

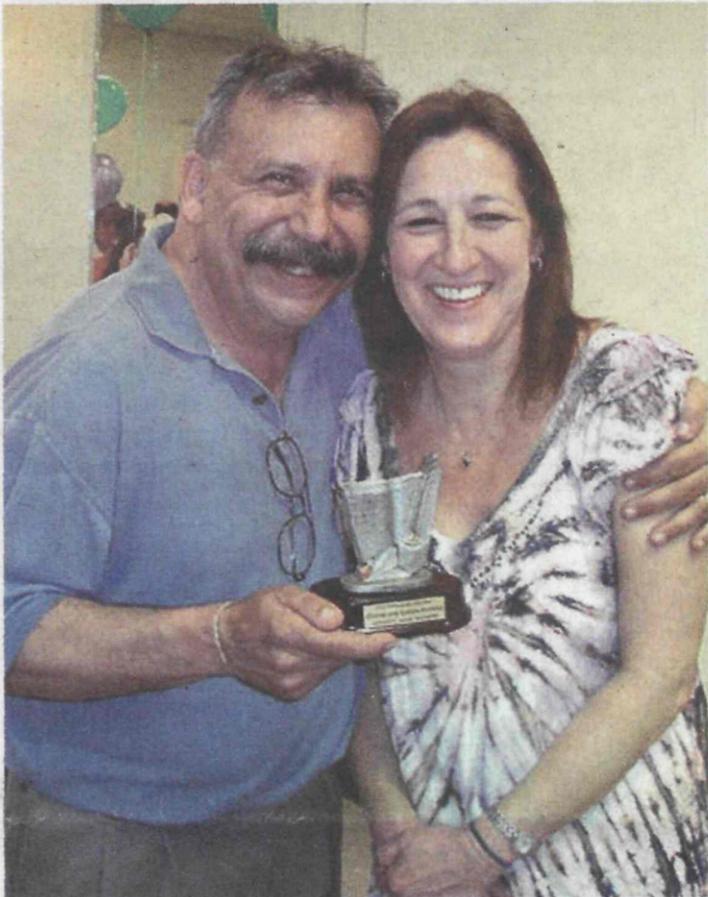
# South Plainfield OBSERVER

VOL. 15, NO. 24

Member New Jersey Press Association

60 CENTS

FEBRUARY 17, 2012



Hometown Heros owners Charlie and Debbie Kurland at the 2011 Junior Journalist banquet.

## Kurlands Celebrate Decade of Serving Fresh, Friendly Fare

By Jane Dornick

Hometown Heros, located at 340 Hamilton Blvd. near New Market Avenue, celebrated a milestone 10 year anniversary on January 26.

Owners Charlie and Debbie Kurland still recall their ceremonial ribbon cutting on February 5, 2002 performed by then Mayor Dan Gallagher and attended by several council members, including future Mayor Charlie Butrico.

"We knew we had a unique opportunity in this family-oriented community and immediately felt right at home," said Charlie, a resident of Edison.

The Kurlands, who have made a name for themselves as a family business, previously operated three bagel stores and delis, a wholesale bagel business and All American Burger in the mid 1980s.

"We developed our business by focusing on customer service and food quality," said Charlie. "We have always used only top quality ingredients in all of our homemade salads and sandwiches, and are constantly mixing and trying new items as witnessed by our daily specials menu."

Among Hometown Heros specialties is fresh, hand-cut chicken cutlets that are made into a variety of delicious heros.

"I was surprised to find that most New Jersey sandwich shops did not offer this type of item," commented Charlie. "This was common on Long Island where I grew up, and I knew that people would love to be able to pick up a homemade chicken cutlet sandwich or a fresh cut grilled chicken sandwich."

They have also used the same bakery

(Continued on page 10)

## Tigers Secure Group III State Championship

Congratulations to the South Plainfield High School Wrestling Team for winning the Group III State Championship. The Tigers scored a 41-18 victory over Timber Creek in the semi-finals before beating Ocean Township 31-27 in the finals to finish the season with a 31-2 record. The title puts them in a position to finish the year as the #1 ranked team in the State of New Jersey.

### From the Office of the Superintendent

The following is a rebuttal by Dr. Gary Bowen, superintendent, to the February 3 Observer article, BOE Audit Shows \$3.9M in Surplus.

## BOE to Expend Surplus Monies

\$1.3 million available for roof repairs, says Bowen

The South Plainfield Board of Education heard a recommendation from Business Administrator James Olobardi and Interim Superintendent Dr. Gary R. Bowen on Wednesday to apply available funds to repair failing roofs at both the middle and high school. Grant School will be assessed for roof repair priority.

Although recently reported in the *South Plainfield Observer* that the Board has \$3.9 million in surplus, Olobardi and Bowen dispute this representation as inaccurate. The actual excess surplus on June 30, 2011 was \$1,343,401.54.

The remaining \$2,532,634.34 as reported is delineated as follows:

- **Emergency, Maintenance and Capital Reserve total \$1,197,613.68.** These reserves will be used for designated projects and emergencies as may occur such as boiler failure, roof repair, and other unanticipated needs and is not available as a discretionary balance.

- **Balance Appropriated from the Prior Year:** At the close of the budget year in June 2011, the Board of Education designated \$600,000 to offset expenses in the current budget year. In addition, \$386,078.43 was brought forward for payment of prior year expenses and is not available as a discretionary balance.

- **Unassigned Fund Balance:** In New Jersey, the law provides for 2% of the total general fund budget for unforeseen needs and potential shortfalls. This amount in reserve is \$1,027,251.23 and is not available as a discretionary balance but for an unforeseen emergency requiring a special

(Continued on page 10)



Fire Chief Tom Scalera, Councilman Rob Bengivenga, Captain Joe Abbruzzese, fireman Anthony Tomacheck and Deputy Chief Larry DelNegro.



Police Chief James Parker (left) with police officers and emergency 911 operators who were recognized for their lifesaving efforts at a home fire on New Year's Day.

## Emergency Personnel Lauded for Fire Rescue

By Jane Dornick

Members of the South Plainfield Police and Volunteer Fire departments received various awards from their respective chiefs at the Borough Council meeting on February 6. The men and women were honored for their heroic acts in the rescue of 73 year-old Elizabeth Wright during a fire at her home at 1315 Irving St. on New Year's Day.

The police and fire departments were dispatched to the early morning blaze after receiving a 911 call from Wright who was trapped in a second floor bedroom. Initial attempts to enter the house through the front door were impossible due to high heat and dense black smoke on both floors. Wright signaled emergency personnel from the window; however, no equipment had arrived on the scene yet. Officer Frank Fusaro located an aluminum extension ladder in a neighbor's yard as Officers Joe Papa and Daryl Strother attempted to keep Wright from jumping. With help from Fire Chief Tom Scalera and fireman Anthony Tomacheck, Captain Joe Abbruzzese climbed the ladder, grabbed the victim from the window as she was losing consciousness and proceeded to carry her down the ladder.

Wright was treated at the scene by EMS personnel from Somerset

Medical Center and John F. Kennedy Medical Center paramedics from Mercy 9. She was then airlifted by N.J. State Police Northstar medivac helicopter to St. Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston and treated for extensive smoke inhalation and a collapsed lung.

Chief James Parker presented Meritorious Service Medals to Officers Papa, Strother and Fusaro. Letters of Commendation were also given to Lieutenant Charles Siedenburgh, Officer Chanta Hunter and Communications Operators Traci Bruton and Darleen Marin for their role in the rescue.

