

South Plainfield OBSERVER

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60 CENTS

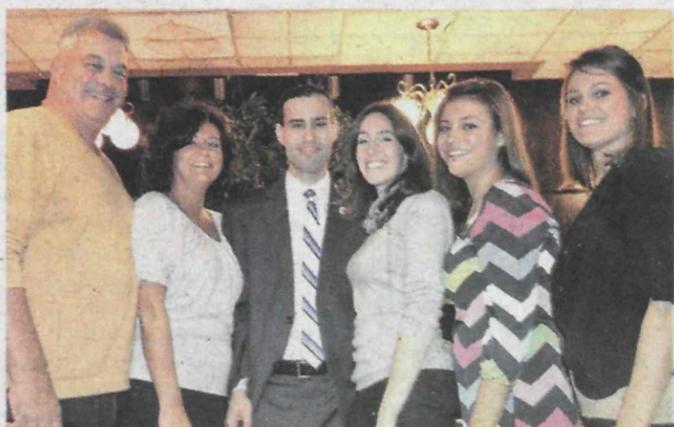
NOVEMBER 9, 2012



Decision 2012

Democrat takes one seat on all-Republican council

Three Times a Charm: Third-term incumbent wins reelection



C.J. Diana Elected to First Term on Borough Council—C.J. Diana (center) is congratulated by his family. Pictured (L-R) are his parents, Wayne and Janice Diana; wife Courtney; and sisters Lauren Diana and Stacey Diana.



Robert Bengivenga, Jr. Re-elected to Third Term—Councilman Robert Bengivenga, Jr. is joined by parents, April and Robert Bengivenga, Sr.

According to Middlesex County “unofficial” election results, incumbent Republican Robert Bengivenga, Jr. and first-time Democratic candidate Christopher John “C.J.” Diana have won the two open seats on the Borough Council in Tuesday’s election. Both will serve three-year terms. Official election results will be released in upcoming weeks after all the ballots are counted.

Bengivenga, who was elected for a third term, received 4,046 votes. Diana, who will be the lone Democrat on the council, garnered 3,928 votes. Republican challenger Dick Frank, who was elected last year to fill Mayor Matt Anesh’s unexpired term, lost his bid for election with 3,834 votes. Former Democratic Councilman Frank Salerno received 3,824 votes. Independent candidates Paul McCullen and Pat DeSantis received 934 and 903 votes, respectively.

The total number of machine voters in the borough was 9,399. There are 14,424 registered voters in South Plainfield.

SCHOOL BOARD: Newcomer to Join Incumbents

Tuesday’s election was the first time Board of Education members were elected in a November general election. There were three seats open for three-year terms. Incumbent BOE President Jim Giannakis was reelected to a third term with 1,981 votes. Fellow board member Bill Scesselberg, was reelected for a second term with 1,952 votes. Newcomer Kimberly DeAngelis Anesh won her first term with 1,795 votes.

Michael Gregov lost a second bid for election with 1,751 votes; incumbent veteran board member Carol Byrne received 1,557 votes. Former board members Steve Bohn and Jeff Seider had 1,395 and 1,257 votes, respectively.

Debbie Boyle won her own unexpired one-year seat on the board with 2,961 votes. Challenger Michael Hamberg, who bowed out of the election shortly after announcing his candidacy, received 1,454 votes.

In the public questions, voters approved measures to make judges pay more for health and pension benefits, and \$750M in bonding measures to equip New Jersey colleges for higher capacity was also approved.

New Jersey election officials decided to allow some voters displaced by last week’s storm an extra three days to cast election ballots as some county election offices were swamped with requests for email ballots. Offices have until noon today to process applications and voters will have to fax or email their ballots by today at 8 p.m. Mail-in ballots postmarked no later than November 5 will be accepted and counted if received by the Middlesex County Board of Elections by November 19, according to the N.J. State League of Municipalities website.

SANDY PACKS A PUNCH



This Kenyon Avenue home is victim to the brute force of Hurricane Sandy.

Preparations in South Plainfield for Hurricane Sandy were well underway prior to the first sign of wind or rain. More than 35,000 sand bags were distributed to residents and also placed around Borough Hall and the library, which are prone to flooding. According to Mayor Matt Anesh, Hurricane Sandy was the biggest storm in recent history to hit the Borough of South Plainfield.

As Sandy roared through South Plainfield Monday night, power outages began to occur all over the borough. By the time the storm passed, more than 90% of residences and businesses were without power, and hundreds of trees and power lines were downed and blocking roads.

Early Tuesday morning, Mayor Anesh, Emergency Management personnel, members of the Borough Council and CFO Glenn Cullen began dealing with the aftermath of the storm. Using the information from PSE&G employees on the areas they planned to respond to first, DPW workers were dispatched ahead of them to clear the roads. This kept the lines between the borough and PSE&G open, and little by little power was restored. It also prevented PSE&G trucks from leaving a neighborhood because trees prevented access.

Businesses throughout the town were without power most of last week, including restaurants, grocery stores and gas stations. With no power, phones or cable, the *Observer* was unable to publish a paper for the first time in 15 years.

The Senior Center served as a “warming center” for residents on Sunday. Donations of clothing, food and toiletries were distributed, along with water and ice. Borough Hall was available for residents to charge their phones and electronic devices. Members of the PBA cooked hot dogs and hamburgers and volunteers cooked hot meals during the afternoon. (See page 8 for story.)

When gas stations began to slowly open after the storm, long lines of cars forced traffic jams throughout town, requiring police to help direct traffic. Residents needing gas for their generators also began to form long lines. Schools remained closed the entire week.

At Monday night’s council meeting, Mayor Anesh announced power had been restored to 99% of residences and 90% of businesses. “While extensive sub-station flooding in all areas of New Jersey and circuit damage resulted in extended power outages, South Plainfield seems to have fared better than some of our neighboring towns in restoring power,” Mayor Anesh added.

Because of the power failure, the back up pumps at Middlesex Water Company failed. Residents who receive their water from Middlesex Water are cautioned that a boil water order is in effect until further notice.

Mayor Anesh praised the efforts of all borough workers, police, fire, EMS workers, CERTS volunteers, 911 operators, borough hall employees, members of the council and CFO Glenn Cullen. He especially lauded the efforts of the members of the Public Works Department who had been working to clear areas with downed wires so the PSE&G teams could work on the poles and repair lines as quickly as possible. Due to the increased workload caused by Sandy, the council approved hiring eight part-time workers for the DPW. They are Peter Adorna, Sean Cullen, Gil DaSilva, Sal Esposito, Nick Graves, Chris Papianni, Jeffrey Pellegrino and Ricky Zekas.

“I’m proud of our borough employees, volunteers and residents for all that they have collectively done to aid in our recovery effort. There is more to be done, but we have come a long way,” said Mayor Anesh.

Residents are advised that due to the impact of Hurricane Sandy, the grace period for the payment of the 2012 fourth quarter taxes without interest has

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and
The South Plainfield Observer
Join in saluting our military veterans of all wars this
November 11th - and every day. Thank you for serving
America with honor, courage and commitment.

VETERANS DAY 2012
www.legion.org

Inside 11.9.12

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Want to stay informed about the business of your Council and BOE?

FYI

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

council meetings

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

Agenda Meeting Monday, November 19
Public Meeting Monday, November 19
Monday, December 3 Monday, December 3

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 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 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.) ** (New Date) Nov. 14**, Dec. 12 Regular Public Meeting (begin at 6:30 p.m.) *except where noted *Nov. 14 new time 7:30*, Dec. 19

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. Nov. 20, Dec. 18

library board of trustees

Meets once a month on the second Tuesday, at the library at 7 p.m. 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 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 plans sub-committee

Meets once a month (third Wednesday), 7 p.m. Nov. 21, Dec. 19

environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday) Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7621 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)

ad hoc alternative truck route committee

To be announced. 7:30 p.m. in the Senior Center Questions? 908-226-7605

In My Opinion

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

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

South Plainfield resident Shirley Weaver Thompson is collecting donations for our Jersey Shore friends who lost everything as a result of Hurricane Sandy. Items collected are being brought down to the shelter that has been set up at Toms River High School for anyone in need in the Toms River/Seaside Heights area.

Please help out if you can! They are in desperate need of the following: men's clothes (coats, underwear, t-shirts, socks); underwear and socks for all ages; toiletries (toothpaste, mouthwash, etc.); baby items; reusable bags to keep belongings in; store gift cards or monetary donations (no checks, please). Shirley and many volunteers will be packaging these items in Ziplock bags, which she is also in need of. Please drop off all donations at Shirley's house, 131 Montrose Ave., in her side porch.

If you would like more information, call Shirley at (908) 397-4003.

Please help out if you can! They are in desperate need of help ASAP! Thank you everyone!

HEATHER THOMPSON

this person may have been 'legally' wrong, for all intents and purposes, she is an innocent victim in the case that is being charged. The letter states that the administrator for whom this person worked actually condoned the person's actions ahead of time, which is my understanding, too.

However, until Ms. Graf's letter, I was under the impression that the administrator, who is apparently now in league with the administration in this over-the-top pursuit of criminal charges, was a non-political person. Until now, I thought the administration had only fired this person because they didn't want to give one iota of an impression to the public that any employee was not a 101% outstanding citizen, and when this trivial case came to light, they reacted wrong-headedly.

What with the charges of Ms. Graf, along with what I feel is senseless spending to continue to go after this former employee, I would strongly urge the mayor and council to consider dropping the charges, which could put this former employee in jail. I would go one step further and suggest that she be given her job back. From the beginning, a reprimand was all that should have been required. To be facing prison and loss of pension is insane.

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

Dear Editor,

I know that everyone is recovering from Hurricane Sandy, but I would like to say a big "thank you" to Shirley Thompson. As many of you know, for the past nine Christmases Shirley Thompson and her family have or-

CORRECTION

In the October 19 article, "BOE Reinstates High School Co-op Program," the correct telephone number for CE teacher Jamie Tesoro is (908) 754-4620, ext. 399. We regret the error.

Dear Editor,

I am greatly concerned about one of the points in Joann Graf's letter published in the October 19 *Observer*, because she brought up a case that is of great concern to me and many of my friends and family. In the letter, which accuses the current all Republican administration of 'playing politics,' Ms. Graf brought up the case of a former employee of 23+ years who was not only fired, but also might still be criminally prosecuted and lose her pension. Many of us feel this case is a travesty.

Until the letter in the *Observer*, I never considered the idea that this former employee's woes were the result of a corrupt administration. However, in light of the charge, I am rethinking my position. From what I know of the case, Ms. Graf is correct that although

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.

ganized and distributed gifts to less fortunate children in South Plainfield. On Christmas day Shirley feeds about 300 people. This includes senior citizens, disabled and less fortunate families in town.

Earlier this year, Shirley collected donations for the Clinton Avenue fire victims. Now, this past week, Shirley was at it again. She cooked a ton of soup and, with her family, delivered the soup on Thursday and Saturday to the senior center, borough hall, members of the police department, department of public works, fire department and even some workers from out of state who were working outside that they passed along the way to these locations.

This past weekend, Shirley started collecting items to be delivered to the Point Pleasant area. She has family that suffered damage during the storm, and the family is helping their neighbors by cooking meals and helping clean up the damage. All items collected are going to be donated in the shore area.

Shirley collects donations for the Christmas holiday to purchase items needed to cook dinner and gifts for children in need. I know I will be donating again this year—I hope you will too.

**REGARDS,
MICHELLE PETRILLO**

Coat Drive to Help Children Stay Warm

The need has never been greater and it's never been easier to make a difference in your community. Here is your opportunity to make sure that nobody goes without such a basic necessity as a coat this winter.

South Plainfield elementary schools will be collecting clean, gently used children's coats and jackets as part of the One Warm Coat community service project. One Warm Coat is dedicated to distributing reusable coats, free of charge, directly to local children. The program is an easy way for you and your family to pass along coats and jackets that you no longer need.

