

South Plainfield OBSERVER

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NOVEMBER 30, 2012



SPHS senior and junior girls face off in the Powder Puff football game.

Senior Puffs: Not All Fluff

Team 13 Squashes Juniors in Annual Powder Puff Competition

By Patricia Abbott

Approximately 150 South Plainfield High School junior and senior girls faced off in the Powder Puff football game. The seniors donned black t-shirts printed with "senior" in yellow along with number 13 (signifying their graduation year). The juniors wore the reverse colors with the word junior and number 14 on the back. The seniors were victorious, 12-0.

It was a perfect autumn day for the game, a seven-year tradition, which was held the day prior to Homecoming on the turf field behind the PAL. Family and friends gathered to fill the bleachers and cheer on their favorite player or

team. Loyalties prevailed, and players on the field received ongoing support from their teammates, making for a very noisy afternoon.

Adding to the fun were the teams' cheerleaders, the senior and junior boys, who were rigorously trained by Tiger cheerleaders. Their routines included lifts and throws and some serious hip action. They were loud and boisterous, which brought on cheers, applause and laughter from the crowd. The opposing cheerleaders and competing teams practiced every day for several weeks to ensure their skills were ready for the crowd.

For photos and coverage of Homecoming festivities, see pages 6 and 7.



The Powder Puff Football cheerleaders (above) performed various routines in support of the annual Powder Puff game.

Proposed Senior Center Rental Fees Draw Criticism

By Jane Dornick

The Borough Council voted unanimously at the November 19 meeting to introduce an ordinance increasing rental rates for entities utilizing the Senior Center for the hosting of events. The current rental fees for usage of the facility were originally adopted by the council in April of 2010.

The legal notice for Ordinance #1972 published in the November 23 *Observer* included a Notice of Introduction by Summary citing the amending of the previous ordinance (#1875). In the past, notice of ordinance introductions included the publishing of ordinances in their entirety; however, municipalities have the option of publishing a summary

of the ordinance in an effort to save taxpayer dollars.

Questions concerning the new fees were raised by South Plainfield Business Association President Nancy Grennier and Debbie Boyle. Grennier, who is also publisher of the *South Plainfield Observer*, expressed concerns that the published notice failed to detail the new rules and rate increases. Both Grennier and Boyle expressed their concerns to Councilman Derryck White, who passed the comments on to the mayor and council.

According to Borough CFO Glenn Cullen, the ordinance that was introduced was crafted by the Senior Advisory Board subcommittee.

"After thorough discussions with various governing body members, we

are going to pull this ordinance and most likely have a new ordinance on for the next meeting," said Cullen, who went on to say, "The senior center was built for the seniors, and it is becoming a free-for-all regarding who uses it. Once fees were waived last year, a Pandora's Box was opened that needs to be closed." Cullen also said that the taxpayers do pay for the building, but they also pay taxes toward the Board of Education. "It is not the senior center's obligation to host every sports fundraiser in town or taxpayer birthday party and lose money in the process," explained Cullen. "Those losses are subsidized by the taxpayers of the borough. We are trying to balance everyone's interest, and I expect that to be done more ef-

fectively with the new ordinance."

In response, Boyle commented that the Board of Education has nothing to do with the athletic dinners that take place at the senior center. "Yes, it is for the seniors, but renting this out also helps to pay for various items for the senior center," said Boyle. "No one said it was the senior center's 'obligation' to host any of the events."

Some of the fees proposed in the new ordinance include the following:

Fees for borough boards, commissions and agencies, full-time employees, active senior center members and non-profit community organizations holding a free event will increase from the cost of a supervisor and/or janitor (when applicable) to a minimum of \$250.

(Continued on page 11)

GENEROSITY CAN CHANGE LIVES



Open Your Heart to a Needy Family for the Holidays

With tough economic times comes the opportunity for those of us who have been more fortunate to help those families who are struggling at this time. Gifts for children are hard to come by when you need to concentrate on providing shelter and utilities for your family.

The South Plainfield Social Services Department is again organizing its annual holiday project. The department will locate the families (through the school system) in our community that are having difficulty providing food and some type of holiday gifts.

The "Adopt a Family" program will allow you to actually "adopt" a family for Christmas, or if you are unable to adopt a family, you can bring in a new gift (clothing is greatly appreciated) to help us to assist these families.

If you are interested in helping with this program, please call Marge Ackerman, Social Services director, at (908) 226-7625, or stop in the Senior Center at 90 Maple Ave.

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

give...
South Plainfield Library is sponsoring a Giving Tree program. Visit the library, take an ornament off the tree, and make a purchase for someone who could really benefit from your generosity. Gifts (new) should be brought to the library (unwrapped) no later than December 13. When gifts are returned, please attach the ornament to the item so it will go to the right person.

Inside 11.30.12

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4 Events

6 Homecoming Includes Competition, Court, Pep Rally & Bonfire

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12 Project Santa



A cheerleader performs at the Powder Puff game.



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

FYI

Borough Council & BOE

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

council meetings

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

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Agenda Meeting | Public Meeting |
| Monday, December 3 | Monday, December 3 |
| Monday, December 17 | 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.

planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month, *except where noted.
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7641
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
Dec. 4, Dec. 18

board of education

*** Organization Meeting Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2013-6:30 p.m. ***
Meets Wednesdays at Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave.
Committee of the Whole meetings (begin at 6:00 p.m.) Dec. 12, Jan. 9, Feb. 13, March 20, April 10, May 1, June 5, July 17, Aug. 21, Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec. 11
Regular Public Meeting (begin at 6:30 p.m.) *except where noted Dec. 19, Jan. 16, Feb. 20, March 20, April 17, May 8, June 12, *July 17- 7:00 p.m., *Aug. 21- 7:00 p.m., Sept. 18, Oct. 16, Nov. 20, Dec. 18

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.
Dec. 18

library board of trustees

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

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.
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.



Roosevelt School held a contest recently to see which class could collect the most food donations for Shirley Thompson who, for the past 10 years, has provided hot Christmas dinners to those in need in South Plainfield. The children collected a total of 325 pounds of non-perishable food. Ms. Boschen's kindergarten class won the contest by collecting 67.5 pounds of food. Thank you to everyone who participated in the food drive and donated to this worthy cause.

In My Opinion

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

Submit Your Letters to the Editor

Send your letters to South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax to 908-668-8819, or via email: spobsobserver@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.

If anyone would like to mail something, please mail to: Shirley Thompson, 131 Montrose Ave, South Plainfield, N.J. 07080. Do not leave gift cards in the containers, drop them off at 131 Montrose Ave. or mail directly to Shirley at the address listed above.

If you already participate in a holiday food drive, please continue. I am not looking to take the place of something you already have in place. Please feel free to share this article with anyone you feel would like to help. If you are a local business and would like to hold a toy, clothing or non-perishable food drive, or if anyone has any questions, contact me at (908) 397-4003.

