

# South Plainfield OBSERVER

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JUNE 15, 2012



Araldo Ferrara (second from the right) presents a \$1,000 donation towards the purchase of K-9 dogs to (L-R) Borough Councilman Rob Bengivenga, Police Chief James Parker, Det. Sgt. Dave DeLair and Det. Lt. Dan Noonan.

## Police Department Enlists K-9s to Help Fight Crime

### Borough Council Approves Purchase of Two Police Dogs

By Jane Dornick

South Plainfield Borough Council approved the purchase of two police K-9 dogs from Birkenhof Kennels of Derby, Conn. at the June 4 meeting. The cost to purchase each dog is between \$4,000 and \$6,000. Food, crates, collars and other necessities, including pet insurance for a year, will cost an additional \$5,500. The K-9s are typically between one and two years old when they are put into service and have between an average five to seven years working life.

Police Det. Sgt. Dave DeLair explained to the audience at the meeting the numerous advantages of acquiring the dogs. "The dogs are always willing and eager to work. They do not have

good and bad days and will never call out sick," said DeLair. "In fact, they love to work and live to work." They would be the department's "good will ambassadors," and he feels their presence will create a "positive connection between the public and police."

"The kids will love it," said DeLair. "They will want to see how he works, what he can do and how he does it and even have their pictures taken with him." The police department is even considering holding a contest for children to name the dogs.

According to DeLair, the dogs will be a "major asset" to the department through assistance in police investigations, which will in turn be cost effective. The major uses for the dogs will be to aid officers in solving burglaries, recover-

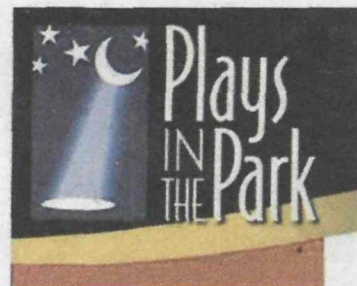
ing evidence, facility searches, locating missing persons, serving warrants and making arrests.

The dogs can search homes and buildings seven times faster than four officers with a 93% success rate, as compared to 59% for humans. They are faster and more efficient at following the scent of weapons, drugs and humans. DeLair stated that three K-9 teams can search one square mile in approximately three and a half hours. It would take 88 men to complete the task in the same amount of time. "These dogs will help us find people quicker," explained DeLair, giving examples of missing Alzheimer's patients, small children and runaways.

Drug seizures will be made easier at traffic stops, culminating in a higher

(Continued on page 10)

## Celebrating a Half Century of Top Notch Performances



### "My Fair Lady" Fiftieth Season Opener for Plays-in-the-Park

Plays-in-the-Park, located in Middlesex County's Roosevelt Park in Edison, kicks off the Summer 2012 season with *My Fair Lady*. The show opens on Wednesday, June 20 and runs through Saturday, June 30 (no show on June 24). "With a Little Bit of Luck" we'll get through the run with no rainouts! Come see Eliza Doolittle try to speak proper English without her Cockney accent.

*My Fair Lady* kicks off Plays-in-the-Park's 50th anniversary season, and with good reason, explained Freeholder Stephen J. "Pete" Dalina, chair of the Infrastructure Management Committee, which oversees the Office of Parks and Recreation.

"*My Fair Lady* was the first show to be produced at the newly opened Stephen J. Capestro Theater in 1978, and we thought it was fitting to start our next 50 years with this beloved musical," Dalina said.

Plays-in-the-Park began in 1963, but a devastating fire destroyed the original building in 1975. In 1978 a new and improved performance space was constructed. It was dedicated in 1998 to former Freeholder Director Capestro, who championed the program and rebuilding effort.

Plays-in-the-Park continues to be a production of the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Based on the play *Pygmalion* by George Bernard Shaw, *My Fair Lady* was written by Alan Jay Lerner, with music by Frederick Loewe. The plot centers around a Cockney woman, Eliza Doolittle, who takes speech lessons from Professor Henry Higgins in order to pass as a well-born lady in English society. This production at Plays-in-the-Park is directed by Gary P. Cohen, choreographed by Michelle Massa and musically directed by Nick DeGregorio.

Tickets can only be purchased the night of the performance; box office opens at 5:30 p.m. each night. The cost is \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors and children 12 and under are free. Patrons must provide their own lawn chair, and the height of the chair-back cannot exceed 40 inches. All shows begin at 8:30 p.m. There are no Sunday performances.

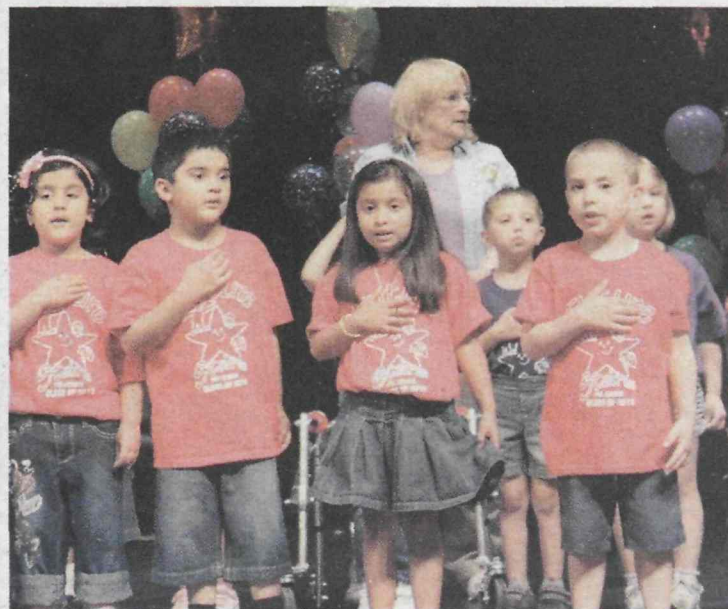
In the event of a cancellation due to weather, you can retain your ticket stub and use it to get into another show for free. Ticket stubs are valid for up to one year after the rained-out performance.



Middle School seventh graders swam, played games and danced to the music of DJ Jim Lymyanski at the PTO-sponsored picnic held at the community pool. The PTO and Sodexo provided drinks, chips, subs, pizza and Italian ices from Aunt Pammie's. Parent volunteers were Joan Rochette, Alicia Torchia, Suzanne Butrico, Maria Butrico, Denise O'Connor, Laurie Praul, Bobbie Jo Soper, Laela Bell, Eileen Brady and PTO Vice President Debbie Boyle.

### Inside 6.15.12

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Future Stars "Red Room" preschoolers perform at the school's 32nd annual graduation exercises. For story and additional photos, see page 6 and 7.



**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 18	Monday, June 18
Monday, July 16	Monday, July 16

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

**BOE buildings & grounds**

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

**cultural arts commission**

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

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

**library board of trustees**

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

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**

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.

**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.

**To the Editor:**

I offer a "tip of my hat" to the folks at Pilgrim Covenant Church for coming up with the idea of teaching the younger ones the basics of cooking.

It reminded me of when my mother got a bad case of poison ivy. I was about nine or 10 years old. Both of moms' arms were badly infected from her fingers to her elbows. Her doctor told her to keep her hands out of water for at least a week, and to smother them with calamine lotion.

She took me into the kitchen and said, "This is a frying pan. This is the way the gas stove works," and proceeded to tell me how to cook a few items.

Doing the laundry was something else. In the 1930s and living out in the "boondocks," we were lucky enough to have "bottled" gas, a wringer style clothes washer and electricity. Today we take so much for granted.

These cooking classes are almost like taking a page out of the Boy Scout handbook: "Be prepared."

**WILLIAM (BILL) TUTHILL**

**To the Editor:**

The family of the late Elizabeth Ernst would like to thank the EMS, 911 operator, police and all who helped during this painful time. The attention and solemnity that you displayed was sincerely appreciated.

**DONNA, DONALD, AUDREY AND NANCY**

**Dear Editor,**

Several weeks ago, Anthony Cataldo posed several questions about the employment of ARMM Associates, the contract they were granted, and the money being spent on our roofs. I will try to answer his questions to the best of my ability.

ARMM was chosen after interviews with several firms who responded to advertisements in the newspaper. We also extended an invitation to a local roofer to present a proposal, but we were informed that he wouldn't be available to meet with us. These firms included our architect of record.

