

# South Plainfield OBSERVER

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60 CENTS

JUNE 1, 2012



A Veterans of Foreign Wars member and a local scout lay wreaths at the graves of veterans at the Jewish Cemetery on New Market Avenue. See pages 6 and 7 for additional coverage of Memorial Day.

## Volunteer First Responders Recognized At Wesley United Methodist Church



(L-R) Deputy Fire Chief John Mocharski, Wesley United Methodist Church Pastor Gina Kim and Rescue Squad Chief Ed Laferrera.

By Jean Fultz

A special service was held at Wesley United Methodist Church on May 20 to recognize South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad personnel. They were invited by Pastor Gina Kim and congregation members to show their appreciation

for the dedication and service they provide to the community.

A plaque was presented to Deputy Fire Chief John Mocharski and Rescue Squad Chief Edward Laferrera, who accepted on behalf of their respective members. The plaques read, "Presented to South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department [Rescue Squad]

Personnel In Appreciation for Outstanding Service in the Borough of South Plainfield by Wesley United Methodist Church."

Prior to the service, Sunday School children presented the first responders with "thank you" cards they had made in class.

More than 140 congregants and invited guests attended the service, including Mocharski, Laferrera, members of both the fire department and rescue squad, Mayor Matt Anesh, Councilman Rob Bengivenga, and Councilman Derryck White and wife Lisa along with their children, Alexx and Noah, who sat in on the Sunday School class.

Retired Pastor, Reverend Charles Mingle, who also served as the chaplain for the fire department, was invited to offer the benediction at the end of the service. Rev. Mingle's wife, Jean, was also in attendance.

Congregation members provided a reception in Fellowship Hall following the service. Mocharski and Laferrera thanked Pastor Kim on behalf of all the members of South Plainfield's emergency response volunteers.



Members of the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad with Mayor Matt Anesh and Councilmen Rob Bengivenga and Derryck White.

## Two Inducted Into SPHS Hall of Fame

By Jane Dornick

South Plainfield High School Hall of Fame inductees Michael Binder and Thomas Lanza were honored at a special luncheon at Flanagan's Restaurant and Pub on May 22. An induction ceremony was also held that evening during the high school's annual academic awards.

Michael Binder graduated in 1993. He spent one year at the University of Delaware, a year and a half at Middlesex County College and two and a half years at Richard Stockton College, where he graduated in 1998 with a major in political science.

During his last semester at Stockton, Binder interned in Washington, D.C. He stayed in Washington for another year and worked as a membership coordinator.

Binder moved to San Diego, Calif. and worked as a sales representative for Thomas Register. He returned to school to obtain a master's degree in political science at San Diego State

University and graduated in 2003. Binder went on to pursue a PhD in political science to become a professor and was accepted at the University of California, San Diego where he graduated in 2010. While studying for his PhD he was asked to become a research fellow at the Lane Center located on the campus of Stanford. Shortly after, Binder was asked to work as a research fellow for the Hoover Institute at Stanford.

In August 2011, Binder accepted a position as assistant professor of political science at the University of Northern Florida in Jacksonville.

Binder currently resides in Florida and has signed a contract with the Hoover Institute as a visiting scholar.

Thomas Lanza went to Sacred Heart School, now Holy Savior Academy, in South Plainfield and graduated from South Plainfield High School in 1973. He graduated from Seton Hall University in 1977 with a double major in English and secondary education.

(Continued on page 10)



Michael Binder (left) and Thomas Lanza, South Plainfield High School Hall of Fame Inductees, were honored at luncheon at Flanagan's Restaurant.

## Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics NJ

More than 3,000 dedicated law enforcement officers will participate in the 29th annual Torch Run for Special Olympics New Jersey on Friday, June 8 beginning as early as 4:45 a.m.

The 26-leg journey will bring the Special Olympics New Jersey "Flame of Hope" a distance of more than 900 miles through the state to The College of New Jersey in Ewing where it will light the cauldron Friday evening and officially open the 2012 Special Olympics New Jersey Summer Games.

The goal of the Torch Run is to raise funds and awareness for Special Olympics New Jersey as the torch makes its way through more than 300 communities throughout the state.

For the first time, the public can track the Torch Run in real-time on June 8 by logging on to [www.Track-](http://www.Track-)

TheTorchNJ.org. Torch Run support vehicles will be outfitted with GPS units that will display current torch locations, enabling users to find photo opportunities along the route by showing approximate arrival times. The tool will also allow the public to plan for possible traffic delays.

More than 2,300 athletes will compete at the Summer Games at The College of New Jersey the weekend of June 8-10. Events include aquatics, bocce, gymnastics, powerlifting, softball, tennis and track and field. Law enforcement officers will volunteer their time at the Summer Games.

For more information about Special Olympics NJ, visit [www.sonj.org](http://www.sonj.org).





**Want to stay informed about the business of your Council and BOE?****FYI****Borough Council & BOE**

Council meetings air on Comcast Channel 96 Mondays at 7 p.m. BOE meetings air on Thursdays at 7 p.m.

To purchase a complete copy of a council or BOE meeting, contact the Observer. (Check Comcast community bulletin board for last minute time changes.)

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

<b>Agenda Meeting</b>	<b>Public Meeting</b>
Monday, June 4	Monday, June 4
Monday, June 18	Monday, June 18

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

**planning board****Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month, \*except where noted. Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7641**

June 12, June 26, July 10, July 23\*, Aug. 14, Aug. 28, Sept. 11, Sept. 25, Oct. 9, Oct. 23, Nov. 13, Nov. 27, Dec. 11

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

June 5, June 19, July 3, July 17, Aug. 7, Aug. 21, Sept. 18, Oct. 2, Oct. 16, Nov. 20, Dec. 4, Dec. 18

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

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\***  
June 13, July 18, Aug. 15, Sept. 19, Oct. 17**BOE curriculum/technology/student activities****Meets once a month at 4:30 p.m. in 2nd floor conference room, Roosevelt Administration Building****BOE buildings & grounds****Meets second Monday of the month at 7 p.m., 2nd floor conference room, Roosevelt Administration Building****cultural arts commission****Meets the third Tuesday of the month at the PAL at 7:30 p.m.**

June 19, July &amp; Aug.-No Meeting, Sept. 18, Oct. 16, Nov. 20, Dec. 18

**library board of trustees****Meets once a month on the second Tuesday, at the library at 7 p.m.**  
June 12, July 10, Aug. 14, Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec. 11**recreation commission****Meets once a month on the second Tuesday of the month, except July and August PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7716**

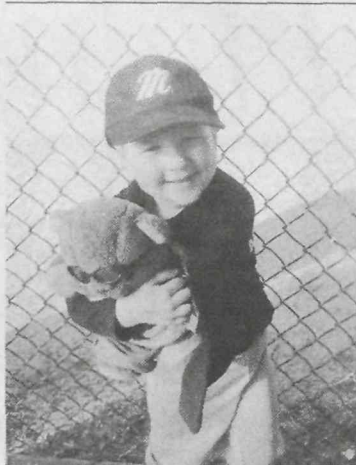
June 12, Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec. 11

**taxpayers advisory group****The Taxpayers Advisory Group (TAG) meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave. at 7 p.m. Questions? 908-769-0786.****site plan sub-committee****Meets once a month (third Wednesday), 7 p.m.**  
June 20, July 18, Aug. 15, Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 21, Dec. 19**environmental commission****Meets once a month (second Wednesday) Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7621**

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

**business advisory group****Meets once a month (first Wednesday) Borough Hall Council Chambers, 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.

**Matthew Hannon****Dear Residents,**

This year South Plainfield will be participating in the first Relay for Life event on Friday and Saturday, June 15-16. Matty's Marchers will be walking with pride with Matthew Hannon.

Matthew was diagnosed five years ago with Metastatic Ewing's Sarcoma and given a poor prognosis. He underwent many months of chemotherapy, liver resection and had his left arm amputated. Matthew has beaten the odds he was given and will be walking the event as a survivor! We hope to see many other survivors come out and join. (See Events, page 4.)

Please consider donating to the team, Matty's Marchers. We know there are many residents affected by cancer. Whether you have personally been diagnosed, lost a loved one to the disease or been a caretaker or supporter, come join. If you are interested in joining our team or donating to Matty's Marchers Relay Team, please email Keri at [cjh973@yahoo.com](mailto:cjh973@yahoo.com).

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT, MATTY'S MARCHERS****To the Editor:**

The South Plainfield Education Foundation and the South Plainfield Business Association held its annual golf outing on May 8.

There are so many people to thank for the success of our outing. We

would like to thank the members of the golf committee for all their hard work: Shannon Jefferys of Columbia Bank, Robert Longo of Cornerstone Architectural Group, Thom Lanza of Lanza and Lanza and Rick McCriskin of McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals.

We had 74 golfers—all local businessmen. Each golfer received a goodie bag and left with a door prize.

The first place team—Rick McCriskin, Tim Fech, Joey Glowacki and Mike Tortorelli—won a foursome to Cranbury Golf Club and each received a \$50 gift certificate to the Pro Shop.

The second place team—Thom Lanza, Anthony Moretti, Warren Tamoroff and Guy Moretti—won a foursome to Plainfield Country Club West Nine and each received a \$25 gift certificate from the Cranbury Golf Club.

