

# South Plainfield OBSERVER

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NOVEMBER 16, 2012

## Laughter Explodes At Senior Center



Lori Theiss, creative director at Arista Care at Cedar Oaks, demonstrates the benefits of laughter.

By Libby Barsky

When Lori Theiss sat down and put on Groucho Marx glasses and a fuzzy red nose, laughter exploded from the circle of seniors seated around her and increased when she removed the clown nose and walked over to Ted Rubino, planting it on his nose. Hearing the laughter, others who had arrived early for the Senior Center's Tuesday Bingo game, opened the door to see what was going on.

Theiss, creative director for Arista-Care at Cedar Oaks in South Plainfield and certified "laughter leader" specially trained to provide laughter therapy, presented a program at the

Senior Center on October 23.

According to Theiss, providing laughter doesn't come from jokes but from interactive breathing and movement exercises that simulate laughter. The science behind the laughter causes the body to reduce adrenaline; lowers blood pressure, relaxes muscles and helps the body release endorphins.

After warming up the audience with the nose and glasses props, Theiss started the session by putting the group through "moving their vowels" by voicing A, E, I, O, U and went on to specific chants and greetings with accompanying body motions, bringing interactions and lots of laughter to the group.

After 10 different exercises, Theiss asked everyone to look under their chairs for one of the five pink cards that had been attached to the bottom of the seat. The cards meant they had won two movie tickets to an AMC theatre.

Ending the session, Theiss asked everyone to continue to spread and share their improved outlook by being kinder to others by recognizing and thanking them for the many thoughtful things they have done for them. There was also a treat for each participant, and when the session was over everyone was smiling.

Rose Nagy, who had read about a laugh therapy program some months ago at another location, was glad she attended the session.

"It was great! We can't laugh enough!" she said.



South Plainfield VFW Post #6763 was the site for the annual Veterans Day ceremony on November 11. For story and additional photos, see page 7.

### GIVE GENEROUSLY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

#### Adopt a Family for the Holidays; Generously Support the Scouts Food Drive

The South Plainfield Social Services Department's annual holiday food and gift project seeks individuals, groups and organizations to adopt needy families in our community and provide them with food and/or gifts for the holiday season.

If you do not have time to shop or are on a limited budget, you can still help by providing a gift certificate to a local merchant or grocery store.

By participating in this program, your holiday season will be more meaningful and you will make life easier for less fortunate families.

In addition, the Boy Scouts food

drive will be held on Saturday, Nov. 17. If you did not get a bag left at your residence but would like to donate a bag of food for Thanksgiving, please feel free to bring your bag directly to the Social Services Department at the Senior Center, 90 Maple Ave.

Also, we are accepting donations of turkeys on November 19 and 20. Feel free to drop off your turkey as close to this date as possible.

To adopt a family or for more information on our program, please call Marge Ackerman, director of Social Services for the Borough of South Plainfield at (908) 226-7625 or (908) 226-7628.



Wow!

The December 7 issue of the South Plainfield Observer will be mailed to all 11,000 homes & businesses in the borough of South Plainfield.

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FEMA

## Register Now for Disaster Assistance

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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

<b>Agenda Meeting</b>	<b>Public Meeting</b>
Monday, November 19	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. 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.) Dec. 12  
Regular Public Meeting (begin at 6:30 p.m.) \*except where noted  
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.  
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  
Dec. 11

**taxpayers advisory group**

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

**site plan sub-committee**

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

**environmental commission**

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

**Residents of South Plainfield:**

Now that the election is over and things have settled down, I wanted to take a moment to thank everyone for their support last week.

I'm looking forward to continuing to serve the residents of South Plainfield, and I promise to remember why you elected me. South Plainfield deserves a local government that gets results. To that end, I will continue to work for an affordable South Plainfield, as well as one that provides the top-notch services on which our residents rely.

A special thank you goes to the many people who volunteered on our campaign. It was humbling to see so many people give their time, talent and energy to support our cause. I've never seen such a dedicated group, and the words "thank you" seem so inadequate. We could not have asked for more!

Now is the time to come together and get the job done for our town. I'm looking forward to working with the new councilman that will be joining us in January, and I look forward to making 2013 a year we can all remember as one of the best in the town's history.

**SINCERELY,  
ROB BENGIVENGA**

**Residents of South Plainfield:**

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of those who voted on November 6. With Veterans Day having just passed, it's important for all of us as Americans to remember the many who have fought for our most important right; our inalienable right to vote. Regardless of how you cast your ballot, every vote is a "thank you" to those who have come and gone before us and an affirmation of the United States of America as the greatest country in the world.

I would be remiss to not express my deep gratitude to those who exhibited faith and confidence in me, electing me to serve on the Borough Council. It will be a great honor to serve the people of South Plainfield, an honor which I will certainly not take for granted. While it's impossible to thank

all of those people who helped to realize this goal, the following deserve specific thanks: my wife and family, the Democrat 'team' and my dedicated runningmate, Franky Salerno. I know that Franky is disappointed that he will not once again have the privilege of serving the people of South Plainfield on the council, but I know that he will continue to be a valuable member of the South Plainfield community.

My many thanks to Councilman Dick Frank, both for his service to South Plainfield and his service to our nation. Mr. Frank has served South Plainfield with great dignity and I anticipate that he will remain a strong voice in both the Republican Party and in South Plainfield. Congratulations are also due to Councilman Rob Bengivenga, who will continue to serve South Plainfield dutifully on the council.

I eagerly anticipate the start of my service to South Plainfield and its people. As was stated over and over throughout the last few months, it's time that South Plainfield's local government have a dissenting voice; I vow to be that voice. This won't always mean championing the popular cause or saying the easy things, but I will be there to make difficult decisions and ask tough questions. South Plainfield has always been a great place to live, but to remain that way it needs the healthy debates and disagreements that our veterans have fought and continue to fight to protect.

