

# South Plainfield OBSERVER

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60 CENTS

APRIL 27, 2012



Liesl Co performs at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

## Liesl Co Performs at Carnegie Hall

Liesl Co, a fourth grader at Roosevelt Elementary School, performed a recital at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, New York City.

Liesl earned this opportunity by winning first place at the Crescendo International Little Mozarts Competition after auditioning at Caldwell College in Bloomfield on March 18.

Liesl performed her recital piece, *Sonata in C Major, K. 545, Allegro* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart on April 22.

Little Mozarts Music Competition

is open to all instrumentalists, duets, ensembles and vocalists. A contestant has to perform—by memory—a selection of any composer (Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Modern) in elementary or intermediate levels. Liesl auditioned along with hundreds of young musicians ages three to 14 at Caldwell College in Bloomfield.

Crescendo International Music Competition and Festivals is a certified non-profit corporation whose mission is to discover and develop young musical talent through various

activities such as music competitions, festivals and recitals. They give young musicians the opportunity to perform as concert musicians and receive their first applause on the most prestigious concert stages in the world, such as Carnegie Hall and Steinway Hall in New York City, NJ PAC, and venues in Australia and Europe.

Liesl is the daughter of William and Marina Co of South Plainfield. She has a younger sister, Lauren, who is now in Future Stars.

## GOP Unanimously Endorses Frank And Bengivenga

Councilman Rob Bengivenga and Councilman Dick Frank are the choice of South Plainfield Republicans to be their candidates for Borough Council this fall. The borough's Republican committee chose the pair after an open screening process, and local party leaders are excited about their decision to seek reelection.

Councilman Alex Barletta, who serves as GOP vice-chair, pointed to the pair's accomplishments when explaining why they received the committee's unanimous support. "Rob and Dick are responsible leaders. They've worked hard to get our town back on track, and they've pushed to make South Plainfield a better place for our families."

Mayor Matt Anesh couldn't agree more. "Rob and Dick put taxpayers

first. They've been fighting to control taxes and spending, and they've been offering the right solutions for our town."

Council President Ray Rusnak said the two candidates have earned reelection. "Rob Bengivenga is one of the hardest workers you'll find," said Rusnak. "And in his short time on the governing body, Dick Frank has shared a wealth of knowledge and experience."

When asked about his priorities, Frank said he wants to continue to keep taxes and spending under control. As an example, he pointed to the new Pick-Ups on Demand program as a way to both control costs and offer better service to residents at the same time.

(Continued on page 9)



Rob Bengivenga



Dick Frank

## Rotary Students of the Month Announced



Miranda Garcia, SPHS Vice Principal Kelly Richkus and Allison M. White

South Plainfield High School Principal Dr. James Pedersen recently announced that the April Rotary Students of the Month are Miranda Garcia and Allison M. White. Each month senior students are nominated for their volunteerism and community service. The students are recognized at a monthly breakfast organized by the

Edison Rotary Club, and are eligible for the club's scholarship.

Miranda is a senior at SPHS with a 3.8 GPA. Miranda has worked with the Juniorettes and participated in many local charity events. She has volunteered with the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, Student Leaders and Heroes and Cool Kids. Miranda vol-

unteered her time with Taking Steps for Literacy Walk, created military care packages, decorated hats for Valerie Fund cancer patients, Ronald McDonald House and Relay for Life, to name a few. In 2009 and 2011, Miranda visited Uganda, Africa with her church group and worked with a school for orphans.

Allison has participated in softball, field hockey and winter track while balancing a 4.2 GPA, AP classes, volunteering numerous hours with local charities and working part time. She is an active member of the Juniorettes, Student Leaders, Heroes and Cool Kids, Spanish Honor Society and National Honor Society. Allison has volunteered her time with the Valerie Foundation, Foster and Adoptive Family Services, Catherine's Closet Foundation, Special Olympics, Children's Specialized Hospital and as a Keystone Community Residence volunteer. Allison plans to attend college in the fall, pursuing a degree in nursing.

## School Board to Spend \$2M to Repair Roofs

By Jane Dornick

The Board of Education voted in favor of hiring ARMM Associates of Cherry Hill, a commercial roof consulting firm, as the architect to perform preliminary work in preparation of a "re-roof design" for the high school and middle school at the April 11 Committee of the Whole Meeting. A formal contract for \$112,150 was signed at the April 18 public meeting. The only other consulting bid was from the board's Architect of Record, SSP Architectural Group, Inc. of Somerville.

According to Buildings and Ground Chair Carol Byrne, ARMM estimates the total project will cost almost \$2M—up from the previous estimate of \$1.2M—and includes the replacement of approximately 30,000 sq. ft. of roof and insulation at the high school and roofing on the main two-story part of the building

and the shop hallway. The increased estimate includes the replacement of the roof, windows and interior repairs of the middle school gym for an additional \$700,000.

ARMM was the architectural firm responsible for the "roof design" for the entire school district 20 years prior and had agreed to charge their 1992 fee of \$44,700 for plans and specs for the high school and \$36,800 for the same at the middle school. The total contract price includes an additional \$10,000 for infrared evaluations at all the schools, despite that several schools had evaluations performed last August that cost the board nearly that much, as well as \$15,000 for a Maintenance Scope of Work for all of the buildings other than the high school and middle school. There is also a charge of \$1,200 for a Bidder's Tour; \$1,200

(Continued on page 9)





**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**

**\*\*Special Meeting\*\***

Monday, April 30, 7 p.m. – Hearing on 2012 budget and tax resolution

**Agenda Meeting**  
Monday, May 7  
Monday, May 21

**Public Meeting**  
Monday, May 7  
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**

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**

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.)**

May 9, June 6, June 18, Aug. 15, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 7, Dec. 12  
**Regular Public Meeting (begin at 6:30 p.m.) except where noted\***

\*May 9 at 8 p.m., June 13, July 18, Aug. 15, Sept. 19, Oct. 17

**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.**

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 (third Wednesday), 7 p.m.**

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.**

**South Plainfield OBSERVER**

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How to Reach Us



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**SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES**

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

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

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

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

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

**In My Opinion**

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

**To the Editor:**

Boy Scout Troop 207 held its annual spaghetti dinner on April 14 with the boys serving over 280 meals. All proceeds from this event will go to help the troop offset the cost of trips and equipment.

We would like to thank the following for their help in making our event a huge success: McCrisky-Gustafson Home For Funerals, Mohn's Florist, Party City, Investors Bank, Ferraro Foods, Target, Restaurant Depot, Columbia Bank, V.A. Trammatano, Park Avenue Diner, Flanagan's Restaurant, Haisch's Bakery, Lou's Sub Shop, Sherban's Diner, Rose Brand, Kendall Park VFW Post #9111, Salerno's Pizza, Ciccio's Pizza, our parents and a special thank you to the South Plainfield American Legion Post for sponsoring our troop.

If interested in joining the scouting program, please contact the scoutmaster at (908) 757-3369.

**TROOP 207  
DINNER COMMITTEE**

**To the Editor:**

I would like to thank everyone who participated in Career Day held at the high school last Friday. The program was co-sponsored by South Plainfield High School and the South Plainfield Business Association (SPBA).

This year's panel contained the most diverse group of professionals who have ever participated. The juniors listened intently to each panelist as they spoke about themselves and how they ended up in their present profession.

Thank you to this year's panelists Joyce Signorile-Central Jersey Federal Credit Union, Nya Patel-Smile Pharmacy, Greg Heim-coin dealer, Renato

R. Biribin-Attorney at Law, Detective Jim Darby-residency officer at SPHS, Terry Robak-facilitator and life coach, Chrissy Buteas-former councilwoman, Michael Grennier-forensic computer investigator, Karen Roman-Lincoln Technical Institute, Michael Castoral-South Plainfield Funeral Home, Aimee Stone-The Salon Professional Academy, Marc Jelinsky-TD Bank, Thomas Lanza-Attorney at Law and Derryck White-South Plainfield councilman.