ARMM was chosen for their extensive background in roofing and their pricing. The fact that they had previously worked on our roofs 20 years ago and were familiar with the district didn't hurt. ARMM was tasked with the design of the roof repair and the generation and oversight of the RFP procedure, along with overseeing the projects during their execution.

The time frame for them was quite short because we needed to have the work done during the summer hiatus. The bids were publicly advertised for on May 1 and May 8. A tour for potential bidders was held on May 11. The bids were due on May 30 at 11 a.m. The bid and contract award phase spanned May 30 through June 6. The contracts will be awarded at the June regular meeting. The construction phase is also on a tight schedule. Staging is to begin on June 21, construction to start on June 22

and be complete by August 24, with final inspection on August 29.

Bids were opened and read aloud on May 30 in the business office. They were reviewed by our attorneys and the winning bids were placed on the agenda. For the high school nine bids were received. Replacement and repair of the high school roof was recommended to be awarded to E.R. Barrett, Inc. of Newark for a total sum of \$939,310. The middle school roof and gym window replacement is recommended, out of 10 bidders, to be ARCH Concept Construction, Inc. of North Haledon for the total sum of \$752,000. Repairs and maintenance of the remaining six school facilities received two bids and the successful bid was awarded to Pravco, Inc. of Rahway in the total sum of \$91,700.

This was an open procedure, as all RFPs are. Every viable company had the ability to offer proposals and have them responsibly reviewed. I believe that the Board of Education has acted as a responsible custodian of the public's property. Keeping our buildings in good repair is essential to not only the education and safety of our student and staff population, but to the preservation of the millions of dollars in assets that our schools represent. By taking the steps necessary, as a part of our contract with the public, we are ensuring the continuity of a viable building fabric for years to come.

I hope that this answers any questions that you have had.

**SINCERELY,  
CAROL BYRNE**

## Come, Discover at SonQuest Rain Forest Vacation Bible School

Wesley United Methodist Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave., Vacation Bible School for children ages four through 12 will be held Monday-Friday, June 25-29 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

This year's theme, "SonQuest Rain Forest," invites children to explore with their senses and enjoy the experience of discovery. Join us for fun, crafts, Bible stories, snacks

and music.

The program begins at 6:30 p.m. each evening. Children are requested to arrive between 6-6:15.

The cost is \$10 per child or \$20 per family. Please pre-register by June 18.

For information or to pre-register, call (908) 757-2838 or email wumcsp@verizon.net.

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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.**

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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 notes

The council approved the following at the June 4 meeting:

- Accept the resignation of Richard Veit from the South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission.

- Authorize the municipal clerk to publish a request for bids for services to perform electrical subcode inspections for the borough.

- Authorize the release of performance bonds posted by 455 Highland Avenue, LLC for public improvements to Block 311, Lots 15.01 and 15.02; Cultech, Inc. for public improvements to Block 528.01, Lots 46.06 and 46.07; and Wilkins Building, Inc. for public improvements to Block 97, Lot 16.

- Waive the zoning permit fee of \$25 for a tool shed for the St. Stephen Lutheran Church Parsonage for charitable purposes.

- Authorize consent for access to the United States Environmental Protection Agency for access to property known as Cornell-Dubilier Electronics Superfund Site on Spicer Avenue.

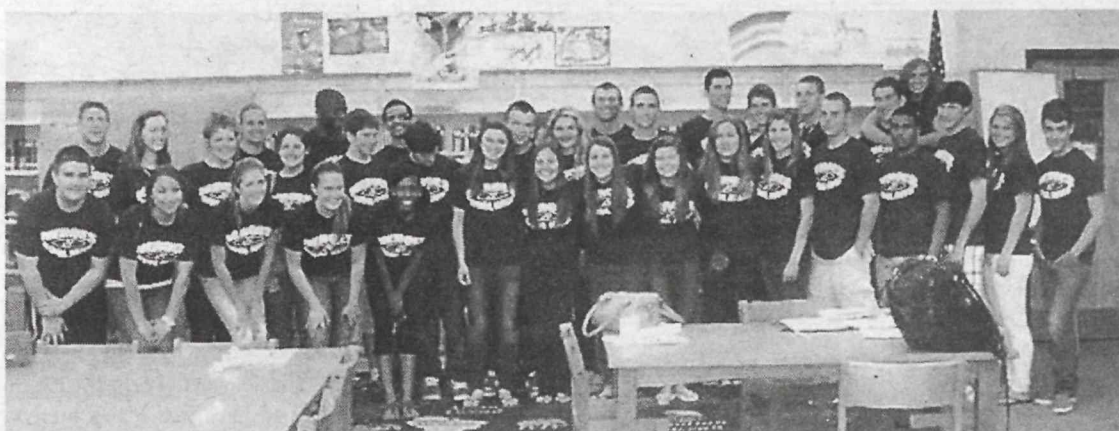
- Authorize the seasonal hiring of front desk cashier I, an assistant swim coach for the community pool, Frank Pasquale as a recreation attendant, and the 2012 summer parks personnel.

- Waive the fire permit fee for the Lions Club to cook food on Labor Day.

- Authorize contract execution with Palma for sale of Block 364, Lot 5, 50 ft. by 100 ft. located on Delmore Avenue in the amount of \$35,000.

- Authorize the purchase of two K-9 dogs and K-9 equipment from Birkenhof Kennels for an amount not to exceed \$17,500.

- Authorize a block party request from Mary DeLair for July 4 from 2-10 p.m. for East Crescent Parkway from Woodland Avenue to Oxford Avenue.



New York Giants player Keith Elias and high school Peer Leaders Heroes and Cool Kids at Grant School.

## Heroes and Cool Kids Visit Grant School

South Plainfield High School Peer Leaders Heroes and Cool Kids, along with mentor former NY Giants football player Keith Elias, visited Grant Elementary School on May 16.

The third installment of their three-part presentations was educating students about drugs, alcohol and related substances. The program

contained discussions with the classes as to whether the "leaders" were telling the truth or not. Elias showed the Heroes and Cool Kids a variety of handwriting styles, along with certain eye movements, that could help them determine the truth in situations.

Principal Ellen Decker-Lorys and Assistant Principal Rob Richkus, and

the teachers and staff applauded the Heroes and Cool Kids and thanked high school principal Dr. James Pedersen for continuing to support the program.

Peer Leaders advisors are Marla Vandermark, Jessica Kriskowski, Tony Encinas and Tony Emmons.

## Fish, Inc. Needs Volunteers to Help Serve the Poor

Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area is an all volunteer, non-profit organization which helps needy people in the communities of Dunellen, Middlesex Borough, Piscataway, South Plainfield, Edison and Highland Park and nearby areas. Fish is currently in need of several volunteers to help keep its programs running.

Telephone hotline volunteers are needed to answer calls from persons who need help or information about Fish. Volunteers call in to the answering service about once per hour during the day to receive messages; return client calls to set up appointments with the food room or the clothing room; or determine what assistance is needed and contact the appropriate person. Some of the volunteers work every week; some one day per month; and

others take multiple days per month. Even someone who could take a day every other month, or be on call as a substitute would be appreciated.

Experienced van drivers are urgently needed, capable of lifting 60 lbs. Drivers must have a clean driving record. Help is needed Monday through Saturday to make morning pickups at Costco and any afternoon pickups at the Hillside Food Bank or local supermarkets and businesses. We need drivers who can commit to a specific day of the week as well as those who can act as substitutes or fill-ins.

Fish is also in need of a volunteer to be responsible for maintenance of our facility. Ideally, this person should have a background in facilities maintenance with knowledge of electrical

and heating systems and be able to perform minor repairs when needed. They will coordinate with outside contractors as necessary and perform lawn maintenance/mowing during the summer months.

Major programs of Fish, Inc. include the distribution of food, clothing, blankets and bedding, holiday meals and Christmas gifts to needy people. New volunteers are always welcome.

For more information about these volunteer opportunities, call Lisa at (732) 356-0081. See how you could make a difference in the lives of your less fortunate neighbors.

For more information about Fish, Inc. or about volunteering, visit [www.fishdunellenarea.org](http://www.fishdunellenarea.org).

## Pilgrim Covenant Church Adopts Putnam Park

Donna Jackson, Mission and Outreach liaison for Pilgrim Covenant Church, has signed an agreement with South Plainfield Clean Business Association to adopt Putnam Park. The park has needed an adopter since Sacred Heart Church decided not to renew its contract some years back.