Thank you for your consideration.

**SINCERELY,
SHIRLEY THOMPSON**

To Our O'Donohue Ave. Neighbors:
Words cannot express how thankful we are to our neighbors on O'Donohue Ave. You all know who you are. Neighbors are usually just people you would say hello to and/or how are you? But these neighbors are like our family. Of course, in times of need, you can expect some thoughtful gestures but, in our case our neighbors have gone above and beyond.

They have taken care of our children when Rick and I were not around. They have taken care of me when I came home to recover from my surgeries, and they were there for us again during Hurricane Sandy. Again, these neighbors are more like friends and family. We can honestly ask ourselves, "What would we do without you?"

We hope you know if there is anything we can do to repay you or help you in any way, we are right here for you! Our love and thanks to you all!

**ALL OUR LOVE,
THE MCMAHON FAMILY**

To the Community:

On behalf of the parishioners of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Orthodox Church on Delmore Avenue, we would like to thank the *Observer* for publicizing our food and bake sale fundraiser that was held on November 17 and also say "thank you" to everyone who made our bake sale a success. We were sold out by 1 p.m.!

We will be holding another bake sale next year, so be sure to watch the *Observer* for all the details!

Thank you and God bless you all!
**ANITA ANDERSON, NBVOC BAKE/
FOOD SALE COORDINATOR**

Residents of South Plainfield:

My name is Shirley Thompson and for the tenth year I will be organizing, collecting and distributing Christmas presents and hot Christmas dinners to families in South Plainfield who, without our help, may not have Christmas presents for their children. We also deliver hot Christmas dinners to senior citizens in South Plainfield who would normally receive Meals on Wheels (which does not deliver on Christmas Day). All gifts for the children, as well as the food needed to prepare a hot Christmas dinner, are purchased through donations received from local businesses, friends, family and neighbors.

Once again, this year we would like to ask for your assistance in donating any of the following items (all items should be new and unwrapped): book bags, hats, gloves and scarves, socks,

toys (no war toys), games, puzzles and coloring books. All items should be age appropriate for children in elementary through high school.

We are also in need of children's and teenagers' size clothing and pajamas. All items must be new. Below is a list of sizes needed:

- Boys' clothing sizes: 5, 10, 12, 14;
- Girls' clothing sizes: 3T, 4T, 6, 7/8, 8/10, 12/14, XL 16/18;
- Men's clothing sizes (for children up to age 17): XS, M, L, XL;
- Women's clothing sizes (for children up to age 17): XS, S, M, L, 3, 5.

We are in need of wrapping paper and tape. We will also be collecting non-perishable food that we will distribute to the families. We could also use gift cards and monetary donations that we will use to purchase presents for the children or use for food and other items needed to prepare Christmas dinner.

This year we have a few different drop off points; all donated items should be dropped off in designated containers by December 14 at any of the following South Plainfield locations:

- 131 Montrose Ave. (please place items in container on side porch)
- Hometown Heros Deli, 340 Hamilton Blvd.
- Mr. Subs, 100 South Plainfield Ave.
- ProCare Physical Therapy, 201 Durham Ave.

South Plainfield OBSERVER

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

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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Scouts and leaders from Boy Scout Troop #309 volunteered their time to work at the Community Food Bank in Hillside on October 13. Pictured (L-R) are Louis Quintanella, Troy Harzula, William Walsh, Joshua Siepmann, Douglas Veit, Tim Nuber and Anthony Barge. Not pictured are leaders Jeff Pauls and Richard Veit.

Dr. Cocchiola Returns to Present Tenure Certificate

By Libby Barsky

Dr. Frank Cocchiola, whose two-year term as interim assistant superintendent of schools ended in October, returned to South Plainfield to attend the November 14 Board of Education meeting to present Annmarie Stoeckel with a certificate of tenure as supervisor of technology and library media.

Dr. Cocchiola insisted upon returning to give Stoeckel her tenure certificate because he worked with her for 21 months, the longest of any of the current administrators. Together they applied for and completed in four weeks a \$50,000 Pandemic Grant as well as the application for Race to the Top. In addition, Stoeckel brought in a new web network, "School Wires" for the district, worked on professional development and helped in the rewriting of the district's curriculum for the state's Common Core Curriculum Standards.

A graduate of Rutgers University, Stoeckel began teaching in the district in 1980. She left to raise her family and returned in 1995 to teach computer and basic math at Roosevelt School. In 2002, she received an educational technology master's degree from New Jersey City University and held the position of adjunct professor



Dr. Frank Cocchiola presents a certificate of tenure to Annmarie Stoeckel, Supervisor of Technology.

in the Department of Educational Technology.

In November of 2010, Stoeckel began the position of supervisor of technology, replacing Russ Mattoon who resigned to become supervisor of career and technical education for Essex County.

In the two years Stoeckel has held

the position, she has increased the amount of technological equipment in the district, adding 26 projectors, 23 smart boards, 120 iPads, 120 laptops, 14 printers and 50 desktops this past year, as well as upgrades to the website and computer transmission of information.

Donate to the Library "Giving Tree"

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.



Legal Services Launches Sandy Hotline to Help Victims

With tens of thousands of New Jerseyans still reeling from the ravages of Hurricane Sandy, a special hotline number, 1-888-222-5765, has been opened by Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ) for financially eligible people needing legal help dealing with Sandy-related civil legal issues. Services are provided free of charge.

The special hotline is part of a

major new and coordinated effort by LSNJ and the six regional Legal Services offices across the state to help the impoverished understand the issues facing them and what steps need to be taken.

The Sandy hotline is a key element of Legal Services' overall effort to coordinate its various assistance efforts in response to Sandy's destruction and the problems remaining for those in the hurricane's wake.

High School Toy Drive Deadline Extended

South Plainfield High School Athletic Department and SPHS Athletic Booster Club have extended the annual toy drive through Friday, Dec. 14.

Bring a new, unwrapped toy suitable as a holiday gift to the high school athletic office. Please do not forget about children ages 12-17.

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events

Around Town

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 a reservation, 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 to 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.

Pub Theology

December 4

St. Stephen Lutheran Church will be hosting a discussion entitled, "Christmases—Cultural, Blue and other" on Tuesday, Dec. 4 at 8 p.m. at Flanagan's Pub, 2501 Plainfield Ave. All are welcome.

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

Send Your Community Events to:
spobserver@comcast.net

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.

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.

Fundraiser For Shirley Thompson at Mr. Subs

December 11

Come out to Mr. Subs, 100 South Plainfield Ave., on Tuesday, Dec. 11 from 4 to 8 p.m. A portion of the sales during the above times will be donated to Shirley Thompson to help with the cost of purchasing food to cook Christmas dinners for seniors, disabled and less fortunate families in South Plainfield. They will also be collecting new toys and clothing for Shirley Thompson to distribute to less fortunate children.