I would also like to thank Director of Guidance Elaine Gallo for her assistance in planning Career Day and Principal James Pedersen for allowing the SPBA to present the program. Also, thank you to the high school for donating the breakfast spread which was enjoyed by the panelists.

A special thank you to BOE Vice President Debbie Boyle who helped co-chair the event this year. The SPBA is looking forward to sponsoring next year's Career Day.

**NANCY GRENNIER, PRESIDENT  
SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

**To the Editor:**

On April 15 Sacred Heart Parish hosted a Climate Change and Caring for the Earth seminar. Sister Mary Elizabeth Clark, SSJ from Philadelphia gave an inspiring presentation on the teachings of the Catholic Church on environmental issues and climate change.

On the county level, David Sliker, compliance inspector from Middlesex County Solid Waste Management, through a motivational and educational PowerPoint presentation, spoke on the five Rs of reduce, reuse, recycle, reject and respect. Middlesex County is to be applauded for its comprehen-

**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.

sive and ongoing efforts to improve recycling and solid waste management in our communities.

May all citizens work toward caring for our earth and especially the part of the earth we inhabit here in Middlesex County!

**SISTER KATHLEEN ROONEY, SSJ  
PASTORAL ASSOCIATE**

**South Plainfield Residents,**

I am writing to you to share a special event taking place during Mother's Day weekend. On Saturday, May 12, NAMIWalks, the signature walk-a-thon event of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, will be held at 11 a.m. on the Seaside Park Boardwalk. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. The walk is five miles and the donations received by supporters go toward the New Jersey division of NAMI, which is the largest education, support and advocacy organization that serves the needs of all those whose lives are touched by these illnesses. NAMI's assistance includes persons with mental illness, their families, friends, employers and employees and the law enforcement community including policy makers.

We, in society, hear about Catherine Zeta Jones struggling with bipolar, Brooke Shields and her post-partum depression and Olympic Swimmer Michael Phelps being diagnosed with ADHD at nine years old. These are the famous cases—the people who have come out as spokespersons for their illnesses, but there are millions more that struggle daily with manic depression, anxiety, personality and identity disorders, paranoia and obsessive compulsive disorder. Whether it's your brother, your girlfriend's mother, your cousin or colleague at work—everyone knows someone affected with some form of a mental illness.

The goal of NAMI and the reason behind this walk is to help fight the stigma that surrounds mental illness. Secondly, it hopes to build awareness

(Continued on page 11)

**JOHNNY CASH**  
**TRIBUTE CONCERT**

featuring **Terry Lee Goffee's**  
**"TRAIN OF LOVE"**  
Performing over  
**25 Johnny Cash songs**

**8 PM SHOW**

**SATURDAY, MAY 12**  
**South Plainfield High School**

Tickets Only \$16 Available at the door  
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(L-R) Richard Miles, Charlie Gonzalez and Maryann Acosta from Walgreens participate in the borough-wide cleanup at Pitt Street Park.

## Hundreds of Volunteers Join in Borough Cleanup

Last Saturday's borough-wide cleanup was a huge success. Approximately 183 people were out collecting litter from 42 locations and filled 126 bags, totalling over 2.5 tons, which does not include any unbagged junk such as tires, bicycles and a truck cover.

An additional 143 people are scheduled to work at other spots during the week and next Saturday which will make the final total of removed litter higher.

In addition to the loyal groups, businesses and individuals that volunteer each year, several new groups that had not previously participated joined in the cleanup. They included FIDAC (First Indonesian Seventh Day Adventist Church), the Maria Luisa de Moreno International Foundation and the Al Minhaal Academy.

In addition to the many volunteers, several business made donations to the pizza party held after the cleanup. McCrisky Home For Funerals donated the cost of the pizza which Bruno's Pizza Factory provided at a discounted price. Hometown Heros donated two gourmet sandwich

platters, and Walgreens donated two cases of bottled water. Pinto Brothers will be donating the truck drivers, trucks and disposal costs to collect the orange bags. Environmental Commission members, residents and members of the governing body helped distribute supplies, collect reports, return equipment, set up and serve lunch.

Watch upcoming issues of the *Observer* for a report on total number of volunteers and tonnage collected.

## borough notes

The council approved the following at the April 16 meeting:

- Darlene Pinto's appointment as the mayor's representative to the Library Board of Trustees.

- Stilo Excavation was authorized to do the installation of supplemental drainage at 149 Durham Ave. at a cost not to exceed \$14,093.50.

- Christine Faustini's appointment as a full member of the Library Board of Trustees, finishing the term of Eleanor Haines.

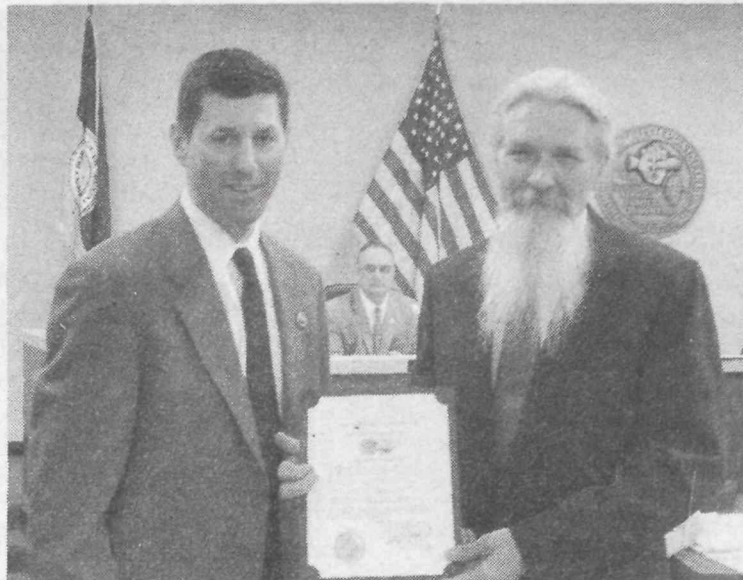
- Waived the \$250 Senior Center fee for the Education Foundation's Wine Tasting event on April 13.

- A change order and final payment for the New Market Resurfacing Project Phase 2, which had a net reduction of \$21,623.63 of the contract amount for a total of \$261,418.64.

- Awarded \$4,015 to Waytek Sonic Wall Comprehensive Gateway Security Suite.

- Authorized the traffic and parking modifications for the OLC Fair to be held June 5 through June 9.

- Advertising for bids to purchase three lots owned by the borough.



Mayor Matt Anesh presents an ALS Proclamation to Michael Peller.

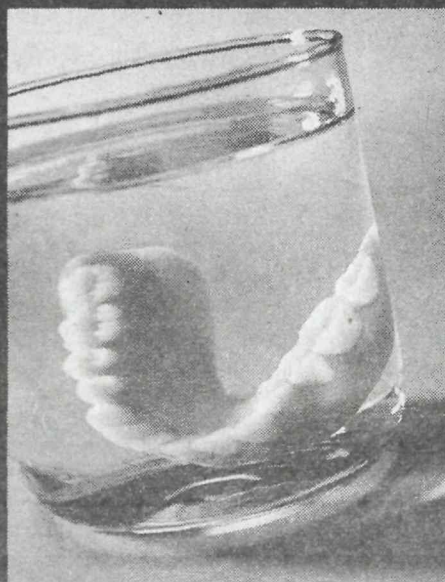
## Mayor Declares May ALS Month

Mayor Matt Anesh issued a proclamation declaring May ALS Awareness Month at the April 16 council meeting. After reading the proclamation, he presented it to Michael Peller, whose wife of 28 years, Kathleen Doboinski, died of the disease this past January.

Kathleen was a lifelong resident of South Plainfield. She was diagnosed eight years ago with the disease, and Michael was her caregiver during her eight-year battle.

