

# South Plainfield OBSERVER

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Kennedy School Principal Lisa Parker and Riley School Principal Leo Whalen receive certificates for attainment of Reward School status. Both were presented by Dr. Mario Barbieri (far right).

## Local Elementary Schools Attain Reward School Status

By Libby Barsky

Kennedy and Riley elementary schools were honored at a recent Board of Education meeting for their selection as "Reward Schools" by the New Jersey State Department of Education for growth in outstanding student achievement in the NJASK tests over the past three years. (See story on page 5.)

Recently the state instituted the new Common Core State Standards using the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJASK) and the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) tests to measure achievement in math and language arts.

In the 2011/2012 school year, the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) ratings for schools were replaced by three performance ratings—Priority, Focus and Reward. A Priority School is one whose overall proficiency rate is 31.6%. A Focus School is a school that has room for improvement, with low high school graduation rates. South Plainfield does not have any school designated Priority or Focus. What

it does have are two Reward Schools out of 112 in the state.

In August Governor Chris Christie launched seven Regional Achievement Centers through the New Jersey Department of Education to apply the new state accountability system.

Dr. Mario Barbieri, former long-time Roosevelt School principal and assistant superintendent of schools in South Plainfield, is presently the executive director of Region Five RAC, which includes Ocean, Monmouth and Middlesex counties. Part of his job is to provide training teams that go into the Focus and Priority schools.

"It's a new accountability system. We're moving from monitoring to support," Barbieri said.

He returned to the old Roosevelt School (now housing the administration offices, Sunshine and Future Stars preschool programs) to present Principal Leo Whalen of Riley School and Principal Lisa Parker of Kennedy School with certificates recognizing each school's achievement for being selected as a Reward School by the Department of Education.

After the brief ceremony Barbieri mentioned this was the first award certificate made to a Reward School in the state. Barbieri also brought framed certificates to be placed in the administration offices. If other RAC directors follow Dr. Barbieri in awarding recognition certificates, it wouldn't be the first time he started a trend.

When Len Tobias was superintendent of schools, Barbieri began his tenure in the district as the principal of the middle school. He then was named principal of Roosevelt School where he initiated a program where the fifth graders went on an overnight trip to the New Jersey School of Conservation at Stokes State Forest with teachers and parent volunteers. For many years Roosevelt was the only school that took advantage of the Stokes trip program. But in 1994 the Board of Education passed a resolution to have all fifth graders attend the three-day session at Stokes State Forest. The program has continued for 18 years, including this past October when Grant School sixth grade students attended Stokes.

## School District Collecting Supplies for Victims of Hurricane Sandy

The South Plainfield School District, in partnership with the South Plainfield Home Depot, has been collecting supplies within each school in an effort to assist those in need resulting from the damage caused by Hurricane Sandy.

The four elementary schools are collecting school supplies; Grant Elementary School is collecting baby supplies; and the middle and high school are collecting cleaning supplies. With the assistance of the management team from the South Plainfield Home Depot store along with several members of the school community, items were packaged together and on November 17, they were delivered to those in need on Staten Island.

The Home Depot provided all the necessary supplies to box and package the items collected, and also provided a truck and a driver to get the items to those in need. Also, a joint effort is currently in progress that will send school supplies to a yet-to-be determined location in New Jersey.

The items are being donated via the Tunnel To Towers (T2T) Foundation ([www.tunneltotowers.org](http://www.tunneltotowers.org)) which honors the legacy of Stephen Siller, FDNY, who sacrificed his life on 9/11. By following Stephen's footsteps of selflessness and love by "doing good" in his memory, the foundation has established "In the Line of Duty" programs for firefighters, first responders and military members, and "Legacy of Love" programs to help make a lasting and positive difference in the lives of children who have lost one or both parents.

T2T has organized several relief stations to collect food and items to help those affected by Hurricane Sandy. South Plainfield will donate the items collected to the Staten Island Relief Center located at 2271 Hylan Blvd.

These efforts have been coordinated by elementary teacher Desiree Noland, middle school teachers Joseph Blondo and Melody Haggerty, and Curriculum Coordinator Paul Rafalowski.

## GIVE GENEROUSLY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

### Help the Library Help Others

The South Plainfield Library is reminding residents about the annual Giving Tree program, and asks you to help them help others this holiday season. Each ornament on the library's "giving tree" represents a local family in need. Please come to the library and take an ornament off of the tree and purchase something that the individual has written down that they could use.

Gifts should be new and unwrapped and should be brought to the library no later than December 13. When gifts are returned, please attach the ornament to the item so it will go to the right person.

This program is administered by the Borough of South Plainfield Social Services Department and benefits residents of South Plainfield.



Veterans pay their respects at the Trista Moretti Memorial outside Franklin School. Inside, the school community presented the annual Veterans Day program honoring local veterans. See pages 6 & 7 for Veterans Day stories.



### Inside 11.23.12

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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.

**councilmeetings**Meets twice a month on Mondays, \*except where noted.  
Borough Hall Council Chambers • Questions? 908-226-7605**Agenda Meeting**Monday, December 3  
Monday, December 17**Public Meeting**Monday, December 3  
Monday, December 17

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

**planningboard**Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month, \*except where noted.  
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7641  
Nov. 27, Dec. 11**zoningboardofadjustment**Meets first and third Tuesdays of the month, \*except where noted.  
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7641  
Dec. 4, Dec. 18**boardofeducation**Meets Wednesdays at Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave.  
Committee of the Whole meetings (begin at 6:00 p.m.) Dec. 12  
Regular Public Meeting (begin at 6:30 p.m.) \*except where noted Dec. 19**BOEcurriculum/technology/student activities**Meets once a month at 4:30 p.m. in 2nd floor conference room,  
Roosevelt Administration Building on Jackson Ave.**BOEbuildings & grounds**Meets second Monday of the month at 7 p.m., 2nd floor conference room,  
Roosevelt Administration Building**culturalarts commission**Meets the third Tuesday of the month at the PAL at 7:30 p.m.  
Dec. 18**libraryboard of trustees**

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

**recreationcommission**Meets once a month on the second Tuesday of the month, except July and August  
PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7716  
Dec. 11**taxpayersadvisorygroup**The Taxpayers Advisory Group (TAG) meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at  
Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave. at 7 p.m. Questions? 908-769-0786.**siteplansub-committee**Meets once a month (third Wednesday), 7 p.m.  
Dec. 19**environmentalcommission**Meets once a month (second Wednesday) Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m.  
Questions? 908-226-7621  
Dec. 12, Jan. 9**businessadvisorygroup**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.

