

# South Plainfield OBSERVER

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VOL. 15, NO. 32

Member New Jersey Press Association

60 CENTS

APRIL 13, 2012



The Recreation-sponsored annual Easter Egg Hunt drew 550 children to the PAL Memorial Field last Saturday. Youngsters age one to 10 raced to find candy- and toy-filled eggs. Fourteen were lucky enough to win Easter baskets after they found a "special" egg. For additional photos, see page 6.

—Photo by Lou Mormille

## Dems Endorse Diana, Salerno for Council

The South Plainfield Democratic Organization has endorsed C.J. Diana and Franky Salerno for Borough Council in this November's general election. In making the announcement Democratic Chair Michael English said, "C.J. and Franky represent the best of our party. They are enthusiastic and intelligent young men who will make us all proud."

Diana is South Plainfield through and through. His father, Wayne, is a sergeant on the police force and his mother, the former Janice Bechtle, comes from a family that has long been involved in the community. After graduating from South Plainfield High School in 2003, Diana went on to receive a bachelor of arts degree from John Jay College of Criminal Justice. He is employed by one of

New Jersey's leading law firms as a paralegal. Diana lives at 36 Leeds Drive with his wife, Courtney, a kindergarten teacher.

Upon his nomination Diana commented, "The reason I decided to run for council was to end the political tone of our borough government and give voice to all residents of South Plainfield, regardless of their political leanings. Recent decisions can only lead to one conclusion. The mayor and council are more concerned about the Republican Party than they are about our residents. That simply is unacceptable. I am proud to have Franky Salerno as my runningmate. During his three years on the borough council Franky never involved himself in partisan politics. He consistently

(Continued on page 8)



C.J. Diana (left) and Franky Salerno, candidates for Borough Council

## Bowen Fondly Recalls Time in District

By Libby Barsky

To Interim Superintendent of Schools Dr. Gary Bowen who will soon leave the district, his job has been "communicating to all segments of the community."

"I've enjoyed working with the community, the town council, the police, and have found that very important and beneficial," said Bowen.

Bowen constantly addressed the school district's safety procedures at monthly meetings with Office of Emergency Management Coordinator Michael Zushma. He also met with the presidents of the PTA/PTO/PTSOs to inform them of the legislation which merges the spring Board of Education elections with local, state and national elections in November and ends voting on the school budget.

## Try Borough's New Pick-ups On Demand

Mayor Anesh has announced an expansion of the borough's bulk pickup services. Residents can call the Department of Public Works at (908) 755-2187 to schedule a bulk pickup. Residents will be eligible for two bulk pickups per year. The pickups will be done every Tuesday and Thursday. Visit [www.southplainfieldnj.com](http://www.southplainfieldnj.com) for a list of the items eligible for pickup.

Council President Ray Rusnak estimates the borough will save approximately \$35,000 per year by doing bulk pickups and leaf bag pickups in-house.



Dr. Gary Bowen

Last December Bowen became a member of the South Plainfield Library Board of Trustees, taking the seat that had always been open to—but never occupied by—the superintendent.

"I've met some of the most wonderful people who want to serve their community here," said Bowen. "It's also a chance

to understand the operation of a local library that is really closely connected to the school system and its research opportunities." The position will revert back to Pat Massey, high school librarian, who was a member of the Library Board for 20 years.

Bowen's career in education, which encompasses 39 years, began in Keyser, W. Va. where he taught for 16 years in an elementary school and was a middle school principal. He came to Sewell as the director of a federally funded program where he was principal of two middle schools.

Five years later, Bowen was superintendent for six years in Galloway Township and started work on his doctorate at Temple University where he wrote his dissertation, "The Superintendent's Role in Planning Educational Facilities and the Importance of the Facilities Related to the Curriculum and Instruction." The dissertation emphasized the importance of the educational environment of buildings

(Continued on page 7)

## Nominees Sought for 2012 Hall of Fame

The South Plainfield High School Hall of Fame Committee is again holding a search for candidates for induction into the Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame was established at South Plainfield High School to recognize outstanding graduates as leaders in their fields who could serve as role models for current and future students.

To be eligible, Hall of Fame candidates must have graduated from

South Plainfield High School at least 15 years prior to nomination, and they must have achieved a prominent position in their careers or made a significant contribution to the world/community.

Those candidates selected will be honored at a luncheon and will be inducted into the Hall of Fame at the high school's annual Academic Awards Program on Tuesday, May 22. The nominees will also have

their photographs and biographies displayed on a "wall of fame" at the high school.

Community members interested in obtaining a Hall of Fame nomination form can visit the website: [www.spboe.org](http://www.spboe.org) (go to the high school home page), call Dr. James Pedersen at (908) 754-4620, ext. 248 or 249 or stop by the high school for the application information. The application deadline is April 20.



Cast and crew of Hairspray, South Plainfield High School Drama Club's spring musical—Performances are Friday through Sunday. For details, 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

<b>Agenda Meeting</b>	<b>Public Meeting</b>
Monday, May 7	Monday, May 7
Monday, May 21	Monday, May 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.

**planningboard**

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

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

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

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.)

Regular Public Meeting (begin at 7:30 p.m.) except where noted\* April 11

**BOEcurriculum/technology/student activities**

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

**BOEbuildings & grounds**

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

**culturalarts commission**

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

April 17, May 15, June 19, July & Aug.-No Meeting,

Sept. 18, Oct. 16, Nov. 20, Dec. 18

**libraryboard of trustees**

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

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

**recreationcommission**

Meets once a month on the second Tuesday of the month, except July and August

PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7716

May 8, June 12, Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec. 11

**taxpayersadvisorygroup**

The Taxpayers Advisory Group (TAG) meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave. at 7 p.m. Questions? 908-769-0786.

**siteplansub-committee**

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m.

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

**environmentalcommission**

Meets once a month (second Wednesday) Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m.

Questions? 908-226-7621

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

**businessadvisorygroup**

Meets once a month (first Wednesday) Borough Hall Council Chambers, 6:30 p.m. (No meetings July and August)

# In My Opinion

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

**Submit Your Letters to the Editor**

Send your letters to South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax to 908-668-8819, or via email: [spobserver@comcast.net](mailto:spobserver@comcast.net). **Deadline is Monday, 5 p.m.** Letters must be accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. Limit letters to no more than 200 words. We reserve the right to refuse a letter, to edit for clarity or length, and to limit the number of letters submitted on the same subject. Submission is not a guarantee of publication. We do not accept anonymous letters. Letters are strictly opinion.

Plainfield do not agree with my views, I do apologize; however, I have never made it a secret that my platform has always been students first. I always have and always will stand behind my beliefs, and would never vote to give money back to the town because I am up for re-election like certain individuals. By doing so, I would violate the very platform I used to gain office and betray I trust to the voters who helped me get here.

I read a very good quote last week in *The Observer*; According to Mr. Mikorski, "We won't have a chance to vote on the budget, but we will get a chance to vote on board members." If anyone wants to volunteer their time and try to help the school district in our community, I invite you to come to the public meetings and get involved. I would like to see multiple candidates run for election and give the voters a good sampling like last year.

This letter expresses my views alone and not those of any members of the South Plainfield Board of Education.  
**JOSEPH SORRENTINO**

**To the Editor:**

I am responding to incorrect information printed in a March 16, 2012 "In My Opinion" letter.

Although I am not disagreeing with anything Mike English was saying about Joann Graf in regard to her commitment to the community, she was not the first female board member. In the early '60s Patricia Lauber was the first woman elected to the Borough Council. Pat was also the owner and editor of *The Reporter*, the local South Plainfield newspaper at that time.

**REGARDS,  
RUTHANN SCHIONNING NUZZO**

**Dear Editor,**

Last year, I chose to run for the South Plainfield Board of Education to volunteer my time for the young scholars of our community. My ultimate objective is to ensure that our schools produce high-performing students who are capable of achieving greatness. It is the Board of Education's responsibility and privilege to give our youth the best chance to become successful adults.

Recently, Borough Council President Ray Rusnak has been coming to the public meetings and asking the board to give money back to the town so we can help offset the municipal budget. I do not agree with his request. Since Governor Christie has stepped into office, the state's funding for education has dramatically declined over the last three years, and our district has made several cuts in staff, curriculum, technology and a range of other important areas. This does not help schools produce high student achievement. Our budget for the upcoming school year consists of adding on new positions that we have lost, more technology for instruction, and allowing us to rewrite curriculum to keep up with the New Jersey Department of Education's standards.