Closest to the pin on hole #7 was Mike Tortorelli; closest to the pin on #16 was Ricky McCriskin; the longest drive for men on #18 was Tim Fech and the longest drive for women on #9 was Chrissy Buteas. Each of these winners received a \$20 gift certificate to Cranbury Golf Club.

The Hole-in-One program was sponsored by John Cecchetti Insurance Agency and the hole-in-one for a new car was sponsored by Flemington Ford.

Sponsors for the outing were: New Pak Inc., TD Bank, Hall's Warehouse, Lynn/Hudd Steel Corp, Mei Haus Restaurant, Bagel Pantry, Mohn's Florist, Sherban's Restaurant, Cornerstone Architectural Group, Oak Tree Discount Wines and Spirits, R&C Auto Body, The Boyle Memorial Foundation, Erika Lynn Foundation, Imperial Deli, Haisch's Bakery, KC's Korner, American Legion, Supreme Silk Screening, Twin City Pharmacy, Plainfield Country Club-West Nine, Columbia Bank, Just Packaging, Central Jersey Federal Credit Union, Harris Companies, Centric Insurance Agency, Integrity Consulting, Lanza

**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.

and Lanza, McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals, Rita's Italian Ice, Sunlight Photonics, Mayor Matt Anesh, Rob Bengivenga, Prudential Properties (Moretti), Plainfield Animal Hospital, Midco Waste Systems, Frank Mikorski, Animal House, Fuji Sushi, Knights of Columbus, Sal's Spirit Shoppe, Sportworld, Ciccio's Pizza, Cranbury Country Club, Kobo, AKA Inc., John Cecchetti Insurance Company, Flemington Car and Truck Country (Kevin Jones), Hometown Heros, B&C Deli, Butrico Family, Sanchez & Sanchez (Manny Sanchez) and Oak Tree Accounting (Jim Belz).

All of the above either played golf, provided sponsorship and/or provided raffle gifts for the outing.

Please patronize all of our sponsors, without whose help we would not have had such a successful outing!

The portion of the proceeds from the outing that goes to the Education Foundation will continue to provide a \$1,000 scholarship each year in the name of Emil Leporino, one of the founders of both the Education Foundation and the South Plainfield Business Association.

Our many thanks to all who helped make this outing a success again this year! We are looking forward to next year's outing that will be held in early May 2013. Please mark your calendars for next year's outing. Also, check out our websites: [www.vision2001.org](http://www.vision2001.org) and [www.thespbabiz.com](http://www.thespbabiz.com) for all of our upcoming events.

The South Plainfield Education Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and our tax exempt ID is 22-3326699.

**SINCERELY,**  
**SHANNON JEFFERYS, THOM LANZA,**  
**BOB LONGO, RICK MCCRISKIN**  
**AND MARGE REEDY,**  
**GOLF OUTING COMMITTEE**

**To the Editor:**

As a longtime resident of South Plainfield and a past president of the Historical Society, it makes me wonder why there are so few resi-

(Continued on page 10)



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*Featuring a wide variety of wine,  
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a selection of town restaurant food.*

**Saturday, June 9, 2012**  
**American Legion, 243 Oak Tree Avenue**  
**7:00pm to 11:00pm**  
**Tickets: \$30/person**

For tickets or additional information, contact  
Daryl Forster at [dforster@qualcomm.com](mailto:dforster@qualcomm.com).

**Wine & Beer Sponsor: Oak Tree Discount Liquors**

State of NJ Division A.B.C. Special Permit #12007377

**South Plainfield OBSERVER**

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How to Reach Us



1110 Hamilton Boulevard, Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080  
Ph: 908-668-0010 • Fax: 908-668-8819  
Email: [spobserver@comcast.net](mailto:spobserver@comcast.net)  
[www.spobserver.com](http://www.spobserver.com)

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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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**Borough Council**  
**May 7 & 21**  
**meetings**
**borough notes**

The council approved the following at the May 7 and 21 meetings:

- Passed Bond Ordinance #1961 for road and resurfacing improvements in the Borough of South Plainfield.

- Renewal of the sweeping agreement with Stilo Excavating in an amount not to exceed \$39,695.

- Appoint Christine Tedesco as a member of the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department.

- Waive the permit fees for the pump installation at South Plainfield Community Pool.

- Tax refund of \$537.88 for Mr. Ball of 206 Morris Ave.

- Renewed the crossing guard agreement with DMS Systems at an hourly rate of \$14.99 per guard per hour in an amount not to exceed \$372,000.

- Refund overpayment of licensing fee to Flanagan's Restaurant & Bar in the amount of \$1,200.

- Appoint Paul McCullen to the Cultural Arts Committee; Thomas Walsh to the Environmental Commission as Alternate I, replacing Christina Van Wyk who is now a full member of the Environmental Commission.

- Accept the resignation of Officer Chanta Hunter-Johnson from the police department.

- Award a contract to T&M Associates for bid and design for the Sampton Avenue road project at a cost not to exceed \$83,420.

- Authorize T&M Associates to go out to bid for Sampton Avenue Road Improvement Project, and to do bid phase and design for West 8th Street, Oak Tree Avenue, Nunnink Lane, Lorraine Avenue, Caffrey Terrace and East Elmwood Drive for an amount not to exceed \$25,000.

- Purchase of a mail machine in an amount not to exceed \$389.

- Authorize contract execution with SAPJ Realty, LLC for sale of a paper street located at Block 84, Lot 10 on Carol Place for \$65,000; and Michael Socha for sale of surplus property

located at Block 404.03, Lot 1.01 on Tremont Avenue for \$93,500.

- Purchase of two wireless access points to be mounted in the courtroom and conference rooms in an amount not to exceed \$1,418 from Waytek.

- Settlement of tax appeal with Durham Plaza, LLC for property located at 110-136 Durham Avenue.

- Award a bid to purchase a fire pumper truck to Absolute Fire Protection Company Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$581,015.

- Hire 2012 community pool personnel and Richard Rotella as part-time summer help for the municipal building at \$11.65 per hour.

- Waive the cost of the games of chance license in the amount of \$60 for the Protective Order of the Elks.

- Authorize the municipal clerk to publish a public request for RFP's for professional services for housing rehabilitation services.

- Waive the temporary fire permit fees for the use of tents at the annual Feast of St. Anthony, located at 909 Hamilton Blvd., and the permit fees for the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Company Wine and Beer tasting event to be held at the American Legion on Saturday, June 9.

- Authorize a professional service agreement with Maser Consulting for a Specialty Licensed Site Remediation Professional for engineering services involved with the former Suburban Bus Company site in an amount not to exceed \$6,500.

- Award a contract to Property Room.com for auction and disposition service of various pieces of equipment, vehicles and furniture at an amount not to exceed a 10% commission of proceeds from sale.

- The rental of a bucket truck from Timmerman Equipment Company for an amount not to exceed \$5,000.

- Execute a contract agreement with Northeastern Integrated Technologies LLC to provide information services to the police department in an amount not to exceed \$9,240.



Mike Dixon from the Erika Lynn Foundation took several residents of the Keystone Community to Kingley Health Center in what was the first of many planned monthly outings for kids and young adults to experience social activities. All had a great time with an hour and a half of physical activities and then some snacks.

## “Walk with Us to Find a Cure”

By Ronald G. Rios, Middlesex County Freeholder Deputy Director

Based on estimates from The American Cancer Society, about 43,920 people will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer this year. And of that number, nearly 37,390 of those individuals will die from the disease. Since 2004, the rates of this form of cancer have increased about 1.5% per year.

Though perhaps not as present in the media as some other forms of cancer, pancreatic cancer is no less deadly. This type of cancer spreads rapidly and is often difficult to detect in its early stages. Because symptoms may not appear until pancreatic cancer is quite advanced, it often has a poor prognosis, even when it is diagnosed early.

To raise community awareness about this disease and to help raise funds to aid research, the Middlesex County Office of Health Services and the Middlesex County Cancer Coalition are sponsoring the fourth annual Pancreatic Cancer Walk.

This family event is scheduled to be held from 9 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 9 at Roosevelt Park in Edison by the lake. Check-in time is 8:30 to 9 a.m. Registration is \$10, and donations are encouraged. Proceeds will benefit pancreatic cancer research at the Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ).

I urge residents to come and join us for a morning walk to support a great cause.

Interested walkers can register by visiting the CINJ website at [www.cinj.org/events/pancreaticcancerwalk2012.html](http://www.cinj.org/events/pancreaticcancerwalk2012.html).

Over the past three years, Middlesex County has raised over \$8,200 to benefit pancreatic cancer research at the CINJ. That funding was put toward a pancreatic cancer clinical trial earlier this year that tested the effectiveness of new vaccine combinations and immune response. This year our goal is to raise \$10,000.

The more we learn about how to treat pancreatic cancer, the more people we can save from this devastating disease.

We are very lucky to have the Cancer Institute of New Jersey as a partner

again this year and to have students from the Middlesex County Academy for Allied Health and Bio-Medical Sciences as volunteers to help with the walk. I would also like to thank Param Health Care Services for their continued support and participation and the Middlesex County Office of Parks and Recreation for making Roosevelt Park available for the event.

Come and enjoy the morning and bring your friends and family!

If you have questions about the event or for information, call John Dowd at (732) 745-3100 or via email to [john.dowd@co.middlesex.nj.us](mailto:john.dowd@co.middlesex.nj.us).