Brittany Okoszko and Brianna Harris have made donating a coat simple. Just bring your clean, gently used coats and jackets to any of the four elementary schools: Kennedy, Riley, Roosevelt or Franklin during the school day hours. Brittany and Brianna will take care of the rest.

All donated coats will be given to Jefferson Elementary School in Plainfield for children in need.

"More people than ever need help these days. I am proud of the thousands of coat drive organizers whose creativity and generosity of spirit are making a real difference in their own communities," commented Sherri Wood, president and national coordinator for One Warm Coat.

One Warm Coat is a national non-profit organization that supports and encourages coat drives. It helps individuals, groups, companies and organizations across the country collect coats and deliver them to local agencies that distribute the coats free to people in need. More than one million coats have been provided to those in need at no cost since its inception in 1992.

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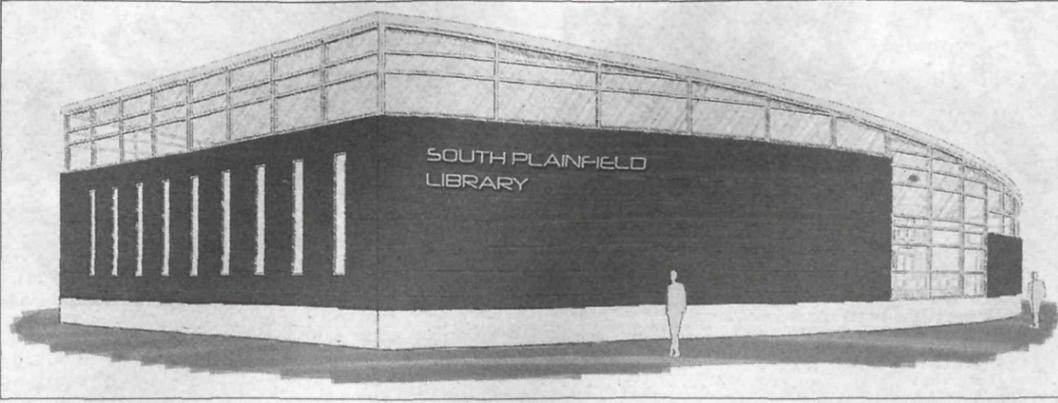
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We encourage the submission of stories and photos. To have an article published: Type (double spaced) the article and mail, email or fax. Include name, address and telephone number. **Deadline for submission is Monday, 5 p.m.**

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.



Artist's rendering of expanded library

Board Views Plans for Library Expansion

By Libby Barsky

Cornerstone Architectural Group LLC presented a slide show featuring preliminary plans to expand the current library to the members of the Library Board of Trustees at the October 9 meeting.

The expansion would be built around the original building, which is approximately 6,300 sq. ft., almost doubling its present size and completely modernizing its appearance with an exterior of glass and metal designed to blend in with the existing structure's brick facade.

"There will be lots of glass to make the building as energy efficient as we can," said Architect Bob Longo.

To compensate for the part of the property that is situated in a flood zone, the floor will be raised 30 inches. There will be no stairs per se within the building, only a few small steps.

The current mezzanine will be razed to accommodate a 10 by 30 ft. long ramp connecting the upper and lower level within the interior of the library. This area will contain a multipurpose/storytime/meeting room, the Circulation desk, adult reading, periodical and computer area.

The lower level will still house the children's space and books. In addition to the two bathrooms, a new family bathroom will be constructed. The two current staff offices will be moved and the existing technical services/staff room will be split into two distinct rooms. The space for books will be doubled. There will also be handicapped accommodations throughout the building. No cost for these improvements were available or discussed at the meeting.

In the past, the enormous cost to taxpayers was cited as one of the factors that derailed plans to build a new library on property the borough purchased adjacent to Borough Hall on Plainfield Avenue. Residents voted against constructing a new building during a Democracy Week vote in 2008. The Library Board immediately began looking into other options.

In September 2010, former Mayor Charlie Butrico organized and headed a seven member committee, which included two members of the Library Board, two council members and two residents. At that time, the committee began exploring other options, such as renting, swapping properties or build-

ing a new facility. The committee voted unanimously to recommend building a new library where the present library stands. After Butrico lost the mayoral race that November to Mayor Matt Anesh, members of the Library Committee were replaced and plans for a new library were scrapped. The Board of Trustees explored leasing space in a building on Montrose Avenue, which was thwarted by the Zoning Board. Another proposal was presented over a year ago to move the library next to the Walgreens on South Plainfield Avenue, but it never came to fruition.

In August 2011, Hurricane Irene flooded the library with four inches of water that caused extensive damage

and forced closure of the building for three months to make repairs.

"I'm thrilled with the library planned expansion and like the way it's broken up [for adults and children]. It'll have a very positive impression," said Trustee Pat Massey.

"I like the design a lot and it will work as long as the staff can work with it," commented Trustee Christine Faustini. Fellow Trustee Robert Bengivenga, Sr. said the "the concept is great."

But another trustee was hesitant in her approval saying, "The devil is in the details," in regard to the effect on property taxes and what the actual cost will be.

Injured Motorcyclist Charged With Improper Passing

The South Plainfield Police and Fire Department were called to Helen Street near Durham Avenue on a report of a motorcyclist trapped under a truck as a result of a motor vehicle crash on October 29 at 8:39 a.m.

When first responders arrived they found Abdoulaye Kinder, 44, of New York, trapped under his motorcycle, a 2007 Honda CBR, which was pinned under a 2007 Dodge Ram dump truck.

Members of the fire department utilized airbags to lift the vehicle and extricate Kinder. He was treated by members of Somerset Medical Center EMS and paramedics from Mercy 9 at JFK Hospital, then transported to Robert Wood Johnson University

Hospital for treatment of leg and arm injuries.

The investigation showed that Kinder was traveling northbound on Durham Avenue and made a right turn onto Helen Street. Kinder states that as he turned onto Helen Street, he was traveling on the right side of the dump truck, which was pulling a utility trailer carrying a large cable roll. The truck made a right turn into the Quick Chek parking lot when the collision occurred.

The truck, owned by Tele-Cable of South Plainfield, was operated by Armando Mejia, 48, of Plainfield.

Officer Antonio Grasso charged Kinder with improper passing and no insurance.

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Holding Food/Bake Sale

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Orthodox Church, 400 Delmore Ave., will hold a food and bake sale on Saturday, Nov. 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pierogi, kielbasi/kraut, borscht, pumpkin breads, cakes, cookies, hot sandwiches (to go or cat in) and more. Cash or check only.

For info, call (908) 561-6366 or email nbvocpierogi@gmail.com.

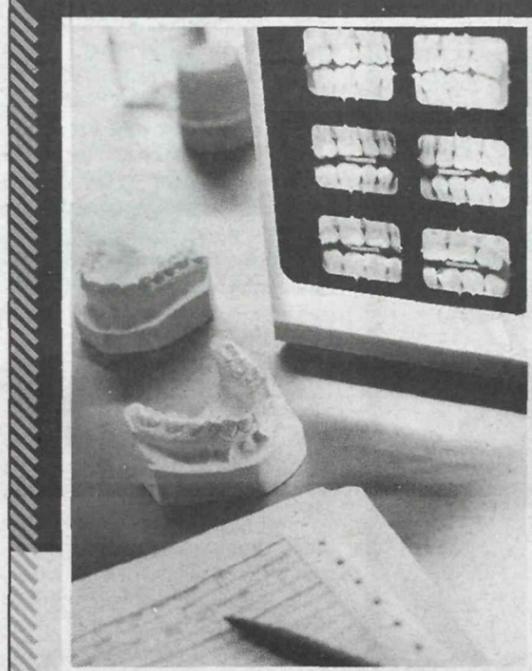
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events

Around Town

Trunk R Treating Rescheduled

November 9

A Trunk R Treating event will take place in the South Plainfield High School parking lot off Lane Avenue on Friday, Nov. 9 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. for all South Plainfield residents.

Participation of parents with treats in their trunk is needed for this event. This event will ensure the safety of South Plainfield children due to issues with areas in South Plainfield that still do not have power, and streets with downed trees and wires.

Knights of Columbus Annual Trivia Night

November 10

South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 will host its annual Trivia Night on Saturday, Nov. 10 at the South Plainfield Senior Cen-

Send Your Community Events to:
spobserver@comcast.net

ter, 90 Maple Ave. Doors open: 6:30 p.m.; first question at 7:02 p.m. sharp!

Cash prize for first place; door prizes. Bring your favorite party snacks to share at your table; don't forget your table decorations! Table of eight only \$160!

For reservations, call Brian Cargill at (908) 405-8963. Proceeds to benefit the Middlesex County Make A Wish Foundation.

Annual Ceremonial Flag Retirement

November 10

The South Plainfield American Legion and Boy Scout Troop 207 will hold a flag retirement ceremony on Saturday, Nov. 10 at 10 a.m. at the American Legion Chaumont Post, 243 Oak Tree Ave.

Members of the public are invited to bring American Flags ready to be retired that have become torn, worn, faded or badly soiled to the point that it is no longer a fitting emblem.

Flags may also be dropped off at the American Legion post on Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 9

p.m. or in the drop box at McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals, 2425 Plainfield Ave.

Veteran's Day at VFW Post #6763

November 11

VFW Post #6763 on Front Street will honor all veterans with a short program on Veteran's Day, Sunday, Nov. 11 at 11 a.m. sharp. Come join us in this tribute. Light lunch to follow.

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

Food and Bake Sale

November 17

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Orthodox Church, 400 Delmore Ave., will hold a food and bake sale on Saturday, Nov. 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Pierogi, kielbasa/kraut, borscht, pumpkin breads, cakes, cookies and more. Hot sandwiches: eat in or take them to go. Cash or check only.

For more information, call (908) 561-6366 or email nbvocpierogi@gmail.com.

Time2Shine Auction And Family Fun Day

November 17

The Time2Shine Foundation, a non-profit organization formed in 2011 in memory of South Plainfield resident, Mike Fry, will hold a Chinese auction and family fun day on Saturday, Nov. 17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the PAL Building on Maple Avenue. Admission: \$5, adults; children are free. Photos with Santa, face painting, food, bake sale and door prizes. Auction features theme baskets, gift cards, TV, a laptop, iPad, Kindle, airline tickets and more.

For more information or to make a donation, call Rosemary at (908) 816-0901 or Angela at (908) 400-7259. Funds raised will be given to young students interested in continuing Their education in the arts and sports.

Wrestling Club Fundraising Dinner

November 17

The South Plainfield Wrestling Club will host the fourth annual Tiger Takedown Buffet on Saturday, Nov. 17 from 7 p.m. to midnight at the South Plainfield Polish Home on New Market Avenue. Tickets: \$20. Cash bar; Gamin' Ride Truck for the kids. Drawing for Super 50/50. Proceeds to benefit the SPHS wrestling team's trip to the Virginia Duals. Tickets will be available for sale at the door.

For tickets or more information, call Pam Heilmann at (908) 294-6009.

Home Coming Sunday Service

November 18

Homecoming Sunday will be held on Sunday, Nov. 18 at 10:30 a.m. at the First Baptist Church of South Plainfield located at 201 Hamilton Blvd. A pot luck luncheon will be offered at the conclusion of the service along with a special display entitled "Visual Expressions of Faith." If attendance is not possible, please feel free to send a letter of greeting.

To RSVP for the pot luck lunch or for more information, leave a message at (908) 753-2382 for the Homecoming Committee.

Country Breakfast at VFW Post #6763

December 2

VFW Post #6763 on Front Street will hold a country breakfast on Sunday, Dec. 2 from 8-11 a.m. Come in and enjoy a hearty breakfast and maybe you will win a free meal.

