Christmas decorations that she called the White House. She subsequently received an invitation to visit and tour the White House. Funari-Willever, her husband Todd and children Jessica and Patrick traveled to Washington, D.C. and were given a White House tour. They were not able to meet with Mrs. Bush because she had already returned to her home in Texas for the Christmas holiday.

Funari-Willever was eight years-old when she knew she wanted to be an author. She wrote two books that were published while she was still teaching, *The Culpit was a Fly* and *Miracle on Theodore's Street* which she wrote with her husband in 1997.

Funari-Willever wanted to donate a portion of the book's earnings to a children's charity and wanted to give her readers the opportunity to be published with their work (through a contest) in her book, but Funari-

Willever's publisher wasn't interested. So in 1999, as the mother of a three month old infant and pregnant with her third child, she started her own publishing enterprise, the Franklin Mason Press. There is no Mr. Mason. The company is named for the streets in Trenton where she and her husband grew up.

In 2009, two of her books won Ben Franklin awards, *A Glove of Their Own* for best picture book and *There's a Kid Under My Bed* as runner-up.

In 2003 she wrote *32 Dandelion Court*, a chapter book featuring a young boy who moves from Philadelphia to New Jersey. In the book, the main character, Nicky, learns about New Jersey. If the reader follows Nicky's trail, he can see a lot of what New Jersey has to offer. Since that first book, there are now six titles; the last two, *Nicky Fifth at the Jersey Shore* and *Nicky Fifth's New Jersey*, were published in 2011. The main characters in the book, Nicky and T-Bone, will soon be named New Jersey's official Junior Ambassadors by the State Legislature. The purpose of the books, said the author, is "to have families across New Jersey exploring the places Nicky and T-Bone visit and to create interest in the many historical and cultural locations in New Jersey. The fourth Nicky book, *Passport to the Garden State*, actually became a passport book where readers could go and get their books stamped. Now the passport is a planned part of every new book in the Nicky Fifth series.

Another project this busy author is working on is to recycle the books youngsters have outgrown and pass them on to children who don't have books of their own. She is partnering with the Trenton Library and others to promote this project.

Public Input Welcomed on Community Development Block Grant

A public hearing for the 2012 Community Development Block Grant will be held Monday, Feb. 6 at 6:45 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the municipal building.

The purpose of this hearing is to discuss projects to be considered for inclusion in the 2012 Community Development Block Grant application. Public input on this project as well as input on any other projects

will be entertained by the governing body at this time.

Further questions may be addressed to Councilman Robert Bengivenga, Jr., the council's representative to the Housing and Community Development Agency at (908) 966-1491; or Glenn Cullen, administrator/CFO at (908) 226-7602 or email to gcullen@southplainfieldnj.com.

FISDAC Signs Agreement to Adopt Helen and Coolidge Streets

Julia Sulu, elder of First Indonesian Seventh-Day Adventist Church (FISDAC), has signed an agreement with the South Plainfield Clean Business Association to adopt the length of Helen and Coolidge streets.

FISDAC rents space in St. Stephen's Lutheran Church at 3145 Park Ave. Service is an important part of their mission. The group had previously adopted a roadside in the New Brunswick area, and wanted to contribute to the community in which they are located as well. As many as 20 teens and adults will pick up litter monthly along this one mile stretch of roadside.

This new adoption is the most ambitious that any group has signed

on for in the borough's Adopt-A-Spot program. Picking up on both sides of the road means maintaining two miles of roadside. Helen and Coolidge streets run through an industrial area and are heavily traveled by trucks and cars. Coolidge Street, in particular, attracts illegal dumping, possibly because sections adjoin wooded lots.

The CBA is looking for adopters for similar roads such as New Brunswick Avenue and Tyler Place.

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


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events

Around Town

Super Bowl Bake Sale

February 4

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Orthodox Church, 400 Delmore Ave., will hold a Super Bowl bake sale on Saturday, Feb. 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Food items for sale include holubtsi, perogies, chili, soup and more.

For more information, call (908) 561-6366 or email nbvocperogi@gmail.com.

VFW Country Breakfast

February 5

The South Plainfield VFW will hold a country breakfast at 155 Front St. on Sunday, Feb. 5 from 8 until 11 a.m. The public is welcome.

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

American Legion Valentine's Breakfast

February 12

The American Legion Post #243, 243 Oak Tree Ave., will host a Valentine's breakfast on Sunday, Feb. 12 from 8 a.m. to noon. Homemade Valentine chocolate gifts will be sold.

Food served buffet style will include pancakes, French toast, ham, bacon, eggs, breakfast quiches, bagels, fruit and more. Cost: \$6 per person; \$3 for children under 12; children under six are free.

Sacred Heart Ministry To Present Concert

February 12

The Sacred Heart Music Ministry will perform "Another Night on Broadway" at Sacred Heart Church on Sunday, Feb. 12 at 3 p.m. The

Music Ministry is under the direction of Dan Mahoney, accompanied by Jack Bender. Music from such beloved musicals as *Peter Pan*, *The King and I*, *West Side Story* and *The Sound of Music* will be performed by members of the adult choir, children's choir and the youth handbell choir.

For more information, call Dan Mahoney at (908) 756-0633, ext. 139. A free will offering will be taken at the door.

Historical Society Meeting Notice

February 14

The South Plainfield Historical Society will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. at The History Center, Roosevelt Administration Building, lower level on the Jackson Avenue side.

Elks Beef 'N Beer Nite

February 17

The South Plainfield Elks will host a beef 'n beer night on Friday, Feb. 17 from 6 to 9 p.m. Hot roast beef sandwiches with your choice of sauteed onions and/or mushrooms and homemade salads. Hot sandwich and beer is \$10; sandwich only, \$6. Proceeds will benefit the Special Children's Committee which assists special needs children and defrays the cost of sending campers to Elks Camp Moore. Enjoy a hot sandwich and help a special needs child today.

VFW and Troop 125 Spaghetti Dinner

February 20

VFW Post #6763 and Boy Scout Troop 125 will hold a spaghetti dinner on Monday, Feb. 20 at the VFW hall upstairs. Cost per ticket is \$5. Buy a ticket at the VFW Post any time

after 3 p.m. or come Monday nights 6-7 p.m. and someone from the troop will be there to sell you tickets. Tickets will also be available at the door for the same price. Proceeds will go to the post for the upkeep of the building and the other half of the proceeds will go to the boy scout troop for their activities and program materials.

Sacred Heart Church Lenten Fish Dinners

February 24, March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 and Sacred Heart Church will once again sponsor the Lenten fish dinners on Fridays during Lent; February 24, March 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30. Dinners will be served from 5-7 p.m. in the Holy Savior Academy cafeteria (formerly Sacred Heart School), 149 South Plainfield Ave.

The menu will feature filet of fish (fried, broiled or parmesan), cheese ravioli, manicotti and linguini or pizza, fresh garden salad, rice pilaf, French fries or macaroni and cheese, cole slaw, coffee, tea, or cold drink, plus dessert.

Adults, \$9; seniors, \$8; children \$5. Pay at the door. Take out orders will also be available.

Stations of the Cross will be held in the church at 7 p.m.

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

February 25

American Legion Post #243, 243 Oak Tree Ave., will hold a spaghetti dinner fundraiser on Saturday, Feb. 25 from 3-6 p.m. Sponsored by JJ Gardner Detachment, Marine Corps League. Adults, \$8; seniors and children 12 and under, \$5.