Ronald G. Rios

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All transactions are strictly confidential and performed in a professional, straightforward manner. I have over 34 years of experience buying and selling collectibles. My family has been residents of South Plainfield for more than 10 years.



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## 38<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL FEAST OF ST. ANTHONY

Our Lady of Czestochowa RC Church  
909 Hamilton Blvd, South Plainfield, NJ 07080

Tues. June 5<sup>th</sup> - Fri. June 8<sup>th</sup> 6pm - 11 pm  
Sat. June 9<sup>th</sup> 1pm - 11 pm

Rides - Games - Homemade Polish, Italian & Caribbean Foods  
Hot Dogs - Hamburgers - Fries - Pizza - Zeppoli-  
Hot Roast Beef Sandwiches and Homemade Mozzarella

**Advanced ride tickets on sale  
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Tickets valued at \$18 for only \$10!**

Advanced tickets may be purchased on Saturday May 26 from 12:30 - 3pm  
Saturday, Sunday & Monday June 2, 3 & 4 from 12:30 - 3pm  
and after all 8am & 11am Sunday masses

Our Lady of Czestochowa RC Church Hall,  
909 Hamilton Blvd, South Plainfield

as well as the following locations

The Bagel Pantry  
2328 Plainfield Avenue  
The Corner Deli  
1200 Hamilton Blvd

The Farmer's Market  
214 Front Street  
Oak Tree Liquors  
902 Oak Tree Ave.

Dave's Stationary  
Sampton Ave.

For information about Birthday Parties  
on Sat. June 9, call 908-753-5970



# events

## Around Town

### Republicans Host Comedy Night

June 1

The South Plainfield Republicans will host a comedy night featuring Uncle Floyd and comedian Richie Byrne on Friday, June 1 at 7 p.m. at the American Legion Post, 243 Oak Tree Ave. Includes dinner, dessert, wine and beer. Advance tickets: \$50 per person; \$60 at the door.

For tickets, call (908) 753-0247.

### Cedarcroft Yard Sale and Car Wash

June 2

Cedarcroft Bible Chapel, located at 1715 Kenyon Ave., will hold a yard sale and car wash on Saturday, June 2 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Rain date is June 9.) To reserve a table, log on to [www.cedarcroft.org](http://www.cedarcroft.org); 30 spots available.

### VFW Country Breakfast

June 3

The South Plainfield VFW #6763, 155 Front St., will hold a country breakfast on Sunday, June 3 from 8 to 11 a.m. This is the final breakfast until September. Come in and enjoy breakfast; you may be the winner of a free breakfast or door prize. For information, call (908) 668-9751.

### Pub Theology with Pastor Chris

June 5

Pub Theology with Pastor Chris from St. Stephen Lutheran Church will be held on Tuesday, June 5 from 8 to 9 p.m. at Flanagan's Restaurant,

2501 Plainfield Ave. Topic: What is Mission? This is an informal gathering for fellowship, refreshment and discussion. Everyone is welcome.

### Education Foundation Book Fair Fundraiser

June 9

The South Plainfield Education Foundation's annual Barnes & Noble Book Fair fundraiser will be held all day on Saturday, June 9 at Barnes & Noble, Menlo Park Mall, 55 Parsonage Road in Edison. Make purchases in the Book, Nook, Music, Movie, Games, Juvenile and Café departments. Download our flyer at [www.vision2001.org/Events.html](http://www.vision2001.org/Events.html) then click on "Barnes & Noble Book Fair," or purchase items online at [www.bn.com](http://www.bn.com) using our Book Fair ID #10765147 at checkout.

The Education Foundation supports incentive programs that encourage good citizenship and academic achievements at the high school and provides scholarships each year for South Plainfield students.

### SP Fire Department Wine/Food Tasting

June 9

The South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department will hold a wine and local food tasting fundraiser on Saturday, June 9 from 7-11 p.m. at the American Legion located at 243 Oak Tree Ave. In addition, there will also be local microbrewery beer and a selection of local restaurant food. Tickets are \$30 per person. The wine and beer sponsor is Oak Tree Discount Wine & Spirits.

Tickets are available at the door.

### Meet & Greet, Business Card Exchange

June 13

The North Plainfield Business Association, Plainfield Chamber of Commerce, South Plainfield Business Association and Tri-County Chamber of Commerce will hold a Meet & Greet Business Card Exchange on Wednesday, June 13 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Vermuele Mansion, 614 Greenbrook Rd. in North Plainfield (at the corner of Clinton Ave.).

### Flag Day Ceremony

June 14

Join the South Plainfield Veterans of Foreign Wars and Boy Scout Troop 125 for the annual Flag Day ceremony at 7 p.m. on Flag Day, Thursday, June 14. (Rain date: June 15.)

The ceremony will retire a flag which once served as a symbol of freedom and for our country. The public is invited to participate in placing a flag in the flames in memory of a loved one, a veteran killed in the line of duty, or for any other purpose they may have. The public is also welcome to bring used flags or drop them at the VFW if they are unable to attend.

Refreshments will be served after the ceremony.

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

### Relay for Life

June 15-16

Join the American Cancer Society's 2012 Relay for Life of South Plainfield, sponsored by the Middle School PTA, on Friday and Saturday, June 15 and 16 from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. at Jost Field. Registration fee: \$10. Make checks payable to South Plainfield Middle School PTO or register

online at [www.RelayForLife.org/SouthPlainfieldNJ](http://www.RelayForLife.org/SouthPlainfieldNJ).

For more information, contact Debbie Boyle at (908) 803-1573 or email at [bdmmp209@aol.com](mailto:bdmmp209@aol.com).

### Holy Savior 5K Run/One Mile Walk

June 16

Holy Savior Academy's first annual 5K Run/One Mile Family Walk will be held on Saturday, June 16 starting at 9 a.m. Proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society and Holy Savior Academy sports programs. Race information is available at [www.holysavioracademy.com](http://www.holysavioracademy.com).

Email Carl Adlassnig with any questions at [randcautobody@aol.com](mailto:randcautobody@aol.com).

### SPHS Class of '77 Reunion

October 27

The South Plainfield High School Class of 1977 will hold its 35th class reunion on Saturday, Oct. 27 at The Heldrich in New Brunswick. Reunion banquet, \$125pp includes appetizers, mixed buffet, desserts and coffee/tea; open bar of premium liqueurs from 7 to 12 p.m. A block of rooms are available at discounted price for anyone interested in staying at the hotel.

For more information, visit our Facebook page, "South Plainfield High School Class of 1977 Reunion," or call Maureen Readie at (908) 754-3455, email at [mveinott@yahoo.com](mailto:mveinott@yahoo.com); Sal Severini at [pitmaster1645@gmail.com](mailto:pitmaster1645@gmail.com) or Francine Martinkovic at [Kit1961@earthlink.net](mailto:Kit1961@earthlink.net).

**Send Your Community Events to:**  
[spobserver@comcast.net](mailto:spobserver@comcast.net)

### SENIOR CENTER Calendar

June 6-Taj Mahal \$20pp. Bus leaves 9 a.m. Sign up at Senior Center

June 21-Bally's \$20pp. Bus leaves 8:30 a.m. Sign up at Senior Center

#### 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

### — Out of Town —

### American Flyers Open House & BBQ

June 2

American Flyers Flight School located at the Morristown Airport, 50 Airport Rd., will host an open house and barbecue on Saturday, June 2. Free, fun-filled and informative afternoon kicks off with free lunch at noon. No reservations needed.

For more info, call (973) 267-3223

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## Giant Yard Sale

June 2

The Ladies Auxiliary of the North Stelton Volunteer Fire Company will be sponsoring their annual Spring Yard Sale on Saturday, June 2 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the North Stelton Volunteer Fire Company, 70 Haines Ave. in Piscataway. Spaces available for \$15 each.

For information or to reserve a space, call Sharon at (732) 763-6373. Rain date is June 16.

## Upscale Singles Dance Party

June 8

Steppin' Out Singles is hosting an upscale singles dance party on Friday, June 8 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: \$15.

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

## Medical QiGong at Willow Grove

June 9

Medical QiGong is a course of meditation exercises that is being offered at Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Rd. in Scotch Plains on Saturday, June 9 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Free and open to everyone. Become energized from the inside out and experience a more physically and emotionally balanced self. This is the last class of the season.

RSVP requested by June 1 via email to [Jermar107@gmail.com](mailto:Jermar107@gmail.com) or by calling (908) 232-5678.

## Upscale Singles Dance Party

June 16

Steppin' Out Singles is hosting an upscale singles dance party on Saturday, June 16 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.

## Big Brothers/Big Sisters Host Casino Night

June 22

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Monmouth and Middlesex Counties (BBBSMMC) will hold the fourth annual casino night fundraiser on Friday, June 22 from 7 to 11 p.m. at Convention Hall, 1300 Ocean Ave., Asbury Park. Tickets: \$75 in advance; \$90 at the door. Music, open bar and food tastings from local restaurants. All proceeds benefit BBBSMMC's 1:1 mentoring program.

For tickets or sponsorship information, call (732) 544-2224, ext. 310.

## Upscale Singles Dance Party

June 30

Steppin' Out Singles is hosting an upscale singles dance party on Saturday, June 30 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.