Deputy Chief John Mocharski, Sr. gave Tomacheck and Scalera a Meritorious Group Award. Abbruzzese was given the Chief Kane Medal of Valor Award for his outstanding actions during the house fire. He is only the third firefighter in 27 years to receive this type of award.

Deputy Chief Larry DelNegro commented, "He had the skills, knowledge and ability and was in the right place at the right time." DelNegro also commended the borough's emergency services who collectively "acted as one" during the event.

Wright is currently doing well and is staying with family and friends. The cause of the fire was determined to be electrical, originating on the first floor of the home.



Riley School Music teacher Tobie Baldwin applauds students after they perform to the delight of the audience in the school's annual Grandparents Day celebration. See story on page 12.



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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.)

### councilmeetings

Meets twice a month on Mondays, \*except where noted.

Borough Hall Council Chambers • Questions? 908-226-7605

Agenda Meeting  
February 21 (Tuesday)  
March 5

Public Meeting  
February 21 (Tuesday)  
March 5

All Agenda Meetings begin at 7 p.m. followed immediately by the Public Meeting, unless otherwise noted. Meetings of the Governing Body are held in accordance with the N.J. Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Ave.

### planningboard

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month, \*except where noted.

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7641

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

### zoningboardofadjustment

Meets first and third Tuesdays of the month, \*except where noted.

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7641

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

### boardofeducation

Meets Wednesdays at Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave.

Committee of the Whole meetings (begin at 6:00 p.m.)

March 14 and April 4.

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

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.



Colin Compos, joined by scouts and leaders from the South Plainfield community, holds Mayor Matt Anesh's proclamation declaring February 5-11 Scout Week during the February 6 Borough Council meeting.

## In My Opinion

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

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter to commend the South Plainfield Police Department for their efforts on January 15.

Unfortunately, my stepmom passed in her sleep and was found Sunday morning. The South Plainfield Police Department was quick to respond and made every effort they could to assist us in this horrible time.

I would like to express my admiration for the performance of two specific officers, Sergeant Wendell Born and Officer Brian K. Iarrapino. They were calm, professional and compassionate to our family needs.

On behalf of my entire family, we are greatly appreciative of everything the department did for us, and wanted to extend our deepest thanks. I understand why on your business cards it states "Setting the Standards of Excellence."

Thank you all for your dedication, integrity, kindness, compassion and giving so much of yourselves. You are truly the best of the best.

SINCERELY,  
SUSAN CUMMINGS

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the South Plainfield Wrestling Club, I would like to congratulate the South Plainfield High School Wrestling Team and its coaching staff for winning the Group III State Championship.

At this past weekend's team championships, the Tigers scored a 41-18 victory over Timber Creek in the semi-finals before beating Ocean Township 31-27 in the finals to finish the season with a 31-2 record.

This is their second state title in three years and puts them in a position to finish the year as the #1 ranked team in the state of New Jersey. The South Plainfield Wrestling Club is extremely proud of you and thanks you for being positive role models for our wrestling youth. Good luck in the districts, regions and states!

SINCERELY,  
JOE SACCO, PRESIDENT  
SP WRESTLING CLUB

To the Editor:

During the war years of WWII, Korea and the Cold War, there were

### 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.

many recruiting drives for people to be the first aiders by the Red Cross and hospitals. During WWII, there were a few scares that the Germans would shell our coastal cities from submarines. The Japanese actually did lob a few shells onto a beach near Santa Monica, Calif. By a bit of luck they did not do any damage but it scared hundreds of people out of the area for a few months.

The newspapers were full of stories about the situation and asked what readers would do if that was their neighborhood, especially if there were major injuries caused by the attack.

The sneak attack of 9/11 on New York and Washington, D.C. showed us again the need for trained first aiders.

In my days as a Boy Scout leader, I taught basic first aid. One part of the course included, "What is the definition of first aid?" The book read, "First aid is the immediate and temporary treatment of an accident victim until the services of a doctor can be attained." Why am I rambling on about this? With the advent of these homegrown terrorists, I think we have to "be prepared" as our scout training taught us.

Some stories on the Internet say there are moles and worms getting into our schools and universities and brainwashing our youth as to what a bad country the United States is. They are undermining all that we have been taught and should not be teaching our youth. If they have their way, we will lose our four freedoms one by one. Back in the 1960s, there were radical groups that said, "We will use the system to ruin the system."

The use or misuse of free speech can be the start of things. If some of these radicals start trouble in your neighborhood and your neighbors are getting hurt, will you be able to help them? I ask that you do what you can.

WILLIAM TUTHILL

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**South Plainfield Observer**

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FROM THE  
**SENIOR FORUM**

By Richard Petrone, Secretary

In a Senior Forum letter to the *Observer* dated October 21, 2011 we outlined reasons why the school district budget of 2011/2012 could apply additional surplus to the budget to reduce the proposed property tax. This was not done because the interim superintendent and interim business administrator, in a discussion at the municipal meeting on the defeated school budget, said there was no more money in surplus. However, the school district audit report for the period ending June 30, 2011 released by the auditor on December 11, 2011 reported the following:

Fund Balance	General Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Governmental Fund Total
Excess Surplus	\$1,343,401.54		
Emergency Reserve	196,532.50		
Maintenance Reserve	449,481.18		
Capital Reserve Account	551,600.00		
Assigned Fund Balance			
Encumbrance	386,078.43		
Unreserved designated for subsequent Expense	600,000.00	\$1,685,607.89	
Unassigned Fund Balance	348,942.23		
<b>Total Fund Balances</b>	<b>\$3,876,035.88</b>	<b>\$1,685,607.89</b>	<b>\$5,505,648.76</b>

When the auditor presented his report he stated the \$1,343,401.54 excess surplus should be returned to you, the taxpayer.

In view of this, we, the Forum, feel vindicated about what we said in the letter of October 21—that there was additional surplus available to be applied to reduce the proposed increase in school taxes.

Since the interim superintendent and interim business administrator were retired from these positions at other school districts, one would assume that with that level of previous experience they should have recognized the additional surplus could be applied to the budget.

On the night the administrator of the school district met with the mayor and council to discuss possible budget cuts, the school district staff was mobilized to attend the meeting. Some of these staff members said the budget could not be cut further because the layoffs would be disastrous.

One must also wonder why the current school board members (some of whom have served several times) were not aware of the surplus. All they had to do was analyze the Fund 11 General Current Expense budget section, which showed an available fund balance of \$1,711,210.17 for the period ending June 30, 2011.

We believe that the mayor and council, who were present at the public meeting on the defeated budget, were misled into thinking no additional surplus was available, should go on record with the superintendent and the board and agree that the \$1,343,401.54 should be returned to the taxpayer.

**Pay It Forward Coffeehouse Fundraiser**

The Almost Famous Players Pay It Forward Coffeehouse is ready to rock. Emcee for the show is Barbara Habeeb, vocal music teacher at Kennedy School.

The event will feature South Plainfield High School students and alumni including Lainie Harris, Rusty Teller, Dan Schuch, Lukas Cabanas, John Delacruz, Joanna Marston, Alyssa Kelly as well as alumni Dan Sambat with band Broken By Chance, Eric Seiz and his wife Karen, Ryan Miller, and Frank Smith and Friends. The show also features well-known singer/songwriter Bryan Hansen of Edison and Nick Cabrera, a spoken word poet from Edison. The evening, a benefit

for a child who's family has no medical insurance, will take place on Saturday, Feb. 18 at the Senior Center from 7 to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$6. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. A variety of refreshments will be available for sale.