For more information, call Bob Hatton at (908) 354-1640.

Cultural Arts Talent Show Tryouts

February 26, March 3

Got talent? The South Plainfield Cultural Arts fourth annual Talent Showcase tryouts will be held on Monday, Feb. 26 from 2-5 p.m. and Saturday, March 3 from 1-4 p.m. at Wesley Methodist Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave. All ages are welcome.

If you have any questions regarding the tryouts, email spcac.nj@gmail.com.

Woman's Club Sponsoring Plaza Suite

March 4

The Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield is sponsoring a performance of Neil Simon's, *Plaza Suite*, at Edison Valley Playhouse, 2196 Oak Tree Rd. in Edison, on Sunday, March 4 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20.

For tickets, call (908) 757-8360.

Blood Drive at OLC

March 16

Our Lady of Czestochowa Church is sponsoring a blood drive on Friday, March 16 from 3 to 7:30 p.m. in the parish hall. Donors must be 18 or older.

For more information, call Dawn at (908) 444-8994.

Franklin School PTO Auction/Raffle

March 24

The Franklin School PTO will hold its annual auction/raffle on Saturday, March 24. Proceeds will be used to fund several school programs.

If you are a business and would like to donate merchandise, a gift certificate or make a monetary donation, call Tara Rocco at (908) 668-1459.

SENIOR CENTER Calendar

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 9:30-11:30 am
Yoga 10:30 am
Art Class 11:30 am

TUESDAYS

Bingo 10 am-2 pm
Ladies Social 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

Senior Center is open daily 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays & Sundays.
(908) 754-1047

— Out of Town —

MCC Art Exhibit—Self: Scape

Through March 8

An art exhibition, "Self: Scape," will be held at the Middlesex County College Studio Theatre Gallery through March 8. The gallery is open weekdays, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Self: Scape is an exhibition that conceptually questions the metaphorical redefinition of the environment through the artist's perspective.

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Blackrose to Perform

February 4

Blackrose, a band performing classic rock and roll music and today's hits, will perform at Stagehouse Tavern located at 366 Park Ave. in Scotch Plains on Saturday, Feb. 4 at 10 p.m. No cover charge.

American Flyers Hosting Open House

February 4

American Flyers Flight School at Morristown Airport will host an open house and barbecue on Saturday, Feb. 4. The event kicks off at noon with complimentary lunch and continues with tours and a presentation by a certificated flight instructor. Attendees will be eligible to receive a certificate for two free hours of instruction in one of the flight simulators.

For more information, call (973) 267-3223 or visit www.americanflyers.net/about/aviation_seminars.asp.

Upscale Singles Dance Party

February 4

Steppin' Out Singles is hosting an upscale singles dance party on Saturday, Feb. 4 at 8 p.m. at the Woodbridge Hilton Grand Ballroom, 20 Wood Ave. South in Iselin. Ages 40 and up. Admission: \$17.

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

Sweetheart Valentine's Tea

February 8

Liberty Hall Museum at Kean University, 1003 Morris Ave. in Union, will host the Sweetheart Valentine's Tea on Wednesday, Feb. 8 from 2-4 p.m. Finger sandwiches, herbal teas

and dessert in the glass enclosed porch overlooking formal English gardens, picturesque even during the winter months. A guided tour of the museum accompanies the luncheon. Cost: \$40 per person.

Reservations are required by calling (908) 527-0400.

Valentine's Day Date Night at Kean

February 11

Liberty Hall Museum at Kean University, 1003 Morris Ave. in Union, will open its doors on Saturday, Feb. 11 from 6-10 p.m. for couples to share a unique evening. Wine and cheese will be served and a romantic movie will be shown during Valentine's Day Date Night. Cost: \$55 per couple.

Reservations are required by calling (908) 527-0400.

NJ Intergenerational Orchestra Concert

February 12

The New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra (NJIO) will present a free concert, "From Darkness to Light," on Sunday, Feb. 12 at 3 p.m. in Dolan Hall in the Annunciation Center of The College of Saint Elizabeth, 2 Convent Rd. in Morristown.

This concert is free and open to the public. Donations will be gratefully accepted. The College of Saint Elizabeth is handicap accessible, and large print programs are available.

For more information, visit www.njio.org, or email info@njio.org or call (908) 603-7691.

Mardi Gras at Willow Grove Church

February 12

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Rd. in Scotch Plains, will hold the sixth annual Mardi Gras Jazz Worship Service on Sunday, Feb. 12 at 10 a.m. A light brunch will follow the service. Reservations recommended by February 9.

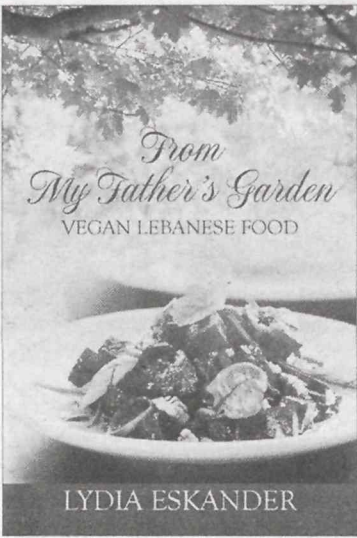
For reservations, call (908) 232-5678 or email office@willowgrovechurch.org.

South Plainfield Vegan Shares Life Changing Recipes in Her Book, *From My Father's Garden*

Author, cook and vegan Lydia Eskander announced the release of her book *From My Father's Garden, Vegan Lebanese Food*, published by Outskirts Press. After experiencing the health restoring potential of a vegan diet, Lydia Eskander recognized that her own native Lebanese cuisine—including virtually every dish from creamy rich hommos to tangy baba ghanouj—fit perfectly into the nutritious vegan diet.

After arriving in America in 1984 from her native Lebanon, the author found that new and unhealthy eating habits combined with the stress of her daily commute to Manhattan had begun to take a toll on her health. She began having severe pain in her joints, especially her wrists. After unsatisfactory treatment with anti-inflammatory drugs, the author ran across a prominent doctor who advocated an alternative, natural remedy.

She began taking flax seed oil and, to her great relief, her pain was soon gone. Then she learned of two people, one diagnosed with colon cancer, the



other with inoperable cancer, who both became cancer free after being put on a diet of raw vegetables and fruit. Lydia continued with a vegan diet herself and within months she had lost 15 pounds, had corrected a severe hormone imbalance and recovered from several other health issues.

Recognizing the similarity of these vegan diets with her own native Lebanese cuisine, she began compiling recipes that offered the succulent flavors of Lebanese dishes with the natural therapy of a vegan diet. Contrary to the belief of some, Lydia points out that one can get one's daily requirements of protein and calcium from vegetables and legumes.

The more than 70 recipes Lydia has compiled here—accompanied by some truly mouth watering color photography—will introduce diners to the delicious variety of Lebanese dishes. Authentic, simple and easy to prepare recipes for tabouli, fattoush, kibbeh, spinach pie and stuffed grape leaves are just some of the tantalizing dishes Lydia presents among the many appetizers, salads, main dishes and desserts this innovative new cookbook offers.

From My Father's Garden is available online in paperback through Amazon and Barnes and Noble and at www.outskirtspress.com/bookstore.