ALS is a disease of the motor neurons, muscle-controlling nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord that control voluntary muscle movement. The cause is unknown, although genetic factors are thought to play a role. Each year over 5,000 people in the United States are diagnosed with this illness, for which there is no known cure.

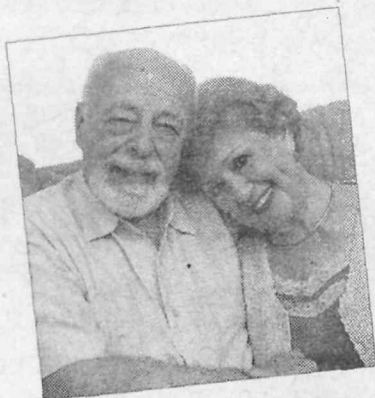
In the advanced state, ALS care can cost up to \$200,000 per year, depleting the financial resources of patients and relatives.



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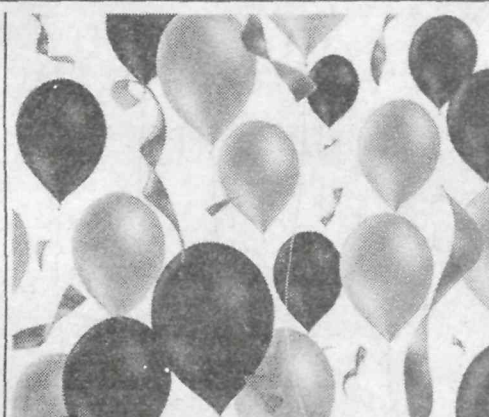
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## OPEN HOUSE Saturday, May 12

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& meet the staff

Costumed characters!

Drawings for prizes!

Giveaways & more!



- We participate in most insurance plans
- Interest Free Financing Programs
- Walk-Ins Welcome
- Emergencies Seen Same Day
- New Patients Welcome

*To everyone attending*—Every ticket you buy could be a winner, so the more tickets you buy, the better your chances of winning. But remember at the end of the night, even if you don't win a physical prize (and many of us don't!), you will still be a winner in the eyes of SPSHS Class of 2012, because you will have helped give them a fun and safe graduation night. We hope everyone has a great time and we wish you all the best of luck.

Submitted by Sharon Miller



# events

## Around Town

### First Baptist Church Garage Sale

April 28

First Baptist Church of South Plainfield is holding a garage sale on Saturday, April 28 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the parsonage next to the church, 201 Hamilton Blvd. Household/kitchen items, furniture, children's and baby items, records and holiday items.

For more information, call (908) 753-2382.

### Wish Upon A Hero Cycling Fundraiser

April 28

The Club At Ricochet on St. Nicholas Avenue will host Wish Upon a Hero's 'Be a Hero 4.28.12' nationwide cycling event on Saturday, April 28 beginning at 9 a.m. Registration fee: \$25; register online at [www.beaheroevent.com](http://www.beaheroevent.com). NJ 101.5 will provide music and giveaways. Proceeds benefit the Wish Upon a Hero Foundation.

For more information, email Jill Pavel at [jill@wishuponahero.com](mailto:jill@wishuponahero.com) or call (732) 423-2070.

### SPHS Project Graduation Auction

April 28

The auction has been sold out. If you have not picked up your tickets, please call Tracey Hartmann at (908) 750-6194. Doors will open at 6 p.m. (SPHS gym).

For additional information, please call Sharon Miller at (908) 754-6461 or see the related article on page 3. Thank you for joining us in support of the Class of 2012. This is a great event for a very worthwhile cause. Together we can make a difference.

### Ecumenical Hymn Sing at Sacred Heart

April 29

The South Plainfield Association of Christian Churches will host its second Ecumenical Hymn Sing on Sunday, April 29 at 2 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church. Time-honored hymns will be sung from the faith traditions of Wesley Methodist, St. Stephen Lutheran, First Baptist, Pilgrim Covenant, Rescue House of Prayer and Sacred Heart Catholic Church. The event is free and open to the public.

### 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.

### 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.

### VFW Country Breakfast

May 6

South Plainfield VFW, 155 Front St., will hold a country breakfast on Sunday, May 6 from 8 to 11 a.m.

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

### 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.

### SPHS Class of 1962 Plans Reunion

May 16

South Plainfield High School Class of 1962 is holding a 50th reunion on Wednesday, May 16 at Resorts Casino on the boardwalk in Atlantic City. 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.

### — Out of Town —

### Upscale Singles Dance Party

April 28

Steppin' Out Singles is hosting an upscale singles dance party on Saturday, April 28 at 8 p.m. at the Woodbridge Hilton Grand Ballroom, 20 Wood Ave. South in Iselin. Ages 40 and up. No jeans/t-shirts/sneakers/shorts. Admission: \$17.

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

### Woodbridge WOWs Open Dance

April 29

Woodbridge Widows Or Widowers will hold an open dance on Sunday, April 29 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.

### DuCret Annual Spring Art Show/Sale

April 29

DuCret School of Art will hold the Annual Spring Art Show & Sale on Sunday, April 29 from 2-4 p.m. at 1030 Central Ave. in Plainfield featuring the artwork of students. Meet and help support duCret's emerging artists by purchasing one-of-a-kind pieces, including sculpture, jewelry, stained glass, photography, oil, pastel, mixed media, acrylic and watercolor paintings. Live musicians and refreshments. Free admission.

For more information, call (908) 757-7171.

### Tournament to Benefit Fire Victims

April 29

The Metuchen Adult Basketball Benefit Tournament, to benefit the victims of the Stockoff Farmhouse fire in South Plainfield, will be held on Sunday, April 29 at the Metuchen SportsPlex beginning at 9 a.m.

### SENIOR CENTER Calendar

May 2-Taj Mahal \$20pp. Bus leaves at 9 a.m. Sign up at Senior Center

May 17-Bally's Atlantic City \$20pp. Bus leaves 8:30 a.m. Sign up at Senior Center

May 20-23-Trip to Wildwood (trip is full)

#### MONDAYS

Zumba Gold..... 9:30-10:30 am  
Crocheting..... 9:30-11:30 am  
Yoga..... 10:30 am  
Active Seniors..... 10:45 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..... 9:00 am  
Crafts Class..... 10 am  
Computer.. 10, 11:30 am, 1:00 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

Teams must register by April 21. The cost per team is \$200; each team is guaranteed three 30-minute games. Register online at [www.tms.czfacility.com/OnlineRegistrations](http://www.tms.czfacility.com/OnlineRegistrations).


If you can't participate, but would like to contribute, make checks payable to the Boyle Memorial Foundation. In the memo line, please write "Clinton Avenue Fire Victims" and "Metuchen Benefit Basketball Tournament."

For more information, call Douglas Weh at (848) 248-4684.

### Plainfield Gesang-und Turn-Verein Concert

April 29

The Plainfield Gesang-und Turn-Verein 126th annual spring concert will be held on Sunday, April 29 at 4 p.m. at Singer Hall, 220 Somerset St. in North Plainfield featuring Music



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Director Johanna Teubner-Prussak. Songs in German and English. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Refreshments available after the concert.

Call Gerda at (908) 369-3359 for more information.

## Metuchen-Edison Women's Club Mtg.

May 2

The Metuchen-Edison Women's Club will hold its next monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 2 at 7:30 p.m. at the Heritage Clara Barton, 1015 Amboy Ave. in Edison.

Marvin Schlaffer, director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Rutgers University, will introduce educational non-credit programs designed for individuals over 50. No tests or grades; just a willingness to expand your experiences. Join us for an informative evening. The program is free and open to the public.

For more information, call Diana at (732) 548-0925.

## Open House at Morristown Airport

May 5

American Flyers Flight School at the Morristown Airport, 50 Airport Rd., will be hosting an open house and lunch on Saturday, May 5 at noon. Free and open to the public.