For more information or to reserve a table, contact Pattie at (908) 346-2290 or email angelonly@aol.com. Come enjoy an evening of great entertainment and "pay it forward" for a child in need.

**HSA Celebrates Catholic Schools Week**

South Plainfield Mayor Matt Anesh issued a proclamation honoring Holy Savior Academy as the newest school in the Metuchen Diocese that kicked off National Catholic Schools Week. Citing the importance of Catholic education to the nation, the state and the community of South Plainfield, Mayor Anesh, himself a graduate of the former Sacred Heart School, honored Holy Savior Academy and its principal, faculty and student body. Addressing the student body, he said, "I recognize your presence here in South Plainfield is a real asset to our community. Your generosity of spirit demonstrated by your food drive and Christmas Gifts for the needy were noticed by a great many people. Keep up the good work."



Mayor Matt Anesh presents a proclamation in honor of Catholic Schools Week to Holy Savior Academy Principal Melinda Hanlon and student body representatives.

Holy Savior Academy welcomed current and prospective families last week with a series of open houses, visits to classrooms in session, a book fair, grandparents' day, and a faculty-student volleyball game (they tied) and the blessing and distribution of class rings to the first graduating class of eighth graders.

Catholic Schools Week is traditionally the week when new registrations and current re-registrations take place.

Melinda Hanlon, principal of Holy Savior Academy, noted with satisfaction that re-registration was very high, saying, "This is an extraordinary start to the registration process and a very real statement of satisfaction with our academic programs and trust that our students' parents have in us for the future. There were quite a number of new and smiling faces seen at our open houses which makes us very happy."

Registration is currently open to everybody, Catholic and non-Catholic alike, for the 2012/2013 school year. Prospective parents can call the school at (908) 822-5890 for further information or to arrange a visit to classrooms in session, and meet the principal and faculty of the academy.

For registration information, visit the school's website at [www.HolySaviorAcademy.com](http://www.HolySaviorAcademy.com).

**Council Votes to Replace Engineers for Truck Route**

By Jane Dornick

The Borough Council, at the February 6 meeting, authorized the borough's engineering firm of T & M Associates, to provide services for the Supplemental Technical Design Submission portion of the proposed Hollywood Avenue truck by-pass route at a cost not to exceed \$135,000.

After the Wetlands and Flood Hazard permits were submitted last May by Remington & Vernick Engineers, the firm of record since the project's inception, the borough received notification the following month from the DEP regarding numerous items that required further submission.

Ad hoc Truck Committee Chairman Paul Kavka and engineer at Remington & Vernick, said at the time that he had expected to receive interim letters asking for additional information from the state. "It presents four completeness items, but it also goes a little beyond that and presents 14 technical review comments which would normally be addressed at a later time when they get into their full, detailed technical review."

Former Ad hoc Truck Committee Chairman Mike English questioned the council as to why the change in engineers after working with Remington & Vernick for five years. "They have gone to Trenton and done an excellent job. They know all of the

ins and outs," said English, who feels that the change in firms will "postpone the project."

Mayor Matt Anesh explained that it was time to turn the project over to the borough engineer, Len Miller, who, Anesh said, is "very versed" and has attended numerous meetings. He did not feel that the change would affect the projects approval time in any way.

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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

# events

## Around Town

### American Legion Elks Beef 'N Beer Nite

February 17

The South Plainfield Elks, 1254 New Market Ave., 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.

### Pasta Dinner Benefit

February 19

A pasta dinner benefiting the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society will be held at the South Plainfield Elks, 1254 New Market Ave., on Sunday, Feb. 19 from 4 to 7 p.m. Adults \$12; children \$6; children under three eat free. Tickets sold at the door.

For more information, call Meryl at (908) 917-4712 or email meryl.noble@yahoo.com.

### 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 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the VFW hall upstairs. Cost per ticket is \$5. Buy a ticket at the VFW Post any time after 3 p.m.

Tickets will also be available at the door for the same price. Proceeds will be split between the post for the upkeep of the building and 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 sponsor 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 features 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 available.

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

### Grant School Zumba Fitness Fundraiser

February 24

Grant School Stokes Committee is hosting a Zumba fitness night on Friday, Feb. 24 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Grant School, 305 Cromwell Place. Doors open 6:30 p.m. Experience a live class featuring premier fitness

instructor Staci Taylor who is featured in infomercials, on DVDs and seen on *The Today Show*.

Purchase tickets at the door. Adults \$15; seniors/students \$10. Raffles, 50/50, healthy snacks and drinks.

### 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.

### Atlantic City Trip To Showboat

February 25

American Legion Post 243 will host an Atlantic City bus trip to Showboat on Saturday, Feb. 25. Bus departs the post at 9:30 a.m. sharp. You can also enjoy the car show that is being held at the convention center. Cost is \$30 per person with a \$30 return. Refreshments will be served on the bus.

For more information, call (908) 668-9414 or stop at the Legion, 243 Oak Tree Ave. to purchase tickets.

### 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 Sunday, 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.

### Boy Scout Troop 309 Clothing Drive

March 3

Boy Scout Troop 309 will hold a clothing drive on Saturday, March 3 from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Please drop off your donations to Wesley Methodist Church parking lot located on Plainfield Avenue. We accept wearable clothing, shoes, accessories, linens, stuffed animals, hard toys, small and medium bikes and children's activity sets.

Can't get out? We'll pick up! Please call Nancy at (908) 917-4700.

### 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) 757-3680.

### 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.

### Elks Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner

March 17

The South Plainfield Elks Veterans Committee, 1254 New Market Ave.,

## SENIOR CENTER Calendar

Center closed Monday in observance of Lincoln's Birthday

March 7 - Tag Mahal, \$20 Bus departs at 9am

**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

is sponsoring the annual corned beef and cabbage dinner on Saturday, March 17 from 4:30 to 9 p.m. All you can eat, includes soda and dessert, cash bar, Adults \$12; children \$5.

For more information, call Lou Peralta at (908) 756-6406.

### 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) 668-1458.

Tickets are now available by calling Jenn at (908) 5849 or Tara at (908) 668-1458.

## — Out of Town —

### Singles Dance Party

February 19

Steppin' Out Singles is hosting a President's Day singles dance party on Sunday, Feb. 19 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.

### Crescent Concerts

February 19

Five Central Jersey musicians will be featured at Crescent Concerts' 13th annual Showcase for Exceptionally

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Dinner: Sunday-Thursday 5:30pm-10:30pm

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Talented Young Artists on Sunday, Feb. 19 at 3 p.m. in Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church on Watchung Avenue in Plainfield. Tickets are \$20; \$15 for seniors; \$5 for students, and may be purchased at the door.

For more information, call (908) 756-2468.

### Woodbridge WOWs

February 19

Woodbridge Widows Or Widowers will hold an open dance on Sunday, Feb. 19 from 7 to 11 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Morrisey Ave. in Avenel. Refreshments served; everyone is welcome. Admission: \$10 members; \$12 guests.

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

### Bishop Ahr 33rd Annual Tricky Tray

February 24

Bishop George Ahr High School, One Tingley Lane in Edison, will host the 33rd annual tricky tray, "Luck of the Irish" on Friday, Feb. 24.

Admission: \$20, includes door prize ticket and light refreshments; guests can bring additional snacks. Doors open 5 p.m.; drawing begins 8 p.m. Prize baskets, 50/50s, other prizes.