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

— Out of Town —

Middlesex East WOWs Open Dance

November 9

Middlesex East Widows Or Widowers, Carteret Chapter, will hold an open dance on Friday, Nov. 9 from 7:30-11:30 p.m. at the American

SENIOR CENTER Calendar

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| MONDAYS | |
| Zumba Gold..... | 9:30-10:30 am |
| Crocheting | 9:30-11:30 am |
| Yoga | 10:30 am |
| Art Class..... | 11:30 am |
| TUESDAYS | |
| Bingo..... | 10 am-2 pm |
| Ladies Social Group | 10 am |
| WEDNESDAYS | |
| Exercise Class..... | 8:45 am |
| 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 |
| Zumba Gold | 10:15 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

Legion Hall, 1155 Roosevelt Ave. in Carteret. Everyone is welcome. Refreshments. Admission: \$10 members; \$12 guests.

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

Concert by Crescent Choral Society

November 10

Crescent Choral Society will present two excellent but lesser-known choral works by George Frederick Handel on Saturday, Nov. 10 at 8 p.m. at the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, corner of Seventh Street and Watchung Avenue in Plainfield. Tickets: \$20; \$15, seniors; \$5, students. Purchased at the door. Handicap access and bathrooms, and large print programs.

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

Johanna's Creations Open House Cancelled

November 10 & 11

Johanna's Creations has postponed the fall open house scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 10-11, due to Hurricane Sandy and the aftermath affecting many of the neighboring communities and the Jersey Shore. The event will be rescheduled at a future date and announced in the *Observer*.

For more information, call Johanna Salvemini at (908) 757-6976 or email jo@johannas.com.

Tastefully Simple Demonstration

November 14

The Metuchen-Edison Women's Club will hold a free Tastefully Simple demonstration and fundraiser on Wednesday, Nov. 14 at 7:30 p.m. at The Heritage at Clara Barton, 1015 Amboy Ave. in Edison.

Cassie Catenaro, senior consultant, will take us on a taste-testing tour of

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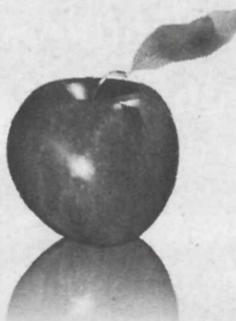
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For more information, call Diana at (732) 548-0925. Open to the public.

Depression/Bipolar Support Meeting

November 14

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance will feature Richard DiTuri, M.D. at its monthly meeting at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, 21 Normandy Heights Rd. on Wednesday, Nov. 14 at 7:45 p.m. His presentation will be followed by an extensive question and answer period about "Mood Disorders in Children and Adolescents."

For further local information, call (973) 994-1143 or the New Jersey Self-Help Group Clearing House at (800) 367-6274.

Woodbridge WOWs Business Meeting

November 14

Woodbridge Widows Or Widowers will conduct a business meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the children's room of the main library, located at George Fredrick Plaza, Rt. 35 in Woodbridge. All widows and widowers are welcome to attend.

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

Mixed Media to the Max at MCC

November 15-December 24

Three artists with wildly diverse skills will be featured at the Studio Theater Gallery at Middlesex County College from November 15 through December 24. The gallery is open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays. A reception for the artists, which is open to the public, will be held on Thursday, Nov. 15 from 5-7 p.m.

Military Recognition Sunday Service

November 18

St. Francis Episcopal Church, 400 New Market Road in Dunellen, will hold a Military Recognition Sunday Service on November 18 at 10 a.m. All active duty service members and veterans are invited to attend.

To find out more, please visit www.stfrancisdunellen.org.

Authentic Christkndlmarket

November 18

An authentic Christkndlmarket-Christmas market will be held on Sunday, Nov. 18 from noon to 5 p.m. at the Deutscher Club of Clark, 787 Featherbed Lane in Clark. Imported German linens and gifts, German Christmas cards, handmade items, jewelry, baskets, stollen, candies, cookies, gluhwein (hot wine). Open to the public. Dinners available.

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

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Contest winners Randy Vargas, Madison Schwolbacck, Richard Morales and Upashina Puaohit (center) with Officer Mark Bullock and his partner, Kaiser; Councilman Rob Bengivenga, Police Chief James Parker and Officer Mike Grasso and his partner, Blitz.

Kaiser and Blitz Newest Police Recruits

By Libby Barsky

The borough has officially added two new members to the police department. Kaiser and Blitz, both German Shepherds, were officially introduced to the public and sworn in as K-9 officers at the October 15 council meeting.

Children in the borough had been awaiting the appearance of the dogs to learn their names. At the beginning of the school year, Police Chief James Parker initiated a contest asking students to submit names for the dogs. Over 1,700 names were entered and four winners were chosen. Each winner received a \$50 gift card to any store in town that evening.

Randy Vargas, a second grade student at Kennedy School, was one of the winners. He chose the name Kaiser. Kaiser is partnered with Police Officer Mike Grasso.

Three students from three different schools who entered the name Blitz were also winners. They are Riley School third grader Madison Schwolbacck, Roosevelt School fourth grader Richard Morales and Upashina Puaohit from Grant School. Police Officer Mark Bullock has been partnered with Blitz.

The dogs have been in training for over a month and will continue their training for several more months prior to being placed on the road.

Before the dogs arrived, allocations were made in the borough's budget to cover their purchase price of \$12,400. K-9 cages for two police vehicles were \$9,240; \$25,583 for communication systems and \$9,675 for video systems for the vehicles.

Having trained police dogs as part of the police department is a reintroduction of a program that began in 1976 with police officers John Gear

and Al Gajarsky. It ended when Officer Gajarsky retired with his dog.

Both the borough and the police department are currently accepting donations and any open grants to help offset the K-9 unit's startup costs. Corporate or private donations would be graciously appreciated.

Any additional questions regarding donations can be directed to Det. Sgt. David DeLair at (908) 226-7682 or email ddeclair@southplainfieldnj.com.

Scouting Food Drive Update

Due to Hurricane Sandy, the Scouting for Food pickup that was scheduled for last weekend has been rescheduled for pickup on Saturday, Nov. 17 by 9 a.m. These were the bags that were dropped off on October 27. Some bags were picked up last Saturday, but we wanted to give those who had more pressing matters a chance to get their bags out. Thank you for your understanding.

police report

- On Oct. 14 a Watchung resident reported the theft of their wallet, cell phone and keys from their locker at LA Fitness.

- Majestic Towing on South Avenue reported that an employee left with cash and a Garmin GPS.

- On Oct. 16 Raceway Gas reported that a customer had used a counterfeit \$20 bill to pay for gas.

- On Oct. 19 Kandace Francis, 24, of Plainfield, an employee of Home Depot, was arrested for the theft of \$1,242 in cash from the register.

- Luis A. Acosta, 68, of Plainfield was arrested at the MVC for falsifying documents.

- On Oct. 21 Rite Aid reported the theft of a pregnancy test by a female who fled the store.

- Raceway Gas on Stelton Road reported that a male received \$54 worth of gas and his credit card and ATM card were declined. He was to return with cash, but never did.

- On Oct. 22 a Piscataway resident reported that several fraudulent charges were made on his Kohl's credit card after leaving it behind in the store.

- On Oct. 23 Frank Esposito, the director of Special Services for the Board of Education, reported that the fence around the playground at the Administration Building had been cut and some plastic playground equipment had been disassembled.

- A Thomas Street resident reported the theft of a car exhaust system that was on the side of their home.

- On Oct. 24 Jete A. Roach, 21, of Roselle was arrested at Party City for shoplifting garland valued at \$17.

- Murat Cengiz, 44, of Bridgewater was arrested at Home Depot for shoplifting copper tubing valued at \$424.

The South Plainfield Elks Veterans Committee is selling the Entertainment Book for \$30.

Contact Lou Peralta at (908) 756-6406.

FUNDRAISER

Please Come Out to Mr. Subs Located at 100 South Plainfield Avenue Tuesday, November 13 from 4 to 8 pm.

A portion of the proceeds from the sales during the above times will be donated to Shirley Thompson to help with the cost of purchasing food to cook Christmas Dinner for seniors, disabled and less fortunate families in South Plainfield.

Mr. Subs will also be collecting new toys and new clothing that will be provided to Shirley Thompson who also distributes gifts to less fortunate children in South Plainfield.

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This Week's Junior Journalist winner is...

Dina Abdelgaber

Dina Abdelgaber, Roosevelt School fourth grader, is this week's winner in the Junior Journalist program. Her poem entitled "Orange" has earned Dina dinner for her family, courtesy of Hometown Heros.

The program, which encourages students to express themselves through creative writing, is a joint cooperation between Hometown Heros and the *South Plainfield Observer*. Students should submit their original works to their teachers, the *Observer* or to Hometown Heros. Winners are selected weekly; students and their works are published in the *Observer*. Hometown Heros makes arrangements to deliver dinner for the winner's entire family.

At the end of the school year in May, Hometown Heros and the *Observer* host a banquet celebrating all the weekly winners and their families. Students are recognized by the mayor and the state assembly.



Junior Journalist winner with teacher Cnythia Severini.

A \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bond is awarded to one student by Hometown Heros; additional prizes are also awarded.

For more information, call the *Observer* at (908) 668-0010.

Orange

By Dina Abdelgaber

Orange is a nice color.

Orange is the color of a pumpkin.

Also, orange butterflies that soar in the sky.

It can be the color of someone's hair and a fire flare.

A gold fish, a crayon and orange drinks.

It can be the color of a cat and a man in an orange hat.

Now I am done.

I can't think of another one.

Do you see what orange can be?

Boro Employees Agree to Four Year Contract

By Jane Dornick

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 3970 agreed to a new four-year contract with the Borough of South Plainfield, which runs from 2011 through 2015.

There are approximately 38 employees in the contract including Borough Hall-office employees, such as in the Finance Department, Municipal Court, Building Department, Tax Collectors and Assessors offices, Police Records and Recreation.

For the year 2011 the employees received no increase in pay. Clerical positions settled on an average increase of 1.425% over the next three years and the 911 operators and Fire Prevention Bureau workers accepted a 1.35% average raise during the same period.

Employees will now contribute 1.5% or greater of their base salaries toward healthcare premiums which will increase each year by a large margin through 2015 due to Governor Chris Christie's legislation passed last June. Co-pay requirements for prescription drugs on average increase by 87%.

Union concessions made were uniform allowances reduced by 32% for Fire Prevention Bureau inspectors and 64% for 911 and Senior Center bus operators and certain recycling center workers that are in the union.

"We are very pleased," commented CFO Glenn Cullen, regarding the settlement numbers. Council President Ray Rusnak felt that the new contract was a "home run" for all.

The previous five-year contract agreement ran from January 2006 through December 2012. That agreement had a 3.9% across the board increase each year for the entire term.



(L-R) Knights of Columbus member Steve Belanger, Squires Tommy Riccardi, Scott Riccardi, Jason Belanger, Brian Roesch and Adam Butrico finish painting the fence at the Riley School fields.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

We at the library understand that most of you are still struggling with the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. We sincerely hope that, by the time this is published, your electricity and heat will be restored, and you'll be close to fixing whatever property damage you've sustained. As far as library materials are concerned, until further notice, we'll be taking the storm into account when it comes to due dates and overdue fines. If you have any other problems in that respect, just let us know and we'll see what we can do.

Turning to our schedule, be advised that we'll be closed on Sunday and Monday in honor of Veteran's Day.

We'll have an abbreviated schedule of children's programming next week. Storytime, for children age 3 and over, will be held on Tuesday morning at

10:30 and Wednesday evening at 6:30. Toddler Time, for children age two and three, will not be held this week, as Director Linda and Miss Mija will be away. Babytime, for children age two and under, will be held on Friday morning at 10:30. And Friday Fun, for children ages seven and over, will be held Friday afternoon from 3:30-5:30. All of these programs are being presented free of charge; no pre-registration required.