# Thirty-Eight Inducted to the National Honor Society

By Patricia Abbott

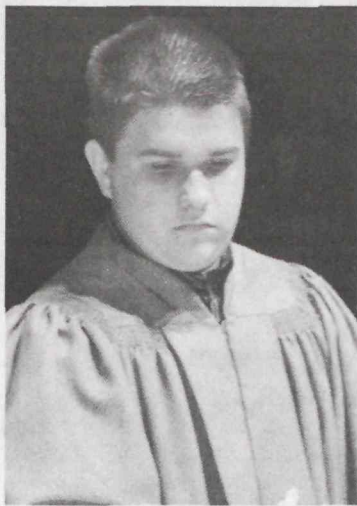
The South Plainfield High School Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) inducted 38 members into the prestigious organization on May 17.

Family and friends rose to their feet in the school auditorium as the inductees—attired in green and white robes—began the processional towards the stage.

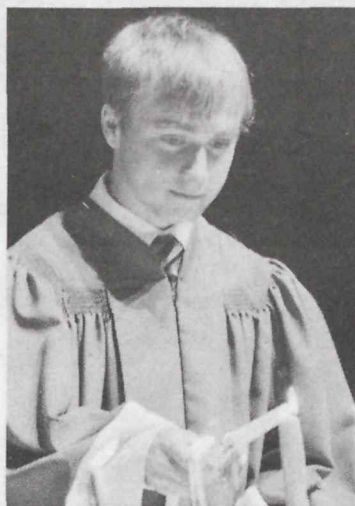
The ceremony began with *The Pledge of Allegiance* by SPSHS National Honor Society President Albert Vill. The National Anthem was sung by member Kathleen Vincent. Albert Vill welcomed the guests and inductees and introduced the speakers, high school principal Dr. James Pedersen, Interim Assistant Superintendent Dr. Frank Cocchiola and Superintendent Dr. Stephen Genco.

Student speakers spoke about the four crucial areas that are required of potential members. NHS Vice President James Buttrico talked about scholarship; NHS Secretary Gina Longo talked about leadership. Character was described by Treasurer Casey Buttrico, and Public Relations officer Payal Sindha spoke about service.

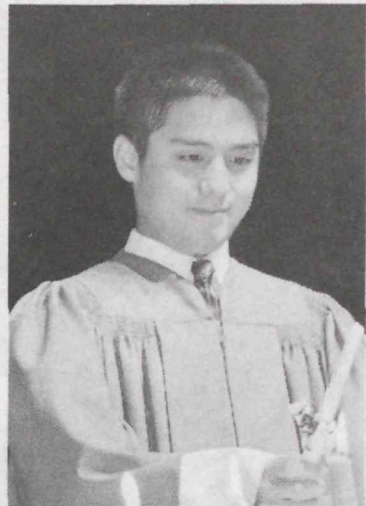
After recitation of the NHS Pledge, the administration voiced their acceptance of the new members. The highlight of the evening



Joshua Rochotte



Kevin Belanger



Richard Duong

was the candlelighting ceremony. Each student was called and greeted by the faculty council, then proceeded to light a candle based on the four candles lit by the NHS officers.

The audience rose once again to honor the new inductees. Applause reigned and cameras flashed. After the ceremony, all were invited for refreshments in the cafeteria.

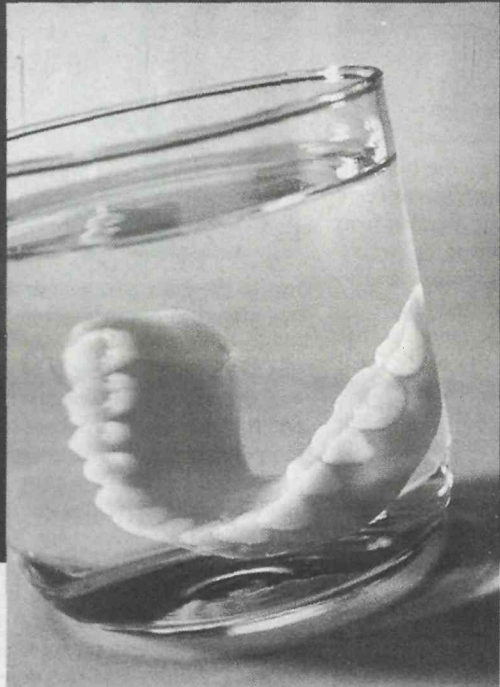
The new inductees are: Sofia Elhadly, Ashley Annetta, Charles Anyamene, Jordana Approvato, Kevin Belanger, Patrick Boyle, Christopher Buttrico, Danielle Buttrico, Kayla Carigma, Andrew Catalina, Tara Dunn, Richard Duong, Kristin Forbes,

Nicholas Graves, Michael Grzenda, Joshua Guirguis, Zoya Hodge, Tyler Holoboski, Tanya Joshi, Michelle Lesniak, Matthew McCue, Maggie McLean, Deirdre Macchia, Marah Magpile, Shianne Martinez, Rebecca Moskal, Crystal Myles, Brandon Pauls, Emily Pittenger, Allison Quintanilla, Alyssa Ragno, Allison Ratti, Emily Reineke, Joshua Rochotte, Gerianne Scarpitto, Joshua Siepmann, Gabrielle Smith and Caroline Vill.

Students in grades 10 through 12 whose high school has both an official charter of the National Honor Society and an active affiliation with

the national office are eligible for consideration for membership in NHS. Membership is based upon a student's outstanding performance in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership and character.

Current member of the NHS are: Alexis Alba, Casey Buttrico, Brendan Berry, James Buttrico, Amanda Calvi, Alexis Cargill, Ken Crilly, Sabrina Del Piano, Rajath Kenath, Ashley Linick, Gina Longo, Brian Nguyen, Jamie Pagdonsolan, Jamie Quail, Emily Sella, Payal Sindha, Jessica Thompson, Albert Vill, Kathleen Vincent, Allison Wagner and Allison M. White.



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## American Legion, VFW Host Memorial Day Ceremonies



Members of the American Legion Chaumont Post #243 and VFW Post #6763 were joined by South Plainfield officials, Boy Scout Troops 125 and 207, several past and present high school band students and local residents in honoring the fallen heroes who lost their lives while serving their country. In the history of

the United States, approximately 1.6 million men and women have given their lives in defense of their country. In preparation for the Memorial Day services, Troop 207 scouts placed approximately 2,000 flags on the graves of veterans.

Opening ceremonies began at VFW Post #6763 where a wreath



was placed in front of the building by VFW Commander Vincent Perry and Women's Auxiliary member Joan Jepsen, and concluded at the American Legion where a wreath was also placed in front of the building.

In between the ceremonies, the group traveled to the three local cemeteries and Veterans Park. At each stop, members of the VFW and American Legion, along with scouts from Troops 207 and 125, led the



way to the grave sites as a drum roll was played. A prayer was offered by Bill Ruha; a wreath was placed at the site followed by a three-gun salute; and the playing of *Taps* by bugler South Plainfield High School sophomore John Prins. The drum roll was performed by SPSHS Junior Rusty Teller. They were joined by former SPSHS band members Andy Keraga, who attends Centenary College; Paul Cantarella, who attends NJCU; and Ricky Sierzega, who attends Towson University. Sacred Heart Deacon Wayne Otlowski said the prayer at Holy Redeemer Cemetery.

The ceremonies concluded at the American Legion where SPSHS student Corey Singer sang the National Anthem and SPSHS student Madison Miller sang *Amazing Grace*.

Reverend Charles Mingle and Deacon Wayne Otlowski said a prayer for the fallen heroes before the last



wreath was placed in front of the building. Mayor Matt Anesh spoke about the importance of remembering our veterans.

More than 70 scouts participated in this year's ceremonies along with more than 50 residents. After the ceremonies were completed, they enjoyed a lunch hosted by members of the VFW.

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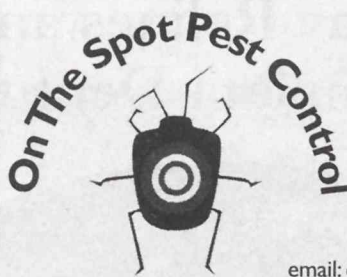
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Middle School Orchestra performs the National Anthem at Memorial Day assembly. —Photo by Louis Mormile

## Military Honored at Memorial Day Assembly

By Libby Barsky

South Plainfield Middle School students held a Memorial Day assembly on May 22 to honor soldiers who fought and died in prior wars as well as those who still fight against terrorism today.

In past years the Memorial Day ceremony had been held in the courtyard at the middle school; however, this year heavy rain necessitated the move inside to the gymnasium.

Before the ceremony began, Assistant Principal Tamekia Grier-DuPiche welcomed the guests in attendance, including Board of Education members Carol Byrne, BOE Vice President Debbie Boyle, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Stephen Genco, Interim

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Frank Cocchiola, Supervisor of Technology Annmarie Stoeckel, Supervisor of Math and Science Vincent Parisi, Curriculum Coordinator Paul Rafalowski, Councilman Derryck White, Borough Administrator/CFO Glenn Cullen, Police Chief James Parker, Captain Robert Barone, Lieutenant Paul Melillo of the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department and Firefighters Andrew Kaleaski, Keishe Carroll, Michael Mocharski and Bob Harding. Representing VFW Post #6763 was Past Commander Metro Kopchak.

The program began with the Middle School Orchestra performing the National Anthem after opening remarks by Principal Kevin

Hajduk, who spoke of honoring our fallen heroes who made our country great.