Another major concern that must be addressed in the near future is the condition of the roofs on many of the school buildings in town. We cannot keep procrastinating in the resolution of this problem and I believe action needs to be taken this year. Our schools are like a second home

for the children of South Plainfield; these schools should be safe and well-maintained for them and the staff. An additional benefit of regular upkeep and maintenance on the schools is that this will raise the value of the homes in our community.

The Republican-controlled council says that taxes have not been raised; this claim to a lack of a raise in taxes is being kept alive because they are attempting to sell pieces of municipal property, taking money from the library, and now coming after the board of education for more money. Maybe they should have prepared themselves better and budgeted for tax appeals as former council people advised them to do. The board of education is using its funds wisely, so it only stands to reason that the council should do the same and should have had the foresight to realize that their budget was grossly misjudged. Our students should not be punished because the mayor and council did not create a responsible budget. The council clandestinely takes money from all other places to balance their budget so they can look like heroes, and now they continue to use their rob-Peter-to-pay-Paul mindset by asking the board of education to cover for their financial shortcomings.

I believe that the board of education's primary objective should be to use its funding to create successful schools, not to help the mayor reduce the deficit he helped create. Society is more competitive now than ever and we need to take charge and lead the students of South Plainfield into the 21st Century. If the people of South

## Taxpayers Urged to Take Advantage Of Electronic Filing Options

With the April 17 due date for filing individual income tax returns fast approaching, New Jersey State Treasurer Andrew Sidamon-Eristoff urged taxpayers who have not yet submitted their returns to take advantage of New Jersey's convenient electronic filing options. He also reminded taxpayers that last-minute help with 2011 returns is available through the Division of Taxation's Call Center and its

Regional Offices around the state.

Taxpayers can use one of two "FastFile" options: NJ WebFile or NJ E-File. These easy-to-use systems make it possible to submit paperless returns either via the Internet or by using a computer software package. The Division of Taxation estimates that it takes three weeks to process refunds for returns filed electronically compared with six to eight weeks for those filed by mail. Electronic filers can also choose to receive their refunds via direct deposit, a choice that is not available to those filing paper returns.

The treasurer also reminded taxpayers who owe tax not to overlook the advantages of making their payments electronically. "You can file now and pay at any time until midnight on April 17," Sidamon-Eristoff said. New Jersey's electronic payment methods include electronic check (e-check) and credit card. There is a credit card convenience fee that is paid directly to the payment processor.

Taxpayers who have filed their returns can use the Division of Taxation's new online refund checking service, available at [www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/refinfo.shtml](http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/refinfo.shtml), to monitor the status of their refunds. In its first four weeks of operation, 63,000 filers accessed the service and received information about their refunds.

To avoid penalties and interest, individual income tax returns and payments for 2011 must be postmarked or submitted electronically by midnight on Tuesday, April 17, for most filers.

To help taxpayers resolve last-minute problems with completing their returns, the Division of Taxation's customer service center and its regional office in Trenton will both be open extended hours on April 16 and 17 taking calls from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on those days, and the Trenton office at 50 Barrack St. will be open for walk-in customers.

Taxpayers can contact the customer service center by calling (609) 292-6400.

## South Plainfield OBSERVER

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

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Advertising Sales..... Jane Dornick, Jean Fultz  
Roxanne Cortese

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 ARTICLES**

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

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

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

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

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

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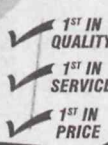
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**Prizes!  
Giveaways!**





Mayor Matt Anesh presents a proclamation encouraging all residents to use the library National Library Week, April 8-14 to Library Director Linda Hansen during the April 2 Borough Council meeting. (L-R) Library Board of Trustees member Robert Bengivenga, Stephanie Bonanno, Hansen, President Eric Aronowitz, Christine Faustini and Mayor Anesh.

## Knights Serve Over 1,700 Fish Dinners During Lent

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 recently completed the annual Lenten fish dinners at Holy Savior Academy. This is the eighth year the Knights have hosted these dinners. More than 1,700 dinners were sold during the six weeks with an average of 283 people ordering dinners each week.

The Knights would like to thank McCrisky-Gustafson Home For Funerals for their very generous donation. It's great to see local businesses support such a great local event.

The Knights would also like to thank all of the men and women who volunteered their time in helping to set up, prepare, serve and clean up. Without their dedication the dinners would not have happened, nor run as smoothly as they did.

We would especially like to thank Marie Dolinski, Ed Schmidt, Ann Nagy, Irene and Tom Donnelly, Mary McNeerney, Dot Mercier, Ann and Dominic Demico, Annabella Lanza, Mary Timko, Sandy Ronasz, Nancy Stillman-Pender, Mickey Panzarella, Arlene Paterek, Marie Thompson, Gail Skidmore and Elaine Tuthill.

In addition, a very big thank you goes out to Lisa Thompson who oversaw the children from Sacred Heart and Our Lady of Czestochowa churches CCD classes who came out to help with the dinners. These children did a great job greeting the

people, serving and cleaning up the tables after the dinner was over.

Thanks to Knights Dan Ratti and Rob Richkus for delivering meals to many senior citizens around town. Also, a great big thank you goes out to Knight John Weakley who ordered all of the food and supplies every week.

A special thanks to the Knights of Columbus members, especially the kitchen crew of Ed Koznowicz Sr., Roberto Morales, Charlie Butrico, Lenny Kleczkowski, Joe Rea, John Roesch, John DeAndrea, Norman Chicarelli and Jim Whalen (Mr. Dishwasher) and many other Knights who came out each and every week to support our council in this endeavor.

The Knights would also like to thank Greg Lind who took time out of a very busy schedule to help cook. Other Knights who also helped were Brian Cargill, Bob Longo, Walter Thompson, Neil Towey, Gerry Butrico, Mike Butrico, Matt Devito, Richie Lee, Bill Tuthill, Larry Makoski, Bill Butrico, Steve Belanger, Joe Scrudato (Mr. 50/50) and Joe Wilkowski.

Lastly, the Knights of Columbus and Father John Paul Alvarado would like to thank all the residents of South Plainfield and other towns who came to the dinners during Lent; if not for your continued support, the fish dinners would have ended many years ago.

—Submitted by  
Grand Knight Joe Scrudato

## borough notes

By Libby Barsky

• Six ordinances were introduced at the April 2 Borough Council meeting: one amended a chapter of the Borough Code for Peddling and Soliciting and the other five were for the sale of various undersized parcels of land located on St. John's Place, Sage Street, Tremont Avenue and two lots on Harvard Avenue off St. John's Place.

• The borough council authorized the release of a performance bond to Moon Builders, 1415 Walnut St. The release had been delayed because resident Dawn Wallis claimed they had taken down a tree on her property. Moon Builders denied the accusation because according to the property lines the tree was not on her lot.

• A contract in the amount of \$74,700 was awarded to RJR Engineering Co. Inc. of Califon to perform work specified in the bid proposal by the Recreation Department for the Pool Improvement Phase I project.

• The raffle license fee of \$750 was waived for the South Plainfield VFW Memorial Post #6763 and the Elks Lodge #2298.

• Alison Gibson and Janice Campos were appointed to the Wellness Campaign Committee.

• A contract was awarded to Joy Auto to purchase a new A/C charger and recovery unit.

• Liquid Assets, located on New Market Avenue, will remain open while the 45-day suspension imposed by the borough council at a formal hearing held March 8 is appealed. Police officers from Plainfield, Piscataway and Edison assisted South Plainfield Police quell a disturbance at the gentlemen's club on January 15.



A big thank you to all who submitted entries to the Junior Journalist contest. The contest is over, but it will begin again in the fall.



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Miele's Art Studio inaugural student art exhibition opened on April 1.

## Students Exhibit Art at Miele's Studio

Art students, parents, relatives and friends descended upon Miele's Art Studio on April 1 to view the inaugural student art exhibition. The display of framed artwork includes works in pastel, watercolor and acrylic paint, colored pencil and charcoal by students ranging in age from five to senior citizen. Subject matter includes botanical and animal pictures, landscapes and seascapes.

The art will remain on display during the month of April. The public is invit-

ed to view the gallery of student work on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Miele's Art Studio, located at 30-32 South Plainfield Ave. at the intersection of Front Street, opened on March 5. The studio specializes in drawing and painting lessons for students of all ages. Studio hours are Monday-Thursday, 4 to 7 p.m.; 4 to 8 p.m. on Friday; and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday.

For more information, call Dorothy Miele at (908) 548-3179.

## Volunteers Sought for Litter Cleanup Week

South Plainfield Clean Communities Advisory Board will sponsor a borough-wide cleanup the last week in April. The main cleanup 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. Volunteers are invited back to Borough Hall at noon for a free picnic.

For more information, call Clean Communities Coordinator Alice Tem-

pel at (908) 226-7621, or email her at atempel@southplainfieldnj.com.