Putnam Park is one of the busier borough parks. It offers various amenities, including tennis, basketball, handball, a playground, picnic bench, a wooded area and a fitness trail. This would be enough to produce a fair amount of litter, but the problem is made worse by the park's location across from two shopping centers. Fliers and fast food packaging blowing in from Golden Acres and Oak Park Commons lodge against the park's fences and shrubbery.

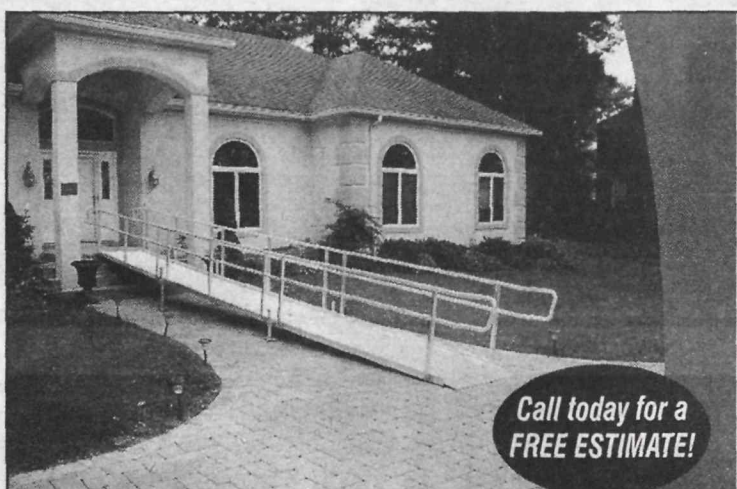
Pilgrim Covenant Church, located at 3121 Park Ave., is a part of the Evangelical Covenant Church of America. The congregation has been participating in the borough-wide Volunteer Litter Cleanup Week, and the membership was looking for a way to extend their commitment to improving the community's quality of life. A varying number of people will be picking up litter at the park once a month.

Other parks that have been adopted through the CBA's Adopt-A-Spot program include Monument Park, Willow Avenue Skate Park and Walnut Street Park, as well as the PAL building/community pool grounds. The CBA is looking for adopters for the remaining parks.

For more information about the Adopt-A-Spot program, contact the Clean Communities coordinator at (908) 226-7621, or email [atempel@southplainfieldnj.com](mailto:atempel@southplainfieldnj.com).

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# events

## Around Town

### 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, register online at [www.RelayForLife.org/SouthPlainfieldNJ](http://www.RelayForLife.org/SouthPlainfieldNJ), or at the gate.

For more information, contact Debbie Boyle at (908) 803-1573 or email [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).

### Pop Warner Eagles Registration

June 16

South Plainfield Eagles final open house registration is Saturday, June 16 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the field-house located at 832 Kenneth Ave.

Please come and register your football player or cheerleader at this time. You may also register at [www.leaguelineup.com/speagles](http://www.leaguelineup.com/speagles). (See article on page 8.)

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

For more information, call Kelly Dunn at (732) 991-3880.

### American Legion Flea Market

June 16

The American Legion Post 243 on Oak Tree Avenue is sponsoring a flea market on Saturday, June 16 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Open to the public; rent tables for \$10 (Legion members) and \$20 for non-members. Bring your own table for a cost of \$15.

To reserve a table, please call Brenda at (908) 403-4292.

### Vacation Bible School at Wesley

June 25-29

Wesley United Methodist Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave., Vacation Bible School for children ages four through 12 will be held Monday-Friday, June 25-29 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. (arrive by 6:15 p.m.) Cost: \$10 per child; \$20 per family. Pre-register by June 18.

For more information or to pre-register, please call (908) 757-2838 or email [wumcsp@verizon.net](mailto:wumcsp@verizon.net).

### "Sharpen Your Skills" at Pilgrim Covenant

July 9-August 20

Pilgrim Covenant Church is hosting a Sharpen Your Skills tutoring program offered by Three Bridges July 9-August 20 for children in grades K-5 to improve their reading, math and writing skills. Parents may choose a 90-minute tutoring session for two, three or four days per week.

For more information, call Rosie Bayak at (732) 662-8277 or email [threebridgesllc@gmail.com](mailto:threebridgesllc@gmail.com).

### Car/Motorcycle Cruise Fundraiser

July 21

Street Dreams Car Club will hold a car/motorcycle cruise fundraiser for Kathy Regency on Saturday, July 21 from 5 to 9 p.m. at Veteran's Park in South Plainfield. Raindate: Saturday, July 28. Kathy recently had her third surgery for brain cancer and we hope to help her with her mounting bills through this event.

In addition to the cars and motorcycles, there will be music and crafters/vendors. Vendors are needed.

For more information, please contact Ron at (908) 482-0008.

### — Out of Town —

### 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.

### Father's Day Picnic

June 17

Deutscher Club of Clark, 787 Featherbed Ln., Waldfest-Father's Day picnic will be held on Sunday, June 17 from noon to 6 p.m. Open to the public. Donation: \$5 per person; children under 12 free. Outdoors rain or shine. Parking, picnic tables, childrens activities, ice cream parade, Petels the Clown. Music: 1 to 6 p.m. German American food and beverages available. No outside food or beverages, skates, skateboards, scooters, bicycles, glass containers or pets.

For more information, call (732) 574-8600.

### Imperial Brass at Willow Grove Church

June 17

Willow Grove Church, 1961 Raritan Road in Scotch Plains presents Imperial Brass in a father's day concert on Sunday, June 17 at 7 p.m. Tickets in advance or at the door: \$15; \$12, seniors and students; children 12 and under are free. Reception will follow.

For tickets or more information, call (908) 232-5678 or visit [www.willowgrovechurch.org](http://www.willowgrovechurch.org).

### "My Fair Lady" at Plays-in-the-Park

June 20-23, 25-30

Plays-in-the-Park, located within Roosevelt Park in Edison, will kick off the Summer 2012 season with *My Fair Lady*. Show opens Wednesday, June 20 and runs through Saturday, June 30 (no show June 24). Tickets: adults, \$7; seniors, \$5; children 12 and under, free. Purchase tickets the night of the performance; box office opens at 5:30 p.m. Show starts at 8:30 p.m. Retain your stub in the event of cancellation due to weather. Ticket is valid for one year.

For more information, visit [www.playsinthepark.com](http://www.playsinthepark.com) or find us on Facebook or Twitter.

### 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.

### SENIOR CENTER Calendar

June 19-Foot and ankle program and screening, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

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

July 11-Taj Mahal \$20pp. Bus leaves at 9 a.m. Sign up at Senior Center.

July 19-Bally's \$20pp. Bus leaves at 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

### 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.

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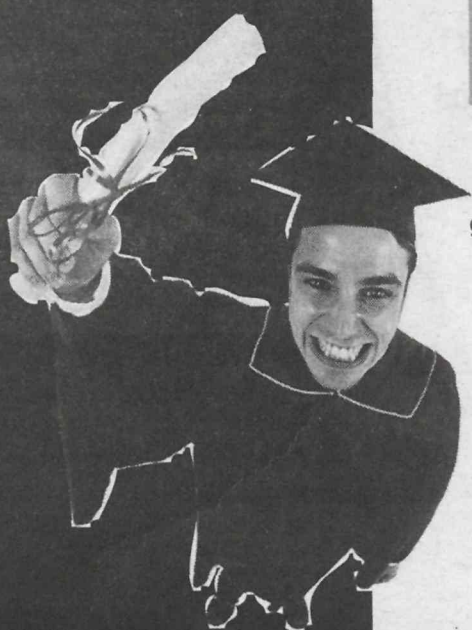
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MEMBER: South Plainfield Business Association, Early American Coppers Club, Numismatic Literary Guild, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, NJ Numismatic Society

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

South Plainfield Observer

## BIG

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# Graphic Novel Author-Illustrator Visits Roosevelt

By Libby Barsky

Chris Giarrusso, author-illustrator of graphic novels, recalls that when he was in grammar school he always took out a Charles Schulz *Peanuts* comic strip book during the mandatory weekly library period.

"The librarian would always try to interest me in a regular book, but I had an 'A' average, so she stopped trying to make me change," he said.

Giarrusso visited Roosevelt School on May 31 to introduce students to the writing and drawing he does to create his book about super hero G-Man before it is published. His visit, the annual in-school Author's Day program, was sponsored by the Roosevelt School PTO and organized by teacher Michael Bertram and librarian Christine Brandenburg with the help of the entire school staff.