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 —

Holiday Sale at 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 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

December 1

Steppin' Out Singles is hosting an upscale singles dance party on Saturday, Dec. 1 at 8 p.m. at the Woodbridge Hilton, 20 Wood Ave. South in Iselin. Ages 40 and up. No jeans/t-shirts/sneakers/shorts. Admission: \$15.

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

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

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. 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.

For more information, visit www.sholomnj.org.

St. Helen's Caregiver Support Group

December 3

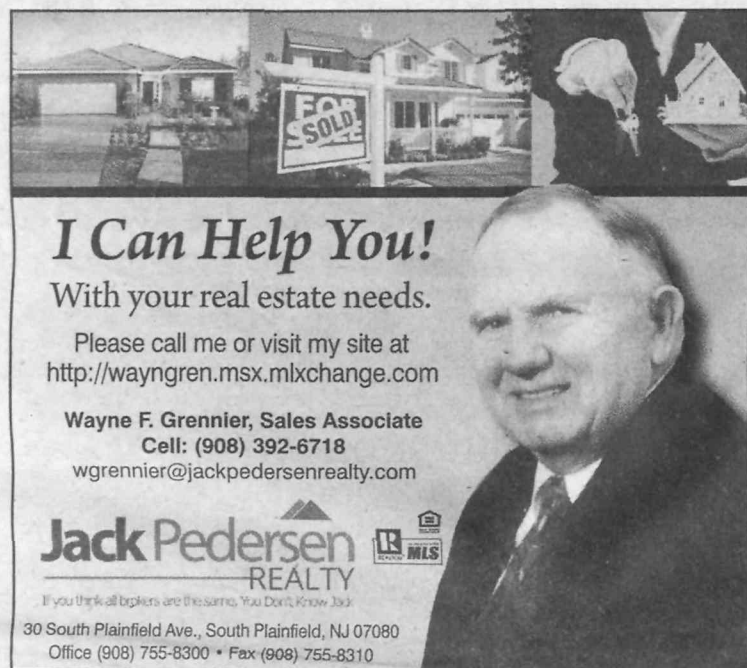
St. Helen's Church Caregiver Support Group, for those caring for elderly or chronically ill loved ones, will meet on Monday, Dec. 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Center on Lamberts Mill Road in Westfield.

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, assistant clinical professor of psychiatry, College of Physicians and Surgeons,



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Breakfast with Santa

Saturday
December 8, 2012
9:00 - 10:30
South Plainfield Senior Center
\$7.00 per person

Complimentary Pictures with Santa
Provided by Ken Cavanagh Photography

Proceeds to go to the American Red Cross for Hurricane Sandy Relief

Tickets are available by calling Santa's Chief Elf Chrissy Buteas at 908-447-3466 or e-mailing her at christinebuteas@comcast.net



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It can all be yours when you enter the Junior Journalist Contest. Students: enter, submit your best original poems, stories, etc. to your teachers, the South Plainfield Observer or Hometown Heros. Each week a winner will be chosen and their work will be published in the Observer. In addition, Hometown Heros will bring dinner to the winners' families. Next May, winners will be honored at a year-end banquet where one lucky Junior Journalist will receive a \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bond. Other prizes will also be awarded. So, what are you waiting for? Submit your entries!



Junior Journalist winner Gabriella Vitabile receives dinner from Hometown Heros. Gabriella is pictured with her parents, Ida and Manny, and siblings Joseph and Sofia.

Send in your entries now!!!



Event Photos For Sale

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

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

Currently available are more than 240 photos of the South Plainfield High School Powder Puff Game, Bon Fire, and Thanksgiving Day Football Game.

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

Columbia University at its monthly 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 invited; a nominal donation is requested.

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

Singles Dance Party

December 8

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

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

Medical QiGong Meditation Class

December 8

Medical QiGong, a course of meditation exercises, is being offered at Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Rd. in Scotch Plains on Saturday, Dec. 8, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. The class is free and open to everyone. Please be on time; we will not be able to interrupt the session.

For more information, call (908) 232-5678.

Schwabischer Sangerbund

December 8

Deutscher Club of Clark presents the 25th annual Christmas concert on Saturday, Dec. 8 at 5 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church, Mountain Avenue and East Broad Street in Westfield. Tickets in advance: \$20; \$22 at the door.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call (732) 574-8600 or Linda at (908) 753-7008.

Casino Night

December 14

Casino Night, sponsored by Middlesex County Habitat for Humanity, will be held on Friday, Dec. 14. Doors open at 6 p.m. Casino night runs from 6:30-11 p.m. Tickets are \$40 prior to December 14; or \$50 at the door.

For tickets or information, call (732) 634-5360.

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Green Machine team members take first place at Knights annual Trivia Night fundraiser.

Green Machine Wins Knights Annual Trivia Night

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus, Council #6203 held the annual Fall Trivia Night fundraiser on November 10 at the Senior Center. More than 70 people attended, raising over \$2,000 which will be donated to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Nine teams were asked 10 questions from 10 categories, scoring points along the way. The team with the most points won the first place prize money.

In a very tight three-way battle between the Green Machine, Big Joe and The Mamas and Jackie's Corn Dogs, the Green Machine team won by one point over Jackie's Corn Dogs and three points over Big Joe and the Mamas. This is the second title for the Green Machine. They won their

first trivia night title two years ago.

Green Machine team members include Jeff (Lorenzo) Pelton, Joe (WheatPenny) Ciccone, Patricia (Buffalo Mozzarella) Tartavita, Carmen (Cool HandLuke) Tartavita, Scott (Gus Grissom) Carey, Tom (Seinfeld) Kaylen, Rich (Jefferson Expansion Memorial) Veit and Kerwin (Hank Aaron) McLaughlin.

Upon winning the first place prize money, the Green Machine team donated all of the proceeds back to the Knights of Columbus.

The following Knights helped out at this year's fundraiser: Bob Walker (AKA Alex Trebek) asking the questions; judges were Charlie and Billy Butrico; Chrissy Buteas (AKA Vanna White) updated the scoreboard; and

Grand Knight Brian Cargill was Master of Ceremonies.

A big "thank you" goes out to fellow Knight Charlie Butrico who also wrote all the questions. The Knights also want to thank Oak Tree Liquors (Knight Member Dan Ratti) for the donation of the case of wine as door prizes as well as the South Plainfield Senior Center for use of the hall.

Trivia Night has become a very popular fundraiser for the Knights; keep a watch out for the next one. It is a lot of fun and a great fundraiser. In the past six years the Knights have donated over \$13,000 to the Make-A-Wish Foundation which grants wishes to terminally ill children and their families.