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# events

## Around Town

### Education Foundation Annual Wine Tasting

April 13

The fourth annual Education Foundation/Oak Tree Liquors Fine Wine, Spirits and Craft Beer tasting fundraiser will be held on Friday, April 13 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. Food will be provided by Paulo's Barbecue, Flanagan's Restaurant and Hometown Heros. Tickets: \$30 or four for \$100; \$35 at the door. Limited to the first 180 people.

For tickets or information, call Marjorie Reedy at (908) 561-5800, ext. 302, Debbie Boyle at (908) 803-1573, or Bob Boyle at (908) 599-0699 or visit [www.vision2001.org](http://www.vision2001.org).

### AFP Tricky Tray

April 13

Almost Famous Players will hold a tricky tray raffle at the Senior Center on Friday, April 13 during the Education Foundation's annual Wine Tasting. There are over two dozen prizes available. Tickets are \$1 each or 15 tickets for \$10. You do not have to attend the wine tasting to participate in the raffle, but the event is a great opportunity to support our schools and have a great evening of sampling various beverages and food from local restaurants.

For more information on the raffle, call (908) 346-2290.

### Blackrose to Perform

April 14

Blackrose, a band playing classic rock and roll music and today's hits, will perform at KC's Korner, 100 Oak Tree Ave., on Saturday, April 14 at 10 p.m. No cover charge.

### Troop 207 Spaghetti Dinner

April 14

Boy Scout Troop 207 will hold its annual spaghetti dinner on Saturday, April 14 from 4 to 8 p.m. at the American Legion Post, 243 Oak Tree Ave. Tickets: \$7; includes salad, drink, bread, meatballs and spaghetti. Purchase at the door. Take out is available. All proceeds will go towards

troop equipment and events.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call (908) 757-3369 or (908) 413-1000.

### SPCAC Line Dancing At the Senior Center

April 14

The South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission will sponsor line dancing at the Senior Center on Saturday, April 14 from 7 to 10 p.m. Line dancing lessons and dancing by Wanda and Jim York. Light refreshments will be served. Admission is free. All ages are welcome.

For more information, email [spcac.nj@gmail.com](mailto:spcac.nj@gmail.com).

### Sacred Heart Climate Change Program

April 15

Sacred Heart Church will present a climate change program on Sunday, April 15 (Earth Day) from 2 to 4 p.m. in the church. Sr. Mary Elizabeth Clark, SSJ will connect our faith with the environment by linking the teachings of the Catholic church on environmental issues and climate change. Dave Sliker will address practical ways we can implement the three R's in our home and community. Free and open to the public.

### Brayden Carr Annual Fundraiser

April 15

In Brayden's Eyes, The Brayden Carr Foundation, will hold the annual fundraiser, "Bray's Run & Fun," a 5K run and 1.5 mile fun walk on Sunday, April 15 at 10 a.m. followed by a basketball game at 11 a.m. Rutgers men's basketball coaches/alumni vs. South Plainfield PBA. Register 8:15 to 9:45 a.m. Fee: \$30 run/pp; \$20 walk per family w/children under 14; or \$10 students with ID. Game only: \$5. Register online at [braydencarrfoundation.org](http://braydencarrfoundation.org) or send check or money order with registration form (available online) to: In Brayden's Eyes, The Brayden Carr Foundation, P.O. Box 129, South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

### Middle School PTO Blood Drive

April 19

South Plainfield Middle School PTO, along with the high school student council, will host the fifth annual blood drive in the upstairs gym at the high school on Thursday, April 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Students age 16 must have a signed letter from a parent with permission to donate; 17 years and up, please sign up in advance. The public is welcome.

For more information, call Debbie Boyle at (908) 803-1573 or see Student Council Advisor Mr. Encinas.

Funds will be donated to South Plainfield High School Project Graduation vendor, The Club at Ricochet.

### Knights Don't Cook Friday Dinner

April 20

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 is once again holding the annual "Don't Cook Friday" Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, April 20 from 4 to 7:30 p.m. at the council hall located at 334 Hamilton Blvd. Adults, \$8; seniors, \$7; children, \$4.

Take out dinners are also available.

### American Legion Flea Market

April 21

The American Legion Post Women's Auxiliary, 243 Oak Tree Ave., is hosting a flea market on Saturday, April 21 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Cost to rent a spot is \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members.

If you're interested in reserving a table, please call (908) 403-4292.

### Annual Luncheon/Fashion Show

April 22

The Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield is sponsoring a luncheon/fashion show on Sunday, April 22 from 2 to 6 p.m. at the South Plainfield Senior Center, 90 Maple Ave. Fashions by Cold Water

Creek of Westfield. Proceeds benefit the Cancer Support Community of Central NJ and the scholarship fund. Tickets are \$20.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call (908) 756-8679.

### SPHS PTA Project Graduation Auction

April 28

South Plainfield High School PTA will host the annual Project Graduation auction on Saturday, April 28 from 7 to 11 p.m. in the high school gym. Doors open 6 p.m. Proceeds to benefit Project Graduation for the Class of 2012. Tickets are \$12.

For tickets or to reserve a table, call Tracey Hartmann at (908) 750-6194.

For more information or to make a donation, please call Sharon Miller at (908) 754-6461.

This is a great event for a very worthwhile cause. We look forward to you joining us in support of the Class of 2012.

### Walk for Autism

April 29

The South Plainfield Squirettes will sponsor a "Walk For Autism," inspired by Richie Romano on Sunday, April 29 at Putnam Park (by A&P). Register 1 p.m.; walk starts 2 p.m. Cost: \$5, 16 and under; \$10, 17 and over. All proceeds go to the Hope Autism Foundation and the Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation.

For more information, call Myrna Morales at (347) 834-1819.

### Sacred Heart Trip to The National Shrine

May 1

Sacred Heart Altar Rosary Society is sponsoring a trip to The National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, Pa. on Tuesday, May 1. Buses leave from the church parking lot at 8:30 a.m. and return at approximately 5 p.m.

Cost of \$50 includes bus, driver's tip, snacks on board and lunch at the shrine.

Activities at the shrine include tour, movie, Mass and time on your own to visit the gift shop and bookstore. If time permits, included is a stop at Peddler's Village in Lahaska, Pa.

For reservations or information, call Kathy at (908) 756-3772 or Nancy at (908) 561-5917.

### SENIOR CENTER Calendar

April 16-Free Zumba demonstration, 9:30 a.m.

April 19-Bally's Atlantic City \$20pp Bus leaves 8:45 a.m. Sign up at Senior Center

#### MONDAYS

Crocheting ..... 9:30-11:30 am  
Yoga ..... 10:30 am  
Art Class ..... 11:30 am  
Active Seniors ..... 11:45 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 ..... 9:00 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

### Water, Earth, Wind & Fire Fashion Show

May 1

The Salon Professional Academy will present Elements 2012 Water, Earth, Wind & Fire Fashion Show to benefit the Erika Lynn Foundation ([www.erikalynn.org](http://www.erikalynn.org)) on Tuesday, May 1 at Studio 901, 901 Montrose Ave. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for a tricky tray. Tickets are \$10. Show starts at 7:30 p.m.

### Fire Department Benefit Concert

May 12

The South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department will hold its annual benefit concert on Saturday, May 12 at 8 p.m. at South Plainfield High School in the auditorium.

This year's show is a Johnny Cash tribute featuring Terry Lee Goffee. General admission: \$16. Tickets available at the door.

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## SPHS Class of 1962 Plans Reunion

May 16

The South Plainfield High School Class of 1962 is holding a 50th class reunion on Wednesday, May 16 at the Resorts Casino on the boardwalk in Atlantic City. Reunion banquet is \$65 per person and includes appetizers, Italian buffet, desserts and coffee/tea. Cash bar from 6 to 11 p.m.

A block of rooms are available at a discounted price for anyone interested in staying at Resorts. For more information on our special reservation code, call Jeanette (Reynolds) Keleher at (908) 246-8861 or Diana (Maniscalco) Zaslow at (203) 227-1346.

## Senior Center Trip To Wildwood

May 20-23

The South Plainfield Senior Center is sponsoring a trip to Wildwood for four days/three nights from Sunday to Thursday, May 20-23. Package includes motorcoach transportation, three nights deluxe accommodations-oceanfront hotel, three full breakfasts at the hotel, two dinners at fine local restaurants. Welcome cocktail party with live entertainment. Full day in Atlantic City with bonus package. Visit to Stone Harbor, Cape May, Wildwood Boardwalk, Woodland Village, Historic Smithville, Sunset Beach-Cape May Wicker Col. All tax and baggage handling included. Cost: \$210/pp double occupancy; \$261/single.