The next meeting of the Tuesday Book Club has been rescheduled for this Tuesday afternoon at 2 p.m. The book to be discussed has yet to be determined. No pre-registration is required.

The next meeting of the Library Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday at 7 p.m. The meeting is open to the public. Subjects for discussion will include the library's current and future plans, including the latest proposals regarding expanding the library building. There will be a public comment period midway through the meeting, before new business is addressed.

Two programs are scheduled for Thursday evening. At 6:30, we'll be hosting author Mahesh Harvu, who will discuss his self-help book, *Spaghetti Minds*. He'll talk about practical techniques you can use to connect to your true self. The program is being presented free; no pre-registration required. Later, at 7 p.m., we'll host the next meeting of the Adult Chess Club. It's open to players of all skill levels, from beginning to advanced. Players may bring their own sets, or play using one from the library. No pre-registration is required.

The next meeting of the instructional class, "Crochet for Beginners" will be held on both this Saturday, Nov. 10 and next Saturday, Nov. 17 at 10 a.m. Pre-registration is required. Please call to check if space is available.

We have two special programs coming up: on Sunday, Nov. 25 New Jersey author Thomas Berry will be here at 2 p.m. to talk about his latest book, *Texas Freedom: Last Stand at the Alamo*. Copies of his book will be available for purchase and signing. No pre-registration is required. Then, on Thursday, Nov. 29, we'll be hosting a program on Creative Gift Wrapping at 6:30 p.m. Participants will learn how to create beautiful gift packages using unusual items. This program will be held at the Senior Center, just down the street at 90 Maple Ave. Space is limited, so pre-registration is required.

And please don't forget the Books to Keep charity drive. You may donate new books, both paperback and hardcover, for children and young people, or make a monetary donation, until December 3. Please leave your donation at the Circulation Desk.

That's all for now. Call us at (908) 754-7885 for more information. You may also check our website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us or visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/southplainfieldlibrary.

Thanks for reading and please take care.

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Junior Journalist winner Gianna Tomei receives dinner from Debbie and Charlie Kurland of Hometown Heros. Gianna is pictured with her mom, Dawn.

Send in your entries now!!!



Hurricane Survivors Can Register For Disaster Assistance

FEMA Extends Individual Assistance to All 21 New Jersey Counties

Governor Chris Christie Warns of Post-Sandy Home Repair Scams

Governor Chris Christie, Attorney General Jeffrey S. Chiesa and the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs reminded consumers and municipalities to be on high alert for fly-by-night, unregistered and dishonest home improvement contractors in the wake of Hurricane Sandy.

"Many New Jerseyans whose lives were turned upside down by Sandy are now able to begin to assess the damage to their homes and start focusing on recovery," Governor Christie said. "We are urging New Jersey's consumers and municipalities to beware of fly-by-night, incompetent and dishonest contractors who will seek to profit from the misery of those affected by this storm. Contact the Division of Consumer Affairs in order to learn whether any contractor who solicits you is duly registered in New Jersey."

The Division of Consumer Affairs offers tips for consumers on "How to Avoid Disaster-Related Scams" in English at www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/disaster/floodtipsflyer_1.pdf and Spanish at www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/disaster/floodtipsflyerSP_1.pdf.

Any consumer who suspects that a business is seeking to scam consumers in the wake of Hurricane Sandy is urged to contact the division at (800) 242-5846. The division has issued an alert to counties and municipalities, and urged them to immediately report any concerns about post-storm scams.

"During the past several days, we have received nearly 1,200 consumer complaints, primarily about alleged price gouging by gas stations, hardware stores, convenience stores and hotels, and have issued approximately 100 subpoenas to date, to businesses accused of price gouging," Chiesa said. "As New Jerseyans enter the recovery phase, we expect the bulk of new complaints to focus on home repair scams. No matter how pressing your need for repairs, it is absolutely important to take a step back and learn all you can about any contractor—especially if he or she comes knocking on your door or posting flyers at local stores. An unregistered or incompetent contractor can leave you with escalating costs and continuing unsafe conditions in your home."

"We have 42,000 contractors duly registered to perform home improvement work in New Jersey—so there is no need to entrust your home to a fly-by-night operator who is violating the law," said Eric T. Kanefsky, acting director of the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs. "Take the time to fully assess the damage that must be repaired. Remember that right now it is more important than ever to obtain multiple opinions and quotes—and be absolutely sure the contractor you consider hiring is qualified, honest and registered with the state—before you sign a contract or make a down payment."

Tips When Hiring a Contractor

- Beware of fly-by-night opportunists who may have come in from out of state—or those who may live locally but lack the skills and honesty you need for a significant repair job. Learn whether the contractor is properly registered with the Division of Consumer Affairs.
- Call the division at (800) 242-5846 to learn whether the contractor is duly registered, and whether the business has been the subject of consumer complaints. You can also check the division's online listing of legal filings to learn whether the business has been the subject of legal action by the division.
- Before hiring a contractor, demand a copy of the contractor's liability insurance policy, and contact the insurer to make sure the policy is valid.

(Continued on page 8)

Governor Chris Christie announced that the federal government has extended disaster assistance for New Jerseyans impacted by Hurricane Sandy to all 21 counties, providing direct assistance to individuals and households in the aftermath of the historic hurricane. New Jersey residents and small businesses in all 21 counties are now eligible for Individual Assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and U.S. Small Business Administration.

Eligibility allows New Jerseyans to apply for different types of assistance, including temporary housing, repair, replacement or other needs such as Disaster Unemployment Assistance, and Small Business Administration disaster loans.

All 21 of the counties have already

been approved by the federal government as eligible for Public Assistance, which is an additional form of federal disaster relief. Public Assistance Program funding is available to state and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by Hurricane Sandy.

Residents of the counties that had yet to be declared eligible for individual assistance by the federal government are now being encouraged to begin the process of registering with FEMA for relief. Survivors of Hurricane Sandy who suffered damage should apply for disaster assistance with the Federal

Emergency Management Agency—even if they have insurance or aren't sure if they are eligible.

Register by phone at 800-621-FEMA (3362) or TTY 800-462-7585 for those with hearing or speech impairments. Specialists are standing by at the toll-free numbers seven days a week, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. local time, until further notice. Help in languages other than English are available. Or you can register online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov. You can also apply through a web-enabled mobile device or smartphone by visiting <http://m.fema.gov/> and following the link to "Apply Online for FEMA assistance."

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Sandy Beckons and Residents Respond by Helping Neighbors



By Patricia Abbott

Community spirit is not just a hallmark of South Plainfield, it's a way of life. When any kind of disaster or tragedy strikes, whether to an individual or the borough as a whole, residents can always be counted on to band together to aid those in need.

Hurricane Sandy—dubbed “Frankenstorm”—the worst storm to ever hit New Jersey, packed a huge punch to the residents of South Plainfield, Middlesex County and especially up and down the East Coast.

On November 4 the Senior Center became a haven for more than 200 Hurricane Sandy victims who sought assistance, food or just a warm place to stay for a few hours as power was slowly restored throughout the Borough.

In two short days the South Plainfield Policeman's Benevolent Association (PBA), headed by President Pete Magnani and Vice President Lloyd McNelly, organized a fundraiser. Engaging social media, they appealed for donations of clothing, non-perishable food items, blankets and toiletries to be brought to the senior center.

PBA members and dozens of volunteers arrived at 9 a.m. to begin preparations. Before the doors were open residents appeared with an outpouring of donations of various items; everything from soup to nuts as well as paper goods, toothpaste, baby food, diapers, car seats, strollers, toys, and clothing.

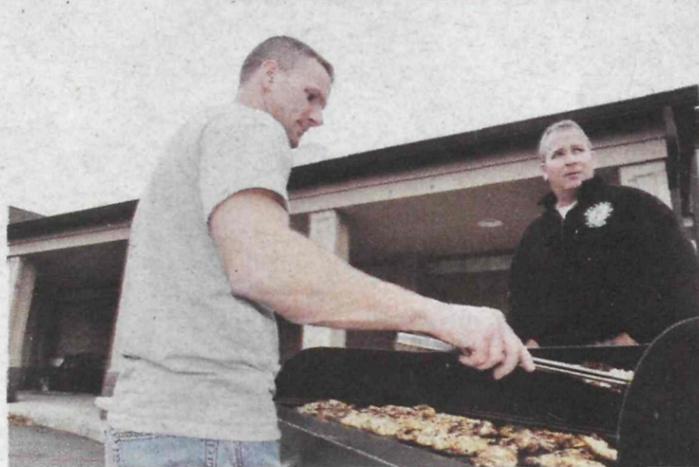
Volunteers unpacked and sorted the food to make it easier for people to find what they need.

FEMA supplied new blankets, bottled water, ice and bags packed with a three-day supply of necessities such as toothpaste, toothbrushes and disposable towels.

The PBA supplied and cooked hamburgers, hot dogs and chicken. Several residents brought in homemade pasta, pulled pork, hot soups, salads, subs, bread, condiments, hot and cold beverages and dessert.

Volunteers manned the kitchen to prepare food and serve. Other volunteers assisted those gathering food items, searching for needed clothing or offered comfort. A charging station allowed for the charging of cell phones and computers.

Cash donations of more than \$2,000 was collected. The South Plainfield High School Varsity Football team, which came out to help, unloaded a truckload of water and offered assistance wherever it was needed. To boost morale, the team promised a victory for South Plainfield High School at the traditional Thanksgiving Day game against North Plainfield.



In the early evening, the Filipino American Association of Sacred Heart Church arrived with donations of food and clothing items.

The numerous volunteers included Mayor Matt Anesh, councilmen Ray Rusnak, Rob Bengivenga, Tim McConville, Derryck White, Dick Frank and Alex Barletta, Darlene Tedesco-Cullen, Glenn Cullen, Tree Olano, Jim Olano, Pat DeSantis, Cindy Eichler, Dave Eichler, Kim Born, Dawn Farinella, Amy Seidenberg, Darlene Cassio, June Parker, Steven Miller, Laura McNelly, Aneca McNelly, Bernadette O'Flaherty, Debbie Boyle, the SPHS Football Team, SPHS Peer Leadership President Patrick Boyle, Michael Boyle, Bob Jones, Stephanie Bartfalvi, Don Ardito, Police Chief James Parker, officers Charles Seidenberg, Pete Magnani, Lloyd McNelly, Charles Seidenberg,

Wendel Born, Mike Molinaro, Brian Zielinski and Gary Cassio, Kelly Bulla, Kevin Bulla, “The Bombers,” Cheryl Shine, Bill Shine, Mike Zushma, Sandra Cortese and others. (We apologize if anyone's name was left off the list.)

Those who sought help or just a place to warm up expressed their gratitude throughout the day. Jill Pavel and her son, Cory, spent a good part of the day at the senior center. They enjoyed the warmth of the building as well as the comfort of a hot meal with friends. They were able to gather supplies to see them through the power outage. The following day Jill expressed her gratitude. “Thank you to everyone who cooked, served and donated to all of us at the senior center. On behalf of myself and my son it was greatly appreciated,” Pavel said.

Tips When Hiring a Contractor

(Continued from page 7)

- It is customary not to pay for the entire home improvement project in advance. The general rule of thumb is to pay no more than one-third beforehand, one-third halfway through and one-third upon completion.
- Never give your credit card number or financial information to strangers over the phone or on the Internet.
- In addition, you should demand identification before you let anyone who claims to be from a utility company inspect your home.
- The law requires a written contract for home improvement work in excess of \$500. The contract should include detailed information, such as start and completion dates, all work to be performed and the brands of products to be used.