For more information, call (973) 267-3223 or visit [www.americanflyers.net/about/aviation\\_seminars.asp](http://www.americanflyers.net/about/aviation_seminars.asp).

## Open House at Temple Sholom

May 6

Temple Sholom, a Reform Jewish congregation, will hold an open house for its religious school on Sunday, May 6 from 10:30 a.m. until noon in the lobby of Union Catholic High School, 1600 S. Martine Ave.

in Scotch Plains. Children welcome; school-age children may sit in on age-appropriate classes. Drawing supplies available for younger children.

For more information or to RSVP, call (908) 889-4900, email Ellen Wolff at [ellenginzbursky@yahoo.com](mailto:ellenginzbursky@yahoo.com) or Michelle Shapiro Abraham at [educator@sholomnj.org](mailto:educator@sholomnj.org).

## Upscale Singles Dance Party

May 12

Steppin' Out Singles is holding an upscale singles dance party on Saturday, May 12 at 8 p.m. at the Woodbridge Hilton, 20 Wood Ave. South in Iselin. Ages 40 and up. No jeans/t-shirts/sneakers/shorts. Admission: \$15.

For more information, call (732) 494-6200.

## Temple Sholom Hosts Casino Night

May 12

Temple Sholom of Fanwood/Scotch Plains, located in the Fanwood Presbyterian Church, 74 South Martine Ave., will hold a casino night fundraiser on Saturday, May 12 at 7 p.m. Roulette, poker and blackjack, and auctions for goods and services. Tickets are \$36 for \$100 worth of casino chips. Use chips for gambling and to buy tickets for prizes. Refreshments included. Benefits Temple Sholom's community, educational and religious programs.

For tickets or more information, call (908) 889-4900, visit [www.sholomnj.org](http://www.sholomnj.org) or email [office@sholomnj.org](mailto:office@sholomnj.org).

Send Your Community Events to:

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



More than 50 women attended the kick off of the Senior Center's Zumba Gold classes, the newest addition to the center's weekly offerings. Instructors Lisa Angie (pictured on the stage) led the high energy class and demonstrated modified moves. The class is offered every Monday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

## Licenses Required for Sale of Used Items

By Libby Barsky

The Borough Council voted unanimously to amend the ordinance entitled, "Peddling and Soliciting" at the meeting of the mayor and council held on April 16. Originally introduced on April 2, the purpose of the amendment is to prevent residents from purchasing used items including jewelry, gold, silver, clothing, household articles or electronic devices such as cell phones or iPads from transient dealers.

According to the amended ordinance, "It shall be unlawful for any peddler, solicitor or other person to solicit funds or goods or to buy, sell or dispose of or offer to sell or dispose of any goods, wares, merchandise or

services to be rendered in the future or to take orders for any goods, wares, merchandise or service to be rendered in the future within the Borough of South Plainfield or for any transient merchant to engage in a temporary business, without first obtaining a license therefor."

"The police asked us to amend the original ordinance," said Councilman Alex Barletta, who also said that used cell phones and other popular items were being sold at unlikely locations.

To receive a license, the applicant must list his name, age and residence and the purpose and location of the business along with the same infor-

mation for each employee. Terms of the license require maintenance of records describing each item with their distinguishing marks when purchased and sold. The secondhand dealer who receives items that might have been lost or stolen is required to notify the Chief of Police in writing with information on how the item was received or purchased and the date and time of such transaction.

Violations for any provision of the ordinance will result in a fine of \$100 with a maximum fine of \$1000, or imprisonment in county jail for a term of 30 days, or both, at the discretion of the judge.

## Vets Assistance Group Forming

A volunteer group is forming to help the South Plainfield Veterans of Foreign Wars. The group will help with property maintenance and other programs the VFW may need help with in the future.

Dennis Scalera, who is organizing the group, feels that our veterans have

put their lives on the line for us, our loved ones and the United States of America; now we can do something nice for them.

If you would like to participate or would like more information, call Scalera at (908) 222-2683.

## Compactor Open This Saturday

The compactor on Kenneth Avenue will be open Saturday, April 28 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## Event Photos For Sale

Photographs of local events by South Plainfield Observer Contributing Photographer Louis Mornile are available for sale at [www.louisormilephotography.com](http://www.louisormilephotography.com).

The website has password protected photo galleries. To request the password, click on "Contact" at the bottom of the web page and fill out the form by providing the name of the event you are inquiring about, along with your name, address and telephone number.

Currently, the available photographs include more than 150 shots from the April 8 Easter Egg Hunt at the PAL.

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South Plainfield Business Association panelists at Career Day at high school.

## SPBA Hosts Career Day at SPHS

The sixth annual Career Day Program sponsored by the South Plainfield Business Association and South Plainfield High School held on April 20 introduced students to a variety of professions and offered them the chance to learn about various careers, including education requirements and

employment opportunities from a panel of professionals.

This year's panel of 16 were South Plainfield Business Association members who volunteered to talk about how they ended up in their present careers. Almost 300 high school juniors participated in this year's program.

South Plainfield Business Association President Nancy Grennier, BOE Vice President Debbie Boyle and Director of Guidance Elaine Gallo introduced the panelists and fielded questions from the students.

The variety of occupations held by the panelists provided many interesting stories about how they each ended up at their present jobs. Most did not find their present career until years after graduating from college. Each panelist told students they should keep an open mind about their careers and college course choices.

Before the students returned to class, they were able to speak to the panelists one-on-one to ask questions.

This year's panelists were Joyce Signorile-Central Jersey Federal Credit Union, Nya Patel-Smile Pharmacy, Greg Heim-coin dealer, Renato R. Biribin and Thomas Lanza-attorneys, Detective Jim Darby-residency officer at SPHS, Terry Robak-facilitator and life coach, Chrissy Buteas-former councilwoman, Michael Grennier-forensic computer investigator, Karen Roman-Lincoln Technical Institute, Michael Castoral-South Plainfield Funeral Home, Aimee Stone-The Salon Professional Academy, Marc Jelinsky-TD Bank and Derryck White-South Plainfield councilman.

Celebrate  
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milestones

## Partesi Named To Castleton's President's List

Kristen Partesi of South Plainfield was named to the Castleton State College President's List for the Fall 2011 semester. To qualify for this highest academic honor, a student must maintain full time status and a semester grade point average of 4.0.

Located in Vermont, Castleton is small enough to be a community where every student matters, yet offers more than 30 academic programs, 20 inter-collegiate sports and over 40 clubs and organizations. The college stresses community service and provides exceptional programs for first year students.

## Vokral Elected VP Of the NJAEO

Jim Vokral of South Plainfield was recently re-elected as the first vice president of the New Jersey Association of Election Officials (NJAEO) at their annual conference in Atlantic City. It is a non paid position.



Jim Vokral

This association is a state-wide, non-profit group consisting of election officials from each New Jersey county. Members work together to share information to provide safe and secure elections.

Jim is the administrator of the Middlesex County Board of Elections which is responsible for managing all elections, voter registration records, voting machines, poll workers and other election activities within Middlesex County.



Congratulations to Allison Wagner, South Plainfield High School senior and member of the SPHS Winter Guard. Allison won the Mid Atlantic Indoor Network (MAIN) Winter Guard 2012 Mary Dennison Scholarship. The scholarship was presented at the Main Championships on April 21 held at South Brunswick High School.

## Eric Rhode Earns Honors at Kean University

Eric Rhode, a graduate of South Plainfield High School and a film major at Kean University, has earned recognition from Kean University's Lambda Alpha Sigma Academic Honors List for 2011. This award is based on high levels of academic excellence at Kean University for the Spring and Fall 2011 semesters.

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

## police report

On April 12 a Chambers Street resident reported that a large decorative Easter egg that was on their lawn was thrown at the rear windshield of their vehicle.