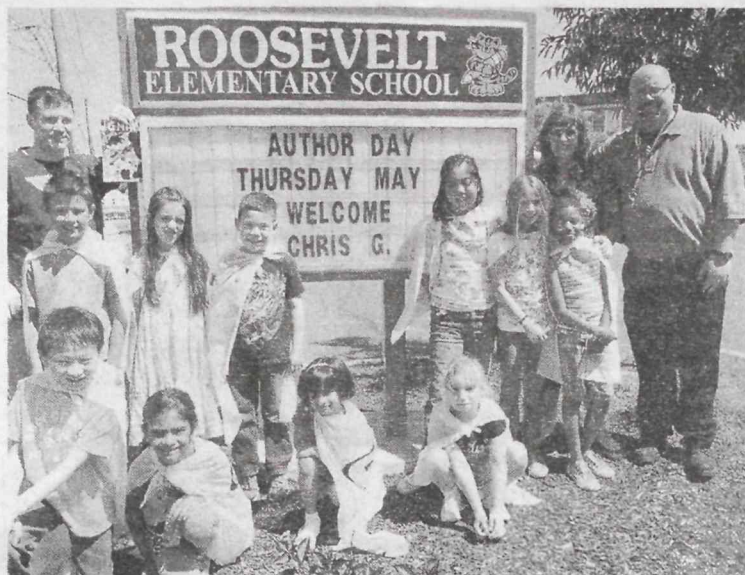
The students were excited to have Giarrusso visit with them. In preparation for Giarrusso's visit a contest was held where one student in each grade could win a chance to have a pizza lunch with Giarrusso.

Giarrusso's superhero, G-Man, was a child who discovered that he had super powers after finding a blanket in his closet with magical powers. Making it into his own magic cape, G-Man was endowed with the super power of flight.

Brandenburg made silky yellow capes decorated with the G-Man insignia out of felt for each of the contest winners. The winners were: Danny Bedoya, Alex Borto, Liesl Co, Keya Desai, Olivia Santos, Nina Desimone, Emily Liszewski, Diya Nerurkar, Steve Nguyen and Brianna Sorhaindo.

Giarrusso began drawing at the age of three, copying what he saw his six year old brother Dave doing. He remembers his brother was drawing birds and he did, too. "My first superhero was Super Cardinal when I was six, now it's in Super G-Man," he said.

Growing up, he and his brother kept reading comic strips with their favorites being *Peanuts* and *Garfield*. Giarrusso continued to draw, and while a math major at Binghamton State University of New York he began drawing his own strips for the college newspaper. He also took some art classes, but did not find them particularly useful.



Contest winners who enjoyed a pizza lunch with author-illustrator Chris Giarrusso (top left) on Author's Day at Roosevelt School are: Chris Giarrusso, Alex Borto, Olivia Santos, Danny Bedoya, Liesl Co, Emily Liszewski, Brianna Sorhaindo, Steve Nguyen, Keya Desai, Diya Nerurka and Nina Desimone. Also pictured are Christine Brandenburg, school librarian, and Michael Bertram, teacher.

Giarrusso worked for Marvel Comics in the production department for 10 years without getting any special help or mentoring. "Marvel doesn't have artist nor writers on staff. They purchase the art or story outright," said Giarrusso, who taught himself how to make a comic strip by simply being around the writers and artists who appeared in Marvel comics. He now publishes his work through Image Comics, a company founded by seven artists who defected from Marvel Comics on the principle that creators own their own creations, explained Giarrusso.

In his presentation to the students, Giarrusso demonstrated how he puts words and drawings together to create one of his G-Man books. Giarrusso selected students, teachers and

Principal Robert Diehl (as a villain robot) to read the dialogue. Displaying his sketchbook, Giarrusso showed how he had drawn the scenes, first in the sketchbook and then written the sentences to accompany them.

Later, Giarrusso talked about where the idea of G-Man came from. He named the character G-Man after his brother, Dave. "I wasn't so self-indulgent to call G-Man Chris, but he is me. It's working all the psychological damage I might have gone through with my brother and channeling it into something positive," he said.

"The Roosevelt students were very excited having the author of G-Man with them," said Bertram.

The school has two copies of the book in its library.



## The Truth About Ticks

By Sandy Pleeter, SP Green Team Associate Member

Though perhaps more widely known for bringing pleasant objects, sensations and conditions, spring also signals an increase in a potentially harmful pest: ticks. Ticks are arachnids (i.e., their bodies are divided into two segments, with four pairs of legs on the cephalothorax) who feed on the blood of their hosts, which may be mammals, birds, reptiles or amphibians. Usually they prefer to switch hosts with each of their life stages (of which, for most ticks, there are four). They are most likely to bite humans in late spring or summer.

To remove a tick, grasp its mouthparts with tweezers as close as possible to the attachment site or, for an even greater decrease in risk of infection, press lightly toward the head of the tick with a smooth, flat object and scrape toward the thorax. Needless to

say, when using either of these methods, make sure not to squeeze, crush, or puncture the body of the tick.

Sometimes, of course, the ramifications of contact with a tick include more than just a tedious removal process. Tick-borne illnesses observed in the northeast include Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, southern tick-associated rash illness (STARI), babesiosis, ehrlichiosis, Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF) and tularemia. These illnesses can cause many common symptoms such as fever, headache, chills, body aches, joint pain, fatigue and rashes (which, in cases of Lyme disease or STARI, often appear in a "bullseye" or target pattern). Anyone who experiences these symptoms, therefore, within a few weeks of being bitten by a tick, should seek medical attention.

Information provided is from [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) and Christopher Cioffi concerning tick removal.

## Sacred Heart Altar Rosary Society Planning Trip to Radio City Christmas Spectacular

The Altar Rosary Society of Sacred Heart Church is sponsoring a trip to see the Radio City Christmas Spectacular, featuring the Rockettes, on Tuesday, Dec. 4 at 11 a.m. Reservations and deposit required by July 1.

Buses will leave from Sacred Heart Church parking lot off South Plainfield Avenue at 8:45 a.m. and return at approximately 5 p.m. There will be about two and a half hours for time on your own after the show.

The cost of the trip is \$125 and

includes the show ticket, bus, driver's tip and a voucher for popcorn and a soda or water while at the show. A \$65 deposit is required at the time of booking, but payment in full would be greatly appreciated as all ticket money must be to Radio City by July 1. The \$60 balance is due October 1. Seating is limited to 40 tickets.

For more information or to reserve your spot, contact Kathy at (908) 756-3772.

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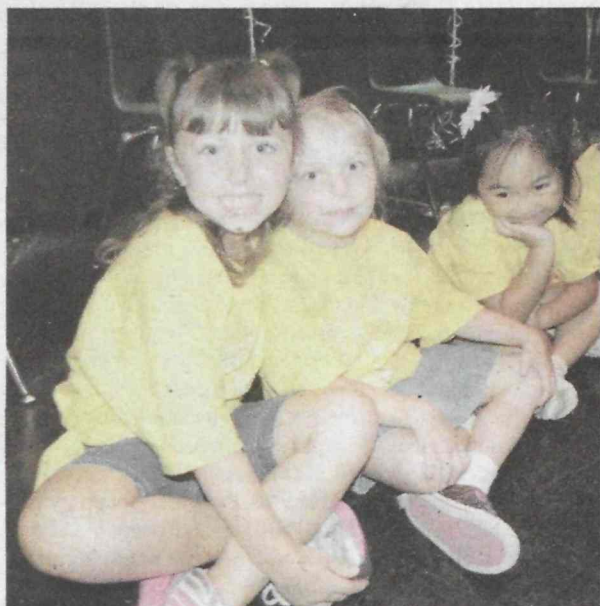
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Graduation ceremonies for more than 100 Future Stars Preschoolers was held on June 4 in the South Plainfield High School auditorium.

# Future Stars Preschoolers Are Moving Up!

By Jane Dornick

The South Plainfield Future Stars Preschool held its 32nd annual graduation ceremony on June 4 in the high school auditorium.

The ceremony began with a few words about the program from Interim Assistant Superintendent Dr. Frank Cocchiola followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The entire group of students sang *My Country 'Tis of Thee*, *Future Stars Cheer*, *Say Hello*, *Wheels on the Bus*, *Five Little Monkeys* and *F-U-T-U-R-E S-T-A-R-S*.