**To the Editor:**

Thank you to the residents of South Plainfield for the opportunity to work for our students during a second term on the Board of Education. I look forward to working with the administration, staff, fellow board members and community to continue toward excellence in our schools.

Our students deserve the best that can be offered, and I believe with the support of all involved we can achieve this goal.

**SINCERELY,  
BILL SEESSELBERG  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER**

**To the Editor:**

A big thank you!

The trunk or treat event, held November 9 at the high school, turned out to be a huge success! I would like to thank the people who helped make this event possible.

First, I would like to thank Kimberly Anesh for helping push this idea in the right direction and helping me organize this event. She is an amazing person and I could not have done it without her.

Thank you to Mayor Matt Anesh and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Stephen Genco's for their quick responses, allowing us to hold this event and for caring so much about the children in this town.

Thank you to Debbie Boyle for her participation and coordinating the use of the high school and the police presence to ensure the safety of the children.

Thank you to deejay Moddymod (djmoddymod.com) for volunteering his time to make this night even more eventful and for keeping a smile on the kids' faces as they danced the night away. The adults enjoyed his entertainment as well and had great things to say.

Thank you to the South Plainfield Police Department for ensuring the safety of our children. Thank you also to the Department of Public Works for bringing over the barricades to keep

the children safe.

Lastly, a huge thank you to all of the parents who made this event happen. Whether you brought your children just to trunk or treat or you set up your trunks and gave out candy, this could not have taken place without you. I appreciate all of the help, all of the donations and the way everyone came together so fast to make this what everyone hoped it would be. I was glad to hear how much fun you all had and most of all how happy all of your children were. You are all amazing and I hope we all have made an event that can continue to happen every year!

**THANK YOU ALL!  
KRISTY ABOOSAMARA**

**To the Editor:**

We would like to express our sincerest thanks and gratitude to all the many wonderful people who donated their time and money to make the South Plainfield Special Athlete's Character Breakfast a huge success.

In late October, the SPSA hosted a character breakfast for the community at the South Plainfield Senior Center. It had a pirate/princess theme and a buffet breakfast for all. The money raised will aid the team in purchasing new uniforms and equipment needed to participate in the 2013/2014 New Jersey Special Olympics.

Extra special thanks to our many sponsors, especially the South Plainfield Police Department, the Elks Club of South Plainfield, the senior center, as well as the mayor and council. The event would not have been possible without the numerous volunteers who donated their time to work at the breakfast as well as dress in costume to make it extra magical.

Last, but certainly not least, we would like to extend our most heartfelt gratitude to the Both Family. Without their hard work and dedication, this event would not have been possible.

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BRITTANY DENITZIO & HEATHER  
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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.

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## borough notes

The Borough Council approved the following at the November 5 council meeting:

- Waiver of fire permit fees for inspection of replacement of fire door at Holy Savior Academy.

- Waiver of fire permit fees for a Christmas concert to be held on November 25 at Sacred Heart Church.

- The release of a performance bond in the amount of \$25,158 and acceptance of a two-year maintenance bond for \$3,773.70 for Fischer Group, LLC, property located at 2237 Hamilton Blvd.

- Hire temporary part-time employees for the Public Works Department to help with clean up from Hurricane Sandy.

- A change order of the original contract with Stilo Excavating Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 for the purpose of extending the scope of the project to include road improvements to John Street and Borman Road.

- Award a contract to Jen Electric for emergency traffic light repair and replacement at New Market Avenue, South Clinton Avenue, Durham Avenue and Hadley Road in an amount not to exceed \$33,501.95.

- Advertise and accept the 2013 Citizen Leadership Forms to fill vacancies on boards, commissions and committees.



The Plainfields' Chapter of UNICO, which boasts two past national presidents, recently celebrated the 42nd anniversary of the chapter's founding with a dinner and show in South Plainfield. Above (L-R) Councilman Derryck White, Councilman Rob Bengivenga, Plainfields' UNICO President John G. DeAndrea, South Plainfield GOP Vice Chairwoman Stephanie Bartfalvi, Council President Ray Rusnak, South Plainfield GOP Chairwoman April Trivigno Bengivenga, Councilman Alex Barletta, UNICO District X Governor Bob Bengivenga and Councilman Tim McConville. Below (L-R) UNICO National Third Vice President Dominick Nicastro, Second Vice President Ann Walko, UNICO Past National President Renato Biribin, UNICO District X Governor Bob Bengivenga, Plainfields' UNICO President John G. DeAndrea and Plainfields' UNICO Vice President Jason Risoli.



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## police report

- On Nov. 2 V. DiIorio and Sons Inc. on Mack Place reported that the lock on their storage container had been cut and a generator was removed.

- Binder Machinery Co. on Hamilton Boulevard reported the theft of 80 gallons of fuel from its welders and generators.

- On Nov. 3 an Easton Boulevard resident reported the theft of three saws from their open garage.

- Debra A. Kachmar, 53, of Metuchen was arrested for driving while intoxicated and reckless driving.

- Darnell A. Beverley, 21, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving and using a cell phone while driving.

- On Nov. 4 Samaya S. Wilkins, 24, of Piscataway was arrested for driving while intoxicated, refusal to submit to breath testing, maintenance of lamps, failure to wear a seatbelt and throwing of bodily fluids at a police officer.

- Christy A. Vesoloski, 30, of Dunellen was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving and using a cell phone while driving.

- MB Fragrance LLC on Hamilton Boulevard reported the theft of numerous boxes of fragrances from the rear door of the building.

- On Nov. 5 William C. Harrison, 45, of Piscataway was arrested at Target for shoplifting two Philips flat screen TVs valued at \$569.

- On Nov. 6 an Elizabeth resident reported that their vehicle had been scratched by an unknown object while parked on Parker Avenue.

- A Piscataway resident reported the theft of a purse that was left on the floor at Marshalls.

- On Nov. 8 Bryant J. Williams, 28, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated and reckless driving.

- A Plainfield resident reported the theft of their wallet that was left in a shopping cart at Target.

- A Monroe resident reported the theft of their cell phone that was left on the counter at Unique Thrift Store.

- On Nov. 10 Anthony Pacifico, 30, of South Plainfield was arrested for possession of a controlled substance, driving while intoxicated, reckless driving and possession of a controlled substance in a motor vehicle.