I can say without any hesitation that South Plainfield has as dedicated and hard working a local government as any town in this state. I look forward to working constructively, cordially and professionally with the mayor and council and I very much look forward to being a dedicated servant to South Plainfield. Again, my thanks to the people of South Plainfield.

**CHRISTOPHER (C.J.) DIANA**

**To the Editor:**

I have had the pleasure of serving on the South Plainfield Board of Education for nearly seven years, close to five of which I have served as president. This past week, for the first

**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.

time, the Board of Education election was held on the same ballot as the Presidential Election.

I am humbled by the results. I would like to say thank you to all of those who supported me. It is an honor and a privilege to be elected and I will do my best to fulfill my seat to the best of my ability.

On a side note, I would also like to thank the person/people who stole all of my signs; at least I no longer have the task of going around to collect them.

**THANK YOU,  
JIM GIANNAKIS**

**To the Editor:**

New Jersey School Boards Association, Legislative Branch sent an email on November 9 stating that 468 school districts out of 625 held school board elections in November. A clear pattern in all those districts showed that many district voters just pulled Line 1, 2 and 3 or did not vote at all because they did not see the School Board Candidates ballot. Due to the fact that voters just pulled Lines 1, 2 and 3 the other candidates running did not even have a chance (of being elected). Many voters did not take the time to familiarize themselves with the candidates.

I would like to thank all the voters that gave me their overwhelming support because of the trust that you have in me. I have always been and will continue to be there for our students, parents, teachers, entire staff and taxpayers. I have always asked that you "bring it," so please continue.

The Board of Education needs to  
(Continued on page 8)

### South Plainfield OBSERVER

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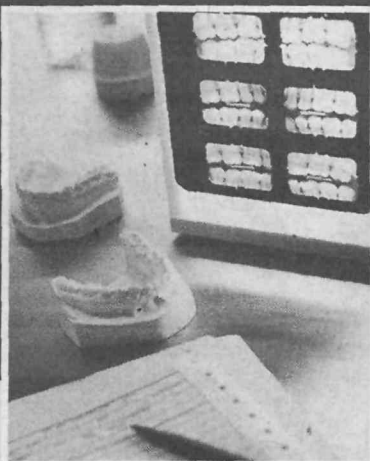
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We encourage the submission of stories and photos. To have an article published: Type (double spaced) the article and mail, email or fax. Include name, address and telephone number. **Deadline for submission is Monday, 5 p.m.**

**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.



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## Two Youth Injured in Bell Place Stabbing

South Plainfield Police officers responded to a report of a stabbing that occurred in a residence on Bell Place on November 9 at approximately 8:40 p.m.

Officers John McConville, Ahmad Stuckey and Michael Hoppe entered the home and located a 14 year-old South Plainfield male in an upstairs bedroom. The youth had been stabbed in the left chest area. They then located the suspect, a 17 year-old male, also of South Plainfield, in a downstairs hallway, with a self-inflicted stab wound to his left chest area.

Both males were treated at the scene by paramedics and EMS personnel and transported to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick, where they were admitted to the intensive care unit.

The initial stabbing appears to be over an altercation whereby the 17 year-old suspect was taunted by males in the residence, which resulted in the suspect smacking the victim and the victim smacking the suspect in return. The suspect then produced a knife and

stabbed the victim.

The officers noted that there was evidence of underage drinking and charged two adult males, one adult female and one juvenile female, with possession and/or consumption of an alcoholic beverage on private property.

The adult males were identified as Marcelo and Nicolas Cabrera, both 19, of South Plainfield. The adult female was identified as Dayana Perez Diaz, 18, of South Plainfield. The juvenile female, 15, also resides in South Plainfield.

Nicolas Cabrera was transported to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital as he was grossly intoxicated. There were two additional juvenile males present in the residence at the time of the incident, but they were not charged.

Charges of aggravated assault, possession of a weapon and possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose are pending against the 17 year-old suspect.

The investigation is continuing.

## Deadline to Apply for Disaster Unemployment Assistance Extended

New Jersey residents in all 21 counties will have until February 4, 2013 to apply for coverage under the federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) program as a result of damages caused by Hurricane Sandy.

The program also covers self-employed individuals who were left unemployed as a direct result of the storm and who may not be covered by regular unemployment insurance.

Most impacted workers may already qualify for regular unemployment insurance, which is why anyone who plans to file a DUA claim should first file a regular claim for unemployment insurance. The Federal DUA is a special program that covers many people who otherwise may not be eligible for regular unemployment insurance.

If you are unemployed or were left temporarily unemployed because of the disaster that began on October

28, you should first file for unemployment insurance benefits through the Internet by going to [www.njuifile.net](http://www.njuifile.net). Please note that due to higher than normal volume as a result of Hurricane Sandy, the system is experiencing some delays. As a result, individuals are encouraged to file via the Internet between 6 p.m. and 8 a.m.

People may also file a claim by contacting the state Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Re-employment Call Centers at (732) 761-2020 for Central Jersey. If out of state, call (888) 795-6672.

For more information, visit [www.lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/index.html](http://www.lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/index.html).

### Compactor Open

The compactor located at the end of Kenneth Avenue will be open for residents on Saturday, Nov. 17 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Boy Scout Troop #309 took the "Lighthouse Challenge" on October 20 by visiting five of the 11 lighthouses in New Jersey and one museum. The Scouts started at the Tuckerton lighthouse (pictured) and worked their way north to finish at the Sandy Hook lighthouse. The challenge, usually held the third weekend in October, is used to raise money for the preservation of historic lighthouses. Next year, the Scouts hope to visit the lighthouses in southern New Jersey. Pictured (L-R) are Douglas Veit, Troy Harzula, Louis Quintanella, Drew Mackenzie, George Parrado, Scout Master Jeff Pauls, Jonathan Conrad, Tim Nuber, Anthony Barge, Jack and Danny O'Shaughnessey. -Submitted by Jeff Pauls

## Yard Waste Site Leaf Season and Holiday Schedule

The South Plainfield Yard Waste Site at the end of Kenneth Avenue is currently operating on its leaf season schedule. The yard waste site will be open to residents from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Saturday and until 7 p.m. on Tuesdays through December 1. A current yard waste decal must be mounted on the vehicle for access. Decals are available from the Municipal Clerk in Borough Hall and from the Borough Garage at 405 Spicer Ave. Bring the registration of

the vehicle you will be using.