Two separate ceremonies were held that evening to accommodate the more than 100 graduating students. During the first ceremony, the Red Room sang *Finger Poppin*, Starlight sang *Tony Chestnut* and the Yellow Room sang *Tooty Ta*. In the second

ceremony, the Red Room sang *Finger Poppin*; the Rainbow Room sang *Can't Sit Still*; the Blue Room sang *Get Ready, Get Set, Let's Dance* and Starlight sang *Dance With Me*.

Diplomas were presented to the students by Board of Education Vice President Debbie Boyle and Board member Bill Seesselberg after they crossed the ceremonial "bridge" from preschool to kindergarten. The program ended with the entire group singing *The World is a Rainbow* and *Skinnamarink*.

Future Stars teachers are Elyne Foscolo, Colleen Lazar and Patti Waters. Teachers' assistants are Juliann Bickunas, Joanne Cox, Lisa Eggert, Gina McConville, Debbie Savoca and Janet Whalen. Special services teachers are Cyndy Bloch, Sue Butrico and Janice Early. Special services

instructional aides are Nancy McMahon, Debbie Miller, Dawn Negron, MaryAnn Pintauro, Pat Remsing and Donna Riccardi.

The first ceremony's graduates were:

**Red Room (AM)**-Ashok Balkarran, Stephan Barlow, Jack Benevento, Kamal Boyd Jr., Ava Cabrera, Christian Callejas, Madalyn Costello, Mia DeTata, Tyler DeVito, Emily Dougherty, Joshita Kalakota, Abyan Khan, Drew Larsen, Kayla Le, Madison Listorti, Gabriel Lotano, Adolfo Malabanan III, Ishaan Myrie, Isabella Rogus, Alexander Rubin, Caleb Steinfeld, Emma Steinfeld, Madison Santiago, Caden Soto, Isaiah Taitt, Anthony Tomei, Leah Winsmann.

**Starlight (AM)**-Emily Acevedo, Liam Andrew, Karla Coreas, Mason Geis, Jason Heller, Emma Hoyos, Ava Kurilew, Eric Nguyen, William

Rogers, Marcus Saffold.

**Yellow Room**-Elizabeth Alli, Isabel Alli, Kevin Casaliggi, Akshaya Cherukuri, Lauren Co, Emily Davis, Nicholas DeGeronimo, Aria Ellie, Alexa Gnapp, Christian Notino, Amber Olsen, Jessie Orth, Jayden Ramrup, Aadi Shah, Tvisha Shah, Stephen Studlack, David Tran, Angel Trejo, Molly Wilson.

The second ceremony's graduates were:

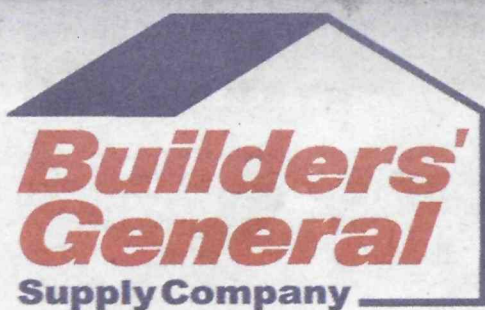
**Red Room (PM)**-Michael Carney, Tina Jaiprashad, Christina Marroquin, Brian Ortiz, Anjali Persaud, Jose Portillo, Tehreem Rizvi, Riaz Sayedy, Samanta Singh, Mohammad Tariq, Alex VanHerck.

**Rainbow Room (PM)**-Michael Castagna, Mia Castagna, Jayla Cobb, Mathias Evans, Matthew Falcone, Julia Huynh, Makenzie Kranzke,

Madison Matusz, Jasmine Portillo, Tyler Ruchaevsky, Aashna Thakkar, Nicole Zekas.

**Blue Room**-Christopher Amariles, Giavanna Bentivegna, Iniya Bharathan, Kyra Chee, Tyson Crudup, Ashwini Davaraj, Luke Franchak, Joleen Hernandez, Heesoo Kim, Matthew Louissol, Aaryan Macwan, Logan Merlino, Paityn Moniz-D'Souza, Ruth Murano, Rudra Patel, Sarah Raymond, Katrina Rasmussen, Jeevan Sailesh, Jaiden Silva, Mary Springfield, Nathaniel Sprigle, Gianna Thimons, CJ Weaver.

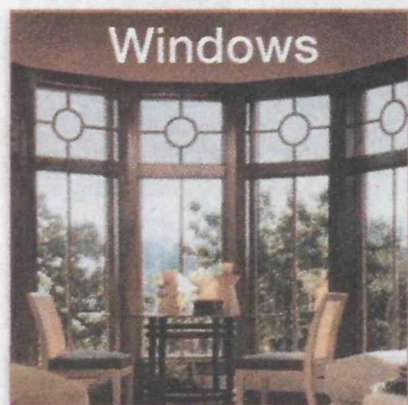
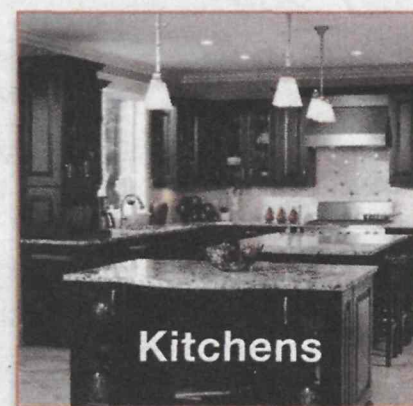
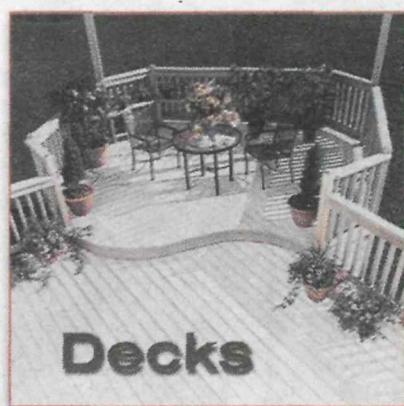
**Starlight (PM)**-Lorenzo Barbara, Sabrina Correa, Samantha Droge, Daniel Grimes, Jessica Grimes, Olivia Kapolka, Yug Kumar, Jeydan Rolon, Ryan Rosenkrantz, Paige Santos.



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Board of Education Vice President Debbie Boyle and board member Bill Seesselberg present a diploma to a Future Stars preschool student.



Future Stars Starlight Room preschoolers perform to the delight of the audience.



Starlight Room (PM)—Lorenzo Rocky Barbara, Sabrina L. Correa, Samantha Anne Droge, Daniel Philip Grimes, Jessica Amelia Grimes, Olivia Kapolka, Yug S. Kumar, Jeydan Rolon, Ryan Rosenkrantz, Paige Josephine Santos



Red Room (PM)—Michael Anthony Carney, Tina Jaiprashad, Christina Janet Marroquin, Brian D. Ortiz, Anjali Jaya Persaud, Jose Noel Portillo, Tehreem Hasan Rizvi, Riaz Ahmad Sayedy, Samanta Laxmi Singh, Mohammad Rehan Tariq, Alex VanHerK



Blue Room—Christopher I. Amariles, Giavanna Marie Bentivegna, Iniya Bharathan, Kyra Jolie Chee, Tyson Jace Crudup, Ashwini Devaraj, Luke Christopher Franchak, Joleen Hernandez, Heesoo Kim, Matthew Louissol, Aaryan Macwan, Logan Xavier Merlino, Paityn Moniz-D'Souza, Ruth Kathleen Murano, Rudra A. Patel, Sarah Raymond, Katrina Michelle Rasmussen, Jeevan Sailesh, Jaiden Revin Silva, Mary Springfield, Nathaniel Miles Sprigle, Gianna Thimons, CJ Weaver



Starlight Room (AM)—Emily Acevedo, Liam Andrew, Karla Anahi Coreas, Mason James Geis, Jason Paul Heller, Emma Hoyos, Ava Loren Kurilew, Eric Quang Trung Nguyen, William Wolfe Rogers, Marcus A. Saffold