- Richard David Guarraci, 46, of Piscataway was arrested at Home Depot for shoplifting a Milwaukee scope kit valued at \$199.

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# events

## Around Town

### Cub Scout Breakfast Fundraiser

November 25

Cub Scout Pack #224 will hold a breakfast fundraiser on Sunday, Nov. 25 from 8 a.m. until 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,

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

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); \$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.

### Knights Breakfast With Santa

December 1

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus will be holding its annual Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 1 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Knights Hall, 334 Hamilton Blvd. Cost: \$5, adults; \$3, child; or \$15 for a family of four or more. Includes eggs, bacon, French toast, pancakes and much, much more. If you want

Santa to give your children a present, please bring it with you.

For more information or to make your reservations, call Tom Berry at (908) 531-0428.

### 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.

### First Baptist Will Celebrate 220 Years

December 2

First Baptist Church of South Plainfield is celebrating its 220th year! Originating in 1792, the first church building (known as Samp-town Baptist Church) was located on New Market Avenue. A special worship service will be held at the Hillside Cemetery at Samptown, the site of the original church building, on Sunday, Dec. 2 at 10:30 a.m. Church history will be shared during the service.

For more information and history, visit [www.fbcsouthplainfield.com](http://www.fbcsouthplainfield.com).

### 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. Complementary 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](mailto:christinebuteas@comcast.net).

### Historical Society Monthly Meeting

December 11

The next meeting of the South Plainfield Historical Society will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. at Sherbans Restaurant on Front Street. All are welcome to attend.

### Doolan's Radio City Spectacular

December 11

A trip to see the Radio City Spectacular at Doolan's in Spring Lake on Tuesday, Dec. 11 is open to all. \$68 per person includes transportation, show and lunch. Bus departs 9:45 a.m. from the South Plainfield Senior Center, 90 Maple Ave. Must purchase tickets by December 7.

For more information, call Grace McGinnis at (908) 755-5716 or the senior center at (908) 754-1047.

### — Out of Town —

### 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.

### Holiday Sale at the Danish Home

December 1

A holiday sale will be held on Saturday, Dec. 1 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Danish Home, 855 New Durham Rd. in Edison. Large selection of holiday gifts, many Danish items, children's gifts and more.

For more information, call the DANE office at (732) 287-6445.

### Open House at Flight School

December 1

American Flyers Flight School at the Morristown Airport, 50 Airport

### 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

Rd., will be hosting an open house and cookout on Saturday, Dec. 1. The event kicks off at noon with a free BBQ lunch, followed by facility tour given by a certificated flight instructor.

For more information, call (973) 267-3223.

### Singles Dance Party

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

### Chanukah Boutique/ Tzedakah Fair

December 2

Temple Shalom of Fanwood/ Scotch Plains will hold its Chanukah Boutique and Learning and Tzedakah Fairs on Sunday, Dec. 2 from 9 a.m.



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## Japanese Tea Ceremony Charms Attendees

By Libby Barsky

to 12:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of Union Catholic High School, 1600 Martine Ave. in Scotch Plains. Great gifts, new and favorite Jewish books and baked treats; classes include cooking, music and Jewish crafts.

For more information, visit [www.sholomnj.org](http://www.sholomnj.org).

### St. Helen's Caregiver Support Group

December 3

St. Helen's Church Caregiver Support Group, for those caring for elderly or chronically ill loved ones, will meet on Monday, Dec. 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Center on Lamberts Mill Road in Westfield.

For more information, call Marilyn Ryan at (908) 232-1214.

### Depression/Bipolar Support Meeting

December 5

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance will feature Joseph C. Napoli, M.D., DLFAPA, at its monthly educational meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 5 at 7:45 p.m. using the facilities of the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, 21 Normandy Heights Rd. in Morristown. The public is cordially invited.

For further local information, call (973) 994-1143.

Tin Chen of West Orange charmed the 12 attendees who came to the South Plainfield Public Library on the afternoon of October 12 to view a presentation on the Japanese Tea Ceremony. Wearing a traditional kimono, Chen talked about the history of those who brought tea from China to Japan and created a national, but non-religious, ritual initially derived from Zen Buddhism emphasizing harmony, respect, purity and tranquility.

Everything in the ceremony is carefully choreographed including the arrangement of the items used and the physical movements performed. It is so specific, even within a closed tea caddy when no one but the server sees when it's open, the loose tea is mounded to resemble a mini mountain.

Chen, whose parents were born in Manchuria which was once occupied by Japan, uses her Japanese grandmother's tea caddy and bamboo whisk in the tea ceremony she performs. Before she proceeded to make the tea, Chen demonstrated the arrangement of the five items used: chakin, a white paper to wipe the tea bowl; the tea bowl, chawan; the tea caddy; the tea scoop, made of bamboo; and the chasen, or tea whisk, which is used to beat the tea in the boiling water. Chen also talked about using seasonal items to decorate the

