

Readers, please be advised that there is no Observer next week. Our next issue is December 3. We wish you and yours a Happy Thanksgiving.

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 8, NO. 12

DEC 01 2004

50 CENTS

NOVEMBER 19, 2004

Come, Celebrate Thanksgiving At Annual Service

The community is invited to join with the friends and neighbors from various Christian congregations of South Plainfield to offer a prayer of thanks and praise to the Lord for God's many blessings this Thanksgiving. Come pray for peace and share fellowship.

The services begin at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 23 at Sacred Heart Church, located on South Plainfield Ave.

Please bring a small dessert item such as cookies or cake to share after the service. Food and drinks will be shared in the Sacred Heart School gym. Bring your dessert to the gym before the church service.

In addition, please bring an item to offer for the needy. Place your item in the baskets in church during the service. The item may include dry and canned food goods and paper products such as toilet paper and paper towels.

Why not invite a friend and bring your family? All are welcome.



VFW Post 6763 honored veterans last Thursday at an annual ceremony held in their honor. Pictured above are (L to R) Metro Kopchak, Joan Jepson, Mayor Dan Gallagher, Rudy Poczak and Michael Panza. Photo by Chris Abbott

VFW Honors Its Own

This year's annual Veterans ceremony, held at the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month at the VFW Post 6763 was well attended.

The solemn service began outdoors, with a moment of silence, the placing of a wreath in front of

the U.S. flag and a rifle salute and taps performed by Steve Janizak.

The ceremony continued inside the VFW with an opening prayer by Chaplain Michael Panza. Guests and members of the VFW reminded everyone what Veterans Day is all about.

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BOE Takes Steps to Keep Budget Balanced

The BOE has taken several steps to bring this year's budget into balance. In addition to the 600+ line item transfers that were made, the board will use \$680,000 from surplus and enter into a textbook lease program. These suggestions were made by Interim Business Administrator Robert Davis, who said these adjustments are necessary to keep the budget in balance, and board members reluctantly agreed.

Textbook leasing means that the district's textbooks will be sold to a bank or financial institution. They will in turn provide the money to be used for operating expenses. The loan will have to be repaid, with interest.

Many of the district's money woes did not occur in just the past few years. One, dating back to 1986,

is a three month "holiday" the board was granted in insurance payments, which adds up to a \$900,000 debt that must now be repaid. Back then the board asked and received a three month holiday from paying \$300,000 in monthly payments.

Some of the district's shortfalls were discussed by board member Mike English. He listed several items the auditing firm has uncovered totaling \$3.45M, which include uncollected tax refunds-\$220,000, unpaid expense accounts-\$410,000, past due income tax payments-\$120,000, gross inaccuracies in the number of personnel-\$1.2M, understating salary amounts-\$400,000, miscalculating operating expenses-\$1.1M and paying back taxes to the state which

(Continued on page 6)

Franklin Students Salute Local Veterans



Randy Petronko of the U.S. Navy

By Patricia Abbott

Franklin School students celebrated Veterans Day with a program filled with music and youthful mus-

ings. In attendance were over 30 veterans of all ages, various ranks and branches of service. These guests of honor sat on a raised platform, enjoying a full view of the performers, speakers and student body. Parents filled the remainder of the gym to standing room only capacity. Additional guests included Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Robert Rosado, Anthony Massaro, Mrs. Martko and Mrs. Crown.

The annual event offered the students an opportunity to express their newfound knowledge and voice their opinions on the role of a U.S. Veteran. Patriotic songs were intermixed with a review of our country's Heritage of Freedom. The

(Continued on page 10)

SPHS Pride Strong as Homecoming Approaches

Pep Rally, Crownings, a Football Rivalry, Banner Contest, and a Resurrected Powderpuff Contest Headline Weeklong Events

By Michael Duquette

The month of November has proven to be much more than just a space holder between Halloween and Christmas at South Plainfield High School. The student body is abuzz with the impending Homecoming festivities planned for next week.

For years, South Plainfield High School has enjoyed a long-standing rivalry with North Plainfield High School. Tiger Football fans would

turn out on cold Thanksgiving mornings to see their home team face the Canucks for years and years, but the rivalry was retired, until three years ago. Now, Homecoming has once again turned into an event for everyone to remember.

This time, however, there is so much more to offer for high school students than just a football game. The week of Thanksgiving will see several activities dedicated to raising school spirit, among them a

pep rally, the annual crowning of the Homecoming Court, a banner contest for all high school extracurricular activities and a second football game with a big twist!

On Nov. 19, high school students will vote for the Homecoming King and Queen. This traditional exercise will be capped by a pageant on Nov. 23 at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium. That night, the results will be announced; the six winners will

(Continued on page 17)



The SPHS Field Hockey Team are, first row, Megan Wilson, Katie Kelliher, Ai Phi Nguyen, Cassie D'Urso, Lauren Haus, Stefanie Miller, Jessica Manning, Melissa Szeliga. Second row inside, Brittany Patrosevich, Jackie Muglia, Kelly Thomas, Courtney Eustice. Third row, Katie Nuber (Mgr), Brandee Brown, Nicole Benak, Julianne Bosse, Jessica Miller, Jamie Jakubik, Krystal Williams, Coach Kiersten Bohl. Fourth row inside, Selene Rayho, Susan Mott, Katie Koury, Courtney Sacco, Head Coach Fran Flannery. Fifth row, Kelly Downes, Breanne Fore, Samantha Deffler, Coach Tammy Zurka and Coach Joanne Haus.