Smile: A New Local Pharmacy Making Customer Satisfaction the Priority

Smile Pharmacy, located at 1110 Hamilton Boulevard is open for business. Opening a hometown pharmacy has been the dream of owners Nya and Mo Patel for many years, and they have finally made it happen here in South Plainfield.

Mo is originally from New Jersey and Nya grew up in Boston. The couple met in Boston when Mo was completing his doctorate in pharmacy. They have been married for 10 years and are blessed with two very mischievous little boys who like to be referred to as Captain America and Batman.

Nya and Mo began planning opening the pharmacy last year. Nya had left her job to be home with the boys, and Mo, who for the past 15 years was working as the head pharmacist for a retail chain, was looking for a change. He felt that the focus was never on customer service, but on the amount of scripts that were filled each day.

Some of Smile Pharmacy's services include:

- Surgical supplies including braces, canes, supports and crutches;

- Free deliveries to your door;
- 24-hour emergency prescription service, which means that even in the middle of the night, an emergency prescription will be delivered to your door;

- Prescriptions are filled within 10 minutes or less;

- Keeping costs down for customers who don't have insurance, and beating the lowest price;

- Accepting e-prescriptions from doctors;

- Keep processing very simple for our customers. Transferring is easy. Just call the pharmacy or come by and they will deliver the scripts to your door every month.

On Saturdays, the pharmacy offers a brown bag service whereby customers can walk in with all their prescriptions and the pharmacist will provide a free consultation on all

drug interactions and possible side effects, etc.

Lastly, but most importantly, the focus of Smile Pharmacy will always be customer satisfaction. Mo left his job because this is his passion; he wanted to go to bed at night knowing he actually helped someone and didn't just fill a script and hand it to a technician to ring up. Customers can be assured that when they walk through the door, they will be serviced in a timely and courteous manner.

Smile Pharmacy is located at 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1A. Store hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. They are closed on Sundays.

To find out more about Smile Pharmacy, or for more information regarding your medications, stop by or call (908) 756-3232.

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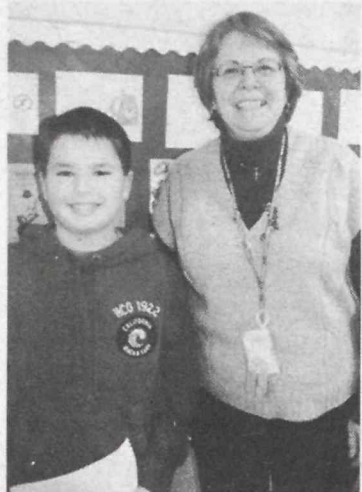
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Anthony Massaro Named Junior Journalist



Junior Journalist Anthony Massaro with teacher Cynthia Severino.

Anthony Massaro, Kennedy School fourth grade student, is this week's winner in the Junior Journalist program. His poem, "Babe's Called Shot," has earned him dinner for his 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.

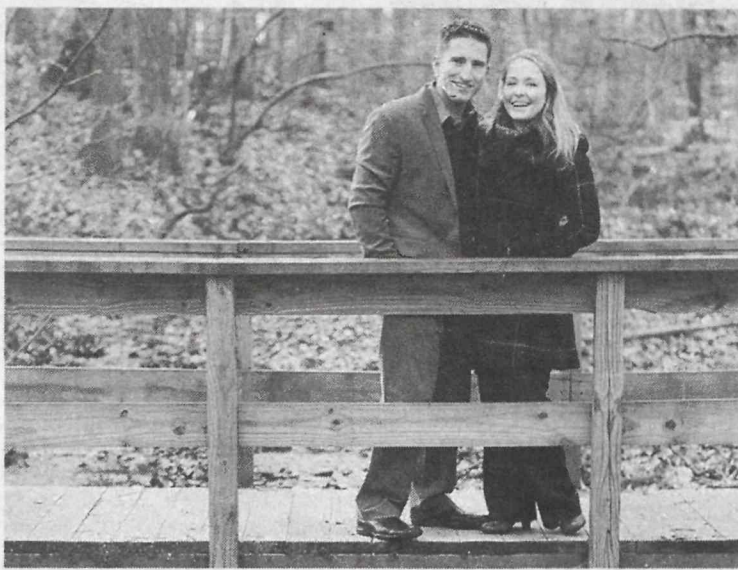
Babe's Called Shot

By Anthony Massaro

It's Game Three,
The 1932 World Series at Wrigley Field.
The count's 2-2 folks.
What's this?
Babe's pointing to right field!
Cub's, Charlie Root winds up,
Here's the pitch!
Babe swings.
It's a long drive into the stands.
I can't believe my eyes.
The impossible just became possible.

To this day nobody still knows if
Babe really called his shot.
It remains a mystery.

Celebrate South Plainfield! milestones



Alan Graziano and Danielle Kim Smith

Alan Graziano, Danielle Kim Smith to Wed

Mr. and Mrs. Alan and LeeAnn Graziano of South Plainfield announce the engagement of their son, Alan D. Graziano, to Danielle Kim Smith, daughter of Dorothy J. Smith formerly of Galloway, currently residing in Palm City, Fla.

The future bride graduated from Marymount Manhattan College in New York City with a bachelor of

arts degree. She is employed as an account manager at Total Health of Florham Park.

The future groom received a bachelor of science degree from Rutgers University. He is employed as a field supervisor at Jersey Tank Fabricators.

A September 2012 wedding is planned and the couple currently reside in Madison.

Students Named to TCNJ Dean's List

The following South Plainfield students have earned the esteemed honor of placement on the dean's list at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) for the Fall 2011 semester: Alyssa Aiello, James Seyffart, Anthony Simone,

Christopher Delaney, Rachel Smith, Ricardo Robles, Robert Harrington, Ryan Harrington, Megan Kaczka, Lauren O'Day, Daniel Sticco and Matthew Galinsky.

To achieve this honor, a student must carry 12 or more credits that semester and have a 3.5 grade point average or above.

Scavone Earns Degree From Delaware Valley College

Denise Scavone of South Plainfield graduated from Delaware Valley College in December. Delaware Valley College is a multi-disciplinary institution in Doylestown, Pa. that offers both undergraduate and graduate programs.

Deffler Named to Dean's List

Rebecca Deffler of South Plainfield has been placed on the Gettysburg College Dean's Commendation List for outstanding academic achievement for Fall 2011.

Students with a quality point average of 3.33 or higher for a semester's work are placed on the list.

Gettysburg College is a highly selective four-year residential college of liberal arts and sciences with a strong academic tradition that includes Rhodes Scholars and a Nobel laureate among its alumni.

Kelly Named to Dean's List

Stephanie Kelly of South Plainfield has been named to the dean's list of Rutgers University School of Environmental and Biological Sciences for the Fall Semester of 2011 with a GPA of 3.65. She is currently working to complete her bachelor of science degree with a double major in marine biology and environmental science.

Stephanie is the daughter of Brian and Linda Kelly of South Plainfield.

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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Ken Morgan

As we try to deal with the frankly wacky weather patterns of late as well as the onrushing course of 2012 (*it's February already!!*), here's news from South Plainfield Library.

We'll start off with a couple of upcoming schedule changes. First, the library will be closed on Monday, Feb. 13 for Lincoln's Birthday. Second, we'll also be closed on Monday, Feb. 20 for President's Day. In between those two, we've rescheduled our Library Board of Trustees meeting to Wednesday, Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. (The meeting will be held at the library, which will close early at 6 p.m. on February 15.) The public is invited to attend this meeting, which will include discussions of the library's current and future plans, including the hiring of a new library director. There will be a public comment time midway through the meeting, before new business is addressed.