For more information or to make reservations, call (908) 754-1047.

## — Out of Town —

## Middlesex East WOWs Open Dance

April 13

Middlesex East Widows Or Widowers, Carteret Chapter, will hold an open dance on Friday, April 13 from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, 1155 Roosevelt Ave. in Carteret. Refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome. Admission: \$10 members; \$12 guests.

For more information, call (732) 969-2228 or (908) 757-0515.

## Pastel Workshop at duCret School of Art

April 14, 21 & 28

Internationally Recognized Wildlife Artist Leslie Delgyer will conduct a three-week Pastel Workshop Series on Saturday, April 14, 21 and 28 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at duCret School of Art, 1030 Central Ave. in Plainfield. Workshop fee: \$125 for all three sessions. Bring materials: 11x14 multi color pastel pad and assortment of pastel pencils.

To register, call (908) 757-7171 or download registration form from [www.ducet.edu](http://www.ducet.edu) and bring it in.

## Open House at Morristown Airport

April 14

American Flyers Flight School, 50 Airport Rd. in Morristown, will be hosting an open house on Saturday, April 14 at noon. Free; BBQ lunch followed by facility tour.

For more information, call (973) 267-3223 or visit [www.americanflyers.net/about/aviation\\_seminars.asp](http://www.americanflyers.net/about/aviation_seminars.asp). Tickets are \$75 and are available at [www.peoplecarecenter.org](http://www.peoplecarecenter.org) or at the PeopleCare Center office.

For more info, call (908) 725-2299.

## Plainfield Musical Club Concert

April 15

The Plainfield Musical Club will present a program in celebration of spring on Sunday, April 15 at 3 p.m. at The Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church in Plainfield. Free to the public, though donations to the club's scholarship fund will be accepted. Handicap access and bathrooms are available.

For more information, call Robert Paoli at (908) 757-8905 or email [robertpaoli@comcast.net](mailto:robertpaoli@comcast.net).

## Woodbridge WOWs Open Dance

April 15

Woodbridge Widows Or Widowers will hold an open dance on Sunday, April 15 from 7 to 11 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Morrissey Ave. in Avenel. Refreshments served. Everyone is welcome. Admission: \$10 members; \$12 guests.

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

## police report

• On March 23 the office building manager at 1511 Park Ave. reported that graffiti had been scratched on the side of the building.

• On March 24 John Michael Kukuch, 25, of South Plainfield was arrested for disorderly conduct.

• Party City on Hadley Road reported the theft of two masks worth \$15 by a woman who fled the scene.

• On March 25 Addison Stewart, 30 of Montclair was arrested for no registration, driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.

• Michael D. Hobbs, 24, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license, failure to make repairs and two outstanding warrants.

• On March 26 Yulum Tucker, 39, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, driving on a suspended license, failure to exhibit a valid registration or insurance and careless driving.

• Ana I. Munoz, 43, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.

• Franklin Elementary School reported that graffiti had been painted on the side of the building.

• A Bori Drive resident reported that a fraudulent account with Time

Warner Cable had been opened in their name.

• A Brett Place resident reported that their debit card had been used to make fraudulent purchases on the Internet.

• On March 27 Joseph Philip Hackwelder, 35, of Branchburg was arrested for defiant trespass and driving on an expired learners permit.

• On March 28 Cheryl M. Dalesandro, 33, of Edison and John M. Longo, 36, of Fords were arrested at Target for shoplifting \$1,336 worth of electronics.

• An Elissa Court resident reported the theft of a diamond ring, Blackberry cell phone and an iPod by a Verizon installer.

• On March 30 Antwan Daniel Carpenter, 33, of New Brunswick was

arrested for hindering apprehension and outstanding warrants.

• On April 1 Kannan M. Pandian, 41, of Edison was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving, speeding, possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle, failure to maintain lanes, failure to comply with the directions of an officer, consumption of alcohol in a motor vehicle and an outstanding warrant.

• On April 2 Reymond S. Villanueva, 40, of North Plainfield was arrested for theft of a Garmin GPS from a motor vehicle parked at Rite Aid on Park Avenue.

• A Tremont Avenue resident reported that their passenger's side view mirror had been damaged.

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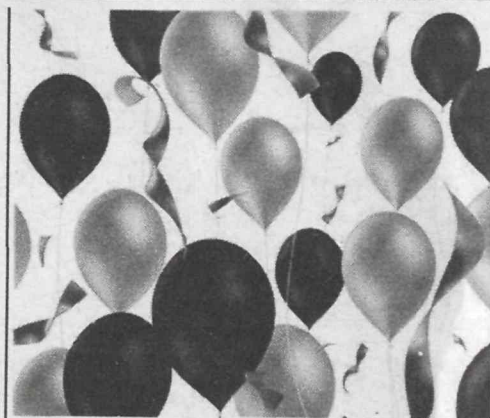
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## FROM THE SENIOR FORUM

By Richard Petrone, Secretary

Our school board scheduled the final adoption of the 2012/2013 school budget on April 4 at 6 p.m. There were three individuals from the public present including one of our members. Another member came in later. The format for the budget presentation consisted of the following:

General Fund .....\$52,668,913  
Grants & Entitlements ....\$1,499,357  
Debt Service.....\$1,113,113  
Total.....\$55,281,383

The 2011/2012 budget was \$52,675,285. The 2012/2013 represents an increase of \$2,605,998. The public will not have the opportunity to vote on the budget since the school board voted that the budget represents only a 2% increase and no vote is necessary. Check the math—the increase is 4.9%.

The public will have the opportunity to vote for board members in November 2012 and we hope they will remember how the board members treated them with the budget reviews.

In the past, the public was presented with budget documents for three years which reflected the line item revenue section of the budget and the line item appropriation section. Not this year.

As an example of what has happened with our school taxes we report the following:

In 2002, the tax levy was \$29,210,934. In 2012/2013, it is \$41,585,848. Between 2002 and today, the school tax levy rose \$12,374,914, or an average of \$1,124,992 per year.

Our member left the meeting discouraged after he found out there wasn't going to be any budget presentation. He felt there was no need to make any further comments about the budget because of the poor attendance at the meeting by other taxpayers.

## Social Services Dept., Food Pantry Relocate to the Senior Center

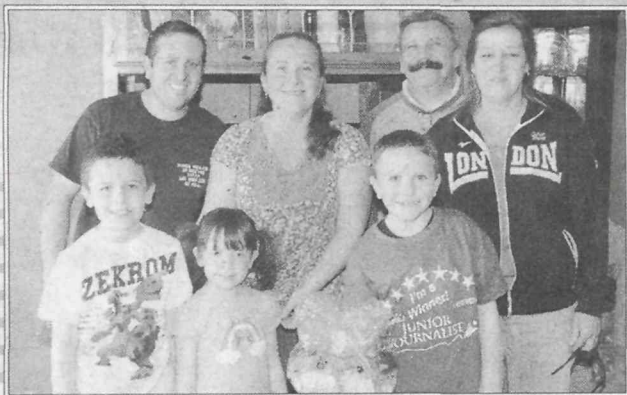
The Social Services Department and the food pantry have relocated to the South Plainfield Senior Center located at 90 Maple Avenue.

In order to be eligible for the food pantry, you must demonstrate need

and prove residency in South Plainfield. Anyone who needs food in an emergency is always welcome.

The hours of operation are now Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

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### It's a Winner!

Charlie and Debbie Kurland of Hometown Heros deliver dinner to Junior Journalist winner Colin Farrell pictured with parents, Erin and Chris, and brother and sister, Brady and Keira.

## SPHS Project Graduation Auction—April 28

The big event is only two weeks away! The SPHS Project Graduation Auction will be held at South Plainfield High School on Saturday, April 28 from 7 to 11 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. 2012 will mark the SPHS PTA's 24th year of providing our graduating seniors with a Project Graduation celebration.

**Auction Ticket Sales:** For ticket info and to reserve a table, please call Tracey Hartmann at (908) 750-6194. Please provide her with your name, phone number and the number of people you would like at your table.

**Auction Volunteers:** Volunteers are needed. To be an auction volunteer (set-up, noon-3 p.m.; ticket sales, 6-7 p.m.; or clean-up, 11 p.m.) or to help move prizes from the homes where they are being stored to SPHS at 11:30 a.m., please call the main office at the high school, (908) 754-4620, ext. 248 or Sharon Miller at (908) 754-6461. All volunteers will receive a call as a reminder.

**Class Of 2012 Parents:** This year's Project Graduation celebration is for your children so get some of your family and friends together and come join us for a fun night at the auction.