22nd Annual Holiday Pet Food Drive

The Plainfield Animal Hospital is collecting pet food donations to be distributed to pets affected by Hurricane Sandy. Bring canned or dry pet foods to the drop off box at the animal hospital, 2215 Park Ave., Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Monetary donations will also be gratefully accepted and used to purchase pet food for those in need.

Thank you for your generosity and may you have a happy and healthy holiday season.

For more information or directions to the hospital, please call (908) 755-2428.

N. J. Waterfront and Beaches are Closed

The Middlesex County Office of Health Services has been working with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, United States Coast Guard and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to assess the damage and health risks resulting from Hurricane Sandy along Middlesex County's coastline. Until further notice: all waterfront and beach areas are closed.

Residents are urged to stay informed by visiting the Middlesex County website at www.co.middlesex.nj.us/.

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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

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This Week's Junior Journalist winner is...

Hannah Barbaza



Junior Journalist winner Hannah Barbaza with teacher Michael Bertram.

Hannah Barbaza, Roosevelt School third grader, is this week's winner in the Junior Journalist program. Her poem, "Clouds," has

earned Hannah 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 Hometown Heros; additional prizes are also awarded. For more information, call the *Observer* at (908) 668-0010.

Clouds

By Hannah Barbaza

A bunch of big clouds
with little blue spaces
look like a swarm of stingrays
gliding on the sea floor.
Sometimes clouds are happy
in their community, the Sky.
Sometimes clouds are in their garden
and team up to water their plants.
Clouds hold rainbows.
And little clouds play jump rainbow.
Clouds move at night,
so we can see twinkling stars
in the spacious night sky.



The SPHS Football team explodes on to the field in anticipation of facing rival North Plainfield on Thanksgiving Day.

Homecoming Traditions Include

By Patricia Abbott

The countdown to Thanksgiving festivities began on the Tuesday evening prior at South Plainfield High School with the annual Homecoming Pageant held in the auditorium. Wednesday afternoon started with the Powder Puff football game followed by the annual pep rally, which closes with a bonfire. On Thanksgiving, SPHS hosted the homecoming football game against North Plainfield. South Plainfield was defeated, 50-26. Eleven senior girls and seven senior boys vied for the titles of Home-

coming King and Queen. Each was required to meet detailed qualifications in order to be nominated. This year's nominees were: Matt McCue, Tyler Calderone, Patrick Boyle, Justin Glover, Erick Rodriguez, Steve Vincent and Joe Parillo; Devynn Nolan, Gabby Smith, Tara Dunn, Allison Ratti, Jennifer Del Beni, Ashley Annetta, Kim Walsh, Emily Pittenger, Patricia Cruz, Gerianne Scarpitto and Maggie McLean. The pageant began on the Monday of Thanksgiving week with each nominee giving a speech which was broadcast on SPTV and seen by all

of the students. SPTV, located in the high school, is South Plainfield's Public, Educational and Government Access television station serving the community on Verizon Channel 32. On Tuesday afternoon, the student body and faculty voted for their choices for king and queen. The votes were in, and the wait began. Students arrived that evening dressed to the nines; there was a sense of camaraderie and friendship in the hallway. They wished each other well, made small adjustments fixing collars, smoothing hair and offering support to fellow classmates. Center stage featured a large arch of green and white balloons. Chairs were arranged on both sides of the entrance. After a short rehearsal, there was a photo session for parents. Athletic Director Al Czech read a brief bio of each nominee's accomplishments as they were escorted by members of the junior class. The juniors were under the guidance of teacher and homecoming advisor Anthony Encinas. After all nominees had been introduced, Czech announced the results of the voting. Matt McCue and Kim Walsh were second runners up, and Justin Glover and Ashley Annetta were first runners up. Homecoming King and Queen were Patrick Boyle and Devynn Nolan. "The pageant was an exciting and fun activity that continued the traditions of South Plainfield High School and it allowed the students who were running to be involved in the tradition and relieve some stress before Thanksgiving," commented Homecoming King Patrick Boyle. Boyle is captain of the soccer, swimming and baseball teams, president of the Spanish Honor Society and Peer Leadership Group. He is a member of the National Honor Society, serves as secretary to the Student Council, is a member of Heroes and Cool Kids and the Jerseyan History Club. He takes on a chal-



The senior and junior girls face off in the Powder Puff football game.

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Local Band performs at New York's Times Square -- See page 12.

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 14, NO. 22 November 30, 2012 40 CENTS

It's Snow Problem

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Tigers Secure 3rd Consecutive GMCT Title

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South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 14, NO. 30 September 2, 2012 40 CENTS

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Devynn Nolan and Patrick Boyle (left) were named Homecoming Queen and King at the annual Homecoming Pageant. (Above right) First runners up were Justin Glover and Ashley Annetta (left) and second runners up were Matt McCue and Kim Walsh (right).

Competition, Court, Pep Rally and Bonfire

lenging schedule that includes five AP courses. Patrick also continues to be very involved in community service in South Plainfield.

Devynn Nolan is a dedicated student and is extremely involved at school. She takes Honors and AP classes, is in the top 10% of the class and has maintained Honor Roll status throughout her high school career. She plays three varsity sports—soccer, basketball and track and field. Devynn serves as secretary of the Spanish Honor Society, is a member of the National Honor Society, and serves on the executive boards of the Jerseyan History Club and Algonquin Square Book Club. She volunteers at New Market Volunteer Fire Department in Piscataway. In her spare time, she loves to sing.

Board of Education Member-Elect Debbie Boyle was on hand to support all the students. She said, "The nominees for the Homecoming King/Queen Pageant were very supportive and encouraging to each other. The entire student body listened to speeches from all the candidates and were able to vote on their choices. Advisor Tony Encinas, James Pedersen, Master of Ceremonies Al Czech and the attendance of assistant principals Kelly Richkus and Joe Cirigilano added to the professional scenario of the evening."

For the Boyle Family, the Homecoming pageant is nearly a tradition of their own. Patrick's sister, Megan, was named Homecoming Queen in 2007 and older brother, Michael, was first runner up in 2009.



The Powder Puff senior girls team discusses strategy.

—Photo courtesy of Louis Mormile

police report

- An employee of Quick Chek on Sampton Avenue reported the theft of their cell phone by a customer who asked to use it to make a call.
- On Nov. 11 two residents on Lewis Place reported the theft of loose change and a purse from their unlocked vehicles.
- On Nov. 12 a Maple Avenue resident reported the theft of loose change from their unlocked vehicle.
- A Murray Avenue resident reported the theft of a bank envelope with cash and the vehicle's insurance and registration cards from their unlocked vehicle.

Christmas Tree Collection Program

Christmas trees should be placed at the curb for collection between January 2 and 31. The trees will be picked up throughout the entire borough during this period, regardless of the district where you reside.