A South Plainfield Avenue resident reported that their Discover card had been fraudulently used at nine stores.

On April 13 Jexiel Aviles was arrested for driving while intoxicated, careless driving and failure to maintain a lane.

Jonathan R. Tomassi was arrested for disorderly conduct.

Frederick M. Galek was arrested for lewdness.

On April 14 Michael K. Tucka was arrested for driving while intoxicated and reckless driving.

Richard Figueroa was arrested

for driving while intoxicated, failure to maintain a lane and using a cell phone while driving.

Giuseppe DiPietro was arrested for driving while intoxicated and reckless driving.

Isiah Smith was arrested for driving while intoxicated and careless driving.

On April 15 Kwame T. Talley was arrested for simple assault.

On April 16 German Sauz-Garcia was arrested for endangering the welfare of a child.

Andre G. Key was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.

Amira Y. Chitalia was arrested at A&P for theft.

On April 18 Quick Chek on Sampson Avenue reported receiving two counterfeit \$20 bills.

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# Bookmarks

On Thursday at 6:30 p.m., we'll have our program on the 1940 U.S. Census. We'll give you some tips on how to access the newly-released data, what sort

That's all for now. As always, please call us at (908) 754-7885 for further details. You can also check the website at [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us) or look us up on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/southplainfieldlibrary](http://www.facebook.com/southplainfieldlibrary). See you next Friday.

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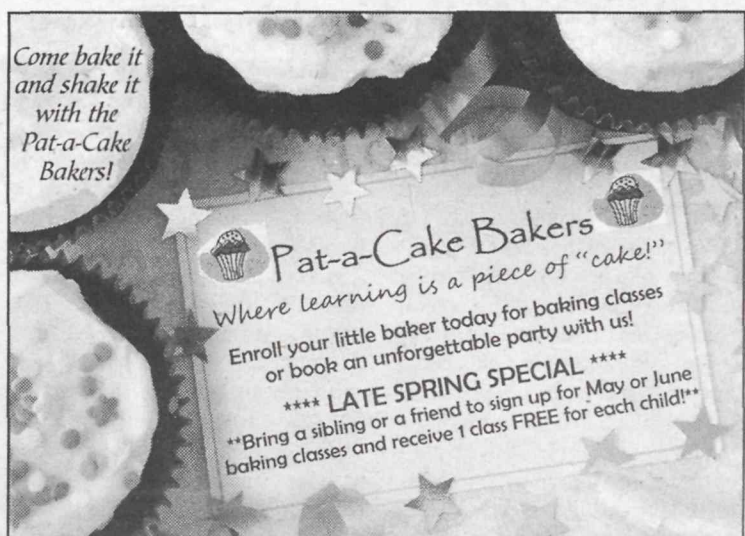
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# Sports

## SPHS South Plainfield High School

### SPORTS SCHEDULE

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 27

3:30pm V Golf-Piscataway @ W9 (H)  
3:45pm V & JV Softball-Scotch Plains (A) bus 2:30

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 28

10am V Lacrosse-No. Brunswick JV/11:30 bus 8:30  
11am JV Baseball-Middlesex (H)  
11am Fr Baseball-Middlesex (H)  
4pm V Baseball-Middlesex @ No. Bruns  
Com bus 2:30  
B V Track-Millburn Relays (A) bus 6:45am Fr Track

#### MONDAY, APRIL 30

3:45pm BV Tennis-Monroe (A) bus 2:30  
3:45pm V Golf-Old Bridge (H)  
4pm V & JV Baseball-Monroe (A) bus 2:30  
4pm Fr Baseball-Monroe (H)

#### TUESDAY, MAY 1

3:45pm V & JV Softball-JFK (A) bus 2:30  
3:45pm V Lacrosse-Rutgers Prep JV/5:15 (A) bus 2:30  
3:45pm GY Track-GMC @ S. Bruns (A) bus 2:00 /Fr Track

#### TUESDAY, MAY 1 (CONT.)

3:45pm BV Track-GMC Relays @ S. Bruns (A) bus 2:00  
3:45pm V Tennis-Middlesex (H)  
4pm Fr Baseball-Monroe (A) bus 2:30  
4pm V & JV Baseball-Monroe (H)

#### WEDNESDAY, MAY 2

3:45pm BV Track-GMC Relays @ S. Bruns (A) bus 2:00  
3:45pm GY Track-GMC Relays @ S. Bruns (A) bus 2:00  
3:45pm V Tennis-Colonia (H)

#### THURSDAY, MAY 3

3:30pm V Golf-East Bruns @ Tamarack (A) bus 2:30  
3:45pm BV Tennis-Sayreville (A) bus 2:30  
3:45pm V & JV Softball-Colonia (H)  
3:45pm V Lacrosse-Old Bridge (H) JV/5:15  
4pm V & JV Baseball-Governor Liv (A) bus 2:30  
4pm Fr Baseball-Governor Liv (H)

#### FRIDAY, MAY 4

3:45pm V Golf - S. Brunswick (H)



## Eagles Scholarships Available

The South Plainfield Eagles are pleased to announce that they will once again be offering four \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors who have participated in the Eagles program for a minimum of three years who are continuing his/her education.

Applications are available at the

guidance office at the high school or on our website at [www.leaguelineup.com/speagles](http://www.leaguelineup.com/speagles).

All applications must be returned to the South Plainfield High School Guidance Office no later than May 14.

—Submitted by Abba Hodge, Cheer Commissioner

## Calling All High School Senior Girls—It's Scholarship Time

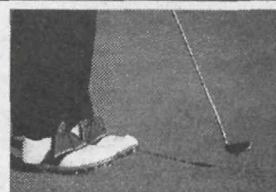
The Parents' Ponytail (Softball) Association is sponsoring four \$500 college scholarships for girls. Applications are currently being accepted and can be obtained from the South Plainfield High School Guidance Office. To qualify for the scholarships, the applicant must be a high school senior graduating this June and a current resident of South Plainfield. To qualify for one of the two recreation scholarships, applicants must have played for a minimum of four years in the South Plainfield Recreation Department's Ponytail Softball League. To qualify for the Ponytail All-Star scholarships, applicants must have played recreation softball for a minimum of four years

and Ponytail All-Stars for a minimum of three years. All-Star players may apply for both the recreation and All-Star scholarships; however, a player is only eligible to receive one scholarship. The application must be received no later than Monday, May 14.

All completed applications can be mailed to APPPA Scholarship, P.O. Box 441, South Plainfield, N.J. 07080 or returned to the high school guidance office in a sealed envelope labeled SPPPA Scholarship. Verification of school enrollment is required prior to funds being awarded. Get your applications and submit them as soon as possible. Best of luck to all of you; you are all winners in our scorebook.

Submitted By Bob Nilan

## Notes from the Jim Parnovets Memorial Golf League



### LEAGUE STANDINGS

American Division				National Division			
	W	L	T		W	L	T
2 Buds, 2 Dubs	2	0	0	Italian-American	2	0	0
McCriskin-Gustafson	2	0	0	S. Plfd Funeral Home	1	1	0
KC's Korner	1	1	0	Sport & Social	1	1	0
Alfie's Boys	1	1	0	Windows Plus	0	1	1
Unique Sports	1	1	0	Dirty Harry & Friends	0	2	0
Twin City	0	1	1	Witty's Liquors	0	2	0

To celebrate being in first place in the American Division after hammering Alfie's Boys on opening night, Dale Dube came to the course nattily attired in a peach-colored golf shirt—with matching shoes—and generously provided his playing partner, Chris Nuzzo, with a matching shirt. They easily won the Fashion Award for the night, but they left it up to their teammates, Jeff Orth and Don Hall, to lead the way to a 17-3 pounding of Sport & Social. Orth and Hall shot a pair of 39s and Scott McDonald also had a 39 for Sport and Social in a losing effort. Dube and Nuzzo, looking beautiful, were happy to pose for photographs after their impressive win.