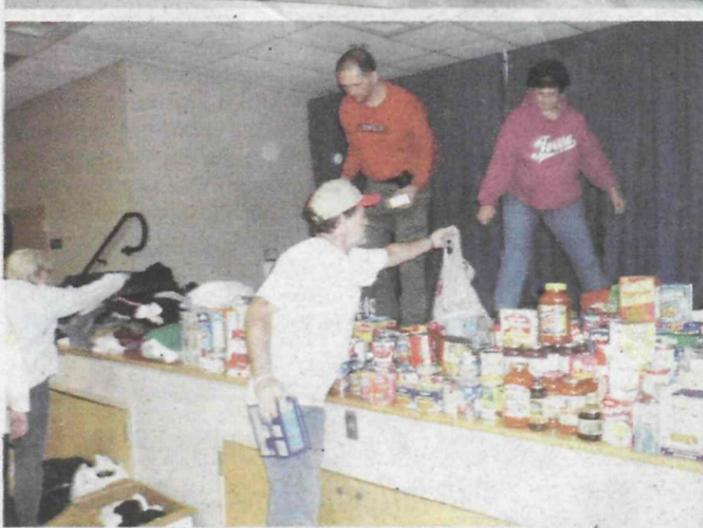
For added convenience, consumers can use free smartphone apps, available from the Division of Consumer Affairs, to check the registration or licensing status of home improvement contractors and licensed professionals (the New Jersey “Professional License Lookup” app) and to learn about registered charities (the “Charity Search” app).

Give Generously But Avoid Charity Scams

Beware of charity scams that have been known to prey upon the generosity of those wishing to help during times of disaster.

- When dealing with charities, investigate before you donate.
 - Before donating to a charity, find out whether the charity is registered to solicit funds in New Jersey, or is exempt from registration (certain religious and educational organizations and charities that raise less than \$10,000 annually in contributions, are exempt).
 - Find out how, exactly, the charity plans to use your money. Learn how much the charity spent during recent fiscal years on program costs, management costs and fundraising. Learn about the charity's stated mission.
 - The charity should readily provide all of this information to you. Verify the information by calling the Division of Consumer Affairs' Charities Registration Hotline at (973) 504-6215, or the charities registration page.
- Consumers who believe they have been cheated or scammed by a business or suspect any other form of consumer abuse, can file a complaint with the State Division of Consumer Affairs by visiting its website or by calling 1-800-242-5846 (toll free within New Jersey) or (973) 504-6200. Consumers can also visit www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/LVinfo.htm to learn whether a contractor is duly registered with the division.

Follow the Division of Consumer Affairs on Facebook, and check our online calendar of upcoming consumer outreach events.




Join in the Holiday Spirit.....
The South Plainfield Athletic Department and
The South Plainfield High School Athletic Booster Club are sponsoring a

TOY DRIVE

Bring a **new, unwrapped** toy suitable for a Holiday gift to the South Plainfield Athletic Office and receive a **free** pass to the Thanksgiving Day Game!
Toys will also be accepted at the Thanksgiving Day Game.

Donations will be made to families in South Plainfield through the South Plainfield Social Service Department.
Please do not forget about children ages 12-17





Lending a Hand: A Personal Perspective

By Kelly Stashko

Last Thursday I was getting updated on Facebook posts after being without power for 36 hours. I considered myself one of the lucky ones. Viewing the photos and reading about my friends and neighbors here in South Plainfield who were still without power drove home that truth.

The Borough of South Plainfield Facebook page continuously posted updates, both pre- and post-Sandy. The latest post I read that day asked for volunteers to call Borough Hall; so I picked up the phone. Within a half hour, I was on my way to the DPW garage with my assignment to deliver ice. Ann Daley, the mayor's secretary, explained that I would not be required to drive. Rather, I would be assigned to one of the folks at the garage. Little did I know the person I'd be assigned to was Mayor Matt Anesh.

What's it like to ride shotgun in a DPW truck with Mayor Anesh? In a (hyphenated) word—buckle-up! Seriously, he handled the truck well, even as the very tall pallet of ice we were carrying teetered ominously in the truck's bed. Along the way we talked of the destruction in various parts of town and our hopes for a swift recovery.

First stop was the Traditions community on Durham Avenue. We joined the two volunteers already on site and began knocking on doors. (Initially, I forgot that ringing doorbells was not going to work. Were you flipping on light switches upon entering a room even though your power was out? It's ingrained.) Young mothers holding infants, men bundled in warm clothing and school-aged kids answered my knocks. Their eyes held both fear and hope. Amid all the dismay was the constant gratitude. "God bless you!" said one from Building 4. "You guys are doing a great job," stated another in Building 7.

Many who answered took advantage of our offer for free ice, slipping on coats and shoes to walk out to the waiting truck. For some, we were happy to collect what bags we could and hand-deliver ice to them.

Following several more stops after Traditions, I was returned to my car with a sincere thank you from Mayor Anesh before he went back out on the road to deliver the remaining ice to the Senior Center.

Volunteer work is truly a humbling and rewarding experience. I am grateful I was in a position to be able to help out my fellow neighbors here in town. As we continue to recover from Sandy, please reach out to a neighbor or a friend in need if you haven't already and try to volunteer your time and/or services. And the next time you see a South Plainfield DPW truck driving down the street, please give the occupants a smile and a hello. You never know who may be riding up front.



Residents wait in line to fill their gas cans.



The shelves at A&P

"Hurricane Sandy may have damaged our homes but will not dampen our spirit."

—Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan



TIPS FOR EMERGENCIES

How to Avoid Disaster-Related Scams

Disasters often attract con artists and frauds.

Fly-by-night unregistered home improvement contractors may take your money and disappear, leaving unfinished work and unsafe homes. Fraudulent charities capitalize on compassion, and divert money from worthy causes.

Protect yourself with the following tips. Call the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs at 800-242-5846 to file a complaint or to ask questions about contractors, charities or price gouging.

Price Gouging

N.J.'s Price Gouging Law:

- ✓ The law (N.J.S.A. 56:8-107 et seq.) establishes that during a State of Emergency (or 30 days after it has been lifted) excessive price increases are illegal. Call the Division of Consumer Affairs if you suspect price gouging.
- ✓ Makes it clear that an "excessive" price increase is any increase in price that is 10 percent higher than the price charged before the State of Emergency.
- ✓ Establishes that prices *may* rise higher if they reflect additional costs to the seller, but that the higher price *may not* exceed 10 percent of the markup from cost compared with the price prior to the State of Emergency.

Home Repair Scams

Before Hiring a Contractor:

- ✓ Call the Division of Consumer Affairs to learn whether the contractor is registered, and whether the contractor has been the subject of any consumer complaints.
- ✓ Demand a copy of the contractor's liability insurance policy. Call the insurer to make sure the policy is still valid.
- ✓ Demand a written contract. Don't sign or pay for anything unless you understand and agree to all of the terms and conditions, including the fine print. Be sure to carefully review the list of materials that will be used.
- ✓ Never pay the full price up-front.
- ✓ Demand ID from anyone who claims to be from a utility company and wishes to inspect your home.
- ✓ Never give your credit card number to strangers over the phone or Internet.

Charity Scams

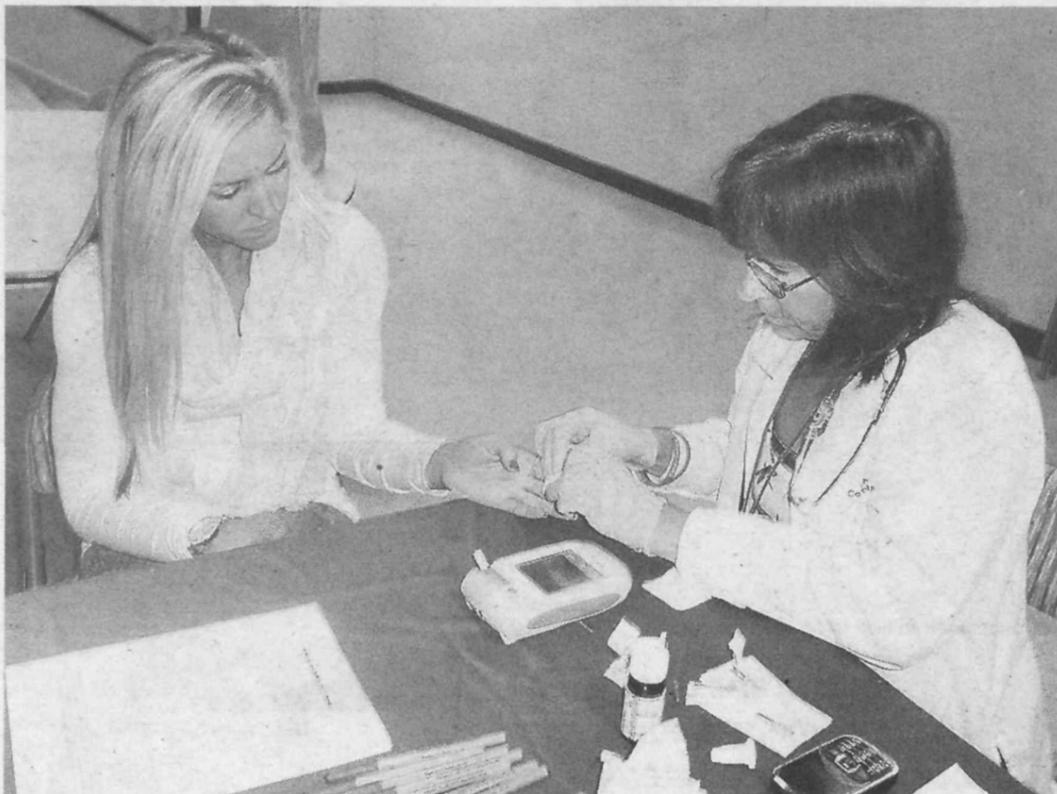
Investigate Before You Donate.

- ✓ Call the Division of Consumer Affairs to find out whether the charity is registered to solicit in New Jersey, or is exempt.
- ✓ Learn exactly how the charity plans to use your money. Learn how much it has spent on actual programs, fundraising and management costs. Call the Division of Consumer Affairs to verify this information.



www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov
800-242-5846

Health and Safety Fair Provides Abundance of Information



A Saint Peter's University Hospital nurse tests the blood sugar level of Megan Boyle.



A local girl gets a temporary tattoo.



Two youngsters pose with Donald and Daisy.

The South Plainfield Mayor's Wellness Committee began preparing for the second annual Health and Safety Fair early this year in February. The committee intended to include as many residents as possible and to offer programs for all ages. The fair took place on October 13 at the Senior Center.

To kick things off, a National Walk to School Day for Healthy Living took place on October 3 with the help of Superintendent of Schools Dr. Stephen Genco and the more than 380 participants in grades K-12.

The committee was excited to offer so many events beginning with the support of its partner, Saint Peter's University Hospital and the Children's Hospital, through the efforts of David Jaipersaud, director of the Children's Hospital at St. Peter's and a member of the Mayor's Wellness Committee. St. Peter's offered glucose testing, "Ask the Doctor," a nutritionist, blood screening, blood pressure screenings, a full scale mobile health unit and flu shots administered by St. Peter's pediatric and adult nurses. The Boyle Memorial Foundation provided a grant to support the cost of the first 75 flu shots offered on a first-come, first-serve basis.

South Plainfield Police Chief James

Parker and Officer David DeLair were on hand to introduce the borough's two newest police officers, German Sheperds, Kaiser and Blitz, with guardians Officer Mark Bullock and Officer Mike Grasso, respectively. Their arrival turned out to be an exciting hour for the residents and children who were able to pet the new additions to the police department. They were officially sworn into office at the October 15 Borough Council meeting.

Recreation Leader at the Senior Center Tree Olano, hosted Zumba lessons, given by Angie and Rachael and a tone and fitness lesson by Lois Garbosky. Many of the residents and children participated in the lessons.