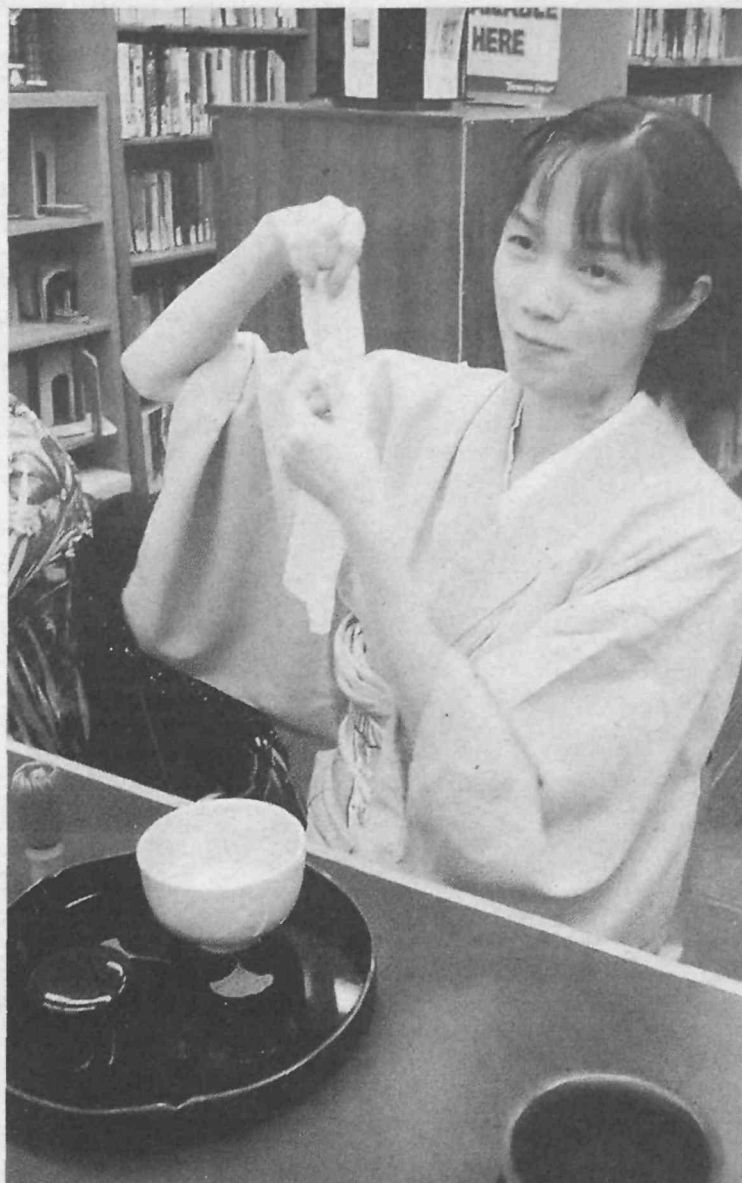
tray, i.e. a sprig of cherry blossom to represent spring or leaves for fall.

The movements during the ceremony are also extremely stylized, beginning with first washing out the tea bowl, using the left hand to empty the hot water used to warm the tea cup into another "garbage" bowl and carefully folding the chakin before it can be used to dry the tea cup. Before placing the scoop in the caddy the arm motion is a circular one, imitating the letter if the action were written. Chen then poured more boiling water into the cup, sprinkled the tea and using the whisk whipped the broth in a horizontal direction for a few minutes before pouring the tea into the cup then presenting the cup to the guest. The same process would be repeated in the traditional ceremony, every person present would each drink from the same cup (after being ritually cleaned).

Some of the elements of making tea used in the tea ceremony resonated with Evelyn Chavarria, whose background is English, who recalled using tea leaves and warming cups with boiling water to heat the cup before pouring out the tea for drinking.

Along with tea, small Japanese cakes were served to those who attended.

A future tea ceremony is being considered for an evening presentation, according to Library Director Linda Hansen.



Tin Chen demonstrates how to fold the chakin (linen or paper) in preparation for drying the tea bowl during a tea ceremony.

## School District 2011/2012 Students Test Scores Offer Mixed Results

By Libby Barsky

The New Jersey Department of Education state-mandated tests based on New Jersey Core Curriculum Content are meant to determine whether students in grades 3-8 are making satisfactory progress. Test results are designated as partial proficient, proficient and advanced proficient.

In 2002, when the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) federal legislation was instituted, the 40 sub groups included economically disadvantaged, special education, Hispanic, Asian, African American etc., with specific benchmarks for each school to achieve Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Every year benchmark percentages have been raised to achieve

AYP. The goal was to achieve 100% in each category by 2014. South Plainfield is preparing to move from New Jersey assessments to the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC).

This year there are three performance ratings for schools: Priority and Focus for schools with identified weaknesses and Reward for schools which have a high level of achievement.

There were no district schools rated Priority or Focus Schools according to the 2011/2012 test results; however, Franklin and Kennedy Schools were recognized as Reward Schools for improving their scores over the past two years.

South Plainfield's test results for the 2011/2012 school year were

led by the gains in the third grade New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJASK). Language arts scores increased to 84.2% from 2010/2011's 73.3% and math scores increased to 88% from 82.4%.

The High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) test taken in 11th grade in order to graduate also increased by 1.3% from 93.5% in language arts to 94.8% and by 1.8% in math scores. Since 2008 there has been a seven percent increase in HSPA language arts scores and for the past three years, there was a 5.8% increase in math scores.

Both the seventh and eighth grade test scores went down in 2011/2012. Eighth grade scores in language arts went from 88.1% to 87.4% and math scores declined from 75.4% to 75%.

The bright spot was a score of 90% in science. Seventh grade scores in language arts went from 74.1% to 63.4% and from 69.5% to 63.4% in math.

Grade six test score results showed increases in both math and language arts from 2010/2011. Language arts scores went from 72% to 72.5% and from 85.4% to 93.4% in math.

Grade five scores in language arts increased to 66.9% from 61.2%, but math scores decreased to 88.5% from 89.2%.

Grade four scores decreased in both subjects. Math scores went from 90.5% to 85.2% and language went from 69.7% to 67.1%. Science scores increased to 97.2% from 94.6%.

To improve overall school programs, district teachers and admin-

istrators revised and improved the common core standards in each subject over the summer. The Board of Education has also strengthened its administrative staff, hiring Kedra Gamble as supervisor of language Arts; Vincent Parisi as supervisor of mathematics; Paul Rafalowski as district curriculum coordinator; and to broaden the elementary language arts program, literacy coaches Teresa Luck and Mary Rodger were added.

School initiatives include a freshman assembly at the high school established to identify at risk students; a homework club meeting Monday through Thursday from 2:30-3 p.m. at the Middle School; and a reading initiative where each student is required to read independently for 20 minutes a day for enrichment.

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our freedom  
By Amy Swartz

## Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marines Honored at Franklin School

Thirty-six local veterans representing the various branches of the military were the guests of honor at the Veterans Day program at Franklin School on November 14. Teachers and students attired in a variety of red, white and blue bearing small flags or wearing paper bag hats proceeded down the

aisles to their seats. Friends and family gathered to await the start of the school's annual program.

The presentation began with the procession of flags. Children carrying their assigned flags marched down the aisles to their positions in front of the stage. They were accompanied by the school chorus singing *The Armed Forces Medley* and *Grand Old Flag*. Spectators applauded the group's grand entrance. Shouts of "Hi Grandpa!" and "Hi Daddy!" were heard throughout the program.