Leaf bags will be available at the borough garage Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:20 p.m. until November 23. Bring the coupon from the yellow Bulky Waste Program flier. DPW will collect from the curb leaves bagged only in biodegradable paper bags.

The recycling drop-off center on Kenneth Avenue is open 12-7 p.m. on Tuesdays and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. The yard

waste site will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 22 and Friday, Nov. 23 for the Thanksgiving holiday, but will be open as usual on Saturday, Nov. 24 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The curbside collection schedule will be affected only by Thanksgiving Day. Recyclables in Section 9 will be collected on Saturday, Nov. 24 instead of on Thursday, Nov. 22.

For updates, call the recycling hotline at (908) 226-7620.

JIM **PATTI**  
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# events

## Around Town

### 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.

### Holiday Boutique/ Tea Room at Wesley

November 17

Wesley United Methodist Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave., will host its annual Holiday Boutique and Tea Room on Saturday, Nov. 17 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sandwiches, homemade soups and homemade baked goods will be sold. All proceeds from the tea room and bake sale will benefit the victims of Hurricane Sandy.

**Send Your Community Events to:**  
spobserver@comcast.net

Vendors, handmade items (jewelry, knitted and crocheted apparel, wood crafted decorations, stationary and cards, paintings, ceramics, confectionaries, handbags, etc.). Discovery Toys, Tupperware, PartyLite, Pampered Chef, Longaberger, Dove Chocolates, Scentsy and others.

For more information, call Connie Palmer at (908) 755-3850, the church office at (908) 757-2838 or email us at wumcsp@verizon.net.

### 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.

### Homecoming 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."

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

### Cub Scout Breakfast Fundraiser

November 25

Cub Scout Pack #224 will hold a breakfast fundraiser on Sunday, Nov. 25 from 8 a.m. to noon at the Elks Lodge, 1254 New Market Ave. Menu

includes pancakes, French toast, sausage, bacon, eggs to order, coffee and juice. Cost: Adults, \$6; seniors (65+), \$5; children age four-12, \$4; children three and under are free.

### The Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea

November 25

The Sacred Heart Rosary Altar Society of Sacred Heart Church will present The Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea with the Reverend Alphonse Stephenson conducting on Sunday, Nov. 25 at 3 p.m. in the church at 149 South Plainfield Ave.

Father Alphonse will be celebrating Mass at Sacred Heart Church at 11:30 a.m. that Sunday.

Tickets in advance: \$30, general admission; \$25, seniors (aged 62 and older); and \$15, students (under 17); tickets at the door, additional \$5 each. Special family rate, \$50 for two adults plus \$10 for two children, \$10 for each additional child.

For information or to purchase tickets, call (908) 756-0633, ext. 147.

### VFW Country Breakfast

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.

### Breakfast With Santa

December 8

Breakfast with Santa, benefiting the American Red Cross for Hurricane Sandy relief, will be held on Saturday, Dec. 8 from 9-10:30 a.m. in the South Plainfield Senior Center. Complimentary pictures with Santa provided by Ken Cavanagh Photography. Cost is \$7 per person.

For tickets, call Santa's Chief Elf Chrissy Buteas at (908) 447-3466 or email christinebuteas@comcast.net.

### — Out of Town —

### Mixed Media to the Max at MCC

Through December 24

Three artists with wildly diverse

skills will be featured at the Studio Theater Gallery at Middlesex County College now through December 24. The gallery is open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays.

### 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](http://www.stfrancisdunellen.org).

### Authentic Christkindlmarket

November 18

An authentic Christkindlmarket-Christmas market will be held on Sunday, Nov. 18 from noon to 5 p.m. at 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.

### Edison Valley Playhouse Auditions Announced

November 19 & 20

Auditions for Edison Valley Playhouse's production of "Waiting for Godot" will be held on Monday, Nov. 19 and Tuesday, Nov. 20 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the playhouse. All roles are open. Traditional male casting.

Readings will be from the script, although prepared monologues will be heard.

Showdates are January 25-February 2, Friday and Saturday nights and one Sunday matinee.

### Thanksgiving Singles Dance Party

November 21

Steppin' Out Singles is hosting a Thanksgiving singles dance party on Wednesday, Nov. 21 at 8 p.m. at the Woodbridge Hilton Grand Ballroom,

### 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

(Closed Thanksgiving-Nov. 22)  
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

20 Wood Ave. South in Iselin. Ages 40 and up; no jeans/t-shirts/sneakers/shorts. Admission: \$15.

For more information, call the 24-hour hotline at (862) 397-4723.

### Upscale Singles Dance Party

November 24

Steppin' Out Singles is hosting an upscale singles dance party on Saturday, Nov. 24 at 8 p.m. at the Woodbridge Hilton Grand Ballroom, 20 Wood Ave. South in Iselin. Ages 40 and up; no jeans/t-shirts/sneakers/shorts. Admission: \$15.

For more information, call the 24-hour hotline at (862) 397-4723.

### Blackrose to Perform

November 24

Blackrose, the band, playing classic rock and roll music and today's hits, will be performing at Rug's & Riffy's Bar and Grill, 493 Rahway Ave. in Woodbridge on Saturday, Nov. 24 at 9 p.m. No cover charge.

### park avenue barber shop

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## Volunteer Fire Department "Project Santa" Underway

It is that time of the year again when Santa will be travelling around town by fire truck, visiting the children and helping to raise money for the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Company. Can you imagine a fire truck with lights and sirens playing Christmas carols pulling up in front of your home with Santa Claus?