The Club at Ricochet, Fitness 19 and LA Fitness donated membership give-a-ways and baskets. These three fitness centers will also participate in weigh-ins for the "Biggest Loser" contest. For more information or to obtain a certificate number, email mayorswellness@SouthPlainfieldnj.com. Initial weigh-ins, height and BMI began at the health fair in a secure setting with a St. Peter's registered nurse.

Michelle and Keith Both donated Mickey, Minnie, Donald and Daisy Duck's presence at the health fair, much

to the delight of the children.

The borough's EMS participated by hosting blood pressure screenings and information about the rescue squad.

Smile Pharmacy invited guests to ask questions of the pharmacist, who discussed the dangers of mixing medications. Smile Pharmacy is located next to the *South Plainfield Observer* office on Hamilton Boulevard.

Sparkle Tattoos were offered to children of all ages by Allison Gibson, Janice Campos and wellness committee members.

Police Detective Lloyd McNelly and Officer Peter Magnani were kept busy fingerprinting children, after which the parents took them home for their files.

A mobile van distributed information about skin cancer screenings which could be scheduled at St. Peter's.

Douglas Klein, DMD, hosted free dental screenings, and he also participated in the Zumba demonstration.

Rite Aid was on hand with an abundance of information about their pharmacy and services. Weight Watchers joined in with pamphlets and information. Combination Martial Arts, which hosted a halloween party, gave an exciting demonstration with adult and child participation.

The South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department hosted an open house with fire safety and emergency information and demonstrated a simulated kitchen fire and how to proceed with handling of same.

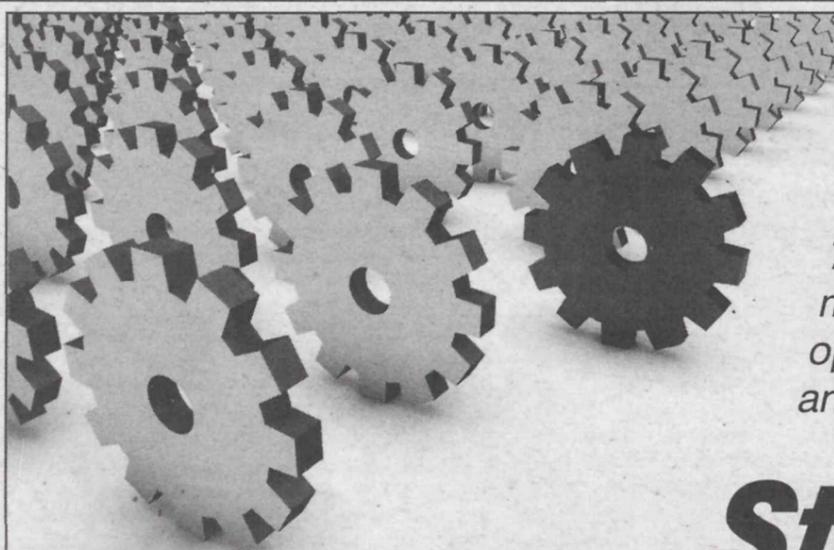
Face painting was available for children of all ages by Patricia Sommers. Scott Carey and Bob Jones, wellness committee members, greeted participants and helped to answer questions. South Plainfield High School Peer Leaders Patrick Boyle, Caroline Vill, Gracie Pickarski, Shannon Sheedy and Annie Pennington through their advisors Marla Vandermark, Jessica Kriskowski, Anthony Encinas and Anthony Emmonds helped with regis-

tration for the "Biggest Loser" contest and served healthy sandwiches provided by Muscle Maker Grill, along with their menus which break down calorie and fat counts. Wraps were provided by Mr. Subs.

Thank you to all those who hosted and participated in the Mayor's Health and Safety Fair. We are looking forward to upcoming events, including a Healthy Bake Off Contest and "Caught on a Walk."

Members of the Mayor's Wellness Committee are Debbie Boyle, Scott Carey, Janice Campos, Alison Gibson, David Jaipersaud, Bob Jones and Tree Olano.

-Submitted by Debbie Boyle



South Plainfield
OBSERVER

The Observer delivers the best of South Plainfield since 1997 and the borough-wide special issue is the number one vehicle to reach the people who live and work in South Plainfield. The December 7 issue of the South Plainfield Observer will be mailed to every home and business; that's an opportunity for access to the 11,000 homes and businesses here.

Stand Out From The Crowd!

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For information on rates and deadlines, call 908-668-0010 or email spobserver@comcast.net.

Obituaries

Clement "Clem" DeRose, 95

Clement "Clem" DeRose died on Monday, Oct. 22 in Genesis Healthcare at The Woodlands in Plainfield.

Born in Plainfield, Clement DeRose resided in South Plainfield for the majority of his life.

Clem served with the U. S. Army during WWII and was a member of the South Plainfield VFW Post #6763 where for many years he served as the bar chairman.

He worked as a machinist for Howell Electric for many years and at one time Clem served as the union president.

Mr. DeRose was well known by members of the community. He enjoyed gardening, yardwork and was often found taking long walks but more importantly, he was a family man. He loved both of his daughters, dogs, Jessie and Cody, and will always be remembered for smoking cherry flavored tobacco out of his pipe.

In addition, Clem was an avid Yankees and Giants fan who kept up with the ponies as well as playing the lottery faithfully.

He is predeceased by six siblings.

Surviving are his wife, Margaret (Milovich); two daughters, Mary DeRose and Barbara Morris and husband Terrance, both of South Plainfield; a son, Bruce and wife Cosette of Mustang, Okla.; five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

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



Clement DeRose

Jason and Ryan. Funeral services were held at the South Plainfield Funeral Home.

Joseph J. DeCarlo, Sr., 89

Joseph J. DeCarlo, Sr. passed away peacefully on Thursday, Oct. 25 at his home.

Born in Brooklyn, Joe resided in South Plainfield for most of his life.

Joe served in the United States Army during WWII, in the Cannon Company, 378th Infantry prior to his discharge in 1945.

He began a long and rewarding career in law enforcement in 1958. Joe entered the Kodak Training Center and went on to continue his training at the Federal Bureau of Identification at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Va. He attended enforcement photography school in 1964 and fingerprinting in 1974. In addition, he had juvenile delinquency training at Rutgers University in 1961.

His career spanned 30 years with the South Plainfield Police Department where he retired as a detective sergeant in 1984. He was responsible for organizing and starting their ID unit.

Joe was also instrumental in the development of the South Plainfield PAL building and program, having served as secretary-treasurer and is a charter member. Additionally, he is a life and charter member of the South Plainfield VFW #6763, the South Plainfield Senior Center, the N.J. State Identification Association, and along with his family, has been a longtime parishioner of Sacred Heart RC Church.

His wife, Mary A.T. DeCarlo, died in 1996.

Surviving are three children and their spouses, Linda and Bob Cook, Donna and Bob Cirillo and Joseph, Jr. and Diana DeCarlo; a sister, Ann Ludington; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Also surviving are many nieces, nephews and extended family members.

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

Donations in his memory may be made to the South Plainfield PAL, 1250 Maple Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.



Joseph DeCarlo, Sr.

Born on February 22, 1914 in New York City, she lived in Piscataway before moving to South Plainfield 45 years ago.

Mrs. Tavis was a nurse and a member of the South Plainfield Senior Center.

She was predeceased by her husband, Augustus T. Tavis, who died in 1992.

She is survived by a son, Augustus T. Tavis and wife Patricia of Oceanside, Calif.; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the South Plainfield Funeral Home.

Angela M. Iacobelli

Angela M. Iacobelli, beloved mother and dear friend to many, passed away on Friday, Oct. 19 in New Brunswick.

Angela was born and raised in Paterson. As a military wife, she resided in both North Carolina and Georgia before moving back to New Jersey in the late 1960s. She made South Plainfield her home in 1973.

Before retiring at age 62, Angela gave loving care to each patient at Dr. Karu's office where she was employed as a medical assistant for 12 years.

As an active member of the South Plainfield Senior Citizens, she could often be found at the Senior Center where her gifts of time, talent and love could be seen and shared with all. Angela loved to crochet and donated numerous items to babies, veterans and residents. Angela truly enjoyed spending her time there with friends and the staff.

She is predeceased by a brother, Raymond.

As a loving and devoted mother, Angela leaves behind two daughters who will miss her dearly, Tamara Iacobelli of Clinton and Gina Iacobelli of Colonia. She also leaves behind two very special sons-in-law, Drew Pearce and John Jopek.

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



Angela Iacobelli

Along with his son Jeffrey, he was the owner and operator of Nischwitz and Co.

Throughout most of his life, Harry was an active member of the South Plainfield Lions Club District 16-D and was recently acknowledged for his 50 years of committed service to the organization.

Mr. Popik is a former member of the South Plainfield Board of Health and is also a veteran of the U.S. Army.

He is predeceased by a sister, Mary Popik and by two brothers, Michael and George.

In addition to his loving wife of 60 years, Jean, surviving are a daughter, Kathy Schuhlein and husband Bill of Boca Raton, Fla.; a son, Jeffrey and wife Suzanne of South Plainfield; a sister, Anna Wanca, also of South Plainfield and two grandchildren, Sarah and Nick Schuhlein.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Our Lady of Czestochowa RC Church, 120 Kosciusko Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080 or to the South Plainfield Lions Club, P.O. Box 721, South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

Patricia Marie Carella

Patricia Marie Carella met her Lord surrounded by loving family on Tuesday, Oct. 23.

Born in Irvington to Richard and Mildred Price, she moved to South Plainfield and devoted herself to the role of wife and mother upon marrying her knight in shining armor, Henry. She spent the next decades of her life creating wonderful memories for her children, grandchildren, friends and anyone whose life she touched.

A born-again Christian, Pat realized her second defining purpose when she became a soldier for the Lord, courageously ministering in His name, to the poor and sick in such places as Haiti, Newark and the streets and parks of New York City.

Loved and admired by all who knew her, she is predeceased by her husband of 47 years, Henry and a son, Jeffrey.

Surviving are four children, Wayne and Linda Carella of Chester, Robin and Peter Hoenge of Point Pleasant, Pamela and Michael Poole of Lavallette and Susan Carella and Donna Wagner of Bridgewater; a brother, Richard Price; and a sister, Dianne Jones.

She is also survived by her dear grandchildren, Christopher, Alissa, Daniel, Matthew, Michael and Brandon and three great-grandchildren, Jaden, Taylor and Max.

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

Dance on the gold streets of heaven, Grandma Nev.



Patricia Carella

Patrick E. Reidy, 74

Patrick E. Reidy passed away on Wednesday, Oct. 24 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, Pat entered the Brothers of the Sacred Heart in Metuchen, St. Joseph's High School at age 14.

Pat had a lifelong love and desire for education. He attended Spring Hill College in Mobile, Ala. and continued his education at Fordham University in N.Y.C. where he earned a master's degree in theology. He also earned a second master's degree in education from Boston College.

His long and rewarding career in education began at St. Joseph's High School in Metuchen where he served as a teacher and principal. He later worked at St. Peter's Prep in Jersey City where he taught math and worked as a vice principal prior to his retirement in 2008. He continued teaching while retired as a substitute teacher and tutor.

At the age of 50, Pat began a 24-year marriage to the former Margaret Battlebury, residing in South Plainfield before settling in Hillsborough.

He is predeceased by his mother, Nora Nestor; his father, Patrick J. Reidy; and step-father, Edwin Egen.

In addition to his wife, Margaret, he is survived by four step-children and their spouses, Joseph B. and Peggy DeAndrea, Jr., G.A. and Susan DeAndrea, Wendy and Jack Katz and Pamela DeAndrea and Jim O'Riordan; a sister, Ursula Clarke and husband Dennis; and a brother, Dennis Egen.