SPHS Field Hockey Swipes State Sectional to Nab Championship

By Sharon Miller

Congratulations to the 2004 Varsity Field Hockey Team. They defeated Ewing, Hopewell Valley and Ridge to become the new North Jersey Section II Group 3 Sectional Champions. This brings their sensational record to 19-1-1. Although South Plainfield has always been extremely competitive in field hockey, this is the first field hockey team to capture this impressive title. This week they were also ranked fourteenth in the state by the *Star Ledger*.

The hockey team, seeded first, shut out eighth seeded Ewing 3-0 in the quarterfinals which was played on Nov. 5. The team kept the fans on edge as the game remained

scoreless after the first half. Then with 16:42 left in the second half, junior right wing Megan Wilson scored the winning goal off of a strong pass from senior left wing Jess Miller. Both senior right back Jamie Jakubik and junior right mid Melissa Szeliga added insurance goals, with both assists coming from senior center mid Stef Miller.

The semifinal round played last Wednesday had our team facing fourth seeded Hopewell Valley.

Midway into the first half, senior center mid Stef Miller scored the first goal when she connected off a feed from senior left mid Jesse Manning. Hopewell then added a goal and tied the game up. With just 4:02 remaining in the first half, junior

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SPECIAL MEETING

The Borough Council will hold a special meeting for the promotion of police officers on Monday, November 22, 7 p.m. in Borough Hall. The public is invited to attend.

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

We look forward to hearing from all of you and encourage you to send in your stories and photos. The South Plainfield Observer is your paper. Please let us know what you would like to see in it.

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
2. Mail, fax or drop it at: South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Department, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or drop it in the box at Mohn's Flowers on Plainfield Ave., fax us at (908) 668-8819 or e-mail us at spobserver@comcast.net. Include your name, address, telephone number. You can subscribe or contact us at: spobserver.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be submitted by mail to South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Dept., 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email: spobserver@comcast.net or fax 908-668-8819. Letters should not exceed 400 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. It is the editor's discretion to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject. The opinions expressed in "Letters" do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Observer. All letters must be submitted with name and phone number, for verification.

IN YOUR OPINION

Dear Observer,

I apologize for this thank you letter taking so long. I had the pleasure of organizing the 23rd Annual S.P.H.S. Marching Band Festival again this year on Oct. 17. It was a huge success and anyone knows an event this big does not just happen by one person. This year we had a ton of help and donations. I would like to thank Roma Foods for donating all the food that we sold. Roma went above and beyond. It is because of their generous donation that most of the money we earned will help the music program for our high school. In a time of budget cuts and freezes, it is needed, now more than ever. Some of the other companies that donated are Sodexo, Pharmachem and 1-800 Flowers. If I missed anyone, I am sorry. I also want to thank all the parents who volunteered their time and energy. Without all of them none of this would be possible.

Thank you to everyone and every company that helped make everything a success.

**REGARDS,
NANETTE BABINETZ,
FESTIVAL CHAIRPERSON**

To the Editor,

On Thursday, Nov. 4, I took my son Brian to a birthday party at Stelton Lanes in Piscataway. A few frames into the first game I noticed that my son kept drifting over toward the video games and was mesmerized by one particular game. The game is called "The House of the Dead" and, as no one was playing it at the time, it was showing, over and over again on a rather large screen, the images of "zombies" being blown away, piece by piece, with what appeared to be a shotgun. So the "zombie" would appear and then, with a graphic display of gore, his arm would be blown off, but he would keep coming, so his other arm would be blown off with another graphic bloody display, but he would keep coming until his head would be blown off with yet another vivid display of gore. I asked the manager if she thought that these were fitting images for display at a birthday party where five-, six- and

Submit Letters to the Editor:

Letters may be submitted to the Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax 908-668-8819 or by email: spobserver@comcast.net. Deadline is Monday, 5 p.m. Letters must be accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. Limit letters to no more than 400 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. We reserve the right to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject.

seven-year-olds were running around, and she informed me that that particular game was "their biggest money-maker." Oh, I thought. It's okay then. I don't mind my son's head being filled with these disturbing images of violence and gore as long as you're turning a profit!

This game is not tucked away in some discreet location. It is against the back wall, directly behind the lanes where they saw fit to schedule a birthday party for a seven year old. It was inescapable. I told my son that I did not want him over there by the video games, but while he was waiting for his turn to bowl his eyes would keep going back to that screen.

I finally was able to reach the owner of Stelton Lanes on Monday and she repeated the manager's, "It's our biggest moneymaker" defense and then told me that I was free to not bring my children there if it bothered me so much. (Whew! That's a relief!)

I will certainly not be bringing my children back there and would caution other parents of young children to avoid Stelton Lanes. They are clearly eager to host your child's birthday party and to take your money. What they are not interested in, it appears, is creating an atmosphere that is actually safe for your children. I would also like to take this opportunity to urge everyone (with or without children) to boycott Stelton Lanes in Piscataway until they either remove this offensive video game or place it somewhere where it is not so easily accessible to young impressionable children.

RANDALL MCCANN

Dear Editor,

On Friday, Oct. 29, John F. Kennedy School hosted its first ever Trunk-R-Treat. Trunk-R-Treat is a fun and safe way for our children to trick-or-treat in a closed and well-lit environment. The parents park their cars in a circular format in the school's parking lot and have lots of fun decorating their trunks—it's an event the whole family can get involved in.

The South Plainfield Fire Department donated their time and massive lights to ensure the safety of our children during the two-hour