Here's how it works: A \$20 donation is requested from each family who would like Santa to deliver their gifts by fire truck. Bring a completed form along with a small, inexpensive wrapped gift and a check made payable to "SPVFD" to the firehouse on Maple Avenue. Forms are available on the fire departments website. Please choose presents that Santa can easily handle and fit in a paper grocery bag. Then just sit back and relax and leave the rest to the fire department. Please make sure that you mark your child's name and address in big letters on the package.

Drop off dates to bring your gift and order form are Tuesday, Nov. 27 and Thursday, Nov. 29 from 6 to 9 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 1 and 2 from noon to 4 p.m. and Tuesday, Dec. 4 from 6 to 9 p.m. Please note: packages brought after December 5 will be charged \$40.

All families must reside within South Plainfield. Santa will be delivering the gifts to various school districts December 10-13 between 6 and 9 p.m. A delivery schedule will be announced. Oversized packages will be charged an additional \$10.

If you need a blank form, go to [www.southplainfieldfire.com](http://www.southplainfieldfire.com) to download one. For more information, call Santa's hotline at (908) 412-8868. Leave a message and we will get back to you ASAP.

The South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department would like to thank you and wish you and your loved ones a safe and happy holiday season!

## Diegnan Legislation to Help Restaurant Industry Recover Losses

To help ease monetary losses created by Superstorm Sandy and speed the economic recovery of the restaurant industry in New Jersey, Assemblyman Patrick J. Diegnan, Jr. (D-Middlesex) announced plans to introduce legislation that would create a month-long, one-time sales tax collection exemption on meal purchases made in New Jersey restaurants.

"The state's restaurant and dining industry took a massive hit during the storm with many operators unable to open since it made landfall. Unlike other industries, loss of time equals loss of revenue that is unrecoverable, unless special circumstances are created to boost sales," said Diegnan.

Under the proposed legislation, meal purchases made in New Jersey restaurants would not be subject to New Jersey sales or use taxes for 30 consecutive days.

"As a state, we should do what we

can to help this vital industry. Some restaurants managed to open post-Superstorm Sandy with the help of generators to help feed their neighbors, many of whom were without power or had no access to their homes, without any compensation. "Now New Jersey's restaurants need our help," added Diegnan. "This temporary tax break recognizes the special adverse impacts of Superstorm Sandy, and could help make up for the losses and help stabilize the industry as it gets back on its feet, which ultimately helps our recovering economy locally and statewide."



Park Avenue Barber Shop owner Amir Jadallah (far right) with brother Adam (left) and Mo after giving free haircuts to 70 members of the Hackettstown Army National Guard C Troop 1-102D CAB members at the Rutgers University Livingston Campus. The troop had been deployed to this area to secure shelters for homeless victims from Atlantic City after Hurricane Sandy.

## South Plainfield Elks Collecting Items To Assist Victims of Hurricane Sandy

The South Plainfield Elks are dedicated to helping those in need of assistance due to Hurricane Sandy. We've seen the devastation in the media and newspapers. As the premier charitable organization in our communities, we are here to reach out to our fellow New Jerseyans, friends and neighbors who are most in need.

Along with the generosity of Hall's Fast Motor Freight Trucking Company, who has provided us with a trailer for collections, we have the means to collect and distribute much needed items to assist the affected while providing a sense of support and caring during this time.

A list of the specific items which are most needed and appreciated at this time are: trash bags (contractor or lawn), bleach, brooms, mops, brushes, disinfecting cleaners, sponges, dishwashing detergents, work and rubber gloves; formula,

diapers, blankets, pillows and towels, pet food, paper plates, cups, napkins and utensils, paper towels, flashlights and water.

Also needed are gift cards—Wal-Mart, Target, food stores, etc.

Remember, these folks need to replace many items such as household items and clothing.

Drop off times at the South Plainfield Elks, 1254 New Market Ave. are as follows: Monday and Tuesday

after 4:30 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday after noon.

For more information, call the Elks Lodge at (908) 668-9750, or Exalted Ruler Irene Polanco at (908) 337-4360.

As a community, let us together show our united support for our great State of New Jersey!

-Submitted by Debra Czech, PVP  
State Public Relations Chairman

## Volunteers Needed at Fish, Inc. Food Room

Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area needs one or two additional volunteers each morning from 9 a.m. to noon at the Food Room during the two weeks of Thanksgiving food distribution, November 12-17 and November 19-21. Volunteers are needed to assist some of our clients with carrying their food bags up the stairs to their cars. If you

can help out one or more of these days, please call the Fish Hotline at (732) 356-0081 and leave your name, phone number and day you can help.

The Food Pantry of Fish, Inc. serves the needy in the communities of Dunellen, Middlesex, Piscataway, South Plainfield, Edison and Highland Park.

## Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Ave.  
South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul  
Alvarado, Pastor

### Mass Schedule:

Saturday Mass 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

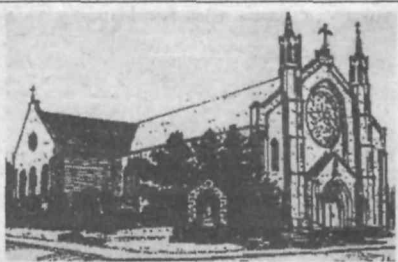
Sunday 9:00, 11:30 a.m.

Daily 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday

7:00 p.m. Monday (Church), Thursday (Parish Center Chapel)

Holy Days 6:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 7:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation—Saturday 10-11:30 a.m. and at other times by appointment



## Music of the Heart

The Sacred Heart Music Ministry, under the direction of Dan Mahoney and accompanied by Jack Bender, recorded their first CD on October 7. The CD includes both religious and Broadway music featuring the Adult Choir, Middle Choir, Children's Choir and Alumni Youth Bell Choir.

CDs will be on sale after all weekend Masses from December 8-23. The cost of the CD is \$12.

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## milestones

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### Scott Barton Graduates from Muhlenberg College



Scott Barton

Scott Barton of South Plainfield graduated with a bachelor of arts in finance and business administration from Muhlenberg College at its 162nd commencement in May.