Yellow Room—Elizabeth Lily Alli, Isabel Annie Alli, Kevin Casaliggi, Akshaya Cherukuri, Lauren Marielle Co, Emily Grace Davis, Nicholas DeGeronimo, Aria Caitlyn Ellie, Alexa Gnapp, Christian Notino, Amber Rose Olsen, Jessie McGregor Orth, Jayden Raj Ramrup, Aadi Rilesh Shah, Tvisha Shah, Stephen Anthony Studlack, David Tran, Angel Trejo, Molly Wilson



Rainbow Room (PM)—Michael Timothy Castagna, Mia Francheska Castagna, Jayla S. Cobb, Mathias A. Evans, Matthew J. Falcone, Julia Huynh, Makenzie Evelyn Kranzke, Madison Matusz, Jasmine E. Portillo, Tyler Jacob Ruchaevsky, Aashna Thakkar, Nicole Theresa Zekas



Red Room (AM)—Ashok Nivash Balkarran, Stephan K. Barlow, Jack Benjamin Benevento, Kamal Ali Boyd Jr., Ava Rose Cabrera, Christian Angel Callejas, Madalyn Costello, Mia Sara DeTata, Tyler DeVito, Emily Dougherty, Joshita Reddy Kalakota, Abyan Khan, Drew Tyler Larsen, Kayla Le, Madison Listorti, Gabriel Lotano, Adolfo Malabanan III, Ishann Myrie, Isabella Grace Rogus, Alexander Rubin, Caleb Danger Rothrock Steinfeld, Emma Moxie Rothrock Steinfeld, Madison Sue Santiago, Caden Ismael Soto, Isaiah Christopher Taitt, Anthony S. Tomei, Leah Elizabeth Winsmann



# sports



The SPHS 2012 Freshman Baseball Team had a great season and recently won the Freshmen County Tournament. See upcoming issue for more on their season and the championship.



## Golden Tee RESULTS

Wayne Kelley was first and Ron Loneker came in second in a staple-ford tournament on May 31.

Bill Gammel was low gross and Ron Loneker was low net in a stroke event on June 6.

Vince Powers and Wayne Lavander won the blind partner tournament on June 11.

Tournaments are held on Wednesdays at 9 a.m. and are open to all. The fee is \$20, includes a cart, prizes based on the first nine holes and players can play another nine.

For more information, call the Plainfield West Nine at (908) 769-3672.

## Eagles Football Announces Changes for the 2012 Season

The 2012 Eagles Football season will be here before you know it. Major changes have been made to the Pop Warner weight levels for football this year. Pop Warner has established what is referred to as an Unlimited Level for this season. This level has been established to accommodate those children who fall outside the weight criteria established for the other levels we typically field.

What does this all mean? This level is for children ages 11-14 and it does not have a maximum weight limit. All children who meet the age criteria have to be a minimum of 105 pounds or over to participate.

In the past we had to turn children away due to the weight criteria established by Pop Warner; hopefully now we will be able to retain these children in the program.

Please help us spread the word about this new level and encourage families who may have been discouraged by the former weight restrictions to inquire further.

Come to the fieldhouse at 832 Kenneth Avenue tomorrow, June 16, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. to register and speak with the coaches and commissioner.

For more information, please email Kevin Dunn at kdunn1@verizon.net or call him at (973) 219-0731.

Submitted By Bob Nilan

## Notes from the Jim Pomovets Memorial Golf League

### LEAGUE STANDINGS

American Division				National Division			
	W	L	T		W	L	T
Alfie's Boys .....	6	2	0	Italian-American Club .....	7	0	1
2 Buds, 2 Dubs .....	5	3	0	So. Plainfield Funeral Home .....	4	4	0
KC's Korner .....	5	3	0	Witty's Liquors .....	3	5	0
Unique Sports Accessories .....	4	4	0	Dirty Harry & Friends .....	3	5	0
Twin City Pharmacy .....	2	5	1	Windows Plus .....	2	5	1
McCriskin-Gustafson .....	2	6	0	Sport & Social .....	2	5	1

The amazing Italian-American Club was eager to complete the first half of the season as the only undefeated team in the league. When Windows Plus, unfortunately, was not able to field a full four-man squad, that made the challenge much easier, and the Italian-American Club eked out an 11-9 victory despite the fact that they didn't post very impressive numbers. Rich Pelligrino earned medalist honors with a 42, while Dave Romano of Windows Plus almost single-handedly pulled off a major upset as he fired a 39 and saw his team lose a tough one.

John Dominic of the South Plainfield Funeral Home didn't let the intermittent rain adversely affect his game as he posted a 37 to spark his team to a lop-sided 17-3 win over Sport & Social. Vinnie Welch chipped in with a 39 as South Plainfield Funeral Home improved its record to .500 and gained sole possession of second place behind an Italian-American Club that's simply on fire. Scott McDonald was the low-man for Sport & Social with a 41.

Some of the old boom may be missing from Kevin "Boom Boom" Bickunas' game these days, but he showed a lot of his old form in leading Witty's Liquors to a 14-6 victory. It was unfortunate for Dirty Harry & Friends that Joe Stickno had to withdraw because of back problems. Charlie Oats valiantly tried to pick up the slack and put together another fine round registering a 2-over 35 in a losing effort.

In the best-played match of the season, Alfie's Boys fought a tough battle with Twin City Pharmacy and narrowly got by with an 11-9 victory. Mike King earned medalist honors for the night with a sparkling 1-under 32. He got a lot of help from his talented teammates, Danny Griffin and Bill Mann, who both had nifty 2-over 35s, and John Gaven came through with a solid 36 as Alfie's Boys maintained their one game lead atop the American Division.

Guy Severini added to his string of fine rounds for Twin City Pharmacy with a 1-over 34. Frank Gaspari and Jay Coppola had a pair of 37s, and Joe Diller registered a 38.

Surprisingly, neither Unique Sports Accessories nor 2 Buds, 2 Dubs had their A-games. Chris Nuzzo's round of 38 was the low score in the entire match, and that was good enough to lead 2 Buds, 2 Dubs to victory in an 11-9 squeaker. Capt. Chris "The Hawk" Dillon earned the medal for Unique Sports with his 41, while the rest of the team uncharacteristically had some problems.

In yet another close contest, KC's Korner got by McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals, 11-9, thanks to the solid play of Efrain Solis, who had a 37, and Nick Vetusch, who carded a 39. McCriskin's got some good performances that ordinarily would result in a win: Mark "Mr. Steady" Chichvar had an impressive 3 over 36; Kris Krantz chipped in with a 38; and Steve Shock contributed a 39.

In next week's feature match between Alfie's Boys and 2 Buds, 2 Dubs, there will be a fashion show on the runways near the putting green before the golfers move to the fairways. Alfie's Boys will be posing for photos in their new, spiffy team golf shirts, the first team in the league to be so nattily attired. Dale Dube has promised to take on Danny Griffin sartorially before really going after him on the course. Earlier this year, Dale and his playing partner, Chris Nuzzo, wore stunning peach-colored shirts. Who knows what Dube will come up with, but the match next week should be a pretty one to watch.

**Low scores for the night:** Mike King, 32; Guy Severini, 34; Charlie Oats, 35; Danny Griffin, 35; Bill Mann, 35; John Gaven, 36; Mark Chichvar, 36; Jay Coppola, 37; John Dominic, 37; Frank Gaspari, 37; Efrain Solis 37.

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# sports

## SOCCER U-13 ARSENAL

By Mark

### U-13 Arsenal Win Final Game

As the old saying goes, all good things must come to an end. For Arsenal, the South Plainfield Soccer Club's U-13 boys team, it at least came to an end on a positive note with a couple of strong efforts and a victory.

Arsenal traveled to North Brunswick on June 3 for their finale and pulled out a gutsy 3-2 victory despite having only 10 players for the entire match. Jason Cieszkiewicz contributed to the scoring, with an assist on one of Jason Belanger's two goals, and Jared Marks added a tally when his free kick from 35 yards out found the back of the net.

On May 20 Arsenal squared off

against a tough opponent from Union, a game in which Jason Cieszkiewicz scored the only goal for Arsenal. The score was tied 1-1 until Union put it away with two goals late in the contest.

Arsenal finished the spring portion of the schedule with a record of 3-6-1. It was a tough season as multiple players missed multiple games due to injuries or other commitments; however, the boys never made any excuses and always played their hardest.