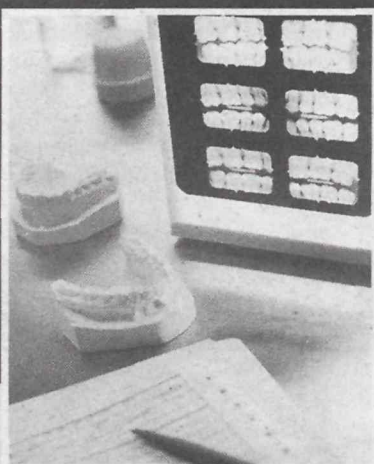
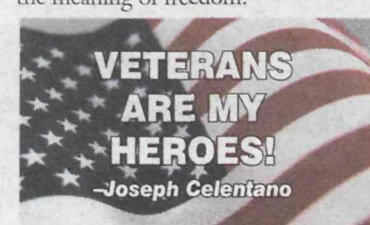
Flag bearers were Solomon Chainey, Mitchell Dudak, Kyle Griswold, Sean Heine, Alyssa Moffitt, Timson Nguyen and Amber Smith.

The crowd received a warm welcome by Principal Ralph Errico, who then introduced each veteran, which was followed by a recitation of the *Pledge of Allegiance* led by Student Council President Jenny Giannakis. The guests and students joined in for the *The Star Spangled Banner*. The vet-

erans rose and saluted for the duration of the song. Errico offered a salute to all our veterans. The school chorus, also adorned in red, white and blue, sang *Thank a Vet*.

Up next was one of the most heart-felt portions of the program, the reading of the winning essays in Franklin School's annual Veterans Day essay contest. Students in each grade learned about the role of veterans, and created artwork that was displayed in the school's hallways.

Veterans representing the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Marines came forward to be honored and to help our children better understand the meaning of freedom.



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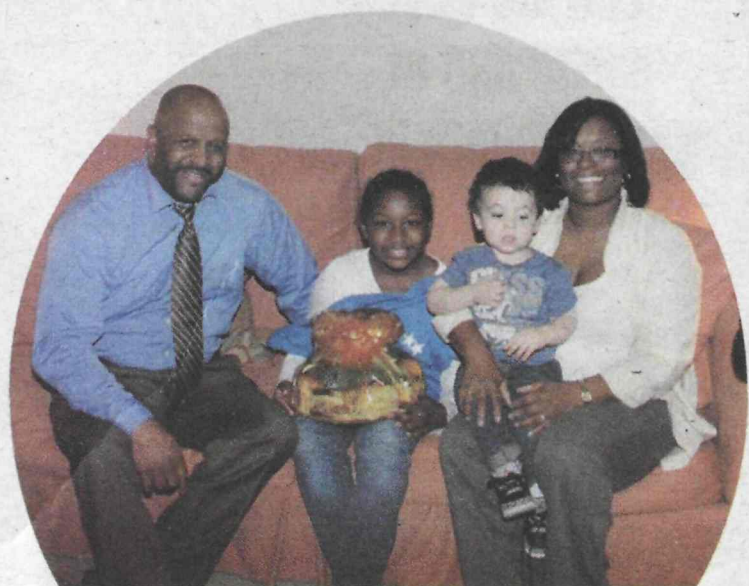
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Junior Journalist winner Gianna Glover receives dinner from Hometown Heros. Gianna is pictured with her parents, Tracy and Chere. Also pictured is Gianna's neighbor, Joseph.

Send in your entries now!!!





## Roosevelt School Celebrates Veterans

By Jane Dornick

Roosevelt School held its annual Veterans Day celebration on November 13 which was presented by first and second grade students. A similar program was also presented to parents the following evening.

During the month of October, the students studied information about the armed forces and learned songs to represent each branch of service. A Wall of Honor at the school entrance displays all the names of the military who are part of the Roosevelt School family community, and includes their rank and branch of service.

Teacher Michelle Santelli welcomed the audience and everyone stood for The Pledge of Allegiance. The first grade

classes performed *America* and the second graders sang *America the Beautiful*.

First graders then sang *When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again*, *Over There*, *The Army Goes Rolling Along* and *Anchors Aweigh*.

Second grade classes performed *Air Force Blue*, *Marine Hymn*, *Semper Paratus* and *Heave Ho, My Lads, Heave Ho*.

The first and second grade classes combined recited the poem, "Veterans Day," followed by *Taps* and *Thank You, Soldiers*.

The program ended with the entire audience singing *God Bless America*.

Attending the performance were veterans Joe Ferrera, Wayne Chervinski, George Mariasz, William Toth, Ken Kalinowski, Salvatore

Testa and Anthony Capone. Several of the veterans were from the Vietnam Vets Chapter 452 of Central Jersey as well as surviving WWII veterans. School personnel at the show were Superintendent Dr. Stephen Genco, Assistant Superintendent Nicole Porinilli, Vincent Parisi, supervisor of math and science and Board of Education member Bill Seesselberg.

Music teacher Sharon Perez worked with the children preparing for their performance and were supervised by teacher Glenda Posey. Student Council members Vivian Huyuh, Javid Khan, Alexander Martinez, Brian Mazellan, Jennifer Ngu, Melvin Ortiz-Samayoa, Olivia Santos, Anthony White and Neha Yawalkar narrated the program and the PTO provided refreshments.



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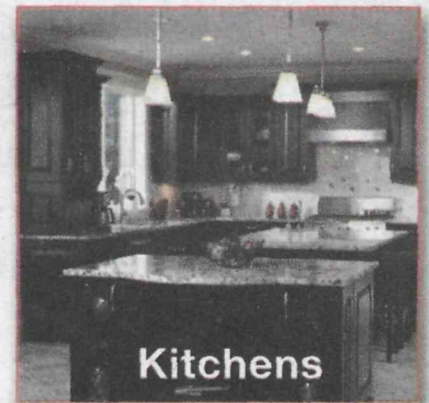
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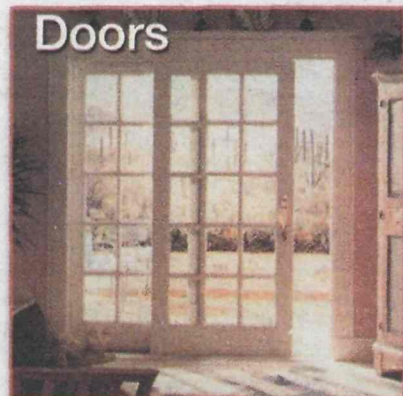
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1110 Hamilton Boulevard or call 908-668-0010.