For tickets, call (201) 522-6184, email BGATrickytray@gmail.com or visit bgahs.org or trickytray.com. No one under 18 will be admitted.

### The Odyssey at Kean University

February 24, 25, March 1, 2, 3

Kean University will present *The Odyssey* in Wilkins Theatre on Friday, Feb. 24 at 8 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 25 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Thursday, March 1 at 5 p.m.; Friday, March 2 at 8 p.m.; and Saturday, March 3 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tickets: \$15, standard; \$12, senior; \$10 student or child.

Purchase tickets by calling (908) 737-7469, at www.keanstage.com or in person at the theater box office, 1000 Morris Ave. in Union.

Send Your Community Events to: spobserver@comcast.net

Mayor Matt Anesh, Store Manager Beltchin Zaimov, Councilman Ray Rusnak and store employees cut the ribbon to celebrate the opening of the new Sears Home Appliance Showroom located in the Hadley Mall last Saturday.

## South Plainfield Parks and Recreation Trip to Canada

South Plainfield Parks and Recreation is sponsoring a five day/four night trip to Montreal and Quebec City from Monday, June 25 through Friday, June 29. The 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; a tour of St. Joseph's Oratory; a tour of Notre

Dame Cathedral; a tour of Quebec City; a visit to the Old City of Quebec; a visit to 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 passport information, visit the U.S. State Department website at www.travel.state.gov or call (202) 647-4000.

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

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# Middle School Teens "Do Something"



(L-R) Middle School teacher Denise Hogan, Assistant Principal Tamekia Grier-DuPiche, along with student representatives Rebecca Ng and Anna Williams. Not pictured is Nicole Goitiandia, who also led the Teens for Jeans drive.

By Jane Dornick

The South Plainfield Middle School community answered the DoSomething.org call to make a difference in their community by collecting nearly

2,700 pairs of jeans for homeless teens in conjunction with the annual Teens for Jeans clothing drive that ran from January 16 through February 6.

Student Council and Peer to Peer members, headed by teacher Denise

Hogan, inspired other students and together they collected bags and bags of gently worn jeans. The clothing was transported to Aeropostale, co-sponsor of the drive. The entire student body will receive gift cards to purchase jeans at the store. The New Jersey school that collects the most pairs of jeans will win \$5,000 and a party for the school.

Hogan and Assistant Principal Tamekia Grier-DuPiche set a goal of 500 jeans, and were thrilled to see everyone participating. "They far exceeded our goal!" said Grier-DuPiche.

One in three homeless people in the U.S. is under the age of 18, and one of the first items they ask for when they reach a shelter is jeans. This is the fifth year of the Teens for Jeans campaign. In the past four years more than 1.5 million jeans have been donated in the largest jeans donation drive in the nation.

DoSomething.org was started in 1993 by Andrew Shue of Melrose Place fame and Michael Sanchez. The goal was to make community service as popular, cool and as normal as watching TV or playing sports. With a goal of five million active members by 2015, DoSomething.org is one of the largest organizations in the U.S. for teens and social change.

For more information on how to clean your closets and give back, email [schohn@dosomething.org](mailto:schohn@dosomething.org).



Ivan the cockatiel in his television debut.

## Ivan the Cockatiel Finds Celebrity on Animal Planet

When the Pedersen's adopted their pet cockatiel, Ivan, from St. Hubert's Animal Shelter they never expected he would become a celebrity. Then came a call from Animal Planet looking for a cockatiel to play a spectator on *The Puppy Bowl*.

Michael and Rachael Pedersen drove Ivan to the Animal Planet studio in Manhattan where they were ushered to the bird's dressing room.

During the filming Rachael acted as the bird's trainer. Ivan played Meep and was seen tweeting between the action on the field.

By the end of the airing on Super Bowl Sunday @meepthebird had over 20,000 followers on Twitter. Ivan was named after the fictional Russian boxer, Ivan Drago, from Rocky IV because of his intense stare and tall head feathers.

## Khyber Grill Introduces New Style of Indian Dining

By Jane Dornick

Khyber Grill Frontier Indian Cuisine, located at 684 Oak Tree Ave. next to Shoppers World, brings a new style of Indian dining to South Plainfield by recreating the robust richness of cuisine from the northwest frontiers of India with a modern day twist.

The restaurant is decorated with hand cut bamboo that comes with traditional Indian décor, modern artifacts and handwoven Persian carpets elegantly draped from the ceilings. They embrace the traditional concept of India, by providing hand hammered utensils, custom jail-cut plates, and traditional tableware. The servers wear the traditional Patiala pants accompanied with authentic loose fitting Kurtas, and soothing sounds of Indian instruments are played in the background.

Master chefs prepare fresh spices from scratch every morning for day to day use, allowing them to deliver the freshest cuisine possible.

A lunch buffet is available Monday through Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Dinner is served Sunday through Thursday, 5:30 to 10 p.m. and Friday and Saturday, 5:30 to 11:30 p.m. Khyber Grill also provides catering.

For more information, call (908) 226-5544.

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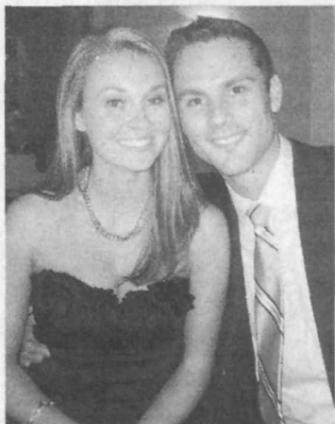
To submit a milestone, email spobserver@comcast.net or mail to 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

### Shannon Boyles and Craig Brace Engaged

Sean and Karen Boyles of South Plainfield proudly announce the engagement of their daughter, Shannon Boyles, to Craig Brace, son of Robert and Marlene Brace of Horseheads, New York.

Shannon and Craig met at Rider University where they both graduated. Shannon graduated magna cum laude with a degree in elementary education and a certification in special education. She is employed as a teacher in South Plainfield. Craig graduated with a business degree in finance. He is an Associate at Group Outcome, LLC in Princeton.

The couple are to be married on August 4, 2012 in Penn Yan, New York.



Shannon Boyles and Craig Brace

### Foresti Named to Roberts Wesleyan Dean's List

Roberts Wesleyan College is pleased to announce Abigail Foresti was named to the dean's list for outstanding academic performance for the Fall 2011 semester. Abigail, of South Plainfield, received high honors.

High honors grade point averages range from 3.5 to 3.69; higher honors grade point averages range from 3.7 to 3.89; and highest honors grade point averages range from 3.9 to 4.0.

### Alexander Named To Dean's List

Jenna Alexander has been named to the dean's honor list for the 2011 Fall semester at Kean University.

Appointment to the dean's list is based on successful completion of at least 12 credits including courses taken on a pass/fail basis with a semester grade point average of 3.45 or better.

### Residents Named To Rider Univ. Dean's List

Rider University's colleges of Business Administration; Continuing Studies; Liberal Arts, Education, and Sciences; and Westminster College of the Arts have announced the names of undergraduate students who have been placed on the dean's list for the Fall 2011 semester.

Dean's list students from South Plainfield are Andrew Gray, a senior communication major; Natia Katsantonis, a senior journalism major; Jacquelyn Mascolo, a sophomore behavioral neuroscience major; Brian Pullen, a junior secondary education major; Rebecca Smith, a freshman general liberal arts major; Gregory Watts, a senior business administration major; and Sara Wojewodka, a sophomore psychology major.