Alfie's Boys came roaring back after the whipping they endured last week and demolished Witty's Liquors, 16-4. Bill Tankiewicz earned the medal for the victors with a nice round of 37, and Danny Griffin chipped in with a 38. For Witty's, Kevin "Boom Boom" Bickunas posted the low score with a 40.

When a team with low handicaps has to give away a lot of strokes, they can be sure they're in for a tough match, even when they shoot very well. That certainly was the case with Twin City Pharmacy. Captain Guy "The Hustler" Severini fired a sparkling round of 33 to earn medalist honors for the night. Jay Copolla was extremely sharp and just one stroke higher as he turned in a terrific 1-over 34 and Joe Diller added a 39. Unfortunately, all that good golf was just good enough to gain a 10-10 tie with Windows Plus who got a nice performance from Dave Ramano who had a 37.

The Italian-American Club had the good fortune of getting a lot of strokes in their match and they needed all that handicap help to gain their big win over Unique Sports Accessories, 16-4. Jeff Gross had a 39 for the first place

Italian-American Club. Chris "The Hawk" Dillon shot a 37 and Ted Stanik and Mark Bamrick posted a pair of 39s for Unique Sports; respectable scores, to be sure, but not quite good enough when you're giving away a significant number of strokes.

In the battle for bragging rights on Plainfield Avenue, Mark "Mr. Steady" Chichvar was his usual steady self and came through with a solid round of 37 with lovely birdies on the fourth and eighth holes. Steve Schock pitched in with a 39 as McCriskin's won the match over the South Plainfield Funeral Home, 13-7. John Dominic, Wayne Lavender and Matt Ward all had 41s in going down to defeat.

To demonstrate that he can hit a driver, Mike Behr responded to some taunts on the first tee and pulled his Big Dog out of his bag and promptly crushed his tee shot a long way straight into the right rough. He then placed a warm fuzzy cover over the Big Dog, put him to sleep for the night and proceeded to shoot a nice round of 37 to spark his KC's Korner team to a 15-5 win over Dirty Harry & Friends. Behr got some nice help from Efrain Solis who registered a 38. For the Dirty Harry squad, Kevin McCormack earned the medal with a 38.

In American Division action next week, Dale Dube and his first place teammates will take on Twin City Pharmacy, led by the red hot Jay Copolla and by Guy Severini who is on fire. Ear plugs will be available for the teams that have to tee off before and after this match.

**Low scores for the night:** Guy Severini, 33; Jay Coppola, 34; Mike Behr, 37; Mark Chichvar, 37; Bill Tankiewicz, 37; Chris Dillon, 37; Dave Romano, 37; Danny Griffin, 38; Kevin McCormack, 38; and Efrain Solis, 38.

## Education Foundation/ Business Assoc. 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, Thom Lanza at (908) 753-6010, Bob Longo at (908) 753-7004, ext. 106, Rick McCriskin at (908) 561-8000 or Marge Reedy at (908) 561-5800, ext. 302.

## LEGAL NOTICE

### LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY

### ORDINANCE 1962

### AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW ORDINANCE OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

This ordinance shall take effect immediately after final passage and publication according to law. This Ordinance published herewith was introduced and passed upon first reading at the regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield held on April 16, 2012. It will be further considered for final passage after a public hearing to be held on May 7, 2012, at the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, NJ at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, at which time and place any persons desire to be heard upon the same will be given an opportunity to be heard. Copies are available free of charge at the Municipal Clerk's Office prior to the public hearing.

### ORDINANCE NO. 1962

### AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW ORDINANCE OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

WHEREAS, the Borough Zoning Board of Adjustment has determined that a schedule is necessary to establish variance plan requirements for certain types of applications that do not currently have site plan requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Engineer and Board Attorney have prepared a schedule of proposed variance plan requirements for the types of applications that currently do not have site plan requirements, which has been approved by the Zoning Board of Adjustment, and which requests that such requirements be included in the Development Review Ordinance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey that the Code of the Borough be amended to include Appendix C to the Development Review Ordinance to include variance plan requirements for the following types of applications:

- One or two-family bulk variances (existing dwelling)
- One or two-family bulk variances (new construction)
- One or two-family use variances
- Bifurcated use variances

The Appendix shall be in the form attached hereto.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication in accordance with New Jersey law.

Amy Antonides, RMC/CMC  
Municipal Clerk

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April 27, 2012

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## School Board Roof Repairs

(Continued from page 1)

for a Bid Evaluation; \$1,750 for a Pre-Construction Conference and \$1,500 for a Final Inspection.

The board can also request the services of an ARMM full time construction monitor at \$3,800 for a 40 hour work week for the duration of the project.

In a letter from ARMM President Frank Moore to Business Administrator Jim Olobardi dated March 21 reiterating their willingness to keep plans and specs at the same cost as 20 years ago, Moore stated, "The main focus at this time is to 'put our finger in the dike' for an approximately two-year period at which time it is hoped additional funding becomes available."

The board initially allocated \$1.2M of excess surplus from the 2010/2011 budget for the project; however, additional money will now be coming from reserve accounts that, as of June 2011, include another \$2.5M.

In addition, the board adopted a 2012/2013 fiscal budget at \$55,281,383 last month, which includes an almost 3% hike costing taxpayers approximately \$108 more a year on an average home assessed at \$122,900. The district is expected to receive \$735,000 more in state aid towards the 2012/2013 budget

and is rolling over another \$600,000+ in state aid from the 2011/2012 budget into this year's budget. Staffing positions that were cut in the previous two years are expected to be brought back with the additional monies.

A "Design/Bid Construction Schedule" prepared by ARMM calls for the "details, drawings, specifications and bid forms" for the project to be completed by May 9, at which time they plan to advertise for construction bidders. A Bidder's Tour will take place on May 11, and the project will be open for bid on May 30. ARMM anticipates a week for the bids to be evaluated, and the board should award a contract by June 6.

The work on the buildings is scheduled to begin shortly after the school year ends on June 20, and should be completed by August 24.

According to roof repair invoices requested for the past 10 years from the business administrator, the board spent \$43,766 between April 2007 and March 2009 for repairs on various buildings by three different roofing companies. Robert Walker was the director of buildings and grounds around that time; however, his position was eliminated. No receipts since 2009 were obtained.

## GOP Endorses Frank and Bengivenga

(Continued from page 1)

"We saw how we could save money by having our Public Works Department take over the pick-ups," Frank explained. "At the same time, we made the service better by letting residents choose when was best for them."

When asked about his biggest accomplishments, Bengivenga first pointed to the 2010 tax cut. "I was happy I could join my fellow council members in voting to lower taxes in 2010," he said.

Bengivenga also believes it's vital to invest in the town's infrastructure, especially our parks and roads. "We'll be reconstructing part of Sampton Av-

enue this year, as well as several other streets," he said. We're also planning additional work to enhance our parks and keep them in top-notch shape."

Bengivenga is seeking his third term on the council. He heads the council's public safety committee and served as council president in 2008.

Frank was elected last fall to fill a one-year term created when Matt Anesh became mayor. He chairs the council's health, welfare and environment committee. Frank is a former Marine and has served as head of both the American Legion and the Marine Corps League.

## Assunta (DiMartino) Basso, 90

Assunta (DiMartino) Basso died on Monday, April 16 at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y., Assunta was a lifelong resident of Brooklyn.

A beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Mrs. Basso enjoyed crocheting and for several years donated receiving blankets she made to the maternity ward at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

She is predeceased by her husband, Adam; a son, Paul; and several siblings.

Surviving is a daughter, Florence Mancino and husband Larry of South Plainfield; a sister, Connie Adinoffi of Brooklyn, N.Y.; a brother, Nicholas Matonti of Long Island, N.Y.; two grandchildren, Peter Mancino and wife Elisa of Middlesex and Adam Mancino and wife Lisa of Hoboken; and four great-grandchildren, Antonio, Eliana, Graziella and Vittoria.