**South Plainfield Community:** It is not too late to help! Please support this worthwhile cause. Contributions need to be received by April 18. They can be sent to: South Plainfield HS, 200 Lake St., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

**Auction Info:** Call Sharon Miller at (908) 754-6461 for information on the auction or with any questions you may have.

The SPHS Class of 2012, SPHS PTA and SPHS sincerely appreciate your support! Together we can make this event a success for our graduating seniors. Together we can make a difference!

Keep up with all the news about your town. Subscribe to the Observer. Call 908-668-0010.



A youngster makes a run for the eggs scattered on the turf field at the PAL during last Saturday's annual Easter Egg Hunt. Pictured below with the Easter Bunny (Caroline Ratti) are helpers for the event (L-R) Claire Nagel, Caitly Hughes, Shannon Hughes and Haley Hlavka, who scattered the eggs. Sydni Surowiec (not pictured) was also a helper. —Photos by Lou Mormille



## "Perfect Harmony: A Play Within a Talent Show" Presented at Cedarcroft

Cedarcroft Bible Chapel on Kenyon Avenue presented an original play by Nora Stasio entitled, *Perfect Harmony: A Play Within a Talent Show*, on March 30 and March 31. Stasio also starred in the performance.

The cast included Jonathon Matthew as Bob Beverly, The Host with Most (Stress); Noelle Rutowski as Gemini Moon, The Demanding Diva; Tim Rabideau as Artie McArthur, The Neurotic Stage Manager; Nora Stasio

as Kim, The Stage Manager's Innocent Intern; Kayla Ruiz as Elena, The Sassy Wardrobe Coordinator; Shaina Toth as Jade, The Laid-back Fan; Courtney Lee as Skylar, The Earnest Fan; Chris Hauseer as Tommy, The Eccentric Fan; DeVon Pender as Warner Cruz, The Fair Judge; Jeffrey Kandathil as Sean Smithers, The Harsh Judge and Gabe Schuch as Malcolm Tanner, The... Other Judge.

The play also featured the talents of Joshua Matthew, James Kandathil, Dan Schuch, Rusty Teller, Nam Lee, Cecelia Hogan, Marcus Brown, Chris Hauseer and the CBC Treasure Seekers; Gennie Bosse, Marcus Brown, Ben Connolly, Noah Connolly and James Kandathil.

Stasio's family also participated in the play with Marc J. accompanying on the piano, Marc A. helping with the theme music and Nora's mother, high school and middle school music teacher Joan, lending a hand with organizing the production.

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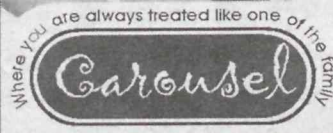
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# Bowen

(Continued from page 1)

and the need to keep them up to date with technology to match the state curriculum to provide students with the opportunity to do their very best. Dr. Bowen submitted his paper to The International Society of Educational Planners, and he won the award for "Dissertation of the Year for Public Planning."

In 1999 Bowen received his doctorate and became the superintendent in Jefferson Township, Lake Hopatcong where he remained for seven years. He moved on to be the superintendent in Montville, and he retired in 2009.

In October 2010, Bowen started his first position in retirement as acting superintendent in South Plainfield. When Bowen began in the district, he also served as principal at the high school before Dr. James Pedersen was hired.

"I was able to meet all those good people at the high school," said Bowen. "They are representative of the employees throughout the district. The talent pool here is remarkable, with many good people at every level—the support staff, professional staff, the community at large and the members of the board of education. This is a real asset to a superintendent."

Bowen believes very strongly in building community consensus using the concepts in the book by James Surowiecki, *The Wisdom of Crowds*.

"The point is to get the best thoughts and collective thinking of the group. I try to apply it in my leadership and practice," Bowen said.

"I have learned a lot in South Plainfield," said Bowen, producing a flow chart he made of all the steps it took to find the new superintendent, Dr. Stephen Genco, who is slated to begin on Monday. The board voted to keep Bowen on until April 20 in order to assist Genco with the transition.

Bowen also used a grant to fund the new web provider to expand the many ways the web page communicates within the school district and the entire community.

On a personal note, Bowen has a daughter, Juliet, who is a marketing specialist in real estate working on a new condominium development in Montclair. He is a devoted bicyclist who has participated in the TD Bank Five Boro Bike Tour for the past 10 years. Last summer he joined a two-day, 142-mile fundraising bike-a-thon with the EMS and Jefferson Township Police Department to ride from Sandy Hook to Cape May, sleeping overnight on the gym floor of Pinelands Regional High School.

Bowen cooks a salmon on the grill every Sunday and makes his lunch for the rest of the week with the leftovers.

"In my retirement I want to do research and writing, and spend a little time golfing and bicycling," he said.

"He is very knowledgeable and brought professionalism to the job. He knows how to communicate, delegate and when to do the job himself. He did an excellent job as superintendent," said board member Carol Byrne.

## LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
LEGAL NOTICE

April 4, 2012—Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the Zoning Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on April 3, 2012.

- Case #33-11—Vincent Milano, Block 537; Lot 1; OPA-1 Zone, 200 Easton Blvd. The applicant's request for a use variance to allow a contractor storage yard in the OPA-1 Zone was hereby DENIED due to its failure to receive (5) votes required for approval.
- Case #36-11—Jaswinder Pinghila, Block 449; Lot 10; M-3 Zone, 3046 South Clinton Avenue. The applicant's request for a variance in order to use his property for the storage of (3) trailers and (2) tractors was hereby DENIED.
- Case #1-12—John Shore, Jr., Block 342; Lot 9.01; R-10 Zone, 230 Arlington Avenue. The applicant's request for a use variance to allow him to use his property for (2) separate living units, one for he and his wife and the other for his granddaughter was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary Beth Khidre  
ZBOA Secretary



## Clifford Cares Night At Kennedy School

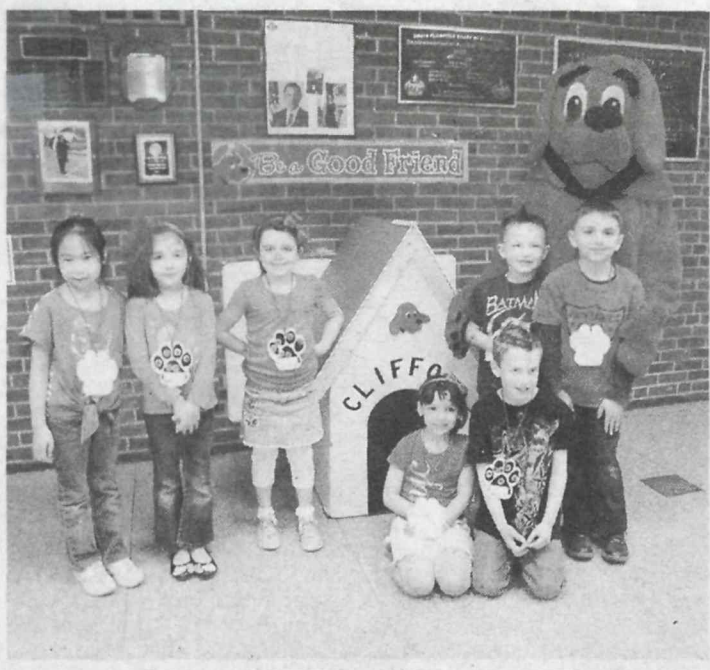
By Jane Dornick

Kennedy School first graders were entertained with a Clifford Cares Night on March 30.

The children participated in fun activities which included bingo, math fun, puppet and dog headband making, games, cookie decorating and exploring PBS's, *Clifford The Big Red Dog* websites on the computers. Special photos with Clifford were also taken of the students.

The evening ended with songs and enjoying "Clifford Cares Cakes." Each child took home the crafts they made, booklets, goodies and a brand new Clifford book to remember the event.

Everyone was also asked to bring in dog and cat food and other necessities to be donated to Camden County Animal Shelter in Blackwood. Teacher Carol Christatos' daughter, Adrienne, is employed by the shelter and is a former Kennedy School graduate.



From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Danielle Aronowitz

Spring is finally here, although it seemed that March came in like a lamb and went out like a lion. Now that the weather is warming up and the sun is staying out longer, it's the perfect time to start working on your garden and putting new plants in the ground. Lucky for you the library has a wide variety of plant and gardening books for the novice to expert gardeners. We have two sections that may be of help, section 712.6 which is gardening and landscaping design, and section 635 which contains information on plants and gardening in general. Come by and find the book that's perfect for you.

Get involved with your library and become a friend! We are restarting the South Plainfield Friends of the Library. This group will hold fundraisers to help the library and have special programs and events. All are welcome to join. You do not have to be a resident of South Plainfield. Meetings are held the first Thursday of the month. The next Friends meeting is Thursday, May 3 at 7 p.m. in the library. Any questions, please see the library staff.