The team was originally formed in 2006 in the U-8 division by Rich Paez. Coach Paez stepped down after the fall season in November of 2009, at which

point assistant coach Dave Cieszkiewicz took over as head coach. The final roster for Arsenal is William Arias, Jason Belanger, Jason Cieszkiewicz, Jake Hoffman, Caleb Kuberiet, Jared Marks, Dylan O'Connor, Alec Paez, Ricky Pellegrino, Nick Plate, Mason Resende, Edwin Rivas, Elijah Robinson, Kevin Solano and Wallace Truesdale.

Head coach Cieszkiewicz, along with assistant coaches Greg Hoffman and Steve Belanger, would like to thank the players and their families for their time and effort put in over the years and wish the players well in their future endeavors.

### SPGA Announces 18th South Plainfield Golf Tournament

The South Plainfield Golf Association's (SPGA) South Plainfield Open will be held on Thursday, August 2 at Gambler Ridge Golf Club. This is the 18th annual golf tournament held for the benefit of the South Plainfield High School Golf Team. The tournament will be a scramble format.

The entry fee of \$115 includes greens fee, golf cart, prizes, food and beverages. Check-in is at 11 a.m. Lunch will be provided from 12 to 1 p.m.; shotgun start at 1 p.m. Dinner and awards will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Food and beverages

will be provided throughout the tournament. Prizes will be awarded for low team score, longest drive, closest to the pin, closest to the line and a special hole-in-one prize.

Registration and payment is due by July 23. Players can register for the tournament online at the association's website, [www.spga.org](http://www.spga.org), or print out and mail the entry form.

Corporate sponsorships are available. All proceeds from the event goes to support the activities of the South Plainfield High School Golf Team as

well as the South Plainfield Golf Association's college scholarship program. Each platinum sponsorship includes this year's tournament entry fees for one foursome. Gold, silver, bronze, hospitality and beverage sponsorships are also available. Sponsorship information is also available on the website.

For more information about the tournament, sponsorships and entry forms, players can contact Mike Alvarez at (732) 259-0591; Dick DeAndrea at (908) 755-1700; Matt Ward at (908) 754-4766; or visit [www.spga.org](http://www.spga.org).

## police reports

• On May 28 John D. Garcia, 20, of Ozone Park, N.Y., and Luis B. Jimenez Colon, 21, Humberto K. Munoz, 20 and Christopher Santos, 18, all of Brooklyn, were arrested for shoplifting two iPhone power cases worth \$149 from Radio Shack and 48 boxes of condoms, three packages of Gillette Sensors and three packages of Schick Quattro razors from Rite Aid on Park Avenue.

• On May 29 Carlos Miguel Porras, 33, of Green Brook was arrested at Home Depot for shoplifting pool chemicals and Husky hex keys worth \$74.

• Berto Construction Inc. of Rahway reported the theft of a Caterpillar bulldozer from New Brunswick Avenue and Cherry Street.

• A Lewis Place resident reported that two accounts with AT&T were fraudulently opened in their name.

• On May 30 the Gulf Gas Station on Stelton Road reported the theft of gas by a customer who drove off without paying.

• A New York, N.Y. resident reported the theft of a Fujitsu T900 laptop from their unlocked vehicle that was parked at Ruby Tuesday on Stelton Road.

• On May 31 Atkins Brewer, 37, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.

• On June 1 Amit S. Junnarkar, 31,

of Piscataway was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving, no u-turn and failure to inspect.

• Kevin J. McLean, 33, of Plainfield was arrested for disorderly conduct.

• On June 3 Daryell L. Rose, 20, of Piscataway and Mecca P. Rose, 22, of Plainfield were arrested at Kohl's for shoplifting clothing worth \$1,289.

• Stephanie Cianflone, 27, of Bridgewater was arrested at Rite Aid for shoplifting assorted toiletries worth \$93.

• Dana Transport of Avenel reported the theft of a tractor trailer that was parked at Lynn-Hudd Steel on St. Nicholas Avenue.

• Three Park Avenue residents reported that the windows of their vehicles had been smashed and their GPSs were taken.

• On June 4 Michael Jamar Schenck-Jones, 28, of Plainfield was arrested for possession of a controlled substance, maintenance of lamps, failure to inspect, driving while intoxicated, failure to maintain lanes and possession of a controlled substance in a motor vehicle.

• French Perfume on Snyder Road reported that a loading dock door had been forced open and various perfumes and colognes worth \$5,000 were taken.

• On June 5 a Maple Avenue resident reported that all four tires of their vehicle had been slashed.

## Obituaries

### Barbara Alles, 46

Barbara Alles died on Monday, June 4 at her home.

Born in New Brunswick, Barbara was one of seven children born to Frank Alles Sr. and Margaret (Phillips) Alles.

She grew up in Piscataway, resided in South Plainfield, Beachwood and Whiting before settling in Dunellen a few years ago.

She had worked at Gerling's Greenhouse and for Liberty Mutual. Barbara enjoyed joking with her family, truly adored animals and listening to various genres of music.

Predeceased by her mother, Margaret, she is survived by her father, Frank Alles, Sr.; six siblings, Frank Alles, Jr., Linda Jacob, John Alles, Robert Alles, Susan Pleeter and Diane Oselador; and nine nieces and nephews.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Plainfield Area Humane Society, 75 Rock Ave., Plainfield, N.J. 07060.

### Joseph Glowacki, 88

Joseph Glowacki died on Friday, June 1 at Haven Hospice at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born and raised in Plainfield, Joseph graduated from Plainfield High School and enlisted in the U.S. Navy serving during WWII as an aircraft mechanic. After the war and upon his discharge he continued his career as an aircraft

mechanic as a civil servant to the U.S. Navy on the Alameda Naval Base in Alameda, Calif.

Joseph moved to South Plainfield eight years ago.

He is predeceased by his parents, Ignac and Petrunela Glowacki.

Joseph is survived by a brother, Edward of South Plainfield and by nieces and nephews.

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

### Victoria R. Arico, 92

Victoria R. Arico of South Plainfield passed away on Thursday, June 7 at the Haven Hospice Unit at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born on June 4, 1920 in Philadelphia to Joseph and Gaetana Raffone, she lived in South Plainfield for more than 60 years. Vickie was a homemaker who loved gardening, chatting with friends and anything chocolate.

She was a devoted wife, sister, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She was also a member of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield for 60 years.

She will be lovingly remembered and greatly missed by her family and friends.

Victoria was the wife of the late Joseph Arico, with whom she shared over 60 years of marriage prior to his death in 2009.

She is survived by three daughters, Jo Anne Muglia and husband James of

Fairfield, Victoria Miller and husband Rob of Easton, Pa. and Maria Harty and husband Jim of Dunellen; a brother, Joseph Raffone of Texas and a sister-in-law, Mary Wojno of Piscataway. She is also survived by eight grandchildren, Steven, Tara and husband Shawn, Valerie, Alyssa, Jimmy, Ryan, Kyle and Joe, and four great-grandchildren, Shawna, Shawn, Lexi and Anastasia.

Funeral services were held at South Plainfield Funeral Home.

Memorial donations may be sent in her name to JFK Haven Hospice, 65 James St., Edison, N.J. 08818 or South Plainfield Rescue Squad, 2520 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

### Mary C. (Braidwood) Lear, 97

Mary C. (Braidwood) Lear passed away on Sunday, June 10 at AristaCare at Cedar Oaks in South Plainfield.

Born and raised in Scotland, Mary moved to the U.S. when she was 16. She has been a resident of South Plainfield for over 70 years.

For many years Mrs. Lear was a nanny for a doctor's family and also worked as a sales clerk for the former Bamberger's in Plainfield.

She was very active in Dunellen Presbyterian Church and was involved in the South Plainfield Girl Scouts.

Mary is predeceased by her husband, Ernest, who died April 29, 1991; four siblings, John, Boyd, Sara and Maria; and by her son-in-law, Mac.

She is survived by a son, Ernest and wife Rose of Piscataway; a daughter, Joan of New Jersey; seven grandchildren, Michael, Kenneth, Susan, Nancy, Matthew, Robert and Christine; five great-grandchildren, Jennifer, David, Charles, Joseph and Catherine; and a great-great granddaughter, Natalie.

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

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# Police Department Enlists K-9s to Help Fight Crime

(Continued from page 1)

number of arrests. Officers will no longer have to wait for the help of K-9 dogs from Union County which are often difficult to procure. This will also put police back in service quicker, therefore saving man hours.

"Patrolling in a well marked K-9 vehicle clearly states the intent of the police department to combat crime," said DeLair. "A show of force means that we care more about the town."