Rider University is a vibrant, student-centered community of learners regionally recognized as a top-tier institution.



Dolly and Richard Curcio at their 60th wedding anniversary celebration.

### Curcios Celebrate 60th Anniversary

Dolly and Richard Curcio celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on January 29 at Carpaccio Ristorante in Middlesex. They were married on February 2, 1952 in All Saints Church in Jersey City.

The party was hosted by their children; sons, James and wife Jane, Richard and wife Cheryl and Gary and wife Patti; and daughters, Dawn Seaser and

Tammy Nicastro and husband Jim.

In addition to their five children, Richard and Dolly have 15 grandchildren, Jill, Amy, Dana, Jim, Brian, Ashley, Ricky, Glenn, Melissa, Gary, Nicky, Gina, Vinny, Anthony and Marisa; and nine great-grandchildren, Britany, Katelyn, Megan, Adrianna, Dina, Brody, Bianca, Acelyn and Kyle.

### Local Students Named to Dean's List, Honor's List at FDU

South Plainfield residents Amanda Cerini and Jerold Geczy have been named to the honor's list, and Kristie Crilley, Catherine Krawiec and Timothy Ratti have been named to the dean's list, for the Fall 2011 semester at Fairleigh Dickinson University's College at Florham in Madison. To qualify for the honor's list, a student must carry a 3.5 or better grade point average out of a possible 4.0 and to qualify for the dean's list, a student must carry a 3.2 or better grade point average out of a

possible 4.0. Students must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 letter-graded hours (four courses).

FDU's College at Florham is located on the former Vanderbilt-Twombly estate in suburban Morris County. Its focus is on providing outstanding on-campus and residential living opportunities, hands-on learning experiences, strong graduate and professional school preparation, and customized educational options, all framed by a global perspective.

### Diana Tavarez Named to Dean's List At Fairleigh Dickinson University

Diana Tavarez of South Plainfield and a student at Fairleigh Dickinson University's Metropolitan Campus, has been named to the dean's list for the Fall 2011 semester. To qualify for the dean's list, a student must carry a 3.2 or better grade point average out of a possible 4.0 and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 letter-graded hours (four courses).

The university's Metropolitan Campus, located in the dynamic NY/NJ corridor in Teaneck, features a university atmosphere with an international perspective, attracting students from the U.S. and around the world. Undergraduates have access to the resources of a major graduate center and nearby New York City as an integral part of their learning experience.

### Cornerstone Architectural Group Names Firm Associate

Cornerstone Architectural Group, a leading full-service architectural firm based in South Plainfield, has recently announced that Marco T. Migliaro, Associate AIA has been named an associate of the firm. He joined the firm in 2001. He will continue to serve in his role as project architect, with client and project management responsibilities. He earned a bachelor of architecture from the New Jersey School of Architecture at the New Jersey Institute of Technology in 2005. He has completed the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards architectural internship at Cornerstone.



Marco T. Migliaro

Marco has served as project architect for many of the firm's notable and award winning projects, including design projects for the Township of Hillsborough, SHI International Corporation and AAA. He has managed projects of varying complexity and building type in several market sectors. He also has extensive experience in information technology systems and applications. He serves as the firm's chief IT infra-

structure manager. Marco lives in South Plainfield with his wife and two pet dogs. He is a 2000 graduate of South Plainfield High School.

Cornerstone Architectural Group is a South Plainfield-based full-service architectural firm, specializing in commercial, civic, industrial and interior architecture. For more information about Cornerstone, visit [www.cornerstoneag.com](http://www.cornerstoneag.com).

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SPORTS

SPHS

WEEKLY SPORTS SCHEDULE

South Plainfield High School

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

6:00pm V Wrestling - Districts (H)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18

10:00am V Wrestling - Districts (H)
9:00am B & G V W Track - Bennett
Center State Groups (A) Bus 6:45am

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

7:00pm G V Basketball - Mt. St. Mary
JV/5:15 Senior Night

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

V Wrestling - Regions (A) Union Bus TBA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

5:00pm G V Basketball - Dunellen (H)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24

5:00pm G V Basketball - Freehold Twsp
(A) Bus 3:30
V Wrestling - Regions Union (A) Bus TBA

BY GARY LAMPASONA

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB



Registration for the Spring Season: Rosters will soon close, but it's not too late to register. If your child still wants to play exciting baseball this spring, just download the registration form from our website, www.league lineup.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.

Spring Training Clinic: Open to all registered players ages 7 to 12. This is a great instructional clinic run by the South Plainfield High School coaches. It will be held in the high school gym and outside (weather permitting), on Saturday, March 3. Please download the registration form from our website, fill it out and mail it with the \$20 registration fee to the address on the form. If you have any questions, please contact head baseball coach, Anthony Guida at (908) 812-8376.

2012 Sign Sponsor: Get your message to your local market! 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.

Umpire Classes Continue This Week: Studies continue this week on Tuesday, Feb. 21, Thursday, Feb. 23, and Tues-

day, Feb. 28 at 6:30 p.m. The umpire test is Saturday, March 3 at 9 a.m. All classes are held in the clubhouse. Please be on time. Call the clubhouse if you have any questions.

Managers Meetings This Week: If you have been selected to manage, the meeting dates are as follows: Small Fry C is Monday, Feb. 20; Small Fry B is Tuesday, Feb. 21; and Small Fry A is Wednesday, Feb. 22. All meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. in the clubhouse.

Player Evaluations at the PAL: Evaluations will be held on Saturday, March 3 for all players registered in Small Fry C and B. Please arrive on time and make sure your child brings their glove.

Ruby Tuesday Fundraiser: There are only two more Wednesdays to take advantage of this fundraiser. Ruby Tuesday on Stelton Road will donate a portion of the check toward SPJBC. Just download the flyer from the "Handouts" section of our website and present it to your server. If you forget your form, just ask the host for one. Good food, good cause.

"Finding good players is easy. Getting them to play as a team is another story." - Casey Stengel

Catching Up With Track's Big Fish

By Brian Erhardt

South Plainfield High School teacher and head winter track and field coach Christopher Fish is both well-liked and respected by his student athletes. On February 2, I ventured over to SPHS to oversee the end of a team practice and was fortunate enough to pull aside the busy coach (his adorable daughter in tow) after the workout session for a friendly 10-minute interview and to get a glimpse behind the secrets of his success since joining the program about a decade ago. Topics ranged from growing up in Pennsylvania to pole vaulting to VHS tapes.

Observer: How did you become head coach?

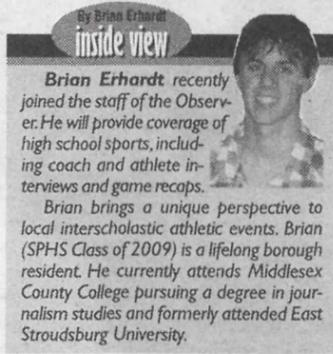
Coach Fish: A few years after I started teaching at SPHS in 2000, there was an opening for girls track coach. A colleague of mine and then-current boys track coach, Scott Horowitz, persuaded me to get involved in the program. He thought it would be a good fit for me based on personality. From there, I gained experience and positions opened up.

What I find interesting about you is that you never actually ran track or cross country as a student in high school or college. So where did the coaching skills required for the job come from?

CF: Obviously I had to observe the techniques of the other coaches for a long time. However, I also spent a lot of time either reading up on magazines, watching old school VHS tapes (on coaching track) and more recently YouTube has been really handy, believe it or not, in making me see certain things as a coach, helping me to improve.