The first event to be sponsored by the Friends of the Library will be an Introduction to Couponing class. Attendees will learn about coupons, how to coupon and strategies to coupon better. The class will take place on Thursday, April 26 at 7 p.m. in the library. Registration is required; attendance is limited to 30. Call the library or stop by to sign up.

Have you recently bought or received an e-reader and have no idea how to use it? Come to the library and we will help you learn how to get free e-books from E-LibraryNJ. Stop by and make an appointment with a librarian who will be more than happy to walk you through the process and answer your questions.

Missed a movie you wanted to see in theaters and don't want to pay for

the DVD? Come to Monday Night Movies at the library. It's all the fun of a movie theater, but none of the cost. We are showing brand new releases every Monday night at 6:30 p.m. Movies will be shown in the children's room and we will provide popcorn for all who attend. Call the library to find out title information, or come by and pick up a schedule. There is no registration required.

We will be following our regular schedule for the children's programs. Miss Mija is showing a kid friendly (G-rated movie) Monday mornings at 10:30 for preschool aged children. The storytime program for 2s and 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.

We are open seven days a week except on holidays. Our hours are as follows: Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Tuesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sundays, 1:30-5 p.m.

To find out more, or if you have 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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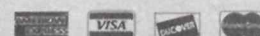
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# sports

BY GARY LAMPASONA

## JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB

Saturday is Opening Day at the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club. Come and celebrate the opening of our 59th season. The festivities begin at 10 a.m. with our annual parade, featuring the South Plainfield High School Band, followed by opening ceremonies on Field #2. Don't miss the flight of the doves, esteemed local dignitaries and a special guest.

Individual and team pictures will be taken throughout the day. See your manager for details. Please join us for

the dawn of a new season.

The first games will begin at noon for all age groups. Come on down and feel the excitement.

"Every day is a new opportunity. You can build on yesterday's success or put its failures behind and start over again. That's the way life is, with a new game every day, and that's the way baseball is."

—Bob Feller



## Golden Tee Results

The winner of the Golden Tee Golf Tournament held on April 4 at the Plainfield West Nine was Jack Ford. Jim Carvillano came in second, and Bob Pero and Jim Lenox tied for third.

Tournaments are held on Mondays and Wednesdays.

For more information, call Bill Castner, PGA professional at (908) 769-3672.

## Ponytail Softball Holding Travel Team Tryouts

The 2012 South Plainfield Tiger's Travel Team Tryouts (formerly known as the South Plainfield All-Stars) are open to all South Plainfield girls who play ponytail/recreation softball, ages eight to 16.

Tryout dates at Ponytail Park are as follows:

- U10—Saturday, April 21 and Sun-

day, April 22, 3:30 p.m.

- U12—Saturday, April 14 and Saturday, April 21, 4 p.m.

- U14—Sunday, April 22, 4 p.m.

If you have any questions, please email Jul McCormick at [sponytailsoftball@gmail.com](mailto:sponytailsoftball@gmail.com). For more information, visit [www.leaguelineup.com/sponytail](http://www.leaguelineup.com/sponytail).



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## SPHS South Plainfield High School

### MONDAY, APRIL 16

3:45pm V Golf-S. Brunswick (A) @ Bunker Hill Bus 2:30  
3:45pm Fr Baseball-Montgomery (H)  
4pm V & JV Baseball-Montgomery (A) Bus 2:30  
4pm V & JV Softball-Parsippany (H)  
4pm V Tennis-Bishop Ahr (H)

### TUESDAY, APRIL 17

3:45pm V Lacrosse-East Brunswick JV/5:15 (H)  
3:45pm V & JV Softball-Carteret (H)  
4pm GV Track-Bishop Ahr (H)  
BV Track-South Brunswick (H)

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18

3:30pm V Golf-Piscataway (A) @ Raritan Landing Bus 2:30  
3:45pm BV Tennis-Perth Amboy (A) Bus 2:30  
3:45pm Fr Baseball-Colonia (H)  
4pm V & JV Baseball-Colonia (A) Bus 2:30

## SPORTS SCHEDULE

### THURSDAY, APRIL 19

3:30pm V Golf-Spotswood (H)  
3:45pm Fr Baseball-Colonia (A) Bus 2:30  
3:45pm V & JV Softball-Bishop Ahr (A) Bus 2:30  
3:45pm V Lacrosse-Monroe (A) JV/5:15 Bus 2:30  
3:45pm BV Tennis-Colonia (A) Bus 2:30  
4pm V & JV Baseball-Colonia (H)

### FRIDAY, APRIL 20

3:30pm V Golf-Edison (H) @ W9  
3:45pm V & JV Softball - Wardlaw (A) Bus 2:30  
3:45pm BV Tennis-New Brunswick (A) Bus 2:30  
BV Track-Metuchen Fresh/Soph (A) Bus TBA

## Education Foundation/Business Association Annual Golf Outing

Join the South Plainfield Education Foundation and the South Plainfield Business Association for a fun day of golf and networking with delicious food and drink on Tuesday, May 8 from 3 to 8 p.m. at Cranbury Golf Club, 49 Southfield Rd. in West Windsor.

Proceeds from the event go to local scholarships and other charitable causes.

Entry fee of \$150 includes 18 holes of golf, use of locker rooms, greens fees and cart, continental breakfast, complimentary beverage cart, hot dog and chips at the turn, open bar (beer, wine and soda) and BBQ luncheon.

The format is a four man scramble with a shotgun start. Prizes will be awarded for team low gross, team low net, longest drive and closest to the pin and Par 3 contest. Hole in one wins a car!

Registration and continental breakfast at 8 a.m. with shotgun start at 9 a.m. Open bar begins at 2 p.m. followed by the BBQ luncheon and awards.

The following corporate sponsorships are available: Platinum \$1,000; gold \$750 and silver \$500. Corporate underwriters include: event sponsor \$500; breakfast sponsor \$250; beverage cart sponsor \$250; lunch sponsor \$250, tee sign-first and 18th tee box \$175 and tee sign-second through 17th green \$125.

To register, visit [www.spba.biz](http://www.spba.biz).

For more information, call Shannon Jefferys at (908) 757-1055, Tom Lanza at (908) 753-6010, Bob Longo at (908) 753-7004, ext. 106, Rick McCrisky at (908) 561-8000 or Marge Reedy at (908) 561-5800, ext. 302.

## Dems Endorse Diana, Salerno

(Continued from page 1)

did what was best for the borough and its residents. Working together we can put South Plainfield back on the right track."

Franky Salerno was first elected to the borough council in 2008 by a margin of over 1,000 votes. He also is a lifetime resident of the borough and a graduate of our school system. He is employed as an electrician and lives at 173 Oak Tree Ave. Franky's parents, John and April, and his cousin Mike live on Geary Drive. Franky is well known for his compassion and concern for others. After the 9/11 attacks, Franky enlisted in the Navy and served his country on a ship off the coast of Iraq. During his tenure on the council he was universally praised for his nonpartisan approach.

After receiving the endorsement of the Democratic Organization Franky said, "To me it's all about serving others. You shouldn't run for office to see your name in the paper or to advance a political agenda. I am thrilled to be running with C.J. Diana. He is smart and hardworking. We were both raised in South Plainfield and we will never put politics above what is right."

Both candidates said they look forward to the upcoming campaign. If you would like to help out, you can contact them at the following email addresses: [ChristopherJDiana@gmail.com](mailto:ChristopherJDiana@gmail.com) and [Frankysalerno@comcast.net](mailto:Frankysalerno@comcast.net). In addition, the Democratic Party website is being updated. The address is [www.spdems.org](http://www.spdems.org).