Scott is the son of Frank and Jackie Barton and is a 2008 graduate of South Plainfield High School.

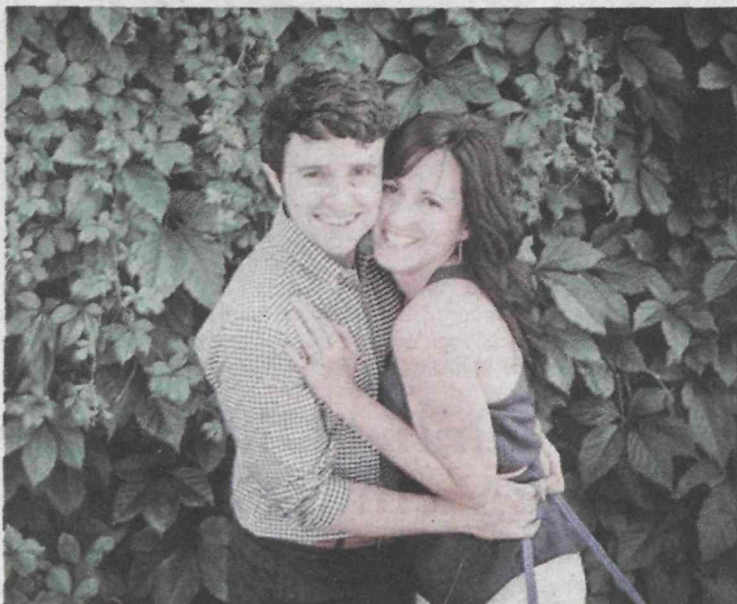
Founded in 1848, Muhlenberg College is a highly selective liberal arts college in Allentown, Pa. It is affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

### Local Student Receives National Honor

The National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS) announced that South Plainfield High School student Di' Onne' Irene Agnew has been selected for membership. The Society recognizes top scholars and invites only those students who have achieved excellence. The announcement was made by NSHSS Founder and Chairman Claes Nobel, a senior member of the family that established the Nobel prizes.

"On behalf of NSHSS, I am honored to recognize the hard work, sacrifice and commitment that Di' Onne' has demonstrated to achieve this level of academic excellence," said Nobel. "Di' Onne' is now a member of a unique community of scholars—a community that represents our very best hope for the future."

Membership in NSHSS entitles qualified students to enjoy a wide variety of benefits, including scholarship opportunities, academic competitions, free events, member-only resources, publications, participation in programs offered by educational partners, online forums, personalized recognition items and publicity honors.



Ryan Gianneschi and Ashley Book plan to wed.

### Ryan Gianneschi to Wed Ashley Book

Frank and Sharon Gianneschi of South Plainfield announce the engagement of their son, Ryan Gianneschi, to Ashley Book, daughter of William and Janice Book of Stony Plain, Alberta, Canada.

Ryan received his undergraduate degree from Seton Hall University and a master's degree in economics from the University of Sydney. Ryan is an

economic analyst employed by MCR Federal in Washington, D.C.

Ashley received her undergraduate degree from the University of Alberta and is currently studying veterinary medicine at the University of Sydney in Australia. They met while both studying in Sydney, Australia.

The wedding is planned for August 2013 in Stony Plain, Alberta.

### Divya Sindha Named to Dean's List At University of the Sciences

Divya Sindha has been named to the Summer 2012 Dean's List at University of the Sciences. Selection for this award is based on completing and passing all assigned courses with no grade below a "C" and attaining an academic average of at least 3.4 for courses taken in the summer semester of 2012.

Divya, a doctor of pharmacy student, is from South Plainfield.

At University of the Sciences, students embark on a challenging learning experience in a proving ground for successful professionals in the science and healthcare-related fields. A private

institution dedicated to education, research and service, and distinguished as the nation's first college of pharmacy, the university has produced leaders in the science and healthcare marketplaces since its founding in 1821. Students in USciences' five colleges learn to excel in scientific analysis and to apply their skills to improving healthcare in the lives of people worldwide through such disciplines as pharmacy, biology, physical therapy, healthcare business, and health policy. For more information, visit [uscience.edu](http://uscience.edu).



This week's Junior Journalist winner is...

Gianna Glover

Gianna Glover, Roosevelt School fourth grader, is this week's winner in the Junior Journalist program. Her poem, "Electricity A Powerful Tool," has earned Gianna 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. A \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bond is awarded to one student by Home-



Junior Journalist winner Gianna Glover with teacher Kathy Simpson.

town Heros; additional prizes are also awarded.

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

### Electricity A Powerful Tool

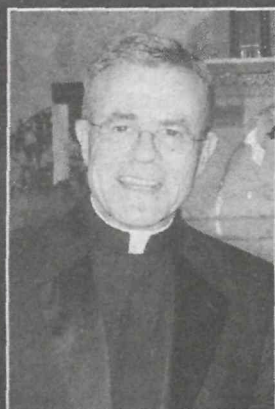
By Gianna Glover

Electricity is a powerful tool,  
When Hurricane Sandy came we missed a lot of school!  
Electricity is a powerful tool,  
Not having it seems so cruel!  
Electricity is a powerful tool,  
Not having it made me humble and cool!  
Electricity is a powerful tool,  
It's as precious as a jewel!  
Electricity is a powerful tool,  
We should conserve it by following a golden rule!  
Electricity is a powerful tool,  
Don't take it for granted, it is not promised fuel!  
Electricity is a powerful tool,  
We missed the day of goblins and ghouls!  
Electricity is truly a powerful tool,  
I'm glad to be back in school!

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## VFW Hosts Veterans Day Ceremonies

South Plainfield VFW Post #6763 held the annual Veterans Day program on November 11 at 11 a.m. (11/11/11). Guests gathered were welcomed on the post's front lawn by Commander Vincent Perry. A prayer reading by Tom Walter followed.

Commander Perry and Ladies Auxiliary President Carol Vargus placed a wreath at the foot of the flagpole. The color guard honored the veterans with a rifle salute. *Taps* was played by Middle

School students Tomasz Tarnowski and Joseph Rio.