How's the season been going so far? How does it compare to previous seasons?

CF: The season is going well. What really made me proud was the immense participation in raw numbers. On the boys side, over 100 students



By Brian Erhardt inside view

Brian Erhardt recently joined the staff of the Observer. He will provide coverage of high school sports, including coach and athlete interviews and game recaps. Brian brings a unique perspective to local interscholastic athletic events. Brian (SPHS Class of 2009) is a lifelong borough resident. He currently attends Middlesex County College pursuing a degree in journalism studies and formerly attended East Stroudsburg University.

were initially interested in participating with the team. We usually don't get that many kids involved, so that was uplifting. Since the season began, we still have had around 50 team members. Though I wish the turnout was better for the girls team, we've had plenty of individual and team success overall.

Particular goals for the rest of the current winter season?

CF: Our closest upcoming meet is the state sectionals at the Toms River bubble and our goal for that one is to finish in the top five teams. There are some good teams but we feel this is a very real, doable goal. We plan on scoring points from a diverse group of athletes, from pole vaulters, to the throwers to sprinters, and even when we're not "projected" to finish near the top, I have confidence that some of our athletes can steal a point or two, unexpectedly, in certain events.

We've had an uncharacteristically warm winter this year. Have you been able to get outside and conduct more productive practices because of this?

CF: Absolutely. This is especially the case for our athletes who participate in events such as the hurdles, pole vault and high jump (where resources can sometimes be scarce when practicing indoors). The last two days alone have been around 65 degrees, so you can't ask for anything better than that in January and February.

Favorite memories since you've been coaching here?

CF: We've had many champions over the years (current seniors James Gerber and Casey Butrico making the biggest splashes on the current team), so anytime you see kids have success and see them gain a sense of accomplishment in themselves...that feels pretty good. Also, anytime we're competing for sectionals, or trying to win the White Division title at GMCs, or having teams that will do well against our rival schools of similar sizes, that feels good as well. Additionally, spending time with these kids, who love what they do and want to be here everyday, makes it all worth while.

How has the new Athletic Director (Al Czech) impacted your involvement with the program?

CF: Not that much of a change. It's been nice of him to get our team some new equipment, which was very good. But more importantly, Mr. Czech, just like Mr. Buggy in the past, gives us coaches a lot of autonomy so that we can handle our programs the way we feel they should be run. It's great of an AD to understand that these high school programs can be looked at as living, breathing individuals, essentially. So the autonomy is appreciated.

How have you been able to handle the balancing act of coaching and teaching simultaneously?

CF: You have to be able to fit in the coaching when you can. It's tough. It may mean spending extra hours before school starts, or on the weekends or during a lunch break, or at night to get certain track-related things set up since teaching is the first priority. But in the end, you find the time. Because, if it's your passion (to do both teaching and coaching), then you can get it done. That's just the way it works.

Any final thoughts or a message you'd like to send to the readers of the Observer or the good people of South Plainfield who support the high school track program?

CF: I love the fact that South Plainfield is starting to become a track town. We have a lot of alumni who are very active, and we appreciate that they come by and help out. Obviously, that we hold the sectional, group and state championship meets at our home track... it's something that lets South Plainfield be known, and I plan on building on that further. I hope we can continue the success that we've had here in the past.

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RECREATION WRESTLING Submitted By Joe Sacco

Wrestlers Score at Youth Tournament

South Plainfield's young Tigers scored at this weekend's Piscataway youth wrestling tournament. Finishing in first place for the Tigers was Andrew Loniewski. Second place finishes went to Jeffrey Jacome, Tyler Balent and

Julian Irizarry. Finishing in third place was Noah Santos and Steven Twist, while Bradley Zelek and Xavier Santos scored fifth place finishes and Joey DiFrancesco and Marcus Czarrunchick finished in sixth place.

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The South Plainfield High School Peer Leaders Heroes and Cool Kids members visited Grant School sixth grade students on February 8 for their second round of mentoring on anti-bullying, harassment, intimidation and good sportsmanship. Principal Ellen Decker-Lorys and Assistant Principal Rob Richkus welcomed the "cool kids" and students along with their mentor, Larry Hardesty. Hardesty is a sportscaster for ESPN radio and sideline reporter for the N.Y. Jets. Grant students discussed the topics and asked questions of the mentors. Peer Leaders advisors are Marla Vandermark, Jessica Kriskowski, Tony Encinas and Tony Emmons.

**Borough Council February 6 meeting**  
**borough notes**

The following actions took place at the February 6 Council Meeting:

- The council approved the final passage of five ordinances: authorizing the acquisition of a Ford R-350 type one ambulance and the installation of storm sewers on Durham Ave. and other roads in South Plainfield; a bond ordinance in the amount of \$113,050 providing for the purchase of vehicles; a bond ordinance in the amount of \$570,950 for the purchase of a fire truck; establishing rates for the South Plainfield Community Pool amending Chapter 216 entitled "Fees"; and creating a Mayor's Wellness Campaign Committee.
- Emergency Management Coordinator Mike Zushma reported that FEMA will reimburse the borough a

total of \$262,459 towards the cost of cleanup caused by Hurricane Irene in late August.

- Two ordinances were introduced: amending Chapter 84 entitled "Police Department" of the code of South Plainfield to reflect the overtime rate for a Class C officer performing private functions when off duty and a bond ordinance in the amount of \$85,500 for improvements to the Pool Utility.
- Two tax appeal settlements were approved with S/K Wade Associated at 100 Wade Ave. and South Plainfield Fidelco Associates at 3474 Rand Rd. Both settlements will result in credits on their tax bills.
- A contract was awarded to Atlantic Sales & Salvage of Delran, NJ for the purchase of two garbage trucks at a cost

of \$70,000.

- Approved the submission of the recycling tonnage grant application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and to designate Dr. Alice Tempel to ensure the application is properly filed.
- T&M Associated were hired to provide engineering services related to an additional investigation of the former 300 gallon diesel fuel underground storage tank at the Cedar Brook Pumping stations, at a cost not to exceed \$15,850.
- Authorized T&M Associates to provide engineering services related to NJ DEP Wetland Permit Application and Flood Hazard Permit for the proposed Truck By-pass Route for supplemental technical design submission at a cost not to exceed \$135,000.
- Approved an addition to the dress code policy to the Personnel Handbook.
- Doris Kirchner was appointed to the Traffic Safety Advisory Commission, replacing Dennis Scalera.

**police report**

- On Feb. 3 Steven V. Longo, 55, of Beachwood was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving, possession of an open container of alcohol, consumption of an alcoholic beverage in a motor vehicle, delaying traffic and failure to exhibit documents.
- Tiffany N. Grant, 28, of Elizabeth was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.
- Paul Lopez, 36, of Jersey City was arrested for driving on a suspended license, careless driving, failure to

maintain a lane and several outstanding warrants.

- On Feb. 4 the Brick House Tavern + Tap reported the theft of two snow throwers that were chained to a fence.
- On Feb. 8 Todd C. Romer, 26, of New Brunswick was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving and failure to exhibit documents.
- A Frank Court resident reported that their new bank credit card had been activated and used to make fraudulent purchases.

**Banjo Player Needed**

Audrey and Ken Reisch are searching for a banjo player to join them on Wednesday mornings from 10 to 10:30 a.m. at the Lakeview School in Metuchen.

This is a volunteer position where the Reichs' perform for the children who are afflicted with Cerebral Palsy and attend the school.

For more information, or to join them, call (908) 769-5938.