Standing on risers towards the back of the gym, the Middle School Chorus, conducted by Joan Stasio, sang *God Bless America*.

Student Council President Ethan Lyte noted, "Memorial Day should be part of everyone's education, so we give credit to those who made it possible for the U.S. not to lose a war."

Three wreaths were placed in the center of the gym and a moment of silence was followed by the echoing of *Taps* performed by Max Rohrer and Jessica Wallace on trumpet.

The ceremony ended with *Amazing Grace* and *Armed Forces on Parade* by the Middle School Band.



Members of the South Plainfield Knights of Columbus and their children at Holy Redeemer Cemetery.

## Knights Place Flags to Honor Deceased Members

More than 20 South Plainfield Knights of Columbus members and their children spent the morning of May 19 placing Knights flags on the graves of deceased members at Holy Redeemer Cemetery. The Knights have been placing the flags for many years; they do this each year to honor their deceased members on Memorial Day.

Over 160 flags were placed by the Knights. Four years ago, Chairman Bob Longo and his son, Phillip, took

over the project. They identified each Knight's grave which made it much easier to locate the graves.

In keeping with tradition, Sacred Heart Church Pastor, Father John Alvarado, celebrated a special Mass at the mausoleum on Memorial Day to celebrate the lives of the deceased members.

Grand Knight Joe Scudato would like to thank all the volunteers who helped, and special thanks goes to Bob, Gina and Phillip Longo.

## Grant School Announces Honor Roll for Third Quarter

### High Honor Roll

Sarah Abrego, Jacquelyn Battista, Katalina Bedoya, Michael Behr, Rishi Bhalodi, Ming-Wai Cheung, Arianna Clark, Kausik Das, Catherine DeLair, Connor Eggert, Jake Elsmann, Lynda Farinella, Kyle Gallardo, Wyatt Gerber, Marc Giordano, Nithya Goel, Jennifer Grasso, Allison Graves, Brenden Hedden, Jillian Holoboski, Ezinne Ibeku, Chance Jones, William Keane, Tiffany Le, Rober Lenau, Olivia Leonardis, David Loniewski, Martha Lopez, Charles Lovett, Neha Lund

Kieran Mangra, Jessica McGuinness, Jonathan Nguyen, Oluchi Nwankwo, Ashley Olson, Akaash Patel, Harshit Patel, Meera Patel, Parth Patel, Roshni Patel, Vishika Patel, Alexander Pear, Sahit Penmattha, Bao Pham, Victoria Pipolo, Shea Price, Aishwarya Rajesh, Neelam Rana, Zenen Rivera, John Roarty, Laura Rodriguez, Taylor Santamaria, Christopher Shine, Dylan Silverstein, Sarahann Singh, Tatianna Sutor, Sidarth Thuppil, Francesca Torralba, Anthony Vallejo, Edwin Vasquez, Jonathan Veliz, Timothy Wilson, Conner Wolpin, Azreen Zaman, Alyzah Ziga

### Honor Roll

Mary Abate, Adam Abdeljaber, Tala Abdeljaber, Emily Abrego, Clifford Adkins, Aniket Agnihotri, Maya Ahmed, Sabrina Ahmed, Eric Akpan, Yenefiker Alamerew, Connor Aleksandrowicz, Kinza Ali, Karly Almanzar, Alexander Amato, Gavin Apgar, Alejandra Arboleda, Alexander Ardito, Brianna Atkinson, Andrea Avelar, Ryan Bali, Anthony Barge, Hrithik Bawa, Justin Bell, Jillian Bengivenga, Ryan Berardi, Kaziah Betts, David Bickunas, Anjali Blow,

Ryan Boettcher, Kristen Brady, Sonali Budhan, Bradley Butler

Shawn Callanan, Cara Capone, Ryan Carey, Olivia Carone, Matthew Cassio, Michael Castagno, James Cavanagh, Katherin Ceballos, David Chetel, Jullianne Chavez, Christine Chen, Amanda Cheng, Daniel Ciardiello, Erica Cieszkiewicz, Steven Clemente, Steven Colicchio, Kevin Conroy, Brianna Crabtree, Alexander Crews, Alexis Curtis, Nikki Dang, Steven Dang, Jenna DaSilva, Isaiah David, Julie Davis, Skylar Davisson, Philip DeFort, Leanna DeLisa, Jake DelPaoli, Zachary DelVecchio, Deanna DeVizio, Megan Dineen

Joshua Eggert, Alexander Entchev, Milena Erazo, Francine Esiape, Mark Etwarroo, Pavan Gandhi, Priscilla Gavilanes, William Glynn, Lailah Goldberg-Mota, Jason Gonzalez, Donald Grabinsky, Alexis Grayon, David Gross, Brad Guerrero, David Guevara, Xiann Guzman, Sarah Gwiazda, Mackenzie Hall, Brian Harper, Troy Harzula, Joseph Heilmann, Jeffrey Heine, Michael Hernandez, Dishon Hessing, Tiana Hooks, Gabriel Humphreys Lippel, David Jaipersaud, Justin Jones

Joseph Kelly, Shivam Khandelwal, Grace Lagasse, Michael Lapolla, Ryan Levelle, Courtney Lee, Cassidy Leonardis, Maggie Li, Christina Lobosco, Brandon Luster, Kaylie Macpherson, Kristi Maher, Alexa Manno, Aubrey Marish, Michael Marrero, Thomas Massaro, Mikayla Mastroianni, Brian Maszczak, Christopher Mayorga, Sean McConville, Hailey Medina, Michael Menkin, Adithyan Menon, Tatyana Mercado Navarro, Quinn Milane, Jayesh Mistry, Simran Modhera, Mayra Moreno

Sahith Nagireddy, Brian Nassy,


Jackson Nguyen, Nina Nguyen, Tyson Nguyen, Luke Neimeyer, Anthony Nunez, John O'Brien, Brandon O'Leary, Alexandria Obregon, Haley Olsen, Ryan Olson, Kelly Ortiz, Genesis Ortiz-Samaya, Zachary Paluch, Tiffany Parajon, Brandon Pascale, Michelle Pastuna-Arias, Amit Patel, Biren Patel, Jil Patel, Maulin Patel, Erwin Pelaez, Divon Pender, Nicholas Penyak, Henrique Pereira, Joshua Persad, Nicholas Petersen, Jose Ponce, Samantha Pullen, Louis Quintanilla

Rhea Rajpal, Pratyusha Ravula-

palli, Sarah Regan, Emily Resal, Hannah Rhoads, Jacob Rivera, Isabella Rochford, Rachel Rokicki, Bryan Rudnick, Richard Sabo, Gianna Sacco, Joseph Sacco, Jennah Sadiq, Benjamin Sanko, Nisani Santiago, Shannon Santora, Jade Scotti, Jack Scudato, Grace Sesta, Keiko Shegog, Jordyn Simmons, Bridget Simpson, Brianna Slover, Courtney Smith, Kaitlyn Smith, Ria Soni, MaKayla Sosa, Brandon Souza, Brianna Spadavecchia, Vera Squero, Melanie Stewart, Megan Szeman

Magdalena Tarnawska, Jaclyn

Timmerman, John Timmerman, Bridgette Titus, Gianella Torres, Jenna Toth, Nancy Tran, Daria Turner, Akachuskwu Uba, Lisette Vega, Dayana Velasco, Emily Velasco, Nicole Villagomez, Michael Villany, Vena Viran, Rachel Voelkel, Alexis Walker, Alexia Wargacki, Stephanie Waters, Alea Watson, Devin Weinberger, Jessica Wiczorkiewicz, Kenneth Williams, Samantha Williams, Cole Young, Joseph Zuffanti, Lauren Zultowski



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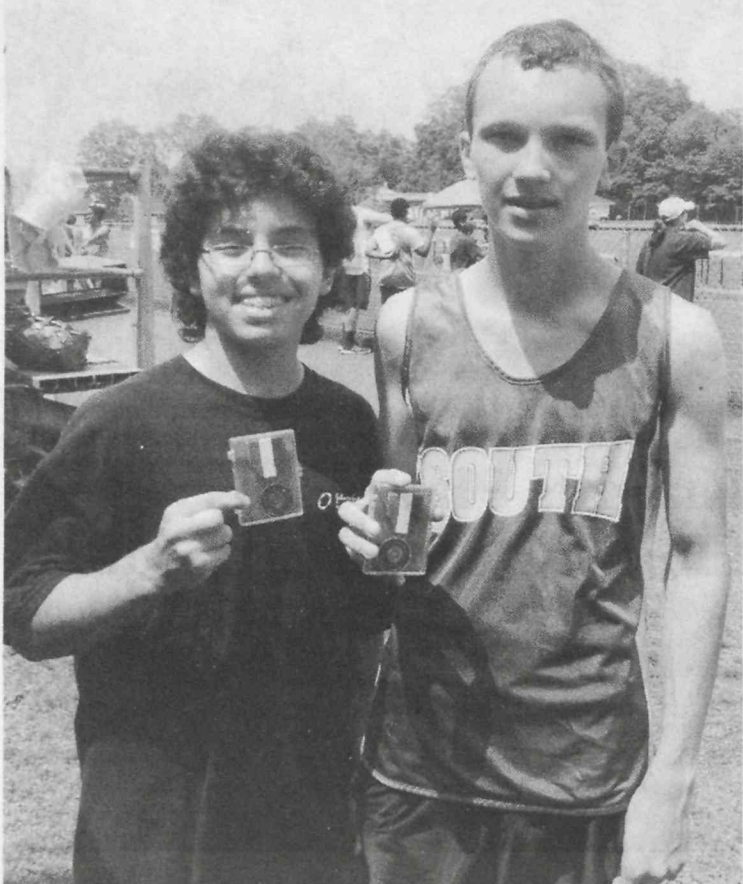
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# sports

## Middle School Athletes Earn 26 Medals at Rotary Club's 85th Track and Field Meet



Josh Diaz and Nolan Berry show off their gold and silver medals for the 100 meter dash.