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## South Plainfield High School Announces Second Quarter Honor Roll

### HIGH HONOR ROLL

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#### Class of 2013

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#### Class of 2014

Claudia R. Bashner, Taylor M. Donato, Kaitlyn C. Faustini, Antonio J. Garcia, Rowena M. Kanj, Melissa S. Molano, Heidi A. Pilla, Tushar A. Ramroop, Monica L. Spooner, Dale V. Uzzolino, Kristen E. Wong, Kexin Cher Xu, Amy H. Zinsky

#### Class of 2015

Rebecca D. Armand, Matthew S. Belanger, Melanie D. Cheng, Hayley A. Dow, Moriah E. Garcia, Charlotte R. Macchia, Het D. Patel, Riya T. Patel, Brandon T. Rickert, Allison J. Scarinci, Leonard J. Scarpitto, Jennifer L. Teece, Kasey H. Walsh

### HONOR ROLL

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Sofia M. Abd Elhady, Asia N. Acevedo, Robert A. Aimone, Ivan Gabriel A. Altamirano, Ashley Ampaibeng, Jackeline M. Barahona, Jasmine N. Beaufort, Luis B. Benitez, Brendan T. Berry, Ashanti C. Bishop, Miranda N. Black, Isaac D. Blanco, Jessica A. Bohn, Casey E. Bona, Thomas W. Bowden, Angela C. Brown, Stuart O. Buckelew, Erika A. Buenano, Ryan P. Bundy,

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Thomas G. Daly, Alexander Delacruz, Jean G. Delatour, John A. Diaz, Dylan M. Dorey, Christopher Duffy, Christina M. Ferrer, Vincent Fierro, Mariella L. Figueroa, Erica L. Fisher, Kevin P. Flanagan, Richard L. Fletcher, Antoni M. Franczak, Christine L. Gezy, James L. Gerber, Neeraj B. Girkala, Jessica C. Gomes, Shawn P. Gorman, Angelica Grasso, Jy'neer Green, Joshua S. Guirguis, Justin W. Harris, Laine A. Harris, Tyler P. Herriott, Kristen N. Hoelzel, Ryan C. Hughes, Tyler R. Hunt, Randall A. Hurst

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Huyen D. Tran, Kimberly D. Tran, Alex A. Valladares, Michael Vega, Albert C. Vill, Jonathan M. Viola, Allyson E. White, Colin R. Wilson, Zachary D. Wilson, LaRhonda A. Womack, Meagan A. Yanick, Sara N. Yocum, Andrew Yon, Michael J. Zelasko, Samantha C. Zelasko

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# Obituaries

## Marilyn J. (Snyder) Hawkins, 85

Marilyn J. (Snyder) Hawkins passed away on Sunday, April 8 at the Country Arch Care Center in Pittstown.

Born and raised in Plainfield, Marilyn lived in South Plainfield for more than 38 years and resided in Frenchtown prior to entering the care center.

She worked as a duty aide at John E. Riley School in South Plainfield for 32 years and was a member of the Cherry Dale Garden Club for more than 42 years.

Predeceased by her husband, John A., who died in 2002, she is survived by two sons, John and wife Kathy of Stockton and Jay of Pittstown; a brother, Donn Snyder and wife Mary of North Carolina; four grandchildren, John, David, Ashley and Steven; and a great-granddaughter, Kelsey.

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

Donations in her memory may be made to Brideside Adult Care Center, 16 Sand Hill Rd., Flemington, N.J. 08822.

## Julie (Pyecha) Williams, 91

Julie (Pyecha) Williams died peacefully on Friday, April 6 at home surrounded by her family.

Born and raised in Morgantown, W. Va., Julie resided in Washington, D.C. where she worked at the Pentagon as an administrative assistant. She later moved to Binghamton, N.Y. before settling in South Plainfield over 60 years ago.

After settling in South Plainfield, Mrs. Williams worked at Plainfield High School for several years.

Coming from a large family, one of 18 children, Julie enjoyed being around people. She had a warm and generous soul who touched the lives of dozens of people leaving behind a lifetime of lasting memories.

She was a very active woman and participated in several organizations throughout Central Jersey particularly the Plainfield Monday Afternoon Club, Newcomers Club, North Plainfield Roadrunners Club and the South Plainfield Suburban Women's Club.

From those who knew her, she will be sadly missed.

Mrs. Williams was predeceased by her husband, Paul; 15 siblings; and by a son-in-law, Jeff Abrams.

Surviving is a son, Robert and wife Katheleen of Anchorage, Alaska; a daughter, Bonnie Abrams of South Plainfield; a sister, Margaret Gainer of Colorado; a brother, Peter Pyecha and wife Joan Page of New York; four grandchildren, Paul and Tiffanie Williams and Jeff and Scott Abrams. Also surviving are eight great-grandchildren as well as many extended family and friends.

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

## Linda Ellen (Suydam) Wojciechowski

Linda Ellen (Suydam) Wojciechowski passed away peacefully on Thursday, April 5 at her home in Edison, in the loving arms of her family.

Linda was born and raised in South Bound Brook, where she also graduated from Bound Brook High School.

Linda was a devoted wife, loving mother, special aunt and faithful friend to many. She was blessed to have found her soul mate, and married "the love of her life," Vincent Wojciechowski (known to many as Max) more than 50 years ago, and began their enormous family.

Linda and her husband owned and operated the former Knotty Pine Diner on Park Avenue. Her nicknames were "#8" and "Willie." After selling their business and retiring, she enjoyed working at her son's deli, Mountain Lake Deli in Watchung, over the next 10 years.

Linda is remembered by all for her "gift of gab." She was a natural caretaker, a Florence Nightingale. She had a big circle of friends, and she and her husband's life centered around their family, their business and their friendships over the years. Linda loved and cherished every memory. She was also an avid bowler, and in most recent

years, enjoyed researching her genealogy and was proud to have discovered her family's Revolutionary War and Mayflower heritage.

She was predeceased by her parents, Dorothy and George Suydam; a sister, Betty Gesualdo; her husband, Vincent; a son, Vincent Wojciechowski, Jr.; and a son-in-law, Kenneth L. Jones.

Surviving are two daughters, Lorry Wojciechowski of Piscataway and Jean Jones of Scotch Plains; two sons, Daniel Wojciechowski and wife Stacey of Cobleskill, N.Y. and John Wojciechowski and wife Doreen of Edison; a daughter-in-law, Addie Wojciechowski of Roxbury, N.Y.; a beloved niece, Connie Cross and husband Peter; 16 grandchildren, Sherry, Jeannine, Heather, Shannon, Kelly, Renee, Michelle, Vinny, Ania, Patrick, Jacqueline, Justin, Christopher, Demetri, John and David and 10 great-grandchildren.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the St. Jude Children's Foundation, 501 St. Jude Way, Memphis, Tenn. 38105.

## Mary (Hrehocsik) Fecz, 96

Mary (Hrehocsik) Fecz died on Friday, April 6 at home.

Mrs. Fecz was a lifelong resident of Perth Amboy and was a longtime parishioner of Holy Trinity Church, also in Perth Amboy, where she participated in the Altar Rosary Society.

Mary was a member of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, enjoyed sewing and crocheting, and she was a fabulous cook.

She is predeceased by her husband, John, who died in 2000.

Surviving is a daughter, Susan Patton and husband Don of South River; four sons, Ralph Fecz and wife Sandy of South Plainfield, Francis Fecz and wife Paula of Newport Richie, Fla., John

Fecz and wife Francine of Madison, Ala. and Gary Fecz and wife Nini of Perth Amboy; 14 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals

## Michael Anthony Handley, 70

Michael Anthony Handley passed away on Sunday, April 8 at Bon Secours Hospital in Port Jervis, N.Y.

Born in Newark on July 1, 1941 to the late Vince and Josephine Handley, Mike was raised in East Orange and Hummelstow, Pa. He lived in Piscataway for 30 years and in South Plainfield for the last 10 years.

Mike served in the U.S. Army, receiving an honorable discharge as Sergeant, E5. He also served in the N.J. National Guard.

Mike worked as a truck driver for H.W. Taynton Freight Company of South Plainfield, Eastern Steel Barrel of South Plainfield, USF Red Star in Newark, and was co-owner of M&T Messenger Service of Piscataway. After his retirement from USF Red Star, he worked part time as a bus driver for Piscataway Township Board of Education and was Second Vice President of Transportation.

Mike was a member of the American Legion Post #265 in Hummelstown, Pa. and the Edison Moose Lodge, and served as PER of the Middlesex B.P.O.E. Elks Lodge #2301. He was a member of the 117th Cavalry Association.

Mike was an avid fan of Elvis Presley and had a huge collection of Elvis memorabilia. He was very patriotic and devoted to helping all veterans, and enjoyed collecting anything military related.

He is survived by his devoted and beloved fiancé, Diane Wargo, with whom he lived; a caring cousin, Jan Fantasia of Las Vegas; his Aunt Rose Fruzynski of Holmdel; his friends, Norma Mansfield of Somerset and Tom and Vicky Kiczula of South Plainfield; a host of other friends and his beloved dog, Jay Jay, who is lost without him.

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

## Wanda J. Millard, 89

Wanda J. Millard passed away peacefully on Wednesday, April 4 at Greenbrook Manor Nursing Home in Green Brook surrounded by her family.

Born and raised in Bayonne, Wanda had resided in Poland for a few years. She returned to the U.S. and upon her marriage, settled in South Plainfield in the mid 1940s.