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**Lorraine Cochran**  
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Your time on earth was much too short  
Your pain and suffering too long  
But we must believe in God's promise  
That to him you now belong  
It doesn't seem four years have passed  
Since he called you home  
But in our hearts you will always be  
Until we meet again.

Sadly Missed, Your Loving Family & Friends



**Faith Abraham Named Junior Journalist**



Junior Journalist winner Faith Abraham with teacher Cynthia Severino.

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 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.

**Untitled**

By Faith Abraham

On the river, leading to the ocean blue,  
Sat a log that had nothing to do.  
He was unhappy and wanted to move.  
He wanted to have legs so he could groove.

Then, Wise Old Crocodile crawled into the river,  
Where the log was sitting there to shiver.  
He asked the crocodile to help him get attention.  
He wanted to be ferocious, just to mention.  
Wise Old Crocodile changed him into an alligator.  
And he ran off and said, "See you later."

The alligator was especially fond of his skin.  
It was smooth and better than his kin.  
The alligator now, wanted to be king.  
He yelled, "I'm terrific," and started to sing.

Wise Old Crocodile, nearby, only helped the needy.  
And thought the alligator was just being greedy.  
So he made him ferocious,  
With bumpy, rough skin,  
Who thought deer were delicious.  
That's why today he goes early to bed,  
And that's why his eyes pop out of his head.

AND THAT, FOLKS, IS THE LEGEND, THE LOG WHO WANTED TO BE ALIVE!

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**It's a Winner!**

Charlie and Debbie Kurland of Hometown Heros deliver dinner to Junior Journalist winner Helina Alamerew pictured with dad Ashenafi, mom Abby Taye and sister Yenefiker.

# Kurlands Celebrate a Decade

(Continued from page 1) throughout the years at each of the businesses they owned, leading Charlie to say, "You gotta have great bread to make a great sandwich!"

In 2004 the *South Plainfield Observer* and Hometown Heros came together to create the Junior Journalist Program, a writing contest that rewards children for their creative skills. The program is now in its ninth year with over 200 winners to date. Hometown Heros and the *Observer* also sponsor a banquet at the end of the school year, and invite contest winners and their families to spend an evening celebrating their accomplishments. It is often attended by the mayor, school superintendent, administrators and council and board of education members. Local Assem-

blyman Patrick Diegnan frequents the event and presents each winner with a certificate from the New Jersey State Assembly.

Charlie and Debbie presented the first annual Ruth Kurland Memorial Award of a \$1,000 savings bond and award certificate in 2008 to one special overall winner that they choose themselves. The award is in memory of Charlie's mom who passed away from leukemia when he was 18 years old. Ruth was an avid reader and was particularly proud of having a library card since she was four years old. She would regularly check out five books at a time from the library. This was a regular practice throughout her life.

"Ruth would certainly be proud," said Charlie.

The Kurlands' business has grown

through catering to the local and corporate community and forced the need for more space. In 2008, Hometown Heros expanded, adding grills, fryers, additional ovens and a comfortable dining area to meet the growing needs of the business.

In addition to starting the Junior Journalist Program, the Kurlands have joined the South Plainfield Business Association and become a member of the South Plainfield Education Foundation. They have served as judges in the annual Labor Day parade and twice entered a float that carried the Junior Journalist winners. One year they received a trophy. "Our goal was to establish a deli/restaurant/catering business that focuses on serving quality fresh food and homemade salads while providing five star service," explained Charlie. "We believe we have met our goal. We offer a wide variety of sub sandwiches, gourmet wraps, chicken cutlet and grilled chicken sandwiches—hot and cold, all on a wide selection of fresh baked breads."

The success of Hometown Heros has come from being a family oriented business. The Kurlands' daughter, Christine, and son, Bobby, have worked there for many years, even while they were both still in high school. Christine is now a first grade teacher in Edison and is married to David Cherenca. Bobby is currently employed by the Middlesex County Parks Department and still works at the shop on weekends.

Charlie and Debbie plan to have a "customer appreciation day" on a Saturday in March with a sample tasting table available all day long with other specials. Look for their ad in upcoming issues of the *Observer* for a date and more details.

Hometown Heros is open seven days a week and offers free delivery. They can be reached at (908) 755-HERO (4376).

## From the South Plainfield Library **Bookmarks**

By Danielle Aronowitz

Get involved with your library and become a friend! We are looking to restart the South Plainfield Friends of the Library group. This group will hold fundraisers that help the library, and also hold special programs. All are welcome to join; you do not have to be a resident of South Plainfield. On Tuesday, March 20 at 7 p.m. we will have our first "Welcome to the Friends" meeting. This meeting will be held at the library after it has closed. For more information, please see the library staff.

We held classes for those people who recently bought or received an e-reader such as the Kindle, Fire or Nook Tablet. If you were unable to make the classes and would like help in learning how to use it to be able to download e-books for free from e-libraryNJ, please feel free to come to the library and make an appointment with Chris, Danielle or Eve. We would be happy to help you learn how to use your e-reader.

Why pay for movie rentals? Come to the library where renting movies is free. We have a great selection, from hot new releases, to television shows, to classics. Some recently released DVDs that we own are *Abduction*, *The Ides of March*, *The Help*, *Moneyball*, *Warrior*, *The Big Year*, *Drive*, *In Time*, *What's Your Number*, *Lady and the Tramp*, *Dream House*, *50/50*, *Real Steel*, *Contagion* and *Dolphin Tale*.

The library will be closed on Monday, Feb. 20 in observance of Presidents' Day. We will reopen Tuesday, Feb. 21.

We will be following our regular schedule for the children's programs. "Time for 2s & 3s" is held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings

at 10:30. Storytime for ages four and up is held Wednesday night at 6:30, and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. The Babytime program for ages up to two years is held Friday morning at 10:30. These programs do not require registration. Please try to get to the storytime programs on time because it can get very disruptive for Miss Linda and Miss Mija and the children if people come in the middle of the program.

For more information about the programs, call (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda or Miss Mija.

On Wednesday, Feb. 22 at 6:30 p.m. there will be a special program, "Festival of Fun with Bob Conrad." This is a winter-themed magic show. The program is a mix of entertainment using puppets, magic, music, ventriloquism and audience participation. Registration is not required. In lieu of an admission charge, adults should bring a new, unopened non-perishable food item for each person attending. Donations will go to the Middlesex County Community Food Drive. This program will be held at the South Plainfield Senior Center.

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

To find out more, or if there are any questions, visit our Facebook page, call (908) 754-7885 or visit us on the web at [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us).

See you next week!

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# Girl Scouts Invited to "Bridge" For 100th Anniversary

All South Plainfield Girl Scouts are invited to join in the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Girl Scouting on Sunday, March 11.

Girl scouts will meet at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 334 Hamilton Blvd., at 12:30 p.m. and "bridge" over

the Hamilton Boulevard bridge, after which they will walk to Holy Savior Academy, 149 South Plainfield Ave., for an afternoon full of fun activities.

For more information, email Jane Becker at [janebecker@optonline.net](mailto:janebecker@optonline.net).

# BOE to Expend Surplus

(Continued from page 1) resolution by the Board of Education.

**State Aid Payment Not Realized:** Earlier this school year the state awarded an additional \$678,309 in state aid which was deferred for use until the 2012-2013 school year by Board of Education Resolution. Accordingly, these funds are not available as a discretionary balance for the current year and will be used for tax relief in the next budget.