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

## Paula L. (Danik) Ryan, 64

Paula L. (Danik) Ryan died on Tuesday, April 17 at Saint Michael's Medical Center in Newark.

Born in Elizabeth, Paula grew up in Roselle Park and settled in South Plainfield in 1985.

Paula worked as a conference coordinator for UMDNJ in Piscataway for several years prior to her retirement.

She enjoyed trips to Atlantic City, camping and being surrounded by her family.

Mrs. Ryan is predeceased by her husband, Phil Ryan; her father, Frank Danik; and a brother, Greg Danik.

Surviving is a daughter, Colleen Grossenbacher and husband Warren of Pennsylvania; her mother, Betty Danik of South Plainfield, Kerri Ryan of Maine, Jay Ryan and wife Hannah of Massachusetts; two sisters, Maryellen Strauss and husband Julian of Pennsylvania and Diane Danik of South Plain-

## Obituaries

field; and a brother, Steven Danik and wife Lynne of Milford. Also surviving are six nieces and nephews.

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

## Anna "Toots" (Pornovets) Deering, 89

Anna "Toots" (Pornovets) Deering died on Friday, April 20 at the Millhouse Nursing Home in Trenton.

Mrs. Deering was a lifelong resident of South Plainfield. She enjoyed spending time with her family, was an excellent story teller and loved to cook. In addition, Toots liked going to the track to play the ponies.

She is predeceased by two sons, Raymond J. Jr. and John T. and by all of her siblings.

Surviving is a daughter, Beverly Straz and husband Hank of South Plainfield; a son, Dennis Deering and wife Bonnie of Fla.; eight grandchildren, Kimberly Ali, Raymond Deering, Stacey Straz, Ryan, Todd and Lindsey Deering and Tim and Kelly Smith; and 12 great-grandchildren.

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

## Georges Choueiri, 89

Georges Choueiri passed away on Tuesday, April 17 at Woodcrest Health Care Center in New Milford.

He was born in Beirut, Lebanon where he spent the majority of his life before moving to Brooklyn, N.Y. in the 1990s. In 2003, Georges and his family moved to Somerset.

Georges is survived by his loving wife, Wassila; four children, Charles and wife Birgit, Katia, Elias and wife Clarines, and Michael and wife Carol; and eight grandchildren, Pamina, Danielle, Rachid, Sophia, George, Emily, Dany and Tiffany.

Funeral services were under the di-

rection of McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals.

## Carmella M. (Erimne) Alparone, 82

Carmella M. (Erimne) Alparone died on Tuesday, April 17 at home.

Born in Bound Brook, Carmella grew up in Middlesex and settled in South Plainfield 52 years ago.

An avid bingo player, Mrs. Alparone enjoyed trips to Atlantic City, her daily scratch offs and playing cards with her family.

She was a devoted wife and mother who cherished the time she spent with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Carmella is predeceased by her husband, Edmund J. Sr.; and a brother, Dominic Ermie.

Surviving is a daughter, Helena Alparone of South Plainfield; two sons, Glenn J. DeAngelis Sr. and wife Mary Ann of Hillsborough and Edmund J. Alparone Jr. and wife Ellen of North Brunswick; a sister, Dolly Lang of Florida; two grandchildren, Glenn J. DeAngelis Jr. and wife Claire and Anthony J. DeAngelis; four great-grandchildren, Holly, Devon, Joseph and Hannah DeAngelis. Also surviving is her dearest friend, Timmy Alparone.

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

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Students from the SPHS Choir and Jazz Band performed with the NJAJE Region II Jazz Choir at Princeton HS on April 22. The students auditioned on March 19 and were selected to be in the group which rehearsed at the Middle School and Princeton High School. The students had the opportunity to work with students from all over Central Jersey, and were able to get a chance to improvise or "scat". (L-R) Marc Stasio, Jonathan Reyes, John Delacruz, Rusty Teller and teacher Joan Stasio.

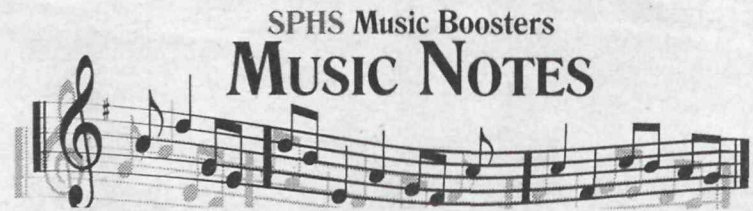
## APRIL IS AUSTIM AWARENESS MONTH

### A Sister's Acceptance - By Christina Romano

The event that was difficult for me was when my parents finally explained that my brother was autistic. This explained why my brother was different from other brothers. I was 7 years old. I didn't understand why my brother acted differently than other brothers so I was embarrassed of him. I didn't want to tell my friends about my brother. I just wanted him to disappear. I asked myself, "Why do I have an autistic brother and my friends have normal brothers?" I pretty much ignored him because he acted so differently, and people always looked at him. I just wanted to hide in a hole.

Eventually, I learned from my parents that we all needed to be patient with him. My brother didn't ask to be this way, and he really couldn't help his speech or behavior. I started to understand that he was doing the best he could. "Was I doing the best I could?" I asked myself. As my parents forced us to experience the world, I wanted to hide instead. Things that were fun for any family were a nightmare for my family. Vacations and restaurants were so incredibly hard for my parents, but even more for my brother. It didn't stop us though. My mother taught us that we deserved to experience fun and enjoyment just as much as the next family. We just needed to change our attitude towards the situation. You see, Richie doesn't like change. He gets nervous at amusement parks, restaurants and hotels. He would cry until we got home, because home was comfort for him. Vacations could only last three to four days. How I hated him for my summer and my life.

Today, my attitude to my brother is improving. My disappointment towards him is turning into love and acceptance. I understand, with the help from my family, that life with an autistic brother will not be easy. I will still be embarrassed by his outbursts and behaviors but instead of being sad, I will explain to my friends that he has autism. Autism shouldn't make a person fearful. To me, if you know the facts, then the knowledge makes you powerful, enough to overcome the fears. I no longer am afraid of people looking at me differently because of my brother. True friends will understand and accept my brother for who he is. Hopefully the world will do the same.



**Attention Seniors:** The scholarship application has been posted. Deadline is today. Late applications will not be considered. Copies of the applications can be accessed on our website at [www.sphsmusicboosters.webs.com](http://www.sphsmusicboosters.webs.com) or on the music department website at [www.spboe.schoolwires.net/domain/140](http://www.spboe.schoolwires.net/domain/140). Completed applications must be returned to Mr. Vroom, Mrs. Stasio or Mr. Mikolon today. Late applications will not be accepted.

#### The SPHS Boosters of the Musical Arts 2012/2013 Executive Board

The annual elections for the 2012/2013 Executive Board will be held on Wednesday, May 2 at the Music Boosters general meeting. If anyone is interested in leadership opportunities, please come to our next meeting. Many of our senior parents and executive board members will be

leaving the Boosters in June, and we need members to fill much needed positions. If you would like to be considered or have a nomination, please email Donna Teller at [rteller3@comcast.net](mailto:rteller3@comcast.net).

Remember, in order to vote in the May Music Boosters election, you must be a member and have attended three meetings. Membership is \$3 individual or \$5 family.

The Music Booster banquet is scheduled for Friday, June 8 at 6 p.m. at the Italian-American Club in North Plainfield. Invitations for the banquet have been mailed out. The RSVP deadline is May 11. Any questions, please email Laura Conrad at [njconrads@comcast.net](mailto:njconrads@comcast.net).