The Club at Ricochet hosted a swimming class for eight Webelos from Cub Scout Pack 207 on November 7. The class earned the scouts their Aquanaut activity badge. They had a great time and thank Ricochet and especially their instructor, Amanda Cerini, for her time and patience. Pictured are Patrick Berry, Om Nerurkar, Danny McLeod, Gio Dente, Cerini, Braedon Dobrynio, Tanner Price, Kyle Griswold and Chris Lee.

## Sports

### Team Fury Ends Season With a Win

Team Fury played with heart and hustle on Sunday finishing their season on a high note. Despite hitting a bump in the road after winning their first four games, the Fury U10 girls beat Clark, 2-1, ending the season with six wins, two losses and two ties.

The stingy defense once again led by Tori Euston, Nadia Blouin, Gianna Glover and Courtney Nagy never let

up. The offense, which has only been able to manage one goal over the last three games, put the pressure on the Clark Crusaders the entire game.

Goals scored by Lauren Hutchison and Alexis Robinson were the result of very alert play and each were able to capitalize. A pesky performance from Olivia Ardito constantly pressuring Clark's defense and Deleaney Born,

who controlled the middle as she broke up many of Clark's offensive chances.

Although the shorthanded Fury were without Olivia Olano, Lena Parlapiano and Amanda Yuill, everyone stepped up to contribute to the victory.

Great season girls!

—Submitted by Kathleen Smith

### 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, dish-washing 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—Walmart, 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

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—Submitted by Debra Czech, PVP  
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## LEGAL NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICE

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

This Ordinance #1971 published herewith was introduced and passed upon first reading at the regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield held on November 19, 2012. It will be further considered for final passage after a public hearing to be held on December 3, 2012, at the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, at which time and place any persons desire to be heard upon the same will be given an opportunity to be heard. Copies are available free of charge at the Municipal Clerk's Office prior to the public hearing. This ordinance shall take effect immediately after final passage and publication according to law.

### ORDINANCE NO. 1971

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 300 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD ENTITLED: "NOISE".

BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey that Chapter 300 of the Code of the Borough

of South Plainfield be hereby amended as follows:

DELETE: Section 300-4(a). Emergency Exception.  
ADD: Section 300-4(a). Emergency Exception and Public Works Operations.

The provisions of this Chapter shall not apply to the emission of sound for the purpose of alerting persons through the existence of any emergency or the emission of sound in the performance of emergency work. The provisions of this Chapter shall not apply to the operations of the Borough Public Works Department performed by any employee of the Borough. The provisions of this Chapter shall not apply to any individual performing work at the request or direction of the Governing Body, which request or direction shall have been provided to such individual requiring the performance of such work prior to the work being initiated.

All other provisions of Chapter 300 of the Code of the Borough of South Plainfield shall remain in full force and effect.

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

Amy Antonides, RMC/CMC  
Municipal Clerk

\$40.31

November 23, 2012

### LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY  
NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION BY SUMMARY

### "ORDINANCE 1972

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 1875 AUTHORIZING FEES FOR RENTAL OF SENIOR CENTER AND ADOPTION OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES"

The ordinance #1972 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 19, 2012. In summary, this ordinance amends the fees, rules, and regulations for the rental of the Senior Center. The public hearing where further consideration will be made will be held on December 3, 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

\$30.86

November 23, 2012

## LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

### PUBLIC NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE that the undersigned shall expose for sale in accordance with R.S. 39:10A-1, at public auction on NOVEMBER 26, 2012 at 11 a.m. at 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey, the below described motor vehicles which came into possession of the South Plainfield Police Department through abandonment or failure of owners to claim same.

Year	Make	Model	Vin#	Status	Min. Bid
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2000	NISSAN	Sentra	3N1CB51D7YL317376	Resale	\$1,750.00
2001	Hyundai	Elantra	KMHND45D51U218267	Resale	\$955.00
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November 23, 2012

### LEGAL NOTICE

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

### "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 second reading herewith has been adopted at the meeting of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield, held on November 5, 2012, and the 20 day period of limitation within which a suit, action or the validity of such ordinance can be commenced, has begun to run from the date of the publication of this notice.

Amy Antonides, RMC/CMC  
Municipal Clerk

\$26.15

November 23, 2012



## Obituaries

### Anthony E. "Tony" Costantino, 83

Anthony E. "Tony" Costantino passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 13 at Ocean Medical Center in Brick.

Born and raised in Newark, he settled in South Plainfield in the late 1960s where he had resided for most of his life before recently residing with his daughter, Joann, in Brick.

Tony was a well-known, self-employed master tailor. He operated Alter Quick from his former home on Maltby Avenue in South Plainfield for many years. He semi-retired only to continue his work for those he was closest to. In his younger years, Tony also tailored for several of the well-known department stores in Plainfield.

Tony, along with his late wife, "Chick," was also a longtime and faithful communicant of Sacred Heart RC Church. He had assisted with the church's annual fair and his love of cooking also led him to be the cook for the priest at the church for several years. Additionally, he was a member of the Knights of Columbus, South Plainfield Council #6203 and was a model train enthusiast.

He is predeceased by his beloved wife, Ruth "Chick" (DeLuca), who died in December of 2006; a daughter, Denise A. Padilla, who died suddenly in May of 2011; and a brother, Nicholas.

Surviving are two daughters, Joann Toolan and Maryann Santino; a sister, Anne Valente; 10 grandchildren, Melissa, Joseph, Luis, Erica, Nicholas, Thomas, Jeffrey, Meghan, Mark and Morgan; and two great-grandchildren, Timothy and Anthony.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Heart Association, 1 Union St., Suite 301, Robbinsville, N.J. 08691.

### Barbara (DeFillipo) Bartlett, 87

Barbara (DeFillipo) Bartlett passed away peacefully at home on Saturday, Nov. 10 with her husband by her side.

Born on January 4, 1925 in South Plainfield, Barbara was a lifelong resident until moving to Selbyville, Del. in 2009.

Barbara and Carl were married on September 9, 1953 at Sacred Heart Church and they raised four children.

During WWII she worked building airplanes for the war effort, then became an accomplished seamstress working at the sewing factory that was on South Plainfield Avenue in the center of town.

After her children were grown she worked for Revlon and then with her daughter in horticulture, designing and

growing herbs and flowers and teaching design workshops. Her artistic abilities were limitless whatever medium she chose: thread, yarn, paint, chalk or just a simple pencil.

Barbara was an amazing mother with endless love and energy that she lavished onto family and friends. She was an amazing cook and loved to throw huge picnics and invite anyone she met. She was a crack shot, could always land the fish including a giant blue marlin and taught her children they could do anything.