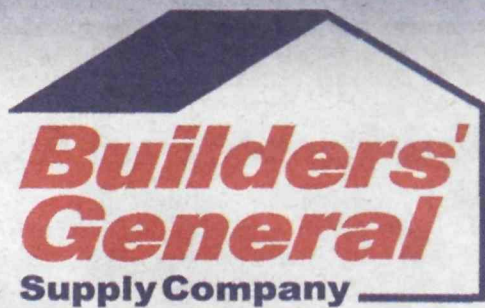
If so desired, residents may bring their trees to the borough's compost facility located on Kenneth Avenue.

Please remove all ornaments, lights and stands from the trees.

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 December 8 through 23. The cost of the CD is \$12.



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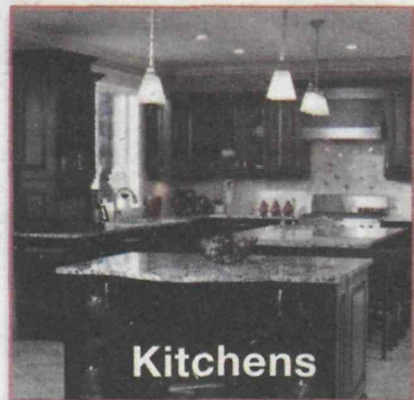
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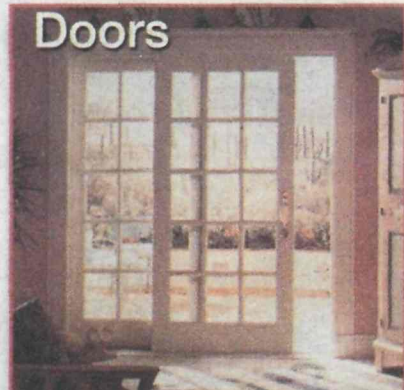
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SPORTS

By Gary Lampasona

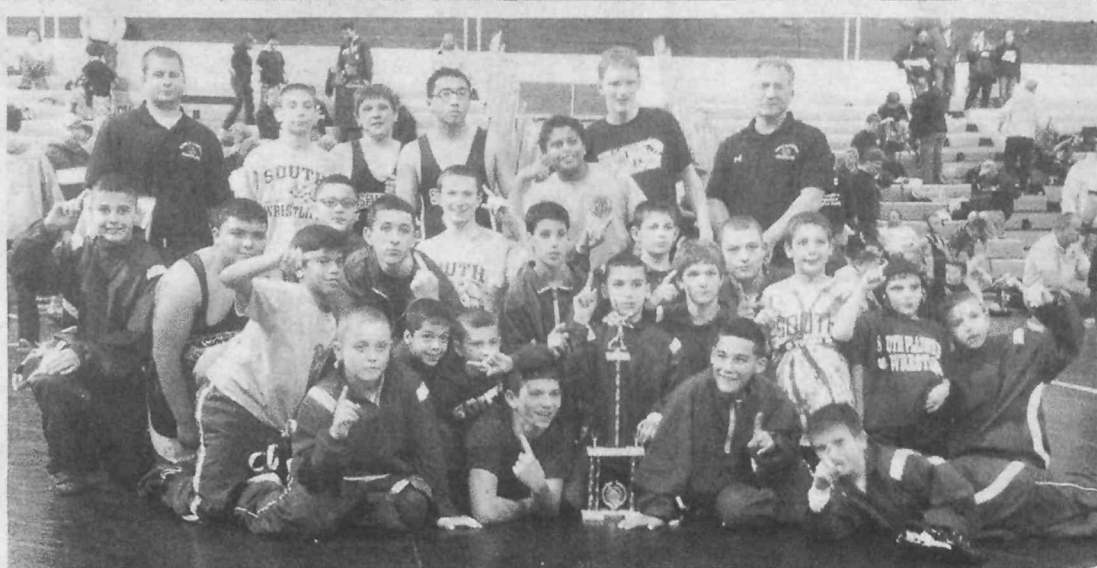
JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB

Spring 2013 Registration—The final registration for this year will be held at the clubhouse on Saturday, Dec. 1 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Children ages seven to 18 can sign up to play next season. Your child must turn seven years old before May 1, 2013 to be eligible to play. If your child is a first time player, please bring their birth certificate. If you are interested in managing or coaching, please sign up at the time you register your child. If your child or you are interested in becoming an umpire, the sign-up sheet for classes will be available. Umpires must be 13

years of age or older.

Early registration fees are \$110 for a single child, \$160 for two children and \$210 for three children. Early registration rates expire after December 31 2012. If you prefer, you can download the forms directly from our website, www.leaguelineup.com/spjbc and mail them to the address on the form.

We will hold our next monthly meeting on Monday, Dec. 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the clubhouse. All are invited to join us. We look forward to seeing you.



The South Plainfield Middle School wrestling team took first place at the Randolph Duals. In a 12-team field that featured top wrestling towns such as Jackson, High Point, Howell and Danbury, Conn., the Tigers scored big wins over High Point 63-24, Cedar Grove 69-18, Roxbury 71-27 and Danbury 69-27 in the championship final. Pictured are Volunteer Assistant Coach Mike Lidon, Jacob Painton, Zach DelVecchio, Nam Le, Divon Pender, Ryan Marston, Volunteer Assistant Coach Bill Ashnault, Brenden Hedden, Julio Gonzalez, Alex Peralta, Sam Smith, Kyle Bythell, Justin Bell, Alex Amato, Tyler Vronka, Jake Giordano, Jake DelVecchio, David Loniewski, Sebastian Santos, Luke Niemeyer, Jeffrey Jacome, Anthony White, Ben Lundy, Tommy Fierro, Joe Sacco, Mike Marrero and Joe Heilmann. (Not pictured: Head Coach Mike Jakubik and Jack Campagna.)

SPHS

South Plainfield High School

SPORTS SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30

3:15pm B & GV Bowling @ Carolier (A) Bus 2:30pm

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3

3:30pm B & GV Bowling-Monroe @ Carolier Bus 2:30pm
3:45pm G Fr Basketball-Middlesex (A) Bus 2:30pm
4pm GV Basketball-Middlesex JV/5:15pm (A) Bus 2:30pm
4pm BV & JV Basketball @ Somerville/Art HS (A) Bus 2:30pm

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4

3:30pm B & GV Bowling-JP Stevens @ Carolier (A) Bus 2:30pm

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

4pm GV & JV Basketball-Cardinal McCarrick (A) Bus 2:30pm

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

3:30pm B & GV Bowling-P Amboy @ Carolier (A) Bus 2:30pm
3:45pm B Fr Basketball-Morris Knolls (H) (S)
4pm BV & JV Basketball-Morris Knolls (A) Bus 2:30pm

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

3:30pm G & BV Bowling-Sayreville @ Carolier (A) Bus 2:30pm
4pm GV Basketball-Dunellen JV/5:15pm (A) Bus 2:30pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

10am B Fr Basketball-Jonathan Dayton (A) Bus 8:30am
10am BV & JV Basketball-Jonathan Dayton (H)

Coming Soon...