Wanda was a hard worker who devoted most of her life to her family. As a busy mother of five sons, she had worked for the former Cornell-Dubilier Company in South Plainfield and the Lee Filter Company in Edison. She also assisted with the various school's PTA groups while her sons were enrolled.

She took pride in making her yard look like a picture in "Better Homes and Gardens," enjoyed planting flowers, the positive comments from neighbors and those passing by her home, as well as cooking for her family. She was also known for making homemade "sinkers" (cupcakes) for everyone to enjoy and she will be sadly missed.

Her husband, Harry L. Millard, died in 1995. She is also predeceased by a sister, Jenny Peppe.

Surviving are five sons, Harry Jr. of South Plainfield, Thomas of Florida, Teddy and wife Marylou and Edward and wife Peggy, both of Hillsborough, and Pat of South Plainfield; six grandchildren, Ricky, Marilyn, Christina, Patrick, Amy and TJ; three great-grandchildren, Alexis, Aiden and Anabelle; a sister, Irene Yancey; and a niece and nephew, Carolann and Joey Peppe.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to JFK Haven Hospice, 65 James St., Edison, N.J. 08820.



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## SPHS Cultural Heritage Day

By Patricia Abbott

South Plainfield High School history students had the opportunity to travel around the world during Cultural Heritage Day held on March 30. The celebration included ethnic music, costumes, displays of items from other countries and food—the most popular part of the event.

Many students were dressed in traditional costumes of the countries their family originated from, especially those who participated in the performances. There were about 19 acts, including bands, vocals and dances ranging from traditional ethnic to Michael Jackson moves. The event ended with a parade of costumes from around the world.

Displays included photos, currency, artwork, national costumes, maps and more. More than 500 hot dishes were available to sample. Students and faculty enjoyed the diverse array of food. Approximately 60 countries were represented.

The event was sponsored by the Jersey Club. "Toniann Fuschetto helped with Cultural Heritage Day this year. She was invaluable in auditioning and coordinating all of the performances. I was very excited that the new superin-

tendent, Dr. Stephen Genco, attended along with Dr. Bowen and Dr. Cocchiola," said Jersey Club Advisor Flannery.

The club has sponsored this event for approximately 20 years. Teacher Tony Barca was co-advisor with Flannery up until four years ago when he retired. There are about 250 members in the Jersey Club; 104 of them set up for the event and then helped to clean up at the end of the school day.

Flannery, a lifelong resident of South Plainfield and a South Plainfield High School Hall of Fame member, noted that beginning in the '60s and through the '80s our town's population primarily consisted of Italian, Irish, German and Polish immigrants, most dating back several decades. The cultural diversity has changed dramatically. Flannery said, "The level of acceptance at SPHS is remarkable. The kids at SPHS are awesome. Very few high schools could run a cultural heritage festival involving almost 1,200 kids and the worst thing that happens is that a kid tries to come back for another period. We continuously run assemblies and programs, and rarely do we have a problem. Our kids are open minded, tolerant and very cool."



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The band Etcetera, Etc. performs at the Help Darfur Now concert.

## Darfur Concert Draws 200

By Patricia Abbott

South Plainfield High School Help Darfur Now Club recently held its annual Rock Darfur Concert. More than 200 students and parents attended the musical fundraising event held at the PAL on March 31. The concert featured 10 acts from around the area, including Mike Grzenda, Jeka Magpile and Cameron Bashner, Carly and Caitlin Kalafus, Melissa Molano, Zach Sbordone and Daisy Castro, Etcetera, Etc.; Lex and Backup, Flip and Fran, Sierra Lost in August and Jay Michael.

The diverse array of bands was recruited by the students. The club sold a variety of snacks, including pizza, water and baked goods. Darfur t-shirts and other items were also available for purchase. The colorful shirts were produced by Sport World located on South Plainfield Avenue. The well-organized event had the band's set up and break down flowing very smoothly.

The club was formed in 2006 by student Steven Tietjen, and the concert fundraiser was the brainchild of Joe Sarpitto and Ryan Egan. Current officers are Presidents Nii Mills and Kristy Percario, Vice President Jameerah Anderson, Secretary Stania Calvin and Treasurer Sabrina Del Piano. Coordinator of the 2012 Rock Darfur Concert fundraising was Kat Podlovits. The club has about 40 members, all of whom were on hand throughout the night.

Teacher Fran Flannery, advisor for the club, was happy with the outcome of the evening, saying, "I am very grateful to Kevin Hughes and the entire Recreation Department for their support. We could not have held our Rock Darfur concerts and raised over \$15,000 without the use of the PAL. I am also amazed at the response of the kids to events happening half a world away. South Plainfield kids are compassionate, sensitive and generous with their time, energy and money. They make me feel confident in the future despite the many crises affecting our nation and the world."

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## SPHS Drama Club Presents *Hairspray*

By Patricia Abbott

The South Plainfield High School drama club has been hard at work perfecting their 2012 Spring musical, *Hairspray*. The Broadway show was a hit. Prior to Broadway the show was a popular 1988 film by John Water.

*Hairspray* is set in 1962, Baltimore, Md. where plump teenager Tracy Turnblad's dream is to dance on "The Corny Collins Show," a local TV dance program which was based on the real life Buddy Deane Show. When Tracy wins the role on the show, she becomes an overnight celebrity. She launches a campaign to integrate the show. *Hairspray* is a social commentary on the injustices of parts of the American society in the 1960s. The songs include 1960s style dance music and "downtown" rhythm and blues.

The show is directed by teacher Christina Briskin, stage manager is Dr. Panek, choreographer is Jessica Kubeck. Roger Vroom is orchestra director, costume designs are by Loretta Tansey. Joshua Rochette is the student director and 2011 SPHS graduate Danielle Tramutola the intern director. Students Zea McCray and Imani Nettleford are marketing interns. Jill Pavel designed the website, program and served as intern advisor.

Performances are on Friday, April 13 and Saturday, April 14 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 15 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students.

The musical's original Broadway production opened on August 15, 2002 and won eight Tony Awards out of 13 nominations. It ran for over 2,500 performances and closed on January 4, 2009. The music for *Hairspray* was written by Marc Shaiman, who performed with the

South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop in the mid seventies. Lyrics were written by Scott Wittman. The book was written by Mark O'Donnell and Thomas Meehan.

Cast members are: Tracy Turnblad- Abby LeBlanc, Edna Turnblad-Cory Singer, Link Larkin-Danny Sims, Corny Collins-Joe Palazzo, Mortormouth Maybelle-Kayla O'Neal, Wilbur Turnblad-Jamie Bohn, Seaweed J. Stubbs-Nii Mills, Velma Von Tussle-Christina Ferrer, Amber Von Tussle-Kathleen Vincent, Penny Pingleton-Emily Reineke, Little Inez-Khadijia Martin-Gilmore, Mr. Pinky-Dominick Scalera, Prudy Pingleton-Kim Walsh and Harriman

Spritzer-Richard Duong.

Ensemble members are Josh Rochotte, Adams Bangura, Allison Gorman, Justin Glover, Jamil Caines, Quatiana Jones-Abel, Michelle Ramos, Brian Nguyen, Kristen Hoelzel, Kaitlyn Kenny, Nicole Stanczak, Angela Spadavecchia, Michelle Lesniak, Jason Worthem, Bianca Dominique, Jordan Katowich, Cat Emery, Joanna Marston, Sara Reineke and Rosalind Heim.

Crew members are the indispensable hard working people that keep the show running. The *Hairspray* crew includes Ashley Robjohns, Zack Henderson, Joe Parillo, Allison Yuschik, Mecca N. Ali, Genesis Acevedo, Rebecca George, Susan Pipolo and Eric Ivaniuc.

## Middlesex County College Alumni Association to Host Food Tasting

Restaurants from all over the area will be offering samples of their best dishes at the Middlesex County College Alumni Association food tasting on Wednesday, April 25. The event, which will run from 6:30-8:30 p.m., is a fundraiser for the association's scholarship fund.

"We anticipate about 25 high-quality restaurants will set up tables in the college center and offer small samples of their best items," said Doug Wilson, member of the Alumni Association's Board of Trustees. "The public is invited to visit each and see what they have to offer. We expect

to have diverse types of restaurants participating in this program, which is called 'n Evening of Good Taste for the Educated Palate."

The cost is \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door, and Middlesex County College students are \$20. Children under 12 are free with the purchase of an adult ticket. Proceeds go toward the Alumni Association's scholarship fund. The event is sponsored by Affinity Credit Union and Sodexo Food Services.

Tickets may be purchased online at [www.middlesexcc.edu/taste](http://www.middlesexcc.edu/taste) or by calling (732) 906-7732.

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