Turning to the children's programming, we'll follow the usual schedule next week. Storytime, for children three and up, will be held Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday at 1:15 p.m. "Time for 2s & 3s" will be held Wednesday and Thursday at 10:30 a.m., and Babytime, for children two and under, will be held Friday at 10:30 a.m. Each program lasts about an hour and features stories, songs and a craft activity for older kids. For details, please call and ask for Miss Linda or Miss Mija.

We have some special kids stuff on the way. First, during the usual craft activities, children will be participating in our annual "Valentines for Vets" activity. They'll be able to make valentines which will then be sent to residents at the Menlo Park Veteran's Home in Edison. In addition, we'll have a special Kidcraft program on Monday, Feb. 6 at 6:30 p.m. Kids will make a special Valentine's Day decoration. The program is open

to children of all ages. Space is limited; pre-registration is required. There is a \$1 materials fee.

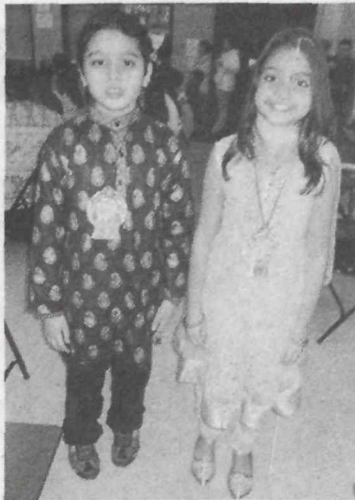
Finally, we'll be sponsoring "Magical Winter Wonderland," a program featuring author/illustrator/entertainer Bob Conrad on Wednesday, Feb. 22 at 6:30 p.m. It will be held at the senior center, just past the rescue squad building. The program is for children ages four and over, and they must be able to sit still. (Yeah, that's asking a whole lot, but let's give it a try.) Pre-registration is not required. In lieu of an admission fee, attendees should bring non-perishable food items for the Middlesex County Community Food Drive.

In addition to the usual Hollywood releases, we're adding some local interest DVDs to the collection. We have a disc featuring home movie (yes, *movie*, not video) footage of South Plainfield's 25th anniversary parade and picnic. (Be advised, the footage is split between black and white and color, and is silent.) We also have a disc of video footage taken during the library's recent repair efforts (shot and narrated by a staff member who dabbles in writing newspaper columns). We also have discs of the TV coverage of the Greater Middlesex Conference Wrestling Championships from 2008-2011 (featuring some great competition from SPHS). These last discs were donated by Piscataway Community TV. (Thanks very much, guys.) These discs are being processed and should be available soon. (And congratulations to the Tigers for another championship.)

That's about all for now. For more information, visit www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us, check us out on Facebook at www.facebook.com/southplainfieldlibrary or call us at (908) 754-7885.



Roosevelt School students dress in the clothing of various countries.



Roosevelt School fourth graders Vrushabh Shah and Nidhi Patel wear clothing that reflects their Indian heritage.

Joyous Program Celebrates Cultural Diversity

By Libby Barsky

Roosevelt School Students and their parents celebrated the diversity of the school community and the countries they represent during a special multicultural program featuring the universal language of music on January 27. All of the children in the school participated individually by wearing clothing representative of their family's country of origin.

Each grade learned songs which the entire class sang under the supervision of music teacher Sharon Perez. Kindergarten students memorized two songs from Africa. First graders rehearsed two songs from Australia. Third grade students learned songs from Europe, and songs from North and South America were mastered by fourth graders. Other staff members who helped present the program included teacher Mariela Hidalgo, student council advisor Margaret Mosley and school secretary Patricia Hajduk.

The art program for the month of January concentrated on projects such as drawing Australian animals that included kangaroos and koalas, and African masks that were displayed in the school lobby. During the month most classroom teachers coordinated regular subjects to include lessons relevant to the celebration program.

The program began as an evening PTA program 16 years ago, according to the multicultural program chairman, art teacher Glenda Posey. She suggested the idea of a multicultural celebration to then principal Mario Barbieri who named her program chair. Three years ago Principal Robert Diehl changed the celebration from an evening program to a daytime assembly program. The two

previous programs were held on the last day of January.

Despite Friday's dismal weather every space in the Roosevelt School parking lot was filled as were the side streets near the school. The school was packed with proud parents, grandparents and friends. In addition, Board of Education Vice President Debbie Boyle and Curriculum Coordinator Paul Rafalowski were in attendance.

"I believe this is the largest audience we've had," commented Posey.

"They (the students) did better than I thought they would!" commented Spanish teacher Paula Rendon, who had only eight days to teach students the dances coordinated to the songs.

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<div>\$65</div> <div>Eyelash Extension</div> <div>With coupon only. Not to be combined with any offer or gift certificate. Expires 2/31/2012</div>	<div>New Customer Special (Any service)</div> <div>With coupon only. Not to be combined with any offer or gift certificate. Expires 2/31/2012</div>	<div>50% OFF</div>

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LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD,
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

January 27, 2012

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on January 26, 2012.

A. Case #60-06-Mardee, Inc. Block 445; Lot 10.06; M-3 Zone. 242 St. Nicholas Avenue. The applicant's request for a parking variance and preliminary and final site plan approval was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

B. Case #3-11-Lyndsey Development Corp. Block 264; Lot 14; HDD Zone. 156 Hamilton Blvd. The applicant's request for a use variance to allow the first floor of the building to be used for residential purposes was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

C. Case #37-11-Vivek Patel. Block 282; Lot 51.06; R-10 Zone. 10 Trista's Way. The applicant's request for a front yard setback variance in order to erect an addition was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

D. A resolution was adopted approving a professional-services contract appointing Renato Birbin, Esq. to the position of conflict attorney to advise the Board on Application #61-05, Scott Delvecchio/New Image Landscaping and to provide legal services for the duration of said application at a rate of \$135 per hour. The resolution and contract are available in the office of the municipal clerk, Monday-Friday, 8 am-4 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Beth Khidre
Secretary-Zoning Board of Adjustment