Watch for the December launch of the Observer's new website: spobserver.com.

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U-13 Sabotage South Plainfield Soccer Club girls team

Sabotage Finishes Season With Back to Back Wins

In spite of a rough beginning for Sabotage, the newly formed U-13 South Plainfield Soccer Club girls team has come a long way under the direction of Head Coach Phil Battista and Assistant Coach Tony Celentano.

On Friday the girls traveled to Warren to play against a strong opponent, Watchung Hills. After the Thanksgiving holiday and beautiful weather, the girls were ready to play. An awesome kick from Andrea Avelar 40 yards back

started the girls on their way. With help from the offense, Erica Cieszkiewicz found the ball and ran it up 30 yards to make the final score 2-0.

Sabotage then traveled to Livingston on Sunday for the finale and pulled out a strong 3-2 win. A goal made by Andrea Avelar started the girls off with a score of 1-0, but Livingston came back with one of their own. In the second quarter, Erica Cieszkiewicz scored with an assist from Courtney Smith, sliding

it right into the net.

Again Livingston came back, but not for long as Brianna Noreiga, off an assist from Erica Cieszkiewicz, ran the ball up to secure the 3-2 victory.

Team Sabotage was anchored by an outstanding defense led by sweeper Quinn Milane and stopper Megan Celentano. Goalies Bella Rochford and Jackie Battista showed their talent with the incredible saves that were made. The strong perseverance of the rest of the team included the efforts of Alejandra Arboleda, Genieve Zipp, Samantha Williams, Trinity Kidder, Alana Essien, Ruby Garcia and Lexie Obregon.

Congratulations to all the girls on their record of 3-2-5. The team looks forward to our spring season.

—Submitted by Donna Cieszkiewicz

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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Danielle Aronowitz

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Missed a movie you wanted to see in the theaters and don't want to pay for the DVD? Come to Monday Night Movies at the library. It's all the fun of a movie theater but none of the cost. We are showing brand new releases every Monday night at 6:30. We will be providing popcorn for all who attend. There is no registration required. You

can call the library for title information or stop by and pick up a schedule of all the upcoming movies.

On Monday, Dec. 10 at 6:30 p.m. there will be a special Holiday Kidcraft at the library. Kids will be making things that can be given as holiday gifts. There is a \$1 materials fee and registration is required, so please sign up as soon as possible.

Mr. Kurt is back! On Wednesday, Dec. 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the South Plainfield Senior Center, Mr. Kurt will be performing a holiday sing-along for kids of all ages. Registration is not required; however, in lieu of an admission charge, adults should bring a new, unopened non-perishable food item for each person attending. Donations will go to the Middlesex County Community Food Drive.

Rizzo's Reptile Discovery will present a special program at the South Plainfield Senior Center on Thursday, Dec. 27 at 6:30 p.m. for kids ages three and up. There will be lizards, snakes, frogs, turtles and insects. Registration is not required; however, in lieu of an admission charge, adults should bring a new, unopened non-perishable food item for each person attending. Donations will go to the Middlesex County Community Food Drive.

We will be following our regular schedule for children's programs this week. The Storytime program for children age two and three is held on Wednesday and Thursday morning at 10:30. Storytime for ages three and up is held Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday night at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. The Babytime program for ages up to two years old is held Friday morning at 10:30. These programs do not require registration. Please try to get to the storytime programs on time because it can get very disruptive for Miss Linda and Miss Mija and the children if you come in the middle of the program.

We are open seven days a week except on holidays. Our hours are Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Tuesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sundays, 1:30-5 p.m.

For more information, visit our Facebook page, call (908) 754-7885 or visit us on the web at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

See you next week!

Vincent Aiello, 20

Vincent Aiello died suddenly on Thursday, Nov. 22 at home.

Born in New Brunswick, Vincent grew up in Clinton prior to relocating to Middlesex a few months ago.

He attended North Hunterdon Regional High School in Clinton and graduated from Nazareth High School in Nazareth, Pa. in 2011.

Vincent was currently working at Rodgers Appliances in Flemington and also worked alongside his father Peter and brother, Nicholas at Peter Aiello and Sons, LLC.

Often found smiling and having a good time, Vincent had a great upbeat personality along with numerous friends, none closer than his brother and father.

He enjoyed listening to classic rock and playing the drums as well as various outdoor activities ranging from hunting and fishing to skiing and riding dirt bikes.

He is predeceased by his paternal grandfather, James Aiello.

Surviving are his father, Peter; a brother, Nicholas of Middlesex; his stepmother, Meryl Zacker-Aiello; a sister, Sophia Aiello of Livingston; his paternal grandmother, Florence Monroe and husband Robert of South Bound Brook; two aunts, Valerie Strifollino and husband Joseph of Freehold and Donna McMaster of Eatontown; two uncles, James Aiello and wife Janice of East Brunswick and Robert Aiello and wife Kathleen of Piscataway; his girlfriend, Bonnie Hoeker of High Bridge and several cousins. Also surviving are numerous friends and extended relatives.

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

"I got the best relationship in the world between me and my old man... bbu?"

Marie M. Leib, 88

Marie M. Leib died on Thursday, Nov. 22 at AristaCare Norwood Terrace Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Plainfield.

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Obituaries

Born in Brooklyn, Marie has resided in South Plainfield since 1960.

She was employed as a dietician with the Department of Hospitals in New York City. Marie was a longtime member of Sacred Heart RC Church as well as the Sacred Heart Altar Rosary Society.

She is predeceased by her husband, Harvey and a brother, John Derr.

Surviving are three sons, Donald Leib and partner Rebecca Savage of Maine, William Leib and wife Deanne of Easton, Pa. and Edward Leib and wife Joan of Hillsborough; three grandchildren, Joseph LaBoy, Jennifer Titus and Nikole Stig; and three great-grandchildren, Kristen LaBoy, Keegan LaBoy and Ze'Khi Wright.

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

Ronald L. Eodice, 70

Ronald L. Eodice passed away peacefully on Saturday, Nov. 24 at Overlook Medical Center in Summit with his family at his side.

Born in Plainfield to the late Helen and Louis, Ronald has been a lifelong resident of the Borough of South Plainfield.

A hardworking individual, Ronald was the owner and operator of Atlas Welders and Fabricators in South Plainfield for the past 35 years.