She is predeceased by a son, Bruce and seven siblings.

Barbara is survived by her husband, Carl; a daughter, Cheryl (David); two sons Richard (Connie) and Gerard (Betsabe); four grandsons, Max, Travis, Hunter and Harley; a sister, Jeanette Modola; and many nieces and nephews.

### MaryBeth (Kelly) Cassio, 40

MaryBeth (Kelly) Cassio died on Saturday, Nov. 17 at Mount Sinai Hospital in Manhattan after a severe battle with liver disease.

MaryBeth was born in Queens and grew up in Floral Park, N.Y. She attended Marist College where she met her loving husband, Thomas, and in 1994 she graduated with a bachelor's degree. Following college MaryBeth settled in South Plainfield where she resided for nearly 20 years.

Soon after college and her marriage, MaryBeth was diagnosed with liver disease and the battle began. In 1997 MaryBeth underwent her first liver transplant and unfortunately, in 2002, she underwent a second one. She was a fighter since day one until finally succumbing to the disease and additional illnesses early Saturday morning.

She worked for Central Jersey Orthopedic in South Plainfield for some time prior to being blessed with the opportunity to raise her family.

MaryBeth is predeceased by her father, Michael, who died in 2011.

She is survived by her loving and caring husband, Thomas; her two joys of her life, Matthew and Danny; her mother, Mary Kelly; two sisters, Cathy Kelly of Boston, Mass. and Theresa Kelly of New York; two brothers, Michael Kelly and wife Kristin of Greenwich, Conn. and Brian Kelly and wife Helen of Floral Park, N.Y.; her mother and father-in-law, Jeanie and Tom Cassio; three brothers-in-law, Garrett and Darlene Cassio, Greg and Jennifer Cassio and Chris Cassio and fiancé Natia. Also surviving are 12 nieces and nephews.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Donate Life America, [www.donatelife.net](http://www.donatelife.net).

### Mary E. Fessock, 92

Mary E. Fessock died on Thursday, Nov. 5 at Genesis Eldercare at the Woodlands in Plainfield.

Born and raised in Woodbridge, Mrs. Fessock settled in South Plainfield in the 1950s.

Mary worked as a crossing guard in South Plainfield at the corner of Park and Maple avenues for 18 years. Trips to the mall on Senior Citizen's Day was always a favorite pastime.

She is predeceased by her husband, Andrew; all her brothers and sisters; and a grandson, Kyle Slavin.

Surviving are two daughters, Christine Diller and husband Joseph of South Plainfield and Andrea Slavin of Sarasota, Fla.; four grandchildren, Dana Slavin, Jamie Cole, Melissa Diller and Lindsay Diller; and three great-grandchildren, Makenna, Camryn and Christian. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

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

### Leona M. (Hebb) Gaster, 83

Leona M. (Hebb) Gaster died on Friday, Nov. 16 at the Arista Care at Norwood Terrace in Plainfield.

Born in Maryland, Mrs. Gaster and her family settled in South Plainfield in 1967.

An avid baker who enjoyed cooking and sewing, Leona worked for Revlon in Edison for nearly 25 years until her retirement.

Besides her family and trips to Maryland, one of Leona's favorable achievements was earning her pilot's license due to her passion to fly.

She is predeceased by two brothers, Robert and Charlie.

Surviving is her husband, John; three children, Linda Greenstein, John Gaster (Sueann) and Toby Gaster (Donna), all of South Plainfield; a sister, Katherine Kight (Blaine) of Maryland; three brothers, Perry Hebb (Judy) and Jack Hebb both of Maryland, and Dan Hebb of West Virginia; and five grandchildren, Tammy Danise, David Greenstein, Chris Gaster and John and Holly Gaster. Also surviving are three great-grandchildren.

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

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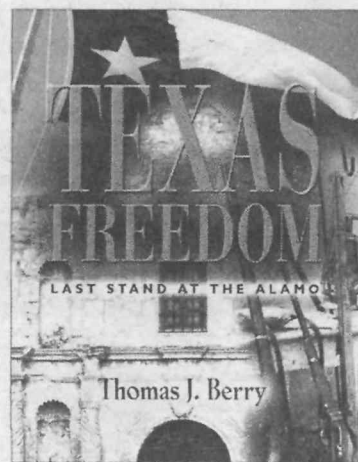
The Middlesex County College chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two year colleges, recently held a book drive on campus and donated 70 children's books to the college's Child Care Center. The society also volunteers reading to children twice a week at the center. Admiring the books are, from left, Adriene Smith, the child care director; Tymir Reaves (Edison); Lori Jackson (South Plainfield), the reading program coordinator for PTK; and Leila Martinez (Edison).

### Thomas Berry to Host Book Signing

Local author Thomas Berry will be hosting a book signing and presentation on Sunday, Nov. 25 at 2 p.m. at the South Plainfield Library.

Berry is the author of *Texas Freedom: Last Stand at the Alamo* and *Lewis and Clark: Murder on the Natchez Trace*.

Admission is free to the public. For more information, call the library at (908) 754-7885, or visit Berry's website at [www.thomas-berry.com](http://www.thomas-berry.com).



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## Middlesex County College Presents Dance Ensemble

### Fall for Dance Features Modern Dance

The Middlesex County College Dance Ensemble will present its twelfth annual fall dance concert entitled "Fall for Dance" on Friday, Nov. 30 and Saturday, Dec. 1. Both performances will be held in the Performing Arts Center on the college's Edison Campus at 7 p.m. and are free.

"We are presenting modern dance pieces that are, as always, distinctive and audience-friendly," said Professor Aimee Mitacchione, the director. "Refreshing twists to our concert include modern dance incorporating batons, as well as a piece that showcases many dance styles in one. It is a delight to have professional choreographer Lees Hummel, currently the director of education for the Lustig Dance Theater, return yet again, bringing

our dancers to another level."

Student choreographers include Abigail Allen, Melanie Belonis, Tabitha Edwards, Melissa Hurst, Caitlin McHugh, Alicia Pagan, Asia Vaganek and Nicole Zygler.

"Our dancers range from advanced professionals in the dance field to absolute beginners," said Professor Mitacchione, who also choreographed two of the dances in the upcoming concert. "The dance program prides itself on providing opportunities to a diverse group of artists who may not have otherwise been given the chance to gain performance experience. We strive to provide a professional concert that will be thought-provoking and inspirational."