The oldest service club of the three Plainfields held its most important annual community service project on May 23 at the Frank Jost Athletic Field in South Plainfield where South Plainfield Middle School athletes took home 26 medals and ribbons.

Long a mainstay in supporting area communities, the Rotary Club of Plainfield-North Plainfield offered an afternoon of friendly but determined competition to young 12, 13 and 14 year-old athletes from South Plainfield, Plainfield, Watchung and North Plainfield middle schools.

"This invitational meet is the longest-running meet of its kind in the entire state," said Michael Townley, director of

the meet. "We have offered this meet as a service to area youth since 1923, except during World War II."

Rotary Club members and their friends serve as the officials at the meet. They were supported by members of the Interact Club at North Plainfield High School. Interact is the youth-based service club sponsored by Rotary International.

"Interact is a great club of enthusiastic students who are interested in doing good deeds for others," said Dr. Marilyn Birnbaum, Rotary president and the superintendent of schools in North Plainfield. "They help us with a number of our service projects and activities throughout the year, and host

quite a few activities of their own to benefit North Plainfield residents. We are proud of them and of all that they accomplish throughout the year."

Eighty-five years of track and field meets has drawn many thousands of participants, including Olympic decathlon champion and former Plainfield resident Milt Campbell.

"We recognize that participating in our track and field meet was but one step in Milt's long and successful drive to achieve his decathlon championship," said Townley. "In fact, our club was proud to be one of the many community groups that financially supported his Olympic trip."

At this year's meet, medals were awarded to first, second and third place finishers in all events except the relays, where ribbons were awarded to second and third place finishers. All four participating schools took home medals or ribbons.

"Our club looks forward each year to this special service project," said Townley. "Rotary International's motto is 'Service Above Self'. We truly enjoy providing this service to these fine young athletes and presenting them an opportunity to win medals or ribbons for their athleticism."

The track and field meet is normally held at the Hub Stine Athletic Field in Plainfield. Due to pending construction, it was not available this year.

"We are grateful to Athletic Director Al Czech and his coaching staff and to district administration for allowing us to use the Frank Jost Field," said Townley. "The athletes and the volunteers all enjoyed the beautiful facilities, and we appreciated the help given by Coach Steve Johnston in setting up for the events and the South Plainfield athletes in returning everything to storage."

The Rotary Club expects to offer the 86th annual Track and Field Meet next year at the Plainfield site. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend and support the young athletes.

Submitted By Bob Nilan

## Notes from the Jim Pornovets Memorial Golf League



### LEAGUE STANDINGS

American Division				National Division			
	W	L	T		W	L	T
2 Buds, 2 Dubes*	4	1	0	Italian-American Club*	4	0	1
Alfie's Boys	4	2	0	Dirty Harry & Friends	3	3	0
Unique Sports Accessories	4	2	0	Sport & Social	2	3	1
Kc's Korner	3	3	0	Witty's Liquors	2	4	0
McCriskin-Gustafson	2	4	0	So. Plainfield Funeral Home	2	4	0
Twin City Pharmacy	1	4	1	Windows Plus	1	4	1

After their tough 11-9 loss to Unique Sports Accessories a week ago, "Irish" Danny Griffin had his team all fired up as they took on newcomer Windows Plus, and Alfie's Boys simply shattered their opponents, 18-2. Griffin and John Gaven led the way with sparkling even-par rounds of 33 and got wonderful support from Bill Mann, who shot a 36, and from Mike King, who came through with a 37. Matt Frederickson's 46 was the best score for Windows Plus.

Unique Sports Accessories continued its winning ways against Sport & Social, coming out with a close 12-8 victory. Mike Citrini earned the medal with his 37 and Capt. Chris "The Hawk" Dillon pitched in with a 39. Dennis Bibby showed some of his old form for Sport & Social with a 39.

It was the same old story, unfortunately, for Twin City Pharmacy—play well, but still lose. Jay Coppola added to his string of fine rounds with a 2-over 35; Frank Gaspari fired a 36; and Guy Severini left a few out there but still posted a 38. Their fine efforts were not enough to overcome all the strokes they had to give away, so Witty's Liquors managed to come out with a 12-8 win. Kevin "Boom Boom" Bickunas showed some of the magical form of his bachelor days as he put together a 37 to earn medalist honors for Witty's.

Vinnie Welch of the South Plainfield Funeral Home had his best night ever in the league with some booming drives and a red-hot putter as he posted a superb even-par 33 to share medalist honors for the night. Despite Welch's brilliant play, the South Plainfield Fu-

neral Home dropped a close match to KC's Korner, 11-9. Efrain Solis played a key role in the victory with a solid round of 38.

All the guys on the McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals gathered at the home of Capt. Mark Chichvar prior to their match to watch Chichvar's mother-in-law, Eleanor, do some of her inspirational cheerleading on the front lawn. Her big finish featured a double-flip, catching her flaming baton behind her back, while playing *Stars & Stripes Forever* on her harmonica. After watching that fantastic performance, the team was bursting with a fiery confidence when they teed off against Dirty Harry & Friends. They didn't have Eleanor on their side, but Dirty Harry & Friends did have an inspired Kevin McCormack who lit a spark under his team with a 37 to fire Dirty Harry & Friends to a narrow 11-9 win. Kris Krantz earned the medal for McCriskin's with his 37.

The results of the feature match—American Division first place team 2 Buds, 2 Dubes versus National Division first place team the Italian-American Club—was not available because one of the foursomes neglected to turn in their scorecards. The correction to the standings will be made next week.

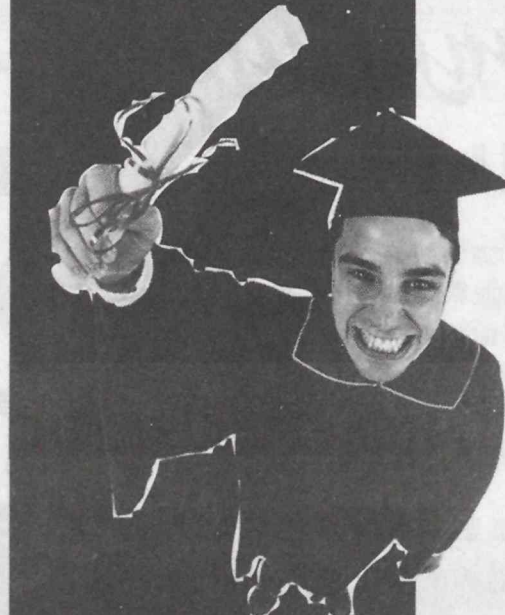
In next week's spotlight match, Twin City Pharmacy will have the unusual challenge of not giving away a lot of strokes when they take on Unique Sports Accessories.

**Low Scores for the Night:** John Gaven 33; Danny Griffin, 33; Vinnie Welch, 33; Jay Coppola, 35; Frank Gaspari, 36; Kris Krantz, 36; Bill Mann, 36.

If you own a business in South Plainfield then the June 29 issue of the Observer is the ideal way to promote your business and reach a wide audience. This special borough-wide graduation issue will feature a pullout section celebrating the SPSHS Class of 2012, including photos of the graduates.

# It's Big!

The special borough-wide graduation issue hits newsstands on June 29. Call 908-668-0010 to reserve space or email spobserver@comcast.net.



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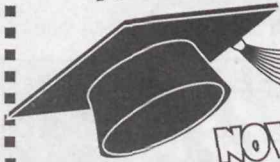
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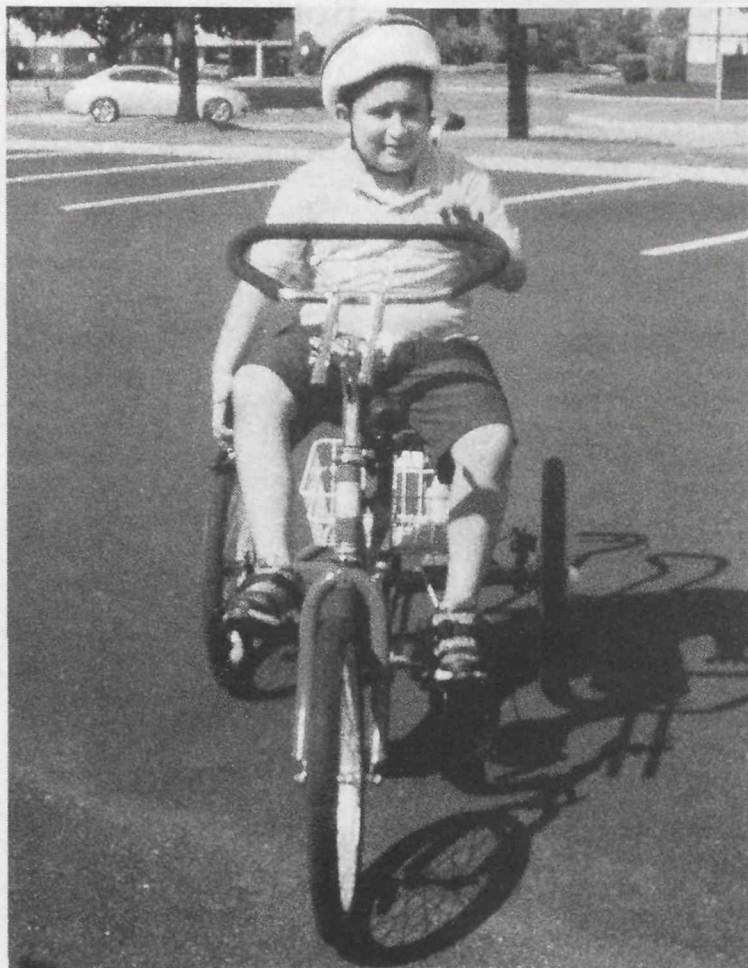
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Christopher Franco enjoys riding his specialized tricycle.