\$35.12 February 3, 2012

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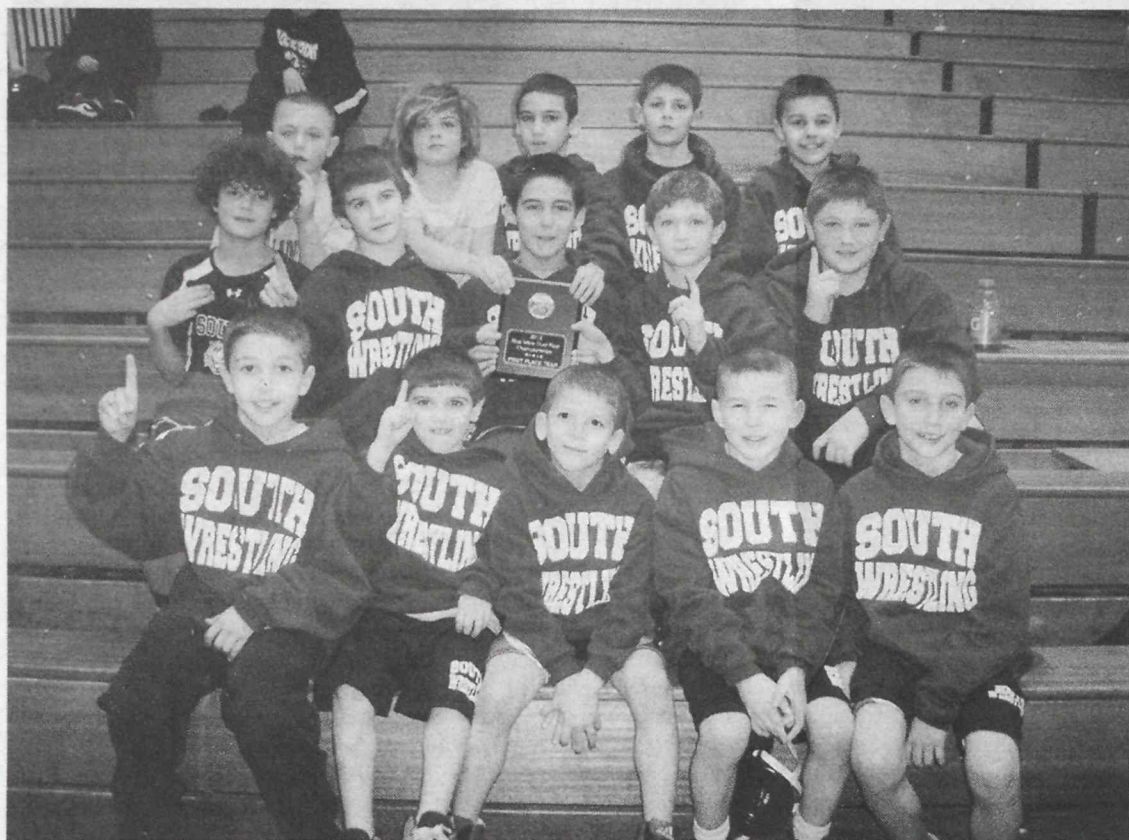
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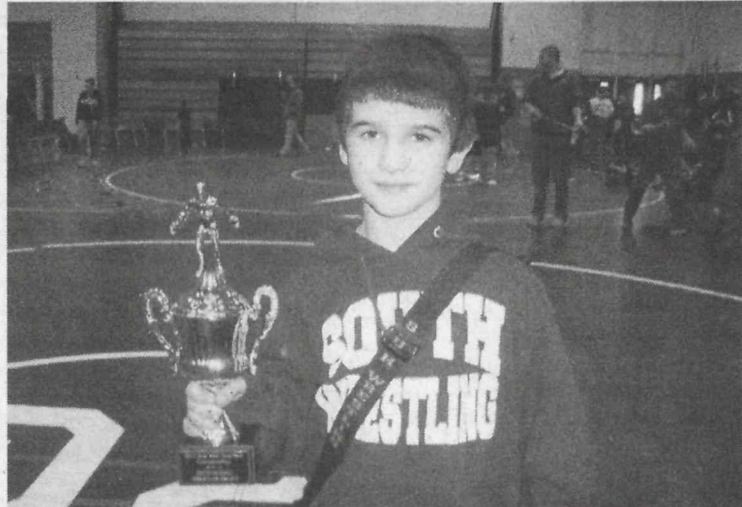
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s p o r t s



South Plainfield wrestlers capture team title at the Blue Wave Invitational Duals Tournament held in East Northport, N.Y. The young Tigers compiled a perfect 5-0 record, scoring wins over Wantagh, 46-18; Massapequa, 61-14; Rocky Point, 41-30; Long Beach Gladiators, 65-11; and host team Blue Wave, 42-23. Pictured for the Tigers are: (first row) David Loniewski, Jake DelVecchio, JJ Giordano, Anthony White and Jack Campagna; (second row) Chris Bollettino, Joe Heilmann, Mikey Marrero, Joe Sacco and Zach DelVecchio; (back row) Luke Niemeyer, Ryan Bollettino, Tommy Fierro, Alex Amato and Brenden Hedden.



South Plainfield team captain Joe Heilmann wins the Outstanding Wrestler award at the Blue Wave Invitational Duals Tournament. Joe went 5-0 on the day with three pins and decisions over two top New York wrestlers.

Youth Wrestlers Qualify For State Tournament

South Plainfield youth wrestlers continue their winning ways qualifying for their respective youth state tournaments coming up in early March. At last weekend's Randolph qualifier, finishing in first place were Anthony White, Tommy Fierro, Luke Niemeyer and Johnnie Padovano, while third place finishes went to Jake

Giordano and Kyle Bythell.

At the Union qualifier, South Plainfield had similar results with Dan Hedden taking home the gold, CJ Maszczak with the silver and Nick DiFrancesco with the bronze.

Come watch the rec wrestlers take on East Brunswick, Clark and Union at the PAL on Saturday at 9 a.m.

Teams Sought for Freeholders Annual Youth Basketball Tournament

Middlesex County Office of Parks & Recreation is seeking teams for the annual Board of Chosen Freeholders' Basketball Tournament which starts in early March. This year's single game elimination tournament will be held at Middlesex County Vocational-

Technical School, 21 Suttons Lane in Piscataway.

The tournament will consist of four divisions: Youth Division #1: boys and girls ages 10 and under; Youth Division #2: boys and girls ages 12 and under; Youth Division #3: boys and girls ages

13 and 14; and Youth Division #4: boys and girls ages 15 to 17. Age cutoff is October 31.

Teams must have a minimum of five, but no more than 20, participants. Registration, a \$75 per team entry fee and rosters are due by February 17.

Space is limited, and registration is accepted on a first come, first served basis. Checks should be made payable to: Treasurer, Middlesex County and should be sent to: Middlesex County Parks & Recreation Department, P.O. Box 661, New Brunswick, N.J. 08903; Attn: Erin Drakoulis.

For more information, please call

Drakoulis at (732) 745-4222 between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. or email her at erin.carroll@co.middlesex.nj.us.

Please note: Rosters and birth certificates for all players must be carried by each coach for verification before the first game and for subsequent games if requested.

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WEEKLY SPORTS SCHEDULE
South Plainfield High School

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

3:45pm B Fr Basketball-Edison (A) Bus 2:30
7pm B V Basketball-JV/5:15 Bus 3:45

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

9am G V Bowling-St Trn @Carolier Bus 8am
12pm V Swimming-GMC @Rutgers (A) Bus 11am
V Comp Cheering-David Brearly (A) Bus TBA

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

3:45pm G Fr Basketball-Scotch Plains (A) Bus 2:30
3:45pm B Fr Basketball-Edison (H)
7pm G V Basketball-Colonia JV/5:15 Bus 3:45
7pm B V Basketball-Edison (H) JV/5:15

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

V Wrestling-St Sectionals (H)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

3:45pm G Fr Basketball-New Brunswick (A) Bus 2:30
3:45pm B Fr Basketball-New Brunswick (H)
7pm G V Basketball-New Brunswick JV/5:15 Bus 3:45
7pm B V Basketball-New Brunswick (H) JV/5:15

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10

V Wrestling-St Sectionals (H)

BY GARY LAMPASONA

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB

Registration for the Spring Season: Please make it a point to register. We have completed all our planned spring registration for this year; however, it's not too late to register. Just download the registration form from our website, www.leaguelineup.com/SPJBC, fill it out and mail it along with your check to the address on the form. If you have any questions, please contact a board member or call the clubhouse at (908) 754-2090.