As a result of roof assessment studies of the district buildings, the board will repair the roofs to the extent of available resources which is the actual

excess surplus on June 30, 2011 of \$1,343,401.54. The Architect of Record, Shive, Spinelli, and Perantoni (SSP) of Somerville will be recommended for authorization to develop bid specifications leading to advertisement of the project. Initial estimates of district-wide roof repair needs for all eight locations far exceed the funds available. Therefore, the priorities at this time will include the Middle School, High School, and Grant School based upon the final report of the architect which will establish verified needs for final consideration as resources permit.

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tions in the U.S. as assigned. Resumes to Eteam Inc., Attn: Abhishek Agarwal, 1001 Durham Ave., Suite # 201, S. Plainfield, NJ 07080. Resume must specifically identify all mentioned skills applicant has experience in. Applicants for Sr. Technical Recruiter position must describe any recruiting experience and the skill sets they recruited for.

**NORTH EDISON BASEBALL/SOFTBALL LEAGUE** located off Oak Tree Rd., is hiring P/T groundskeeper for weekday afternoons & Sat. mornings. \$10/hr. to start. Baseball field maintenance and machinery knowledge needed. Call Tom at (732) 379-8234.

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**AMERICA'S LARGEST SAUSAGE PIZZA** toppings & meat ball manufacturing company is seeking a Sales Representative. Responsibilities include scheduling ride-wits, setup cold calls and make large user appointments, pull orders through distributors. **Must have experience in food industry or food brokerage to qualify.** If you do not qualify, please do not apply. Qualified candidates are requested to email resumes to [topbrands@foodindustrypros.com](mailto:topbrands@foodindustrypros.com).



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### PUBLIC NOTICES

[www.njpublicnotices.com](http://www.njpublicnotices.com) - Subscribe to receive automatic notices: sheriff sales, foreclosures, RFP bids for schools, town meetings, variances, etc.

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### Middlesex Co. Clerk Announces Foreclosure Review Program

Middlesex County Clerk Elaine M. Flynn encourages homeowners who were part of a home foreclosure between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2010 to take advantage of a new review program being offered by the federal government.

The Independent Foreclosure Review program is being offered through the Federal Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC). Homeowners who were part of a foreclosure during that time period are eligible to request an independent review of their foreclosure process.

If the review finds that financial injury occurred to the homeowner as a result of errors, misrepresentations or other deficiencies in the servicer's foreclosure process, the homeowner may be eligible for compensation. Where a borrower suffered financial injury as a result of such practices, the consent orders require remediation to be provided.

"If you underwent a foreclosure in 2009 or 2010, I urge you to take advantage of this process," Flynn said. "This review will help determine if you suffered undue financial injury due to errors or other problems during your home foreclosure process."

Under enforcement actions taken by the OCC, the Federal Reserve and the Office of Thrift Supervision in April 2011, 14 large mortgage services were required to correct deficiencies in their servicing and foreclosure processes and to engage independent firms to conduct a multi-faceted independent review of foreclosure actions that occurred in 2009 and 2010.

"I would like to thank the county clerk for bringing attention to this program and for looking out for the best interests of our residents," said Middlesex County Freeholder Blaquita B. Valenti, chair of the county's Community Services Committee.

"This program will help determine instances where our residents may have been misled or faced undue costs during an already difficult time," said Middlesex County Freeholder Director Christopher D. Rafano. "Helping to spread the word about programs such as this, is another way we can serve our citizens."

Nationally, more than four million letters were mailed to potentially eligible borrowers with request-for-review forms and instructions on how to complete and return them. If you did not receive a form in the mail, you can request a form by calling (888) 952-9105, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The form must be returned by April 30, 2012.

Flynn added, "You can begin the process today by completing a form and making sure to submit it by the April 30, 2012 deadline."

For additional information and answers to basic questions about the review process, visit [www.IndependentForeclosureReview.com](http://www.IndependentForeclosureReview.com).

#### LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
SOUTH PLAINFIELD MAYOR AND COUNCIL

In accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act-Chapter 231-PL 1975, requiring public bodies to transmit notices of future meetings, notice is hereby given that a special meeting of the South Plainfield Borough Council will be held on Thursday, March 1, 2012 at 6:30pm in the Council Chamber at the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. The purpose of this meeting is to conduct a hearing regarding charges alleging violations of State regulations concerning liquor licenses and business brought against J.P.R.C., Inc., d/b/a/ Liquid Assets and the imposition of penalties if appropriate. Questions should be directed to the Clerk's Office at 908-226-7606. Notice of this meeting has been posted on the borough Website and duly advertised according to law.

Joann L. Graf,  
Municipal Clerk

\$30.86

February 17, 2012



Riley School Celebrates Grandparents Day on February 10-Georgeann Cochrane and Al Czech were chosen to be recipients of the Honorary Grandparents' Day Award in recognition of the dedication and support they have given to the South Plainfield school system and the community. (L-R) Councilman Derryck White, Athletic Director Al Czech, Georgeann Cochrane, Board of Education Vice President Debbie Boyle and McKenzie Larson, the Cochranes' granddaughter, were present along with 275 proud grandparents.



### Riley School Students Celebrate Grandparents

By Jane Dornick

Riley School students celebrated Valentine's Day with its annual Grandparents' Day Breakfast on February 10. The children enjoyed dining with their loved ones as well as participating in planned activities.

The morning concluded with a choral show led by music teacher Tobie Baldwin. The kindergarteners sang *Love Somebody, You Are Special, The Little Red Box, Happy Valentine's Day* and *I Made a Valentine* and re-

cited the poem, *Grandma's Glasses*. First graders sang *Bonjour Mes Amis, Love is the Magic Word, Grandparents' Day, Skinnamarink, I'll Care For You* and *Bestest Grandparents* and recited the poem, *My Valentine*. The second grade classes sang *Viva Valentine!, Mail Myself to You, My Grandparents Made it Better, Love Grows and You've Got a Friend in Me*. They all recited the poems, *It's Grandparents' Day, Grandparents' Hugs Are Made for Love, Grandparents Have Special Talents* and *What Are Grandparents For?*

#### Save The Date:

### Volunteers Needed for Litter Cleanup Week April 21-28

The South Plainfield Clean Communities Advisory Board will sponsor a borough-wide cleanup the last week in April. The main clean up event will be on Saturday morning, April 21. Volunteers will meet from 9 to 10 a.m. at the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Ave., to collect equipment and cleanup assignments. They will target roadsides, parks,

streams and vacant lots. Residents are welcome to organize a crew, or to come on their own. All volunteers are invited back to Borough Hall at noon for a free, pickup picnic.

For more information, call Alice Tempel, the Clean Communities coordinator, at (908) 226-7621, or email her at [atempel@southplainfieldnj.com](mailto:atempel@southplainfieldnj.com).

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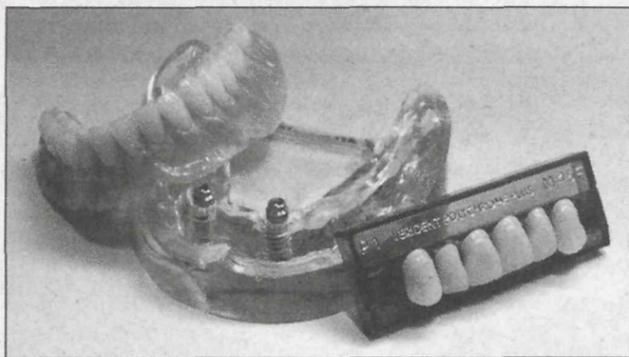
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