At the conclusion of the ceremony guests were invited indoors for the presentation of colors. High school junior Joanna Marston sang the national anthem. Speakers included Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, Jr., Mayor Matt Anesh, Police Chief James Parker and Councilmen Ray Rusnak, Rob Bengivenga and Tim McConville. Each thanked those who have served our

country and for the sacrifices they make each day in the name of our freedom.

A crowd of about 50 attended the ceremony, which included members of both the American Legion and the VFW as well as active duty servicemen.

The VFW is always seeking new, younger members. Meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 8 p.m. at the hall at 155 Front St. For more information, call the VFW at (908) 668-9751.



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# In My Opinion

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

(Continued from page 2)

work together as a team. We need to move forward for the betterment of our students' education on all levels—special, regular and advanced education. It is about the "kids" and always will be on my part.

**WITH SINCERE THANKS,  
DEBBIE BOYLE**

To the Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of South Plainfield for allowing me the privilege of service to them on the Board of Education. For the years I spent there—some frustrating, some marvelous—there can be no doubt I learned a lot from the students, the teachers and the parents. There is no better feeling than accomplishing a positive outcome for people and places you care about.

The school district I leave to you is a much better place than the one that existed in 1978, the first year I won a board seat. We have come into the computer age, our percentage of students entering further education has increased and our scholarship monies from many sources are allowing our students the opportunity to further their pursuit of knowledge. Our district was able to build a new elementary school, our sports teams have expanded their offerings to our population and our staff makes a comfortable living wage.

Everyone doesn't always agree, but the majority of the time I spent on the Board of Education was collegial. We were able to work through differences in philosophy, finance and personnel. Having caring individuals working with you to accomplish progressive goals for our school district was always an uplifting feeling.

Administrators who care for the people they oversee is an essential part

of a well-operated system, and I believe that I leave you with that. In the past several years there has been a complete turnover in leadership, both at the school level and in central administration. It is my belief that we have in place one of the best teams in the area if not the state. They will work hard to make us the best we can be, and I take pride in the fact that I was a part of bringing them to South Plainfield.

I would have liked to continue to serve you all, but that was not to be, so I leave you happy in what I have been able to accomplish, and hope the future of our wonderful school district continues to move ever upward with many successes in the days and years to come. Again, thank you.

**CAROL BYRNE**

Dear Editor,

Thank you to the nearly 4,000 residents who cast their vote for me last Tuesday.

It was an honor to once again be a candidate on the Democratic line. I am grateful to all of those who gave of themselves during the campaign. I am particularly thankful for my mom and dad, who are always there for me.

Although my candidacy fell a little short, I am excited that my running-mate, C.J. Diana, was elected. He will be an outstanding addition to the Borough Council. For me this is just a bump in the road. I will continue to work to make South Plainfield the best it can be.

**FRANKY SALERNO**

Dear Editor,

Election Day has come and gone, and while things did not go as I had hoped, I would be remiss if I did not take the time to thank everyone for their support.

Looking back, I can't help but think about all the people who worked tire-

lessly on my behalf. Thank you to those of you who supported me, but most of all, thank you to the volunteers who made me so proud.

I wish the best of luck to my running-mate, Rob Bengivenga. Rob has distinguished himself on the council, and he will continue to do great things for our town.

I also want to congratulate C.J. Diana on his win. I know C.J. will do his best to help keep our town heading in the right direction, and I wish him much success. My advice to him is simple: Do what your heart tells you, be independent and work hard. If you do that, you will do well.

It's been an honor to serve on the Borough Council, and I look forward to continuing to serve our town in whatever capacity I can. My thanks once again to everyone who made my time on the council something I will never forget.

**COUNCILMAN DICK FRANK**

To the Editor:

Elections come and go, but its lessons are timeless.

I want to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to participate in this year's election for Borough Council. I did not win, but I feel I am a winner. I stepped up to the plate and entered into a race knowing I put my words into action. I certainly faced my fears and put myself out there. I made new friends along the way and met many wonderful people on this journey. Without contributions or endorsements, I owned my own campaign without negativity or trying to discredit the other candidates.

I have incredible friends and family who support me and I have God who guides me in all I do.

Winning is not the destination and my journey is not over. I will continue

to be a part of this great borough, and I will not sit on the sidelines being complacent. I will be there for all who ask for help. Remember, there is no Democratic or Republican way to change a light, clean a street or run a town. We must walk together on this path to accomplish our goals.

I want especially to thank those who voted for me; your support carried me through the difficult days, and I am honored to have been supported by you!

**THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU,  
PAT DE SANTIS**

To the Supporters of Veterans Day:

I would like to personally thank everyone who came out to support our Veterans Day dedication on November 11 at the VFW. The attendance and support made me proud to be the commander of the South Plainfield Post #6763.

I would like to personally thank Joey Reo and Tommy Tarnowski from the South Plainfield Middle School for playing taps at the completion of our outdoor dedication and Joanna Marston for singing a tribute to our veterans.

A special thanks goes out to Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan; Mayor Matt Anesh; council members Ray Rusnak, Rob Bengivenga, Dick Frank and Tim McConville; Councilman-Elect C.J. Diana; Police Chief Jim Parker for their attendance and support for our veterans.

I also want to thank Presto Printing for donating all of our printing needs and Russell Brarens for feeding all our hungry supporters.

Everyone who attended our ceremony helped make this day a very special one in which I will never forget. We all remembered and paid tribute to our VFW motto, "Honor the Dead by Helping the Living."

**VINCENT PERRY,  
VFW COMMANDER**

To the Editor:

We had reason to call 911 when the power was restored in our area. The police were at our house within minutes. While they were assessing the situation the Volunteer Fire Department arrived

and took over. The professionalism of our police and fire personnel made our horrifying experience bearable.

Assistant Fire Chief Larry DelNegro took the time to explain the existing problem and treated us with kindness and was respectful of our anxiety. After securing our house, we were not afraid to remain in it.