Also surviving are eight grandchildren, Joseph and wife Lenore, Peter, Jeannine, Sarah, Rachel, Galya and husband Dror, Jack and Sintaychu.

A memorial service was held at St. Joseph's High School in Metuchen.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Mater Centre, P.O. Box 520, Meru, Kenya, East Africa where Patrick visited during his time with the Brothers of the Sacred Heart and continued to support throughout his life.



Patrick Reidy

Darolyn A. Miles, 74

Darolyn A. Miles passed away on Sunday, Oct. 21 at home.

Born on May 21, 1938 in Plainfield to Albert and Ann (Ray) Miles, she lived in South Plainfield for most of her life.

Ms. Miles was a homemaker and a member of the South Plainfield Senior Center. She enjoyed cooking and was an avid Rutgers sports fan. Darolyn loved spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren.

Ms. Miles is survived by five beloved children, Frank DelPaoli of Middlesex, Michael DelPaoli of Manville, and Anthony DelPaoli, Robert DelPaoli and Dana Rapatski, all of South Plainfield. She is also survived by nine loving grandchildren, Jessica, Nicholas, Jonathan, Alyssa, Kyle, Jake, Madison,

Victoria H. Tavis, 98

Victoria H. Tavis of South Plainfield passed away quietly at her home on Monday, Oct. 29.

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 Richard W. McCriskin, Dir. • N.J. Lic. No. 3147
 William C. McCriskin, Dir. • N.J. Lic. No. 3382

Harry Popik, 84

Harry Popik died on Friday, Nov. 2 at Morristown Medical Center in Morristown.

Born and raised in South Plainfield, Harry and his wife Jean settled in Watchung 31 years ago.

Harry held the community of South Plainfield at heart, particularly Our Lady of Czestochowa RC Church where he was a lifelong and dedicated parishioner. He participated in many of the church functions and activities and also served on several church committees including the finance committee.

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Sports



Congrats to the South Plainfield Varsity, Junior Varsity and Freshman Field Hockey teams, Greater Middlesex County Champions. Nice job ladies, all that hard work and practice really paid off. It has been a great undefeated season for all three squads. Thanks to all the parents, fellow students, friends and family for supporting the champions. Special thanks to all the coaches, and players and managers for making this season so memorable. -Submitted by Louis Macchia

Wrestling Club Fundraising Dinner November 17

South Plainfield Wrestling Club will host the fourth annual Tiger Takedown Buffet on Saturday, Nov. 17 from 7 p.m. to midnight at South Plainfield Polish

Home on New Market Avenue.

Tickets are \$20. Cash bar will be available and Gamin' Ride Truck for the kids. We will also be drawing the

winning ticket for our Super 50/50. Proceeds to benefit the SPHS wrestling team's trip to the Virginia Duals. Tickets will be available for sale at the door.

Diegnan Highlights Fall Energy Efficiency Programs for New Jersey Homeowners

As temperatures cool, Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan is seeking to promote energy-saving programs and incentives from the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) and New Jersey's Clean Energy Program that can help residents in Middlesex County stay warm and comfortable while reducing their energy costs this upcoming winter.

"New Jersey's Clean Energy Program offers a host of programs and incentives to help Middlesex County residents reduce their energy bills this winter," said Diegnan (D-Middlesex).

Clean energy programs that help use less energy and lower utility costs this winter include Energy Star Products:

- Replace old clothes washers and get cash back. Receive a \$50 rebate on eligible Energy Star qualified clothes washers. Energy Star qualified clothes washers cut energy and water consumption by over 40 percent. With any clothes washer, it is best to run the clothes washer with a full load and use the cold-water setting.
- Refrigerator/Freezer Recycle Program: Customers of Atlantic City Electric, Jersey Central Power & Light, PSE&G or Rockland Electric Company can get \$50 cash back for recycling old,

working refrigerators and freezers. Recycling an old refrigerator or freezer is easy and hassle-free and will save up to \$150 per year on energy costs.

- Home Performance with Energy Star: Maximize your home's energy efficiency. Home Performance with Energy Star can help reduce energy use and costs by up to 30 percent while increasing the comfort, safety and durability of a home. Contractors certified by the Building Performance Institute (BPI) assess homes from top to bottom, identifying areas where homeowners can save energy and money. New Jersey homeowners have until December 31 to receive up to \$5,000 in financial incentives (not to exceed 50% of the total project cost of the eligible measures). Homeowners also may qualify for 0% interest financing (up to \$10,000) when they have energy-efficient upgrades performed.
- Warm Advantage Program: Upgrade your heating system. You can get a rebate of up to \$400 through New Jersey's Clean Energy Program on qualified heating equipment through WARMAdvantage.
- Comfort Partners Program: Income-eligible families qualify for the

free installation of energy efficient measures through the state's Comfort Partners program. Receive a personalized plan to reduce energy bills by 15 to 35 percent through upgrades such as efficient lighting, hot water heating, thermostats, insulation, duct sealing, air sealing or heating and cooling equipment.

Additional Energy Saving Strategies: Switch to energy efficient lighting. Energy Star qualified lighting uses 75 percent less energy and lasts up to 10 times longer than a standard incandescent bulb. One Energy Star qualified compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL) can save \$30 in energy costs and reduces carbon dioxide emissions by almost 700 pounds over its lifetime.

Use a programmable thermostat. An Energy Star qualified, programmable thermostat regulates heating and cooling systems. Residents set programmable thermostats to automatically reduce the temperature during the times they are at work and bring it back to the preferred level about half an hour before their scheduled return.

For information about incentives and programs, visit NJCleanEnergy.com or call 866-NJSMART (866-657-6278).



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-Ralph A. Heiss, Author



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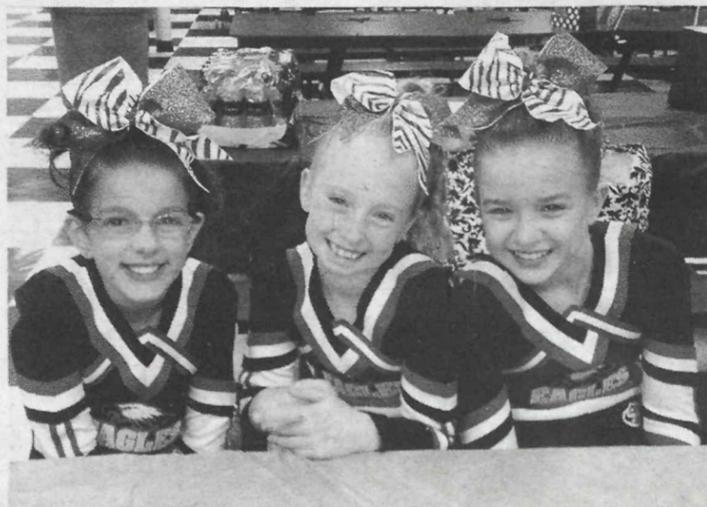
Eagles Cheerleaders Sweep First Place at Competition



Mitey Mite cheerleaders Alexandra Mendez, Gabrielle Santamaria, Khalli Rice and Alyssa Vella are ready to march in the parade before awards.



Junior Pee Wee squad poses for a photo before performing.



Olivia Santos, Sarah Housel and Madison Henry are all smiles after performing their routine.

The South Plainfield Eagles Pop Warner Cheer squads competed at the Mountain Valley Conference (MVC) competition on October 20 at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. The all day event featured performances from 45 teams representing 11 towns in the conference.

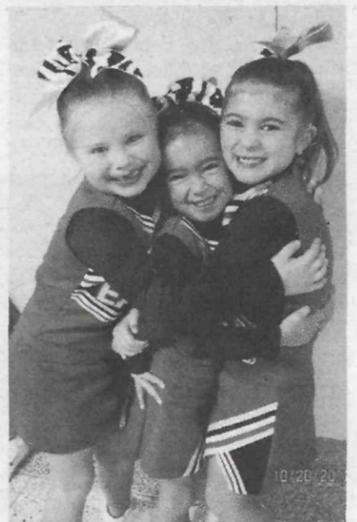
The Eagles Junior PeeWee (JPW) Cheer squad had the first performance time slot of the day, and they set the bar high. The squad, comprised of 28 fourth and fifth graders, showed off their impressive cheer, tumbling and dance skills, including liberties, scales and full extensions. They were followed by the Mitey Mite squad, which is made up of 22 second and third graders. These girls danced their way into everyone's hearts with their head-shaking, foot-stomping, fist-pumping routine that truly had the entire audi-

ence clapping along with them.

The afternoon session included performances from the Eagles Junior Midget (JM) and Flag squads. The JM squad, with 34 sixth, seventh and eighth graders, rocked the house with a routine that included twist ups to preps, a liberty that tic tocs to a heel stretch and then hits a scorpion and a scale.

Finally, the Flag cheer squad, made up of 16 kindergarten and first graders, performed. Nothing is cuter than these little girls, as they jumped, shimmied and danced their way around the mat. We can see a bright future for these littlest cheerleaders.

Both the JPW and JM squads took first place in their respective divisions, and advanced to Eastern Region Qualifiers at the Sun Bank Arena in Trenton on November 4. The road to Nationals in Disney has begun. Go Eagles!



Flag Cheerleaders Ava Kurilew, Madalyn Costello and Isabella Vitale are excited to perform their routine.

Everest Institute Offers New GED® Program

Everest Institute-South Plainfield announces Everest GED® Advantage, a GED test preparation and credential completion program that is free and open to the public. Anyone interested in enrolling in the program can call Everest toll free at 1-888-201-6547.

According to the GED Testing Service, 40 million adults in the United States lack a high school diploma or GED test credential, including nearly 1.1 million in New Jersey. Adults without a high school diploma face tremendous obstacles to achieving their economic potential. On average, their unemployment rates are higher and their wages lower than those with a GED credential or high school diploma. Their access to postsecondary education and training, a requirement for many jobs in today's competitive economy, is

also severely restricted.

Everest has the knowledge and experience—the classrooms, curriculum and instructors—to help adult learners obtain this critical credential. "We're proud to offer our community a program that opens the doors of educational and economic opportunity to nontraditional students," said Everest Institute-South Plainfield President Bob Butterworth.

"I applaud Everest for recognizing and responding to this challenge. We have a monumental task of moving 40 million adults into jobs with salaries capable of supporting their families," said Randy Trask, president of GED Testing Service.

Adults wishing to obtain a GED test credential face many challenges, including waitlists for state-sponsored adult education programs in nearly all states and other financial hurdles. Everest

GED Advantage eliminates obstacles by providing free GED preparation, a free Official GED Practice Test, and by covering all testing costs for adults who successfully complete the program.

According to GED Testing Service research, students who complete a formal test preparation program and pass the Official GED Practice Test have higher pass rates than those who study independently. Everest GED Advantage offers a tailored program of study that includes tutoring sessions, classroom instruction, and weekly meetings with an advisor to assess progress.

To enroll in Everest GED Advantage, participants must be at least 18 years old and pass an assessment test. The program is free and there is no obligation to enroll in any Everest degree or diploma program.

LEGAL NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

MUNICIPAL BOARDS & COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT OF VACANCIES

The Borough of South Plainfield is seeking volunteers who wish to serve on a Borough Board, Agency, Committee or Commission commencing January 1, 2013. Vacancies exist on the following Boards:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Affordable Housing | Business Advisory Group |
| Construction Board of Appeals | Cultural Arts Commission |
| Environmental Commission | Greenbrook Flood Control Commission |
| Health Advisory Board | Housing & Community Dev. Advisory Comm. |
| Library Board of Trustees | Office on Aging Advisory Committee |
| Planning Board | Property Board of Appeals |
| Public Celebrations Committee | Recreation Commission |
| Taxpayer Advisory Board | Traffic Safety Advisory Commission |
| Zoning Board of Adjustment | |

Anyone interested in applying for a position on one of the boards listed above should visit the Borough of South Plainfield web-site at www.southplainfieldnj.com to obtain the Application for Appointment. On the Home Page simply click FORMS then click on APPLICATION FOR BOARDS-COMMITTEES-COMMISSIONS. Applications may also be obtained from the Borough Clerks Office, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

The deadline for submission of completed applications is December 7.