## Specialized Tricycles Donated to Special Students

By Jane Dornick

Six special needs South Plainfield students received specialized tricycles donated by AMBUCS, a national service organization dedicated to providing mobility and independence for people with disabilities. Another "tryke" was donated to the special education preschool program. Six trykes were donated by AMBUCS to school district children in 2010, and two were received back in 2005.

Helping residents obtain these trykes for their children is Board of Education Physical Therapist Consultant Bala Pillai, who has more than 20 years experience in the field.

"As a pediatric physical therapist, I feel that in this day and age of increased TV watching and computer-based games, our children are at an even greater risk for health-related problems, and that risk increases exponentially for students with special challenges, both visible—such as Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, etc., and not visible—as in Autistic Spectrum Disorders," said Pillai.

The trykes are provided by AmTryke, LLC, a sister company of AMBUCS. AmTryke offers foot cycles, hand cycles and combination hand/foot powered cycles. To ensure a proper fit, the trykes can be adapted in many ways including frame size, seat selection, trunk and leg support. This makes them ideal for individuals with a variety of special needs.

"Parents of children with disabilities

want to give their kids every opportunity to lead a full life," said Pillai. "I have had the opportunity to provide customized tricycles to 12 of my students in the past seven years through donations from a Pennsylvania chapter of AMBUCS. The feedback that I have received from the families makes me love what I do for a profession even more."

Resident Rene Franco's eight year-old son, Christopher, has an "unseen" disability and says that he has always found it a challenge to find outdoor toys for him. "I am very grateful that my son got his first tryke at age eight and can finally engage in outdoor activities with the rest of the family," said Franco. "Having the push bar at the back takes care of my back as I help my son develop his tryke riding skills at home. Thanks to his physical therapist Ms. Pillai for making us aware of this opportunity. It was a long ride but worth it judging from the way my son lights up every time we mention 'bike' to him."

Pillai states, "Children diagnosed with mild to moderate degrees of these 'unseen' disabilities—not immediately visible to the onlooker—are the ones who usually tend to fall between the cracks. They look like their typically developing peers, but their movement ABC's (agility, balance and coordination) comes in the way of them keeping up with their peers during family outings, school recess and physical education class."

(Continued on page 12)

## Gloria C. (Cochario) Harupa, 90

Gloria C. (Cochario) Harupa died on Monday, May 21 at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born and raised in Summit, she lived in Scotch Plains for 25 years then moved to South Plainfield for a short time. She moved to Massachusetts for 10 years before returning to South Plainfield 15 years ago.

She had been employed as a waitress for the Scotchwood Diner in Scotch Plains and retired 30 years ago.

Gloria enjoyed volunteering for the "Listen to Children" program within the South Plainfield School system for a number of years.

Gloria was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church and an active member of the South Plainfield Senior Center where she enjoyed all the activities such as arts and crafts, painting and dancing. She was also the lead lady for their participation in the annual Labor Day parade. In addition, Gloria had also served as the Queen Mother of the Red Hat Society of South Plainfield.

A devoted and caring mother and grandmother, she adored her four grandsons and was known to so many as "Nana."

Predeceased by a brother, Michael, she is survived by a daughter, Donna Lindgren and husband Gregory of South Plainfield; a sister, Mary Rosato; two brothers, Earl Cochario and Tony Conti; four grandchildren, Michael and Prajna, Ryan, Brandon and Stephen and Joy; and a great-grandson, Joshua.

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

Having always been known to care for others before herself, the family is requesting donations in her memory be made to [www.givekathyhope.com](http://www.givekathyhope.com).



Gloria C. Harupa

## Susan Mendez

Susan Mendez passed away peacefully on Tuesday, May 22 at home with her husband at her side after a courageous and hard fought battle against cancer.

Born in Brooklyn, NY, she resided in the Green Point section and then Carteret before settling in Plainfield in 1977.

Susan was the manager in the Domestics Department at the former Sterns Department Store in Woodbridge until her retirement in 1997.

Susan has a great affection for cats and dogs. She was currently serving as the president of Whiskers and Wags Rescue Group where she devoted much of her time, made numerous contacts and has a host of dear friends.

Surviving is her loving husband, Edmund; two sons, Louis Centorcelli IV and wife Mary and Peter Centorcelli; two daughters, Geraldine Holding and husband James and Denise Sanfilippo and husband John; a sister, Janet Mamione and her son Jonathan; and 10 grandchildren, Anthony, Danny, Michael, Katherine, Hailey, Paul, Elizabeth, Olivia, Thomas and Samantha.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations in her

memory may be made to the Whiskers & Wags Rescue Group, c/o 2425 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.



Susan Mendez

## Evelyn M. Yutrenka

Evelyn M. Yutrenka passed away peacefully on Saturday, May 26 at the Cedar Oaks Care Center in South Plainfield.

Born and raised in Elizabeth, Evelyn lived in Linden, Union and Toms River before settling in South Plainfield in 2007 with her nephew Bud and his wife Sandie.

Evelyn spent her life as a homemaker and was recently a communicant of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield.

She is predeceased by her loving husband, Alexander; a daughter, Linda; a sister, Mary Beresford; and a brother, Stanley Haiko.

Surviving are a nephew, Ronald "Bud" Beresford II and wife Sandra and a sister, Annie LaCorte.

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

Memorial donations in her memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, Greater New Jersey Chapter, 400 Morris Ave., Suite 251, Denville, N.J. 07834.

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## 1ST ANNUAL HOLY SAVIOR ACADEMY 5K RUN & FAMILY FUN WALK

Saturday June 16, 2012  
Check-In 7:30 AM, Race Time 9:00 AM  
Holy Savior Academy, 149 South Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080

Entry Fees: 5K Race \$25.00 for applications received by May 15, 2012  
\$30.00 for applications received after May 15, 2012  
\$30.00 on the day of the race  
\$5.00 for students with valid school ID or report card copy  
1 Mile Walk \$10.00 per family or individual

\*\*\*\*\*Free T-Shirt to First 100 Paid Participants\*\*\*\*\*

Register @ [www.holysavioracademy.com](http://www.holysavioracademy.com) or mail completed application with check payable to Holy Savior Academy to the above address.  
Contact Info: Carl Adlassnig [randcautobody@aol.com](mailto:randcautobody@aol.com) 908.757.1933

Register @ [acsdetermination.org/miniseries](http://acsdetermination.org/miniseries) if you would like to raise money for the American Cancer Society

### ENTRY FORM

Name (Last, First) \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

CIRCLE ONE: 5K Race / Fun Walk CIRCLE ONE: T-Shirt (Adult Sizes) S / M / L / XL

Signature (Parent Signature if under 18) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

In consideration of this signed entry form being accepted, I the undersigned intend to be legally bound hereby, my heirs, executors and administrators, waive and release Holy Savior Academy, Diocese of Metuchen, all race supervisors, workers, sponsors and volunteers for any and all injuries, including death, suffered by me in the said event. I verify that I am, and/or my child who is participating, is physically fit for the completion of this event.



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## In My Opinion

(Continued from page 2)

dents interested in the history of their town.

This area started to be occupied, or settled, by Europeans in the 1660s, many of whom moved here for religious freedom. Because they were still British subjects, they were supposed to belong to the Church of England, or as many called it, "Henry's Church," after King Henry VIII.

These early settlers did not want to belong to "Henry's Church." There were other nationalities too, such as Dutch, French and Scandinavian. As time moved on these groups banded together to form town and villages. Woodbridge and Piscataway townships were early consolidated areas. Many of our modern road systems followed early Indian trails. Maple Avenue and Old Raritan Road through South Plainfield were a part of the main route from Elizabeth to New Brunswick.

The South Plainfield Historical Society meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the History Center located in the Board of Education Administration Building on Hamilton Boulevard. Parking and entrance to the center are on Jackson Avenue.

The History Center is also open on Tuesday afternoons from 2 to 4 p.m. Admission to groups of up to 10 for other times may be arranged by calling Dorothy Miele at (908) 754-3073.

**WILLIAM (BILL) TUTHILL**

To the Mayor and Council again,

I finally got an answer to my question concerning the reason you got rid of Joann Graf.

Why did it take someone else to give me the answer when it was addressed to the Mayor and Council?