**ROSE AND FRED AYERS**

Dear Editor,

During this time of many economic hardships, the worst storm I've ever been through in my lifetime, and after witnessing fellow Jerseyans lose loved ones and life savings, I still tried to pay attention to last week's election. To see the smear campaign launched by Republicans Dick Frank and Rob Bengivenga was so distasteful and ignorantly repetitive—it just turned my stomach. Bad timing guys!

I kept getting Republican leaflets downgrading two highly intelligent, well-respected men whom I am very pleased to know. To see C.J. Diana, highly educated, a great father and husband, and Franky Salerno, also blessed with high intellect and a Navy veteran who loves his country (thanks mom and dad for lending him to South Plainfield), be plagued by the defamation tactics used by these two Republicans was total dishonor to South Plainfield.

Mr. Frank and Mr. Bengivenga, using a valuable resource such as a milk carton featuring Mr. Salerno as a missing person rather than the great asset it has become in finding missing and/or exploited children, was the most distasteful campaign tactic I have ever seen. I am sure that John Walsh of *America's Most Wanted* would agree.

Thank you to C.J. and Franky. You showed such good taste, character, integrity, confidence, as well as great judgement and respect. You both have impacted the lives of young people by showing the value of education that builds character, instills life-enhancing values and promotes healthy choices.

**THANK YOU,  
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## Obituaries

### Leroy Helgesen, 82

Leroy Helgesen passed away suddenly on Monday, Nov. 5 at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born and raised in Roselle, Mr. Helgesen lived in Westfield before settling in South Plainfield in 1954. He served in the US Army for three years during the Korean War as a staff sergeant.

Prior to his retirement, he worked as an electrician for Lessner Electric in Elizabeth and has been an electrician with the I.B.E.W. Local #102 for the past 50 years.

As a 50 year member of the Masonic Order, he served as past master for the former Anchor Lodge in Plainfield and is currently a member of the Atlas Pythagoras Lodge No. 10 of Westfield.

He is predeceased by a brother, John, and by a grandson, Cory Kline, who died in 2009.

Known to his family as "Pop", he will be deeply missed by his wife of 60 years, Joan (Stone); a daughter, Lindy Kline and husband Gary of North Carolina; two sons, Lee and wife Tina of Maryland and Kenny and wife Felicia of Ringoes; a sister, Gladys Bernard and husband Rick of Florida; eight grandchildren, Justin and Jason Kline, Michael, Brian, Steven, Paige, Brooke and Luke Helgesen and four great-grandchildren, Elizabeth, Jaxon and Dylan Kline and Eliza Helgesen.

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

Donations in his memory may be made to the American Heart Association or to the Leukemia Foundation.



Leroy Helgesen

in Edison.

Born in Eynon, Pa., Andrew joined the Army Air Corps in 1942. He worked as a aircraft welder and earned Bronze and Silver Star medals. On completion of his duty, Andrew worked as a plumber and gave DiFrancesco Plumbing many years of dedicated service before retiring.

Andrew was an avid sports fan and enjoyed watching and participating in sports such as baseball, football and golf. He could also be found keeping up on current events by reading the newspaper and listening to talk radio.

He is predeceased by his beloved wife of 64 years, Olga, who died in May 2011.

Andrew is survived by three daughters, Nancy and Payne Marciniak of Asbury, Eileen and John Snidenbach of Vineland and Claire and Kenji Kenno of Windsor, Ontario, Canada; two siblings, Mary and Eli; and a niece, Patricia.

He also leaves behind seven grandchildren, Allison, Sara, Keith, Stephanie, Staci, Scott and Kristen; and three great-grandchildren, Colton, Jase and Morgan.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, 2506 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

### John L. Ward, 89

John L. Ward died on Wednesday, Nov. 7 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Born and raised in Plainfield, John resided in Dunellen and again in Plainfield prior to settling in South Plainfield in 1960.

John was a veteran of the U.S. Navy



John Ward

and worked as a foreman for PSE&G in Elizabeth until his retirement.

He was an avid handball player and excelled at the sport winning many events including state championships. Mr. Ward was also a member of the former North Plainfield Flying Eagles and for many years was active with the Plainfield YMCA.

He is predeceased by three sisters and two brothers.

Surviving are his wife Helen (Zak); three sons, John and wife Linda of Millburn, Matthew and wife Teresa of South Plainfield and Mark and wife Marianne of Warren; and five grandchildren, John L., Meghan, Matthew, Lindsey and Ryan Ward.

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

### Minnie E. Gyuris, 93

Minnie E. Gyuris passed away peacefully on Thursday, Nov. 8 at her daughter's home surrounded by her family.

Born in Dunellen, she had resided in Perth Amboy for 20 years before settling in South Plainfield in 1957.

Mrs. Gyuris was employed as an inspector for the former Accurate Bushing Company in Garwood, retiring in 1980.

She was a communicant of Sacred Heart RC Church and a life member of the Polish National Home of South Plainfield.

A member of the Traveling Seniors of North Plainfield and the Super Seniors Bowling at Strike and Spare in Green Brook, she also enjoyed trips to Atlantic City and playing dominos. In addition, she enjoyed being an active card player, playing with the same five women for the past 58 years.



Minnie E. Gyuris

Most importantly, Minnie was a loving and caring person who always worried about her family and friends and was also there to assist anyone in need.

She is predeceased by her parents, Anna and Michael Prohaska; her husband, Michael A., who died in May 1979; a son, Michael R., who died in February 2010; two brothers, Henry and Michael Prohaska; and three sisters, Emily Chabok, Susan Gochal and Anne Stepnowski.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Beverly and William Ball; a son and daughter-in-law, Dennis and Maureen, all of South Plainfield; a daughter-in-law, Inge Gyuris of Jacksonville, Fla.; grandchildren, William and Monica Ball, Jr., Janet and John Wizda, Kelly and James Omert, Denny and Patty Gyuris and Erin Gyuris; and nine cherished great-grandchildren, Christian and Brandon Wizda, Stephanie, Jennifer and Veronica Ball, Ryan and Brenna Omert and Tyler and Jayden Gyuris. She is also survived by many nieces, nephews and their extended family; the Levins and the Pytlars; and her many friends.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department.