2012 Sign Sponsor: Interested in having your business advertised on one of our fields? Fill out a sign sponsor form and get your sign on a field. Go to the "Handouts" section and download the form with the required payment. Thanks to all who have supported this program over the years.

Umpire Classes to Begin Soon: Anyone of middle school age and older can umpire in the spring. All first and second year umpires must take the class to be able to umpire. Parents, you can umpire also and make a few extra bucks. Classes are held on the following dates: February 14, 16, 21, 23 and 28 at 6:30 p.m.; and March 3 at 9 a.m. All classes are held in the clubhouse. Please call the clubhouse if you have any questions.

2012 Calendar of Events: The 2012 Calendar of Events is available in the "Handouts" section on the website. If you are looking for a special date you can find it there.

General Monthly Meeting: Our next monthly meeting will be held on Monday, Feb. 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the clubhouse. All parents that have kids playing in the 2011 season are welcomed to our monthly meeting. Come on out and see what is going on!

Ruby Tuesday Fundraiser: Enjoy a good meal and help a baseball

player. Every Wednesday in February, Ruby Tuesday on Stelton Road will donate a portion of the check toward the SPJBC. Just download the flyer from the "Handouts" section of our website and present it to your server. Good food, good cause.

Women's Auxiliary: Our Women's Auxiliary has made major contributions to the baseball youth of South Plainfield over the years. We are experiencing a time of transition where most of the members have moved on as their children have grown older. We thank them for all their hard work. Now, though, is the time for renewal. All moms interested in working and having fun to help the baseball youth of South Plainfield, please call the clubhouse at (908) 754-2090 and speak with Commissioner Mike Pellegrino. We welcome your participation.

"I don't love baseball. I don't love most of today's players. I don't love the owners. I do love, however, the baseball that is in the heads of baseball fans. I love the dreams of glory of 10-year-olds, the reminiscences of 70-year-olds."

~Stan Isaacs, "Diamond-Studded Memories," *Newsday*



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Kathleen L. Dobozinski, 58

Kathleen L. Dobozinski passed away on Thursday, Jan. 26 at home after a long and courageous battle against ALS.

Born in Plainfield, she was raised and had resided in South Plainfield for most of her life.

Kathy was always a loving and caring person who embraced everyone she came in contact with. Her love and desire of various cultures and ethnicity led to a lifelong career as the owner and operator of "Phoenix," a retail boutique currently located in Beach Haven. Prior to Beach Haven, Phoenix was located at the very popular (now closed) US #1 Flea Market in Edison for over 21 years where she specialized in various and eclectic items for everyone. Her love for New Jersey and the Jersey Shore left no doubt that she was a true Jersey Girl.

Her generosity grew over the years and had a lasting effect on many. Kathy also loved animals, was a rescuer of wild and unwanted animals, and was new to beekeeping. She was also a wild mushroom hunter, a skill from European decedents that was taught to her by father and grandfather which she in turn has passed on. In addition, Kathy had provided care to her parents, Louis and Theodora, until their passing.

She is predeceased by two sisters, Nancy Dobozinski and Antoinette Banul; and by an uncle, Joseph.

Kathy leaves behind with a very heavy heart her longtime companion, love and caregiver, Michael Peler; a beloved friend, James Aquino; a sister, Veronica "Ronnie" Dobozinski; a niece, Laura Amirr; a great-nephew, Kenny; a brother-in-law, Kenneth Banul; and a host of many whom she knew.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations have been requested in her memory to the Heifer Project International, www.heifer.org.

Louis A. Caruso, 89

Louis A. Caruso passed away on Sunday, Jan. 22 at his home.

Mr. Caruso was a lifelong resident of North Plainfield.

He was a WWII veteran, having served in the Navy from 1942 to 1946, and was a radio communications specialist during many flights

over the Mediterranean and North Africa. He spearheaded the effort to erect a monument to those residents from North Plainfield who served in WWII, helping to raise over \$20,000 for the monument which now stands at the public library. He was an active member of the VFW Storr-Richie Post #506 and was a past commander and adjutant.

Mr. Caruso was the owner and operator of Caruso Photography Studio, founded in 1947. He specialized in bridal photography, taking photos at more than 4,000 weddings. He was also a member of the Professional Photographers Association of New Jersey. He collected photos he took of every President of the United States, beginning with Harry S. Truman to Barack Obama.

Mr. Caruso was seen each year in the North Plainfield and Plainfield Fourth of July parades, the South Plainfield Labor Day Parade and the Somerville and New York City St. Patrick's Day parades, where he marched dressed as his childhood idol, Charlie Chaplin.

Mr. Caruso was predeceased by two sisters, Mary Caruso Raider and Camille Caruso Corona; and by three brothers, Albert, Michael and Mario.

He is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 63 years, Rosemary Caruso (Dooley); four sons, Thomas of Long Valley, Robert and wife Josie of Somerset, Louis and wife Judy of Dayton, Ohio and Kevin and wife Christy of North Plainfield; a brother, Frank and wife Dolores; seven grandchildren, Robert, Roseann, Gina, Rachel, Dana, Joseph and Nicole; a great-grandson, Cameron Caruso; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at the Scarpa Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in Mr. Caruso's name to St. Joseph's Church in North Plainfield, the North Plainfield Rescue Squad or the VFW Storr-Richie Post #506.



Kathleen Dobozinski

Anna M. (Caroccia) Formica, 85

Anna M. (Caroccia) Formica died on Sunday, Jan. 22 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

Born and raised in South Plainfield, Anna resided in the borough for the majority of her life prior to relocating to Monroe in 2009.

Mrs. Formica worked as key punch operator group leader for Mack Trucks in Somerville.

She loved collectibles, traveling with her husband Willie, and she absolutely adored shoes, dressing up and entertaining family and friends.

In addition, Anna was a very special aunt to her several loving nieces, nephews and cousins.

Surviving is her beloved husband, William; a sister, Jean Fantazir of Bridgewater; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the St. Jude's Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Way, Memphis, Tenn. 38105.

Robert W. Dallas, 68

Robert W. Dallas died on Monday, Jan. 23 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

Born in New Brunswick, Bobby was raised in South Plainfield and settled in Piscataway in 1969.

Bobby worked for the former Ferro Corp. in South Plainfield for several years prior to his retirement.

He is predeceased by a brother, Louis.

Surviving are his wife, Catherine (Patti) Dallas; a daughter, Danielle Gonzalez and husband Gregory of Hillsborough; a son, Bobby Dallas of Piscataway; and two grandchildren, Isabella and Justin Gonzalez.

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

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It's a Winner!

Debbie and Charlie Kurland of Hometown Heros delivers dinner to Junior Journalist winner Samar Abdullah pictured with his parents Abdul and Monique, grandmother Marion, cousin Addae and aunt Jamillah.



Charter members (L-R): Migdalia Antoniazzi, Emma Russell, Dolores Wehner, Kathy Tracy, Virginia Palmer, Nancy Stillman-Pender and Deborah Vokral with Sister Nadine Boyle (far left), Sister Kathleen Rooney (third from left) and the Rev. John Paul Alvarado of Sacred Heart Church.



President JoAnn Martin with State Council of Columbiettes President Susan Kadar.

15 Years and Going Strong

(Continued from page 1)

gifts, food and money. The group has sponsored speakers (open to the public) on topics such as insurance fraud, self-defense and burglary/theft protection.