For further assistance, please contact the Municipal Clerk's office at 908-226-7606.

Amy Antonides, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk

\$40.79

November 9, 2012

SOUTH PLAINFIELD BOROUGH COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY

PUBLIC NOTICE

FOR SOLICITATION OF 2013 PROPOSALS FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES PURSUANT TO THE FAIR & OPEN CONTRACT PROTOCOL PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5

NOTICE is hereby given that proposals for professional services, not subject to bidding pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5, will be received by the Municipal Clerk of the Borough of South Plainfield at 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 by close of business on Friday, December 7, 2012.

Proposals are to be in triplicate and also include an electronic version, if possible, that can be sent to aantonides@southplainfieldnj.com. You may find additional information and proposal forms on the Borough Website at www.southplainfieldnj.com under the tab "RFP's". All proposals must include a copy of the following:

- State Business Registration
- Valid Certificate of Employee Information Report.
- Affirmative Action Document—"For Goods and Professional Services"

Proposals (RFP's) for the following professional services will be accepted for the 2013 calendar year:

1. Municipal Appraisal Services
2. Municipal Auditor
3. Municipal Engineering Services
4. Municipal Engineering Services for the Planning Board
5. Municipal Engineering Services for the Zoning Board of Adjustment
6. Municipal Environmental Engineering Services
7. Insurance Brokerage/Consulting Services
8. Legal Counsel - Municipal Attorney
9. Legal Counsel - Bond Counsel

10. Legal Counsel - Zoning Board of Adjustment
11. Legal Counsel - Planning Board
12. Legal Counsel - Redevelopment
13. Legal Counsel - Condemnation
14. Municipal Prosecutor
15. Public Defender
16. Professional Planner - Borough
17. Professional Planner - Board of Adjustment
18. Professional Planner - Planning Board

Amy Antonides, RMC/CMC
Borough Clerk
\$42.68

November 9, 2012

SOUTH PLAINFIELD BOROUGH COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY

NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION ORDINANCE 1969

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD AND THE METHOD OF PAYMENT OF SUCH COMPENSATION FOR THE YEARS 2011 THROUGH 2014.

The ordinance #1969 read by title upon first reading herewith has been introduced at the meeting of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield, held on November 5, 2012, and the public hearing where further consideration will be made will be held on November 19, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building located at 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ. A full complete copy of this ordinance shall be provided, free of charge, to all those who request said copy at the Borough Clerk's office during normal business hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. A copy is also placed on the municipal bulletin board for viewing.

Amy Antonides, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk

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November 9, 2012

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September, October Rotary Students of the Month

South Plainfield High School Principal Dr. James Pedersen has announced the Rotary Students of the Month. They are Christopher Butrico and Gabrielle Smith for September and Patrick Boyle and Crystal Myles for October. A breakfast was held at the Crowne Plaza in Edison.

Christopher is a senior at SPHS. He has taken on a challenging course load this year with nearly all honors and AP classes. He is a varsity athlete and is involved in numerous activities both inside and outside of school. His volunteer work is spread among groups like the National Honor Society and the Columbian Squires.

Chris is looking forward to attending college this fall, and hopes to be accepted to either Marist College or the University of Delaware. He intends to pursue a career in either business or information science.

Gabrielle is a senior at SPHS. She co-chaired the committee that organized the 2012 Passionately Pink for the Cure fundraiser while balancing her commitment to school, AP and honor courses, field hockey, student council, National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society.

Gabby is also a member of the Environmental Science Club, Gay Straight Alliance Club, prom committee and was a Girl Scout up until her freshman year of high school. She



SPHS Principal Dr. James Pedersen with Rotary Students of the Month Christopher Butrico and Gabrielle Smith for September and Crystal Myles and Patrick Boyle for October

plans to continue volunteering at college in the fall.

Patrick, a senior at SPHS, is president of Peer Leaders and the Spanish Honor Society, a member of the National Honor Society, and was ranked eight out of 300 in his senior class.

Patrick began volunteering at a young age with his family for the Boyle Memorial Foundation.

Some of Patrick's volunteer work has been with Hands of Hope, painting at the Senior Center, working at the town's health fair all while maintaining high academics and playing three varsity sports (as captain).

Patrick will continue his volunteerism while in college and through his family's foundation work.

Crystal is a highly dedicated student at SPHS. She is currently a member of the student council and the Help Darfur Now club where she acts as treasurer. Crystal is also a member of the Student Leadership Organization, prom committee, National Honor Society and a varsity cheerleader. She does all this while working hard to maintain her 3.5 GPA.

Her hopes for the future include attending Howard University where she will major in political science.



Miss Heide and Miss Robyn teach A Small World preschoolers about the voting process with an election "fur" president.

Pre-Schoolers Vote "Fur" President

Prior to the Presidential election, the preschoolers at A Small World Preschool had been very interested in what their parents had been saying about the elections, and some have asked about what it means to vote.

In response, teachers Miss Heide and Miss Robyn let their lesson about voting "go to the dogs." Forget about "Bark" Obama or "Bit" Romney. The school had their own two candidates "fur" President of Small World: one was a cheerful Chi-

huahua named Louie and the other a delightful Dachshund named Sasha.

The teachers brought the candidates to school for a "bark," or debate before Election Day. Each child was allowed to vote once by placing a milk bone biscuit in a bag with the picture of the dog of their choice.

The winner of the election was Sasha, and a celebration party was held with cookie bones and juice for the children.

-Submitted by Heide Stein

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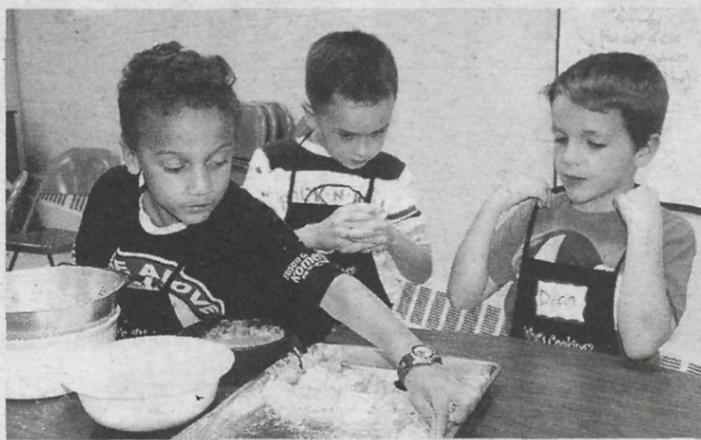
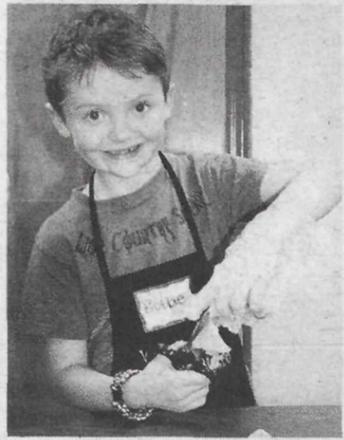
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Bailey's Bistro: Cooking with the Scouts



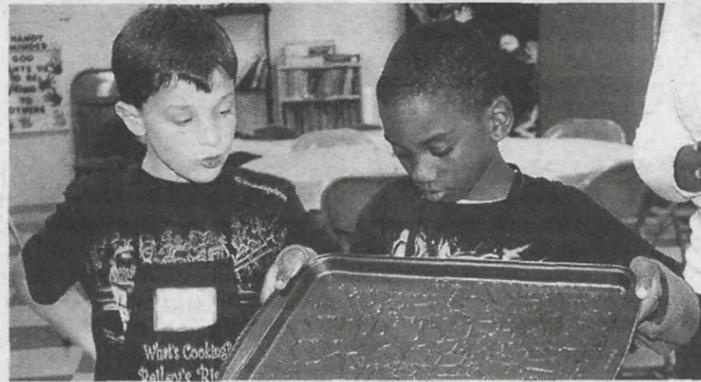
Cub Scouts from Riley School, Pack 224, Den #1 came to Bailey's Bistro to work toward earning their cooking badges. The boys learned about kitchen safety, healthy eating and how to follow a recipe. They prepared panko-chicken nuggets, sweet potato fries and ranch dipping sauce. At the end of the class, they enjoyed sitting down together to eat the food they made and also shared some with their parents!

Participants were leader Christine Brandenburg, Robbie Krovatin, Jack Mackenzie, Nelson Whalen, Rocco Lippi, Ryan Lamberson, Jayden Hunter, Dylan Coon and Jakai Johnson.

Bailey's Bistro is a hands on cooking class for children ages three to 12 that takes place at Pilgrim Covenant

Church, 3121 Park Ave.

For more information, email threebridgesllc@gmail.com.



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South Plainfield Hosts 31st Annual Band Festival

By Patricia Abbott

The South Plainfield Tiger Marching Band hosted the 31st annual Marching Band Festival/US Bands Competition on October 20 at Frank R. Jost Memorial Field. The bleachers were packed with guests and parents, including many South Plainfield band alumni who were in attendance.

The event began with the chorus performing *The National Anthem*, conducted by Band Director Roger Vroom. Eight high school bands participated in the competition including Perth Amboy, Colonia, John F. Kennedy, Rahway, Ridge, Metuchen, Bloomfield and Scotch Plains-Fanwood.

The top three bands with the highest points in the competition were Perth Amboy, followed by Colonia and John F. Kennedy.

Last to perform was the South Plainfield High School Marching Band. Since they were the host band their performance was considered an exhibition and not a competition. They performed a fantastic rendition of *Carmen* under the direction of Vroom, Assistant Band Director Lauren Hartong, Guard Advisor Julie McCullough and Drum Tech Joan Stasio.

The evening concluded with the awarding of trophies by senior band members Alexa Douras, Rebecca Moskal, Kaitlin Kenny, Richard Duong, Joey Parillo, Samantha Christilles, Kalia Carigma, Emily Reineke, Aaron Ritchie, James O'Connor, Bianca LoBosco, Angela Spadavecchia, Dan Schuch, Christina Naphor, Dominic Demico and Rusty Teller.

The members of the South Plainfield Music Boosters club were kept

busy running a very active concession stand. All profits earned from this event go towards the SPSHS Boosters of the Musical Arts scholarships, which are awarded every year to graduating high school students who participate in any of the musical arts extra curriculum activities.

Vroom said, "The festival this year

was a success thanks to the members of the high school Music Boosters and all of the volunteers who spent countless hours organizing this amazing event. Thank you all for your continued support of the music department! Congratulations to the students of the Tiger marching band, whose electric performance capped off a great eve-

ning! Keep up the hard work!"

Thrilled Music Booster President Donna Teller said, "I personally would like to mention that in order to pull off a spectacular event such as this, it takes a year's worth of planning and hard work. Our dedicated Music Booster families truly did an extraordinary job this year. These musical

arts parents never stop amazing me!

The time, donations and commitment they give so freely without complaining just so that this one night is a memorable moment for our musical arts kids. I have spent the last six years with some pretty amazing parents who are to be commended on a job well done!"

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Event Photos For Sale

Photographs of local events by South Plainfield Observer contributing photographer Louis Mormile are available for purchase at www.louisormilephotography.com.

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

Currently available are more than 240 photos of the Labor Day Parade and Lions Club dunk tank, 300 photos of the Labor Day 5K race and 1.5M walk, SPSHS Varsity Football home opener and Rescue Squad Car, Truck and Bike show.

Additional photos of various local sporting events, etc. are also available.