### Stephen J. Raynak, Sr., 87

Stephen J. Raynak, Sr. died on Sunday, Nov. 11 in the Haven Hospice within JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born and raised in Old Forge, Pa., to the late Andrew and Mary, Stephen was one of 11 children.

He entered the United States Navy during WWII where he served his



Stephen Raynak, Sr.

country honorably as a machinist mate third class prior to his discharge.

He resided in Elizabeth prior to settling in South Plainfield 57 years ago.

As a long time employee of PSE&G, Stephen worked as a lineman and later as an inspector prior to his retirement over 20 years ago.

He spent his time freshwater fishing, was a longtime member of the South Plainfield BPOE Elks Lodge #2298 and a communicant of Sacred Heart RC Church. In his younger years, he also enjoyed hunting.

He is predeceased by seven siblings.

Surviving are his wife of 65 years, Jean; a son and daughter-in-law, Stephen Jr. and Linda of Middlesex; a granddaughter, Lindsay Semonish and husband Bryan; and three siblings, Michael, Helen and Mary.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the South Plainfield Elks, Children with Special Needs Fund, 1254 New Market Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

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### —First Anniversary— November 17, 2011



Mary Russo

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I am a thousand winds that blow,  
I am the diamond glints on snow,  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain,  
I am the gentle autumn rain,  
When you awaken in the morning's hush,  
I am the swift uplifting rush,  
Of quiet birds in circled flight,  
I am the soft stars that shine at night.  
Do not stand at my grave and cry,  
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Sadly missed and loved by Daughter Diane, Husband Steve and Grandson Jay.

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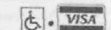
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## From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Chris Grippio

Next week is Thanksgiving and there will be two changes to the library's schedule. First, we will be closing at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, and second, we will be closed all day Thursday so that the staff can enjoy the holiday with their families.

About the turkey that will for sure be left over: please stop by and check out our cookbook section to find out the thousand and one ways to use leftover turkey. One of the memories all of us of a certain age have of turkey sandwiches, turkey hash, etc. Why not try something different?

Because of the schedule changes the only two children's programs that week will be on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. for children three years old and up, and Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. for children age two and three. All other story and craft times are cancelled for that week; however, Miss Linda and Miss Mija will be in the building to

attend to your needs (don't forget to pick up extra videos for the children).

On Sunday, Nov. 25 author Thomas J. Berry will come to the library at 2 p.m. to make a presentation concerning his book, *Texas Freedom: Last Stand at the Alamo*. This is a new take on a story that is familiar to many of us; it's about the stand taken by the Americans (Bowie, Crockett, Travis, etc.) against a huge Mexican Army, and while they sacrificed their lives the Americans were the ultimate victors. So come meet a local author and hear about one of the most famous stories in American history.

Miss Danielle will be showing movies both Monday, Nov. 19 and 26. Also, the next meeting of the Library Book Club will be on Thursday, Nov. 29 at 7 p.m. We will be discussing the book, *Devil in the White City*.

We hope by the time you read this that you all have power back and are recovering from the hurricane/snow storm. We all wish you a happy holiday.

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# Trunk-or-Treat Event Rescues Halloween for Local Children



By Patricia Abbott

Hurricane Sandy delayed children from enjoying the fun of Halloween, not just here in South Plainfield but across the entire state. Governor Chris Christie announced that Halloween would be celebrated on November 5, but trick or treating was not safe for the children due to the many downed trees, power lines and debris left by the massive storm. Some children were able to trick-or-treat, but the majority were not allowed.

In response, Riley School PTO mom Kristy Aboosamara devised a plan to restore the holiday for the kids. Working with Debbie Boyle and Kim Anesh, they began to plan a town-wide "Trunk-or-Treat."

Boyle approached the mayor and council to get permission to organize the event. They asked for a police presence and sought permission from School Superintendent Dr. Stephen Genco to hold the event in the high school parking lot on November 9 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Aboosamara and Anesh created fliers which were approved by Genco. Boyle acquired a building usage form. The fliers went home with the students on November 7. Forty parents signed up to distribute candy from their trunks. The turnout was better than expected, with more than 65 vehicles in attendance. Cars registered in advance online and provided their license plate numbers and amount of children participating. Parents not offering treats parked in a separate area of the parking lot. Those offering candy from their trunks were required to remain the entire time for the safety of the youths.

Police Officer Phillip Aquilina and Sergeant Wendell Born directed the cars into the lot prior to the arrival of the youngsters. Most of the cars were decorated; some parents wore costumes. Excited children accompanied by a parent or guardian arrived en masse. The air was filled with music provided by a volunteer deejay. Shouts of trick-or-treat could be heard from pint-sized ghouls, pretty princesses, Elmos, animals and even French fries. Almost Famous Players provided an array of props, ranging from zombie babies with rotating heads, eerie red light-up eyes, skeletons, giant rats and a five-foot figure that moaned and shook.

Boyle noted that the parents raved about the event and how much they enjoyed participating. They were happy because it was held at a closed-in area with police protection. The children agreed, saying it was "the best!"

Boyle cleaned up the high school parking lot on Saturday morning, removing candy wrappers and other debris. She offered thanks to high school Principal Dr. James Pedersen and Assistant Principal Ron Spring for their assistance in asking staff to move their cars by 3:30 p.m.

"The trunk or treat was amazing and I can't wait to do this event again next year," commented Anesh.

"I cannot believe the overwhelm-



ing response from all the parents and how receptive they were," added Aboosamara.

"Thanks to Superintendent Genco, Mayor Matt Anesh and Police Chief James Parker for working with Kim-

berly, Kristy and myself in such a short time period to provide a safe, close environment for our children. The turnout of parents and children was so great that we will definitely make this an annual event!" said Boyle.

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