For many years, the Columbiettes have cooked for and served at St. Mary's Soup Kitchen in Plainfield with brother Knights joining them in recent years. They have also served at dinners the Knights have hosted at the Knights of Columbus Hall.

Area children have been treated to the annual Easter Bunny brunch and Halloween party, the latter in conjunction with the Knights. The women have hosted bus trips to Christmas shows in Connecticut and shopping trips to the Vanity Fair Outlets in Reading, Pa.

All these things have been accomplished through dedicated fundraising, such as the yearly tricky tray auctions in the earlier years and, more recently, fashion shows. The group ran a successful cookbook sale last year, with recipes donated by members, friends, families and the community. Angel pins, raffle tickets and magnets, among others, have been sold, with profits returned to the State Council for its work.

Among the 45 who attended the

luncheon at Adelines were Migdalia Antoniazzi, Virginia Palmer, Nancy Stillman Pender, Emma Russell, Kathy Tracy, Deborah Vokral and Dolores Wehner, original charter members. Two other charter members, Linda Susan Gitto and Catherine Hulley, were ill and unable to attend.

Opening remarks were offered by current president JoAnn Martin, who presented the charter members in attendance with photo albums depicting activities over the past 15 years. She encouraged members to sing *A First Anniversary Song*, which was penned by the first Grand Knight, Al Musmanno.

Martin then introduced Kadar, who called the group "a vibrant auxiliary" and said they "were off to a good start these 15 years."

Stillman-Pender, treasurer and co-chairman of the luncheon, spoke of what it meant to be a Columbiette, and praised deceased sisters Mary Ann and Helen Tennebaum for their work in getting the group formed in just two short months. She cited deceased charter members Rita Riccardo, Barbara Nelson, Alma Kenney and Ann Baker, for their dedication during the group's formative years.

The co-chairman thanked Russell for 15 years of work as chairman of the Sunshine Committee, never once having missed sending a birthday or get well card to members.

Palmer was cited for her continuous work on Catholic Action and Vokral for Right to Life. Closing remarks were made by Scrudato, who congratulated the group on its anniversary. "I love being Grand Knight and the Columbiettes have been with us every step of the way."

If anyone is interested in becoming a member, contact Kathy Tracy, membership chairman, at (908) 756-3772.

The auxiliary is in the process of forming the Squirettes, a group of girls age 12 to 17 who would hold independent activities as well as assist the Columbiettes at some of their functions. If interested, call Christine Lee at (908) 822-2717, cell (908) 462-4073, or Myrna Morales at (908) 548-0858. An informational open house for the Squirettes will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 334 Hamilton Blvd., on Wednesday, March 7 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., prior to the Columbiettes' regularly scheduled monthly meeting.

NJ Band The Ugly Club Asks Fans to "Be Our Record Label"

Ryan Egan and his band, The Ugly Club, are full time do-it-yourself (DIY) musicians living in New Jersey. But being DIY means you must spend some time being a salesman as well. The Ugly Club is doing just that with a Kickstarter campaign that started February 1 and will run for 30 days, allowing fans to help fund the release of their upcoming full-length record.

The two-year-old website, Kickstarter, is an online fundraising platform that allows artists to set a monetary goal for fans to reach and help bring their creative project to fruition. With so many musicians embracing the independent career path, Kickstarter is a groundbreaking website for the sustainability of indie art. In 2011 alone, the site helped indie musicians raise nearly \$20,000,000.

Egan, singer/songwriter of The Ugly Club, says, "With this campaign we're basically asking our fan base to become our record label. We don't have any financial support from a

label or production company, and this is such a sweet way to team up with the people who care about us and make our music possible." The band has been tirelessly recording the new album since the fall at Soundwaves Studios in Union and are anxious to release it to the public.

"We have tons of new songs and a lot to give and are just really looking forward to putting this record out," Egan says. "We are hoping that this album encompasses New Jersey for our generation and can be regarded highly on the list of our state's best musical contributions."

The campaign will be online at Kickstarter.com for all of February, and anyone can help out. The band has sent out creative and somewhat humorous gifts as incentives for fans to give and pre-order the album.

Follow The Ugly Club on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube to stay up to date on music, video and tour dates.

In My Opinion

(Continued from page 2)

spent on raises could have been used to offset the cost of the new equipment just purchased for the fire department and the rescue squad.

Another subject of interest was raised with the board's transportation supervisor. The borough wants to have all the school buses stored and repaired by borough auto mechanics. At the present time, the board sends the buses for repairs to a mechanic in Metuchen. Why pay an out of town mechanic to fix the buses when we have our own mechanics who could do the job? The supervisor was outraged by this request and refused to comply.

The BOE administrator, superintendent and transportation supervisor reside in other towns. Why do they have control of how we spend or save our taxpayers' money? Do we really need these types of people, who deny having surplus money, give raises by changing someone's title with no extra work involved and won't share services by having their buses fixed by the borough mechanic? I feel the BOE is out of control and hiding behind state laws that are antiquated. The people of South Plainfield should not forget when election time comes around in November that these board members need to be voted out!

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ROOFING

Play It Forward Coffeehouse Set for February 18

Almost Famous Players will present a Play It Forward Coffeehouse for Zach Szala, nephew of South Plainfield residents Barbara Drumgould and the Schaefer Family. Zach was bitten by a rattlesnake during a family outing; his medical expenses are excessive and the family has no medical insurance.

The coffeehouse is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 18 at the Senior Center from 7 to 11 p.m. Tickets are \$6; children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Emcee for the evening is Barbara Habeeb, vocal teacher from Kennedy School. Performers include Cory Singer, Lory Jackson, Ryan Miller, Chris Abbott, Broken By Chance, Lainie Harris, Rusty Teller, Eric and Karen Seiz, and others.

A variety of refreshments will be available for purchase. There will be a raffle with many wonderful prizes.

Area businesses have been very generous. Some of the prizes available include gift certificates from Flanagan's Restaurant, Hometown Heros, Pizza Stop, wine basket from Buy Rite, Harvest Market, Carmen's Trattoria, Jill Pavel's One Step Body,

half hour guitar lesson with Eric Seiz, lottery basket, swimming pool service, informal portraits and more. The raffle will be held in the lobby of the senior center and will be open to those who cannot attend the show. Raffle tickets are \$1 each or 13 for \$10. Anyone purchasing \$20 in raffle tickets will receive a free ticket to the performance. To volunteer or donate gifts to the raffle, email angelonly@aol.com or call (908) 346-2290.

It is irrelevant that this child does not live in South Plainfield, he is a child in need and AFP believes in "pay it forward," so come out and enjoy a fun evening and support this child and his family.

The AFP Play It Forward coffeehouse for Zach Szala is in need of more performers. We need several more bands and vocalists due to cancellations. We are also in need of paper goods and volunteers to help with the concession and raffle. We are also in need of a few more gift baskets or certificates. To volunteer or donate items for this worthy cause, please call (908) 346-2290.

Middlesex County College Offering Classes Starting Feb. 13

You can still attend college this spring. Spring II, a special concentrated semester, is being offered at Middlesex County College in areas such as psychology, science, math and social sciences. Most of the classes run from February 13 through May 8.

Courses offered include criminal justice, government and politics, public speaking, tennis, golf, psychology, intercultural communication, dimensions of prejudice, genocide and the Holocaust and English composition.

For a complete list and more information, visit www.middlesexcc.edu.