Thank you Franky Salerno. Someone in this town has to stand up and respond to the public when asked a

question. And in my opinion you hit it right on the nose.

**FLORENCE DECKER**

Dear Editor,

Having just received the Official 2012 Primary Election Sample Ballot in the mail, I was puzzled in not seeing Leonard Lance's name as our representative. Upon researching, I found that South Plainfield was part of a bi-partisan redistricting effort and that we are now part of the 6th District, rather than the 7th; thus, Mr. Lance is no longer our congressman. For me this is good news for I never forgave him his Cap and Trade vote. What's even better is that I found that we have a really great choice for congress now in Anna Little, someone who stands tall for the Constitution; austerity in government spending; a free market economy rather than a government-controlled, overly regulated economy; enhanced opportunity for our children through school choice; a strong policy against illegal aliens; Second Amendment support; and a strong defense where many of our allies need to assume a larger role in their own defense consistent with the interests of the United States. May I be the first to support Anna Little in this newspaper.

**KEVIN (THE ELDER) O'BRIEN**



Mayor Matt Anesh presents a proclamation declaring May 20 through 26 Emergency Medical Services Week to members of South Plainfield Emergency Medical Services.

## Two Inducted Into High School Hall of Fame

(Continued from page 1)

Lanza went on to pursue a career in law and graduated from Seton Hall Law School in 1988 where his was a founding member of their School of Real Estate Law.

Lanza became an associate at Thatcher and Lanza until 1990 and is since a partner in Lanza & Lanza, LLP. He has been a prosecutor for the borough since 1993 and has been a prosecutor in Piscataway since 2008.

From 1974 through 1977, Lanza was the president of the South Plainfield Adult Basketball League. He was

also a member of the Special Police from 1974 through 1978.

Throughout the years, Lanza has been an assistant coach at the Junior Baseball Club and Ponytail Softball and is presently their legal advisor. He was a soccer club trustee, coach and was part of the fundraising committee and continues to be their legal advisor. He also councils Pop Warner Football.

Lanza volunteers his time as a recreation basketball coach and is on the golf and SAC committees at Sacred Heart Church. He is a member of the South Plainfield Business Association,

## Borough Seeks Summer Interns

This summer, highly motivated high school students residing in South Plainfield may be able to participate in the borough's internship program and learn about the functions of local government.

Interested students may apply for the unpaid internship to introduce them to the aspects of government services. Students will work various hours each day starting July 1 through August 31.

Interested applicants may obtain an application from Anne Daley, assistant to the borough administrator, by emailing [adaley@southplainfieldnj.com](mailto:adaley@southplainfieldnj.com) or calling (908) 226-7604.

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## LEGAL NOTICES

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

An appeal has been filed by Robert Rudnick requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield. (1) Proposed pool lacks 30' front setback; 14' is proposed; (2) Existing canvas garage lacks 30' front setback; 17' proposed; (3) Total shed square footage exceeds 200 square feet; 296 proposed; and any other variances that may be required, said property being located at 1401 Fox Place, Block 145, Lot 9, R-7.5 zone on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, June 19 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey at 7:00 p.m.

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

\$38.50 June 1, 2012

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
 MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
 LEGAL NOTICE

May 23, 2012-Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Planning Board at its meeting held on May 22, 2012.

A. Case #745/S-KOBO Products, Block 445; Lot 10.04; M-3 Zone. 234 St. Nicholas Avenue. The applicant's request that this application be withdrawn was hereby GRANTED.

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Mary Beth Khidre  
 Recording Secretary-Planning Board

\$26.61 June 1, 2012

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Debbie Czech, Tom Hoff, Cynthia Freund, Fred Moretti, Kim Hoff, Ken Purcell, Pat Donnelly, Kevin Schweers, Al Lamonda and Mary Jacobus.

## Elks Raise Funds for Special Children's Committee

By Patricia Abbott

The South Plainfield Elks Lodge sponsored a sausage and peppers sandwich night fundraiser on May 18. The event, organized by Debbie Czech, chairman of the Special Children's Committee, was attended by more than 100 guests. The Elks sponsor several fundraisers throughout the year including the popular Beef 'n Beer Night. The success of these dinners prompted the Elks to try something new, and the sausage and peppers sandwich night was born.

The sausage sandwiches were cooked by Joe Argrillo, aka "Lunch Truck Joe," who generously donated

half of his expenses back to the committee.

Working in the kitchen were Kevin Schweers, Fred Moretti, Ken Purcell, Tom Hoff, Al Lamonda and Pat Donnelly. Cynthia Freund and Kim Hoff served approximately 88 sandwiches, not including many take-out orders.

Also assisting were Janice Campos, Andrea Alpert, Mary Jacobus, Tim Kelly and bartenders Joe Czech, Ed Martin, Tim Kelly and Debbie Czech. Dipen Patel from Mr. Subs donated the bread and Vail's Hardware donated the charcoal.

Guests also had the chance to win various raffle items which included a patio umbrella, stadium chair and

prize buckets containing shirts, hats, coasters, beer cozies, pint glasses and bottle openers all donated by Miller Lite. The 50/50 raffle netted \$305 to the lucky winner.

In addition to the raffles, the Elks wanted to do something different and fun. The "Pie in the

Face Contest" was a huge and somewhat messy success. Three people volunteered to be the recipients: District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Pete Smith, Past Exalted Ruler and State Hoop Shoot Chairman Bill Reuter and Past Vice President and State Public Relations Chairman Debbie Czech. They were provided with rain ponchos and goggles for protection. The pies consisted of a coffee filter filled with Reddi-wip. Actually, the pies were not thrown, instead guests walked right up to their chosen victim. The cost to throw a pie ranged from \$5 to \$20. Smith was the most expensive victim at \$20 a pie; Czech went for \$10 and Reuter was \$5.

Czech said, "The pie in the face was literally sweet fun! Where else can you have a free throw pie contest in good fun and raise money for a great cause! It was definitely worth it to be 'pied' for our Special Children. Thank you to all who came out and supported our event!"

The Elks raised over \$1,100 with 100% of the proceeds benefitting the Special Children's Committee and Elks Camp Moore. In addition, the committee also supports the Somerset Treatment Center in Somerville for children with special needs.

Czech commented, "The evening was a great success! We will do this again. Right now, we are hoping to run an event every few months."



State Hoop Shoot Chairman Bill Reuter and wife Sharon.

## Specialized Tricycles Donated to Special Students

(Continued from page 9)

Kattlin Diaz's four and a half year old daughter, Sabrina, can now ride her tryke along with friends. "It helps her feel like she is one of the kids," said Diaz. Sabrina has been riding the tryke for almost a year now. "I value the importance of fitness and wellness being a karate teacher myself," said Diaz. "My daughter was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy which makes it difficult for her to walk and move around easily; something that most kids would think nothing of. As a mother I would like to give her as many opportunities that any child growing up would have."

When Sabrina was given a tricycle at age two and a half years old she could not ride it because her feet kept slipping off and it was a challenge. "When Ms. Pillai informed us of the opportunity to give her a customized tricycle as a Christmas gift we jumped at the opportunity," Diaz said.

"She loved the tryke from day one and her reaction was well worth the long drive to Pennsylvania twice; once to have her fitted and then to pick it up."

Thanks to Pam from AMBUCS and Pillai, Sabrina rode the tryke last summer and it gave the family great joy to see her laughing and riding alongside her cousins enjoying the summer breeze. "The tryke is great because it has the adaptations that she needs to ride it, she has foot straps to ensure that her feet stay on the pedals and don't keep slipping out and it also makes it very easy for us as it is designed so that we don't break our backs as we encourage her to ride the tryke," said Diaz.

"Having Cerebral Palsy does not mean that Sabrina cannot have a good quality of life and I am thankful that we are able to provide her with yet another motivating and fun activity," said Diaz. "Recently we found out that she has started using the regular

tricycle in the preschool gym with the help of Ms. Butrico, Ms. Pintauro and Ms. Riccardi."

There is currently no AMBUCS chapter in New Jersey. Pillai, along with family members, drive to Pennsylvania to pick up their donated trykes. "When we open a New Jersey chapter, our students will have a place to go locally whenever AMBUCS has an open house, instead of driving for more than two hours," said Pillai. "The fun and freedom of riding your own bike is something everyone should be able to enjoy. Now, thanks to the AmTryke therapeutic tricycle, even individuals who are unable to operate a traditional bike can finally realize this wonderful experience."

If anyone is interested in volunteering to start a chapter, please contact Pam Rasmussen at scandihu@gmail.com.

Established in 1994, AmTryke, LLC is a company owned and operated by National AMBUCS, Inc. To date, over 15,300 AmTryke vehicles have been distributed around the world. The majority of these trykes are purchased by volunteer members of the AMBUCS organization and donated free of charge to financially-needy children.

These unique tricycles, which can be hand and/or foot operated, are designed to accommodate riders of all ages, sizes and varying degrees of physical limitations. Physical therapists acknowledge the AmTryke tricycle's many therapeutic benefits, citing improved motor skills, strength development and self-esteem.

AmTryke performs road shows with a trailer full of equipment and adapted accessories that are brought to therapy clinics, rehabs, children's hospitals and veterans' hospitals. Each road show stop can include an in-service training and/or a bike day event.

For more information, contact AmTryke at (800) 838-1845 or visit the online store at amtrykestore.org.

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