## SP Eagles Cheer Make History Again

For the first time in the organization's history, the South Plainfield Eagles are sending two teams to the Pop Warner National Cheer Competition in Florida. Both teams took first place at the local Mountain Valley Cheer Competition on October 20, second place at the Central Qualifiers on November 11 and second place at the Eastern Region Cheer Competition on November 17.

The South Plainfield Eagles two competitive cheer squads—the Junior Pee Wees made up of girls in grades four and five and the Junior Midgets in grades six, seven and eight—have been working hard since August on their cheers and dance as well as their stunting and have once again put South Plainfield on the Pop Warner map.

The SP Eagles board, coaches and parents are so proud of the girls' accomplishments this season and are looking forward to seeing them perform at Nationals the first week.

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South Plainfield resident Leslie Ufendu and her daughter Kaitlyn were granted a Hurricane Relief Wish on November 11 from the Wish Upon a Hero Foundation. Leslie, who lost her job due to the unfortunate circumstances of Hurricane Sandy, posted a wish at [www.wishuponahero.com](http://www.wishuponahero.com). With the help of Cory Singer, Wish Upon a Hero's national spokesperson, and councilmen Derryck White and Rob Bengivenga, her wish was granted. Leslie received a \$100 Walmart gift card, clothing donations and a winter coat for her daughter, as well as financial donations. -Submitted by Jill Pavel, director of national events, Wish Upon A Hero Foundation

## Sponsors Sought to Support Installation of Digital Sign

The Borough of South Plainfield, in conjunction with the Department of Public Works and The Boyle Memorial Foundation, are supporting the purchase of a digital sign for the advertisement of events in South Plainfield. PSE&G will no longer allow any postings of banners on PSE&G poles.

The financial support of service organizations is needed to purchase

the sign. Individual donations are also welcome. The cost of the sign is approximately \$18,000. The sign, which would be located at Borough Hall, would publicize events for the South Plainfield Fire Department, First Aid Squad, Soccer Club, Pop Warner, Pop Warner Cheerleading, Junior Baseball Club, church events, Knights of Columbus, Elks, American Legion, veterans associations, Athletic

Booster Club, Music Booster Club, drama and musical events, UNICO, the Italian-American Club, Lions club, etc.

Donations can be made to the Borough of South Plainfield. For more information, contact Robert Capparelli, Public Works general supervisor, at (732) 684-7938 or Debbie Boyle at (908) 803-1573.

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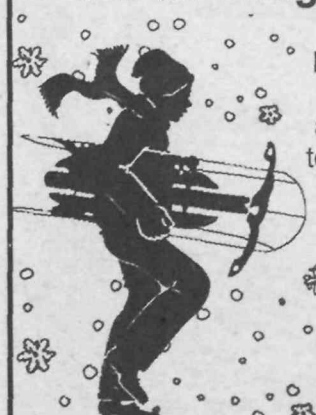
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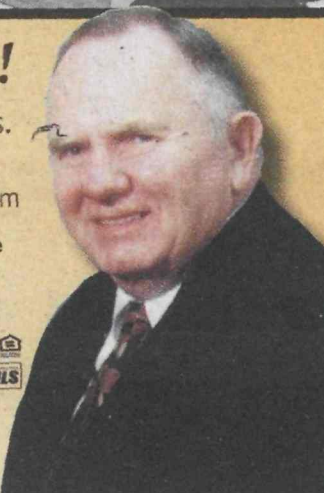
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## PSE&G Relief For Customers Impacted by Sandy

In response to concerns raised by Senator Frank R. Lautenberg about New Jerseyans receiving high "estimated" electric bills despite losing power for multiple days following Superstorm Sandy, PSE&G has agreed to institute a policy allowing customers who lost power to pay a pro-rated amount of their estimated bill whereby they can deduct for the number of days they lost power.

In the wake of Sandy, some PSE&G customers have received bills with their electricity usage estimated based on seasonal usage—not actual consumption. This policy will allow these customers to estimate the amount owed based on how many days they were without power, and pay the lower amount without risk of accruing late charges.

"I am pleased that PSE&G has instituted a policy in the aftermath of Sandy that will prevent customers from overpaying their bills. Many families are fighting to get back in their homes and rebuild after the storm, and they can't be paying out of pocket for services they never received. We will continue working with New Jersey residents to ensure businesses are treating them fairly and helping them in the recovery process," said Lautenberg.

Due to Hurricane Sandy and the delay in meter reading in certain areas, 25 percent of PSE&G customers received an estimated bill in November based on a formula that reflects seasonal usage. If consumers receive an estimated bill in November, they can pro-rate and pay the bill based on how many days they were without power.

Lautenberg has called on other New Jersey utilities to provide similar relief for their customers.

## Middlesex County 4-H Gift Drive

The Middlesex County 4-H Teen Council will host a Holiday Gift Drive in support of their annual Project GIFT Holiday charitable event on Wednesday, Dec. 5 and Thursday, Dec. 6 from 7-9 p.m. The gift drive will take place at the 4-H Center, 645 Cranbury Rd. in East Brunswick. Interested participants should bring only new items including clothing, toys, games and other items for children ages infant through 18 years.

Drop-offs can also be made to the 4-H office by appointment only.

This is the 15th year of 4-H's Project Gift, which provides a free day of holiday shopping for over 135 needy families in the Middlesex County community. 4-H Teen Council and Junior Council members donate over 30 hours of service time throughout the year, to raise funds and make plans to insure this annual event is a success.

If you'd like more information on the gift drive or would like to make a monetary donation, please contact the Middlesex County 4-H office at (732) 398-5261.

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This Week's Junior Journalist winner is...

**Gabriella Vitabile**

Gabriella Vitabile, Roosevelt School third grader, is this week's winner in the Junior Journalist program. Her poem, "Summer," has earned Gabriella 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



Junior Journalist winner Gabriella Vitabile with teacher Kathy Maher.

awarded to one student by Hometown Heros; additional prizes are also awarded.

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

## Summer

By Gabriella Vitabile

Oh this summer was so great,  
I didn't have to rake.  
I went to the pool and the beach.  
My Mom washed the clothes with bleach.  
It was great.  
I turned 8.  
My birthday was first rate.  
I slept in my bed  
And kept my thoughts in my head.  
I went on vacation.  
I signed up for soccer at the recreation center.  
I love summer.

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