He was a life member of the South Plainfield Rescue Squad where he served actively for a number of years and also volunteered in all capacities of the organization. In addition, he enjoyed restoring antique cars and following NASCAR.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 48 years, Marie (DelNegro) Eodice; three children, Ronald, Jr. of Brick, David and wife Gina of Old Bridge and Karen Ettel and husband William of Hillsborough; and three grandchildren, Brandon and Bryce Eodice and Adreanna Ettel.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, 1275 York Ave., New York, N.Y. 10065.

Edward J. Koenig, 77

Edward J. Koenig died on Tuesday, Nov. 20 in the Robert Wood Johnson University Medical Center at Rahway.

Born in Jersey City, Eddie grew up in the Jersey City and Weehawken area before settling in South Plainfield.

He worked for the former Bradock Protective Coating Bridgewater as a maintenance electrician.

A veteran of the U.S. Army, Mr. Koenig was a longtime communicant of Our Lady of Czestochowa RC Church in South Plainfield and for many years he sold the 50/50 raffle tickets during the Feast of St. Anthony.

Eddie enjoyed going on cruises and traveling to Bermuda and Disney World. In addition, he was a member of The Father's Club at St. Joseph's High School in Metuchen.

He is predeceased by two sisters, Ellen and Margaret Koenig.

Surviving are his loving wife, Barbara; a son, Dave Koenig and wife Lara of Hamburg; a sister, Catherine Alps of Scottsdale, Ariz., and two grandchildren, Kiley and Logan.

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

Herman L. Schleif, 92

Herman L. Schleif died Sunday, Nov. 25 at JFK Haven Hospice in Edison.

Born and raised in Bloomfield, Herman has resided in South Plainfield for the past 62 years.

He was drafted by the New York Giants as a pitcher before entering the Army in 1942. During WWII, Herman proudly held the ranking of sergeant and worked as an electrical specialist and airplane mechanic.

After the war, Herman worked for Schering-Plough, retiring after 44 years of dedicated service in 1985.

Throughout his life, he loved to golf and was an avid N.Y. Yankees and N.Y. Giants fan.

He is survived by his wife, Jane; three sons, Peter of Saratoga Springs, N.Y., Gary and wife Janice of Point Pleasant and John and wife Donna of Somerset; and a brother-in-law, Bill Pfeifer of Southern Shores, S.C. Herman will also be missed by five grandsons, nine great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

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

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



Herman L. Schleif

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Future Stars four-year old classes celebrate Thanksgiving with a sharing party before the holiday.

Check Prescription Medications That May Have Been Affected by Temperature Changes

Attorney General Jeffrey S. Chiesa and the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs are advising consumers to check certain prescription medications that may have been affected by temperature changes due to power outages caused by Hurricane Sandy.

"Through the State Board of Pharmacy, we have notified all pharmacists in New Jersey of the need to dispose of any temperature-sensitive medications that may have lost their effectiveness during blackouts caused by Hurricane Sandy," Chiesa said. "We are extending the same warning to consumers. If you have concerns about any prescription medication in your home, talk with your doctor or pharmacist. Replace any medications that were exposed to temperatures beyond those recommended by the manufacturer."

The warning does not apply to

most medications that are commonly kept in home medicine cabinets. But it does apply to certain medications that are sensitive to temperature changes—especially those that must be relied upon to potentially save the patient's life during an emergency.

Examples include:

- Epinephrine injectors. These spring-loaded injectors are kept by patients and used on an emergency basis, at the onset of allergic reactions, to treat anaphylactic shock. Certain products must be stored at room temperature, and should be replaced if exposed to prolonged cold or heat.

- Nitroglycerin sublingual tablets. These tablets are used to treat or prevent extreme chest pain due to coronary artery disease. They must be stored at room temperature, and should be replaced if exposed to prolonged temperature changes.

- Check the package your prescription medication came in, to learn whether the medication is sensitive to prolonged or extreme changes in temperature.

- If you have concerns about any specific medication and are not sure whether it is sensitive to temperature changes that may have occurred in your home, contact your pharmacist.

• If any medications in your home were exposed to conditions that can weaken their effectiveness, discard and replace them. Contact your pharmacist and let them know you will need a refill or replacement. If necessary, contact your physician for a new prescription or refill.

"This warning is especially important for consumers who rely on emergency medications. Take the time to check those medicines now, to make sure they will be fully effective when you need them," Acting Director Kanefsky said. "Do not hesitate to replace any medicines that may have been compromised. Your health and your life may depend on this simple decision."

Unused medications should not be placed in the trash or flushed into the water supply. Project Medicine Drop, an initiative of the Division of Consumer Affairs, enables New Jerseyans to safely and securely dispose of unused prescription medications 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at participating police departments. Consumers can find their nearest Project Medicine Drop location and other information on disposing of unused medications, by visiting www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov/meddrop.

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Proposed Senior Center Rental Fees Draw Criticism

(Continued from page 1)

Fees for non-profit community organizations holding fundraisers or private events for profit would double from \$250 to \$500.

Fees for senior center members, borough employees who have previously rented the center and residents and businesses not charging admission for an event would increase from \$400 to \$650.

Fees for residents and businesses charging admission, non-residents, out-of-town businesses and organizations, groups or political groups increase from \$500 to \$800.

New fees will include one hour for setup and a maximum of four additional hours for the event to be held. After the initial five hours, each additional hour will be billed at \$50 an hour. The ordinance states that under no circumstances will the cost of the supervisor and janitor be waived. In addition, the final payment must be made in cash.

"I don't know how a non-profit fundraiser could pay \$500 or a business pay \$650," said Grennier, who added it will be the demise of the council candidates debates. "I put out all of the money, and the cost would

be beyond what I could afford." Grennier continued, "The senior center was donated to this town. There was hardly any cost to the borough for building it. I feel anyone who pays taxes in this town should be able to use the facility at a reasonable rate. Charging a fee for the janitor to set-up and break-down is fair."

Debbie Boyle, who chairs many committees that hold fundraisers for the community and who is a former and soon-to-be once again Board of Education member said, "We are taxpayers in South Plainfield, and the senior center is a part of this town. The student athletic dinners have all utilized the center for the past three years. My motto is to use our vendors and our facilities in town rather than give the business to outside vendors."

Boyle said it is already difficult to collect the \$30 to \$35 per person for the dinners which are paid for by the students, and that the current rental rate of \$250 is reasonable. She noted that volunteers also set up and clean up afterward. "We also have non-profit organizations and subcommittees right within the borough which utilize the senior center for events," commented Boyle. "We host the Taste

of South Plainfield for the Business Association, and every penny raised from that event goes toward high school senior scholarships. A wine tasting event for the Education Foundation is another fundraiser for senior scholarships."