**Current Music Booster Fundraiser** will be held at Oak Tree Wine & Spirits, 902 Oak Tree Ave. Purchase

any wine with a Wine Master sticker and Oak Tree will donate \$1 for every bottle sold up to \$19.99 and \$2 for every bottle sold from \$20 and up. Tell the cashier to mark the sales to "SPHS MUSIC BOOSTERS."

#### Important Music Booster Dates to Remember

- 4/27-Scholarship applications must be returned to high school music teachers.

- 5/2-Music Boosters general meeting, 7 p.m. in the high school Chorus room

- 6/6-High school spring concert

- 6/8-Music Boosters banquet

To keep informed of all Music Boosters activities, we welcome and encourage all parents to attend the monthly meetings throughout the year.

## SCHOOL BOARD NOTES

By Libby Barsky

The Board of Education approved new times for the scheduled monthly meetings of the Committee of the Whole (COW) and the Regular Public Meetings which meet on the second and third Wednesday of each month; however, both meetings in May will be held on Wednesday, May 9 with the COW meeting at 6 p.m. and the regular meeting at 8 p.m. From June until December, the COW meetings will be held at 6 p.m. and the public meetings will start at

6:30 p.m.

The board approved the resignations of Laurie Hall, supervisor of Special Services; Sheryl Lawrence, special education teacher at Kennedy School; Stacey Closterman, social studies teacher at the high school; and Allison Schneider, elementary teacher at Grant School.

Forty-five high school students have been receiving math instruction two days a week since February 12 from two teachers, Kyle McElroy and Nicholas Curcio, to prepare them for state tests.

The board approved an agreement with ARMM Associates, Inc. to provide administrative services for a roof design project for the South Plainfield High School and Middle School. The architects total project fee (exclusive of optional hourly services) will be \$112,150. The architect will also provide full time construction monitoring for a 40-hour week for a fee of \$3,800 through the completion of the construction phase anticipated to last between 10 to 12 weeks.

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# In My Opinion

Opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily

(Continued from page 2)

around the facts of mental illness, shut down the misconceptions created by those who attack individuals with diseases and help raise awareness of the signs people experiencing mental illness struggle with. The funds collected go toward this mission and stay right here in New Jersey to help our own community members.

NAMI is a 501(c)(3) charity and any donation made to support participants in this event or simply the organization is tax deductible. If you are so inclined to donate, visit the website [www.nami.org/namiwalks12](http://www.nami.org/namiwalks12) for further information. NAMI has been rated by Worth magazine as among the top 100 charities, "most likely to save the world" and it has been given an A+ rating by the American Institute of Philanthropy for efficient and effective use of charitable dollars. NAMI has also been given four out of four stars by *The Charity Navigator* for short-term spending practices and long-term sustainability.

I hope you will join me in aiding those who suffer with mental illness by either joining this event as a walking participant or with a donation. Anything you do shows support for those stricken with these illnesses and helps advance their ability to succeed in life in a productive manner. John Nash, Nobel Laureate, struggled with schizophrenia and also inspired the 2001 award winning movie, *A Beautiful Mind*. If you are ever in doubt about the possibilities people with mental illness have, I would suggest you watch this movie as it opens many doors about the possibilities for those who suffer.

**MOST SINCERELY,  
DANIELLE HARRIS LACASALE**

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# Bray's Run & Fun 5K Run and Walk Raises \$5K for Scholarships



Natalie and Jim Carr join the teams that faced off to raise money for In Brayden's Eyes: Rutgers Men's Basketball coaches and alumni against South Plainfield PBA.

By Jane Dornick

The South Plainfield Middle School PTO and the South Plainfield PBA #100 hosted Bray's Run & Fun 5K Run and 1.5 mile Fun Walk along with a basketball game between former Rutgers Men's Basketball coaches and alumni versus the PBA on April 15 at the high school.

The event raised over \$5,000, which includes private donations, money raised from the event and a \$1,200 donation from the middle

school Jeans for Teens fundraiser.

The student male winner of the 5K run was Charlie Butrico, 16, and the female winner was Dianne Ferraro, 13, both from South Plainfield.

In the adult category, Ben Forrest of New Brunswick had the fastest time for the men and Monika Lehman of South Plainfield had the best woman's time.

Participating in the hour-long basketball game from the PBA were Daryl Strother, Pete Leonardi, Mike Sikanowicz, Joe Glowacki, Ken

Parada, Gary Cassio, Chief Jim Parker, Ahmad Stuckey, Jay Culver and Lloyd McNelly. Rutgers' alumni were Brad Wachtel, Tyre Greer, Marquis Webb, Corky McMullen, Mike Coburn, Grant Billmeier and Juel Wiggan. Referees were Fred Leo and Tom Curtis and the timekeeper was Megan Boyle. Borough Council President Ray Rusnak attended the event as well as Councilman Rob Bengivenga.

In Brayden's Eyes, The Brayden Carr Foundation Inc., is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization



The teams face off.

established by Jim and Natalie Carr of South Plainfield, the parents of the late Brayden James Carr.

The Big East basketball conference is where Jim calls home for the past 13 years. He has been a staple in the Rutgers University men's basketball program, through various positions, and is currently the director of basketball operations for the Scarlet Knights. Natalie is a former athletic trainer, coach, local teacher and the mother of Brayden.

Brayden was an adorable two and a half year-old boy whose life was much too short. Out of horrific tragedy in May 2011, the Carr Family dedicated their lives to honoring their son's indomitable spirit and infectious enthusiasm for life through positive

endeavors. By way of service projects and fundraising ventures, they hope to provide athletic, social, rehabilitative and academic opportunities to children with seizure conditions and their related physical needs, as well as to provide humanitarian support and relief to their parents.

Donations for the event came from Underground Printing, Bimbo Bakery and Pepsi.

"It was a nice day," said Natalie. "We wanted to do something family-oriented within the community. I would like to thank the 300 guests, friends and family that attended the event and the businesses that donated items."

Proceeds from this event will go toward funding high school scholarships for the PTO and PBA.

## Middlesex County Unveils Robust Community Notification System

The Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders tonight introduced the Middlesex County Community Notification System. This state-of-the-art communication system can process thousands of contacts per minute for immediate notification.

The initial rollout of the program is for emergency notifications only, but the capacity and capability of this robust system will allow the county and each municipal participant to use the system for non-emergency notifications in the near future, said Freeholder Deputy Director Ronald G. Rios, who introduced the program.

"This incredibly robust communications tool can send thousands of notifications within seconds via phone, text and email messages. It has proven to be an essential and most effective tool in times of emergency, not only

for us as a county but for our municipalities as well," said Rios, chair of the Administration Committee.

During Hurricane Irene, the county on behalf of Dunellen, Helmetta, Milltown, Perth Amboy, Plainsboro and South Amboy, used this system to send urgent messages to residents regarding storm and flood warnings, evacuation orders and boil water advisories, he said. With the county's help, this system allowed these municipalities to get out critical information quickly and seamlessly.

"The success of the system during the hurricane was the impetus behind our latest shared services offering: to expand use of this highly capable system for non-emergency events as well," Rios said.

Program participants will be able to send timely, accurate information via phone, text or email messages to

as large or as small a group as needed. Those notifications can be targeted to a specific geographic area because the system uses GIS or Geographic Information System Technology. It is fully supported and backed-up to ensure communications readiness at all times and provides a log of all notifications made.

"Middlesex County's Community Notification System is an efficient way

for us and our municipal partners to communicate important information to our residents," said Freeholder Director Christopher D. Rafano. "And because the county has already purchased and implemented the system, we can offer it to our municipalities as a shared service, while at the same time take advantage of the system's substantial capabilities."

Rios added, "The most critical step

in making this the most effective notification system it can be is to get residents, business owners and those who work in Middlesex County to register."

A link to the self-registration page has been placed on the county website at [www.co.middlesex.nj.us](http://www.co.middlesex.nj.us). All personal and contact information entered on the site will be kept confidential and not shared with any third party.

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