The college's main campus is at 2600 Woodbridge Ave. in Edison and there are two outreach locations: the New Brunswick Center, 140 New St. (at the intersection of New Street and Joyce Kilmer Avenue), and the Perth Amboy Center, which is at 60 Washington St.

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Peninnah Schram, internationally known storyteller

Congregation Beth Israel to Host Scholar-in-Residence Weekend

Congregation Beth Israel in Scotch Plains will hold a Scholar-In-Residence weekend featuring Peninnah Schram, internationally known storyteller, Friday through Sunday, Feb. 10-12. The program is free and open to the community, with a dessert reception Friday evening and a luncheon on Saturday.

Schram, professor of speech and drama at Stern College of Yeshiva University, is a storyteller, teacher, author and recording artist. She is the author of 10 books of Jewish folktales. The Scholar-in-Residence Weekend begins with services Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. During services, Schram will tell "Sacred Stories for Shabbat." The audience will also have the opportunity to interweave singing with some of the stories. A dessert reception will follow services.

Saturday's presentation, "On Eagles' Wings," will take place during Shabbat morning services, February 11, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Through her storytelling, Schram will explore that week's Torah portion, which includes

the dramatic giving of The Ten Commandments. A luncheon will follow.

Schram will present "Jewish Stories One Generation Tells Another" during Saturday's lunch at 12:30 p.m. Her tales will draw upon Jewish sources as well as world folklore.

On February 12 at 9:30 a.m., Schram will present, "Humor and Hokhama With a Detour Through Chelm," a participatory storytelling experience for all ages. She will tell folktales filled with humor and *hokhama* (wisdom), including stories about the legendary fools of Chelm. Sunday's program is designed to be intergenerational so that children, parents and grandparents can enjoy it together.

"We are really excited to be able to bring such a renowned Jewish educator and storyteller to our community," said Elly Bauman, director of education at Congregation Beth Israel.

For more information, call the synagogue office at (908) 889-1830. Congregation Beth Israel is located at 18 Shalom Way in Scotch Plains.

Got Talent? Try Out for Showcase

Got talent? The South Plainfield Cultural Arts fourth annual Talent Showcase tryouts will be held on Monday, Feb. 26 from 2-5 p.m. and Saturday, March 3 from 1-4 p.m. at Wesley Methodist Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave. All ages are welcome.

If you have any questions regarding the tryouts, please contact us by sending an email to spcac.nj@gmail.com.

Parks and Rec Sponsoring Canada Trip

South Plainfield Parks and Rec is sponsoring a five day/four night trip to Montreal and Quebec City from June 25 through 29. Cost of the trip is \$599 per person.

The package includes: four nights accommodations including two nights in Montreal and two nights in Quebec; four breakfasts and three dinners; a visit to "Casino de Montreal" including a \$10 dinner credit and a \$10 gaming credit; a city tour of Montreal including Old Montreal, Notre Dame, Bonsecours Market, Olympic Park and Old Port; tours of St. Joseph's Oratory, Notre Dame Cathedral and Quebec City; visit to the Old City of Quebec and Ste. Anne de Beaupre; and a view of Montmorency Falls, a cascade higher than Niagara Falls.

Included in the price is motor coach transportation, baggage handling, hotel taxes and meal gratuities.

A valid U.S. Passport or U.S. Passport Card is required for all U.S. citizens travelling to Canada. For more information, visit the U.S. State Department website at www.travel.state.gov or call (202) 647-4000.

For info or to make reservations, call Michael English at (908) 755-1282.

BOE Audit Shows \$3.9M in Surplus

(Continued from page 1)
when Olobardi was permanently hired for the position.

The audit also showed that the board received \$39,438,003 in tax levy from the borough, which is the custodian of tax monies. The borough is obligated by law to pay the BOE the amount of the approved tax levy regardless of whether or not the town receives sufficient tax revenue to cover the expenditure. Any loss of revenue, either through tax appeals or property owners who fail to pay their property or sewer taxes, must be absorbed into the borough's budget, according to CFO Glenn Cullen. The borough holds a yearly tax sale in an effort to recoup some of the losses. The sale is open to the public.

The board received a total of more than \$12M in state and federal funding during the 2010/2011 fiscal year despite Governor Chris Christie slashing local school aid to \$7M—a 27.8% cut—when he took office in 2010. In the 2008/2009 school budget, the board accumulated a \$7.2M surplus of which Christie ordered that \$1.6M of excess surplus and reserves be deducted from the aid they were to receive from the state in the 2009/2010 year.

The BOE spent \$1,093,431 for



Veterinarian Dr. Scott Linick examines Belle and discusses dental health with owner Brenda Hrutkay at Plainfield Animal Hospital Pet Dental Fair.

Animal Hospital Fair Promotes Dental Wellness for Pets

More than 85 pets, accompanied by their owners, were examined by veterinarians Dr. Scott Linick, Dr. Tania Otero, Dr. Anthony Loomis and Dr. Lori Boyce during Plainfield Animal Hospital's 14th annual Pet Dental Fair held last Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. The fair also introduced visitors to the excellent care the hospital offers.

Cats and dogs mingled in the hospital lobby area while their owners filled out registration forms and awaited the opportunity to meet with a vet. Pet owners received gift bags containing valuable dental information, can covers, dental DVDs and more. They also had the chance to participate in a raffle for a dog or cat basket filled with food and other goodies, and also enjoy refreshments and beverages.

Pet exams included a thorough evaluation of the teeth and oral cavity along with recommendations for appropriate professional service and home care to help the pet achieve or maintain good oral health.

The fair included demonstrations on proper home care and tooth brush-

ing, popular home care products and the importance of dental x-rays. Visitors also had the opportunity to tour the entire hospital.

This year's event, which was advertised in newspapers and on Facebook, experienced nearly double the turnout as in previous years.

Plainfield Animal Hospital owner Dr. Scott Linick said, "The event was a tremendous success. Educating pet owners about the importance of dental health helps their pets live longer, happier and healthier lives. This is our most important mission at the Plainfield Animal Hospital."

Plainfield Animal Hospital has been providing state-of-the-art veterinary medical, surgical and dental care to pets in the Plainfields and Central New Jersey since 1952. They offer veterinary care for dogs and cats and exotic pet species including birds, ferrets, rabbits, reptiles and small mammals. The hospital's web site states, "At Plainfield Animal Hospital, we know how much your pet means to you. We treat each pet as if it were our own."

police report

- On Jan. 14 Jamaal Stanford Thorpe, 32, of South Plainfield was arrested for eluding a police officer, reckless driving, failure to yield to an emergency vehicle, driving on a suspended license and failure to stop.

- A Somerset resident reported the theft of their Apple iPhone from the bar at Liquid Assets.

- On Jan. 20 Gary Raymond Roscoe, 39, of Dunellen was arrested for possession of a controlled substance.

- On Jan. 21 Bryant S. Draper, 23, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated and care-

less driving.

- On Jan. 22 Darren D. Daniels, 43, of Plainfield was arrested at CVS on Plainfield Avenue for shoplifting assorted merchandise worth \$332 and two outstanding warrants.

- Raphael Lopez, 42, of South Plainfield was arrested for possession of a controlled substance, failure to observe a signal and possession of a controlled substance in a motor vehicle.

- On Jan. 24 Ketki Mihir Shah, 35, of Piscataway was arrested at Kohl's for shoplifting jewelry worth \$13.

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