Boyle also noted that the Cultural Arts Commission, the PBA and the Mayor's Wellness Committee also utilize the senior center for fundraisers. "If there is a fee for the custodian, then I believe that all of us would not have a problem paying that, but to charge \$600 is overwhelming," explained Boyle. "Our organizations are about the people of South Plainfield."

Boyle asked that the council reconsider the decision, and suggested that when an ordinance is introduced, it should be published so that the public has the opportunity to read through the entire document before a final vote is taken.

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Ricky McCriskin and Guy Severini

Sal's Spirit Shoppe Hosts Chili Cook Off

By Patricia Abbott

Sal's Spirit Shoppe hosted a Chili Cook Off on November 11. Nine contestants presented their home-made chili for customers to judge. Each offering was assigned a number, labeled with the type of chili, and whether it was mild, medium or hot. Customers had no idea who had cooked each dish. Small cups were placed near the chili samples along with its number so that the judges knew which they tasted. Ballot sheets were set up near the bar. Judges chose their three favorite batches of chili.

Each contestant offered a differ-

ent kind of chili. Chili cooks were Sal Severini-chuck steak, Danny Nuzzo-ground beef, Jeff and Sharon-ground beef, Jen Stanevich-sweet potato vegetarian, Dave Irvin-Tennessee beef, Guy Severini-ground beef, Luann Severini-ground beef, Gilbert McKimm-turkey and Steven Severini-ground beef.

Sal had a table set up with Italian bread, various trays of cornbread and condiments such as crackers, sour cream, chips, mozzarella and cheddar cheese. After all contestants arrived, customers formed a line to sample the trays of chili, and in between, cheered on their favorite team.

On Sundays the bar is normally filled with rambunctious football fans, but this event brought in a number of new guests. Sal plans to make the chili cook off an annual event.

Cook off winners were: first place-Danny Nuzzo, second place-Jeff and Sharon, third place-Dave Irvin and fourth place-Spirit Shoppe employee Jen Stanevich. First place prize was a football jersey, second a gift certificate to Sal's Spirit Shoppe and third was a gift certificate to Munchies. The cook off was the idea of Jen Stanevich, who also organized the event.

N.J. Board of Public Utilities Waives Program Exclusion for Low-Income Residents

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities is waiving the requirement of its Comfort Partners Program that limits participation to once every five years. Under the temporary revision, low-income customers who have utilized the program within the last five years are eligible to replace damaged equipment due to Hurricane Sandy.

The New Jersey Comfort Partners Program is a free energy saving and energy education program for qualified low-income customers. The program is a signature program offered by the Board of Public Utilities through New Jersey's Clean Energy Program. The program focuses on partnering with income eligible residents to help save energy and money. Certified Building Performance Institute contractors install energy saving measures in the home to help lower energy bills. The Comfort Partners program includes an educational component that teaches participants new ways to conserve energy.

"Hurricane Sandy caused unprecedented destruction in New Jersey, and the Board of Public Utilities will

have a key role in many facets of our recovery efforts," said Bob Hanna, president of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. "The Comfort Partners program is just one of the programs in which requirements will be relaxed in order to assist residents with replacing damaged appliances or heating and cooling equipment."

Similar to processes implemented after Tropical Storm Irene hit in August 2011, the five year participation requirement is waived effective Oc-

tober 29, 2012, until further notice. The Comfort Partners program will replace HVAC equipment, hot water heaters, refrigerators or dehumidifiers for customers (including renters) who received these appliances through Comfort Partners and lost them due to the effects of flooding caused by Hurricane Sandy. Replacement appliances must meet Comfort Partners specifications and be energy efficient.

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

November 26, 2012-Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment at its' meeting held on November 20,,2012.

- A. Case #18-12-Jaime Grubesch, Block 151; Lot 6; R-7-5 Zone, 601 Harrison Avenue. The applicant's request to allow a 6' high fence was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.
- B. Case #20-12-Chandresh Mody, Block 254.01; Lot 13; R-10 Zone, 21 O'Loughlin Drive, The applicant's request for a 25' front yard setback, whereas 30' is required in order to erect a porch was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Beth Khidre
Secretary-Zoning Board of Adjustment

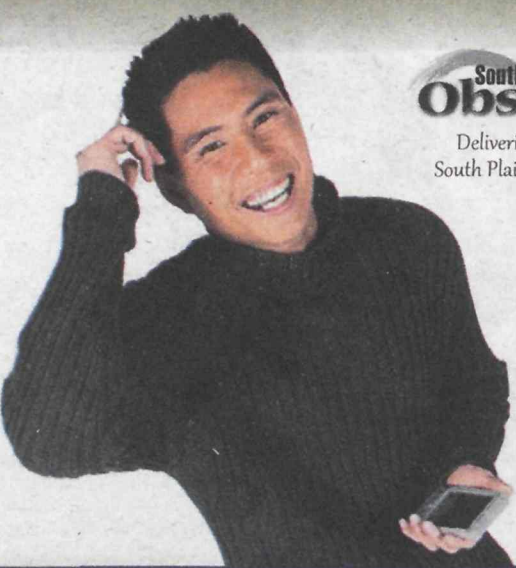
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November 30, 2012

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Volunteer Fire Department "Project Santa" Underway

It is that time of the year again when Santa will be traveling around town by fire truck, visiting the children and helping to raise money for the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department. 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 department's 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 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 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!

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Presents.....

Project Santa

IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN WHEN SANTA WILL BE TRAVELING 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 YOUR HOME WITH SANTA CLAUS?

Here's how it works. We are requesting a \$20 donation from each family who would like Santa to deliver their gifts by fire truck. All you need to do is bring this completed form along with a small (Must fit in normal sized grocery store Paper garbage bag) inexpensive WRAPPED gift and a check made payable to "SPVFD" to the Fire House. Then just sit back and relax.

Please make sure that you mark your child's name and address in BIG letters on the package.

Family Name _____

Child or children's names and ages _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Number of Gifts _____

School District _____

Tuesday Nov. 27th from 6pm to 9pm
Saturday Dec 1st from 12 pm to 4pm
Thursday Nov 29th from 6pm to 9pm
Sunday Dec 2nd from 12pm to 4pm
Tuesday Dec 4th from 6pm to 9pm

Please Note: PACKAGES BROUGHT IN AFTER DEC 5TH WILL BE CHARGED \$40 AND OVER SIZED PACKAGES WILL BE CHARGED AN ADDITIONAL \$10

All families **MUST** reside within the Borough of South Plainfield. Santa will be delivering the gifts to various school districts: Mon Dec 10th thru Thurs Dec 13th between 6pm and 9pm. A delivery schedule will be announced at a later date. Oversized packages will be charged an additional \$10 at the time of collection.

Santa's hotline is 908-412-8868

Please leave a message and we will get back to you ASAP.

The South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Company would like to thank you and wish you and your love ones a Safe and Happy Holiday!