Another positive aspect of having the dogs will be to deter and reduce crime in the borough. People will think twice about trafficking drugs and other illegal items through town as their discovery will be imminent. The K-9s will reduce the number of man hours utilized for the application of search warrants.

With the use of the K-9 team, the police anticipate a decrease in burglaries and a greater chance of apprehending suspects and obtaining evidence. DeLair cited a Massachusetts police department that showed an 80% decrease in crime within the first year and an increase in crime in surrounding communities. This is not a statistic that will necessarily carry over from year to year, according to Police Chief James Parker.

Using the dogs to perform certain tasks will also keep officers safer. A suspect's will to fight will diminish due to fear of the dog. They can make one officer have the appearance of three or four.

The K-9 community is a tight group of officers who support each other, train together and are always there to help each other out. Training the dogs is free through the Union County Sheriff's Department. The borough dogs will be trained in a scent course, which is 12 weeks followed by a patrol class that runs for 16 weeks. The first class will begin in September, and the dogs are anticipated to be on the road by March of next year.

South Plainfield currently loans K-9s from Scotch Plains and Edison. Hopes are that sometime in the future this venture may become a shared service between the three communities in the event additional dogs are needed in a crisis for each of the towns.

DeLair believes that the dogs will make for a "better quality of life and safer neighborhoods." "Less crime equals higher property values," DeLair said.

Unfortunately, there are disadvan-

tages to utilizing K-9s. A qualified handler must be selected from the force who has a natural ability to associate and communicate with animals. "His heart must be in it," said DeLair. "They must have an ability to create a bond with the dog."

Aside from actually caring for the dogs and giving them the proper training, handlers have to be proficient in report writing and record keeping. They have to be aggressive and street wise, live close enough to be on a scene quickly and possess good speaking skills. Qualified applicants must also have three years of active street patrol, handle stress well and think fast on their feet. To date, the list of willing candidates for handlers has been narrowed down; however, the two officers have yet to be named.

Since there are only two dogs and four shifts in a day, the K-9s and their handlers will be working night duty; three days on, three days off on a 12 hour shift for the time being. The two officers will be out of commission for approximately six months as they will be training with the dogs. The department will be purchasing two SUVs that will also have to be equipped and detailed to accommodate the units. "In the end it will pay

off," said DeLair.

The department intends to purchase pet insurance for approximately \$650 a year per dog. There is a veterinarian in Iselin who takes care of all of the K-9s in the area and he can also kennel the dogs if the need arises.

Another challenge is selecting the proper handlers and dogs. There are strict guidelines by the Attorney General's Fair Labor Standard Act that require the department to provide appropriate training and supervision of the K-9s. In lieu of overtime pay, the handlers will use two hours of their shift to care for the dogs.

"The benefits of a K-9 team in activity, arrests and seizures far outweigh operating costs or liability," commented DeLair. "Once the program has been initiated, it can be sustained for about \$3,000 to \$4,000 a year. That would cover food, insurance and vet bills. Research indicates that a K-9 program would create more good will and generate more revenue than any police unit."

DeLair, Parker and Det. Lt. Dan Noonan "strongly believe that this program, if supervised properly, will change the town."

Parker commented that in the early 80s the police department had four

police dogs at one time; a dog on each shift. "It made a positive impression on me as a kid," said Parker who grew up in the borough. "I am 100% behind the program. It is a home run. This is one of my visions for the borough as chief."

Council President Ray Rusnak said that he was "all for it." Forfeiture money is available right now to maintain the program; however, the police department will seek grants and hold fundraisers for continued operating costs in the future.

Resident Arnaldo Ferraro was so impressed with the new program that he generously donated \$1,000 to help fund the initial cost to purchase and equip the K-9s.

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### GARAGE SALES:

#### MULTI-FAMILY SALE



**Holly Park Drive**  
**Saturday, June 16**  
**9 am-2 pm**

Infant and children's clothing,  
books, housewares  
Multi-Family Yard Sale

#### THREE-FAMILY SALE



**1131 Sherman Avenue**  
(Off Clinton Avenue)  
**Saturday, June 16**  
**9 a.m.-3 p.m.**

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## LEGAL NOTICES

**BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

### LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Steven J. Cataldo requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a portable storage garage. Proposed portable storage garage (1) lacks 5' rear setback, 39' proposed; (2) exceeds allowable 200 sq. ft. area for storage building, 440 sq. ft. proposed; (3) front yard fences must be open style and no higher than 4'; 6' solid fence proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 507 Hamilton Boulevard, Block 337, Lot 2, OBC-1 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, July 17, 2012 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 15, 2012

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From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Eve Pasternak

The official start of summer is very soon. Can the library's summer reading club be far behind? Signup begins Monday, June 25 and the first week to check in begins Monday, July 2. Everyone should "Dream big and read" and this year there are clubs for adults and young adults, too. Be sure to ask about them!

If you'd like to learn some fascinating facts about summer holidays and get some terrific ideas for family fun, check out the "Websites of the Month." Click on the link on the homepage, and you will find information about special days in June, suggestions for summer activities, and links to very important safety tips. There are several interesting sites about fathers—happy Father's Day to all you dads out there!

We are so busy getting ready for the summer that all storytimes and children's programs are cancelled until Tuesday, June 26 when the regular schedule of storytimes resumes, and the great summertime schedule of fun begins. Watch for Friday Fun (art, games and stories for kids ages 7-10, starting June 29) and Monday Morning Movies (starting July 2), along with Tuesday Tales, kidcrafts, special programs from the Lizard Guys and Fun on a String, and a whole lot more.

The library will be a busy place this week even without children's programming. On Saturday, June 16 there will be an Introduction to Genealogy at 10 a.m. This is the first in a series of workshops to help you get started tracing your family tree. It will include advice on searching digitized databases, some available on the web and some available only through your library. The program is free, but we would appreciate it if you would sign up in advance.

On Mondays, the library is the place to be for Monday Night at the Movies. This popular program presents a very recently released DVD at 6:30 p.m. Come to the library to find out this week's title.

Tuesday brings a special program on Using NoveList. NoveList is a fantastic database that provides you with background and reviews for almost any book you can think of, and then suggests other authors, titles and series you will like, too. You can even get email notices of new library acquisitions of your favorite genres. Come in on June 19 at noon to learn how to use this very helpful resource. The class is free but please pre-register.

To learn how to send and receive email, come to class on Thursday, June 21 at noon. This is the second in our series on basic computer usage, and a repeat of the sessions held earlier this month. You will learn how to open an email account, compose and send messages, and basic etiquette. Space is strictly limited; register now in person or by phone.

Genealogists and historians will be interested in learning about the 1940 U.S. Census, newly released and available on the Internet. An extremely interesting workshop will be held on Thursday, June 21 at 6:30 p.m. to introduce you to the type of information that was collected and how to use the powerful search tools on the site to mine the data. This workshop is a wonderful complement to the genealogy class on Saturday, and recommended for beginning and experienced researchers alike. Registration is required, but the workshop is free.

The library's busy week of classes continues Friday with an overview of the library website. Our homepage is your gateway to a world of learning

and entertainment—join us and find out about the many fascinating and useful things it contains. You will also learn to search the catalog like a pro, how to renew your books online and much more. This is an excellent introduction for new library card holders. Long-time members will find it useful, too, because we are always adding new resources. The program is presented free of charge and there is no pre-registration necessary, just come to the library to learn.

With programs and classes to interest everybody and thousands of books, movies, and more, we are sure to see you at the library this week!



UNICO District X held its 2012 Brian Piccolo Award ceremony at L'Affaire in Mountainside last month. Special guests included legendary Brooklyn Dodgers pitcher Ralph Branca and N.Y. Jets star Santonio Holmes. Pictured are the Plainfields UNICO members with the chapter's Brian Piccolo award winners: Gina Maria Longo of South Plainfield High School, Nicholas Joseph Annunziata of St. Joseph High School and Salvatore Mastrobattista, Jr. of North Plainfield High School. Congrats to the winners!

### Event Photos For Sale

Photographs of local events by South Plainfield Observer contributing photographer Louis Mormile are available for purchase at [www.louismormilephotography.com](http://www.louismormilephotography.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 available include more than 270 pictures from the SPSHS Gold Card Picnic and Spring Concert. Additional photos of various local sporting events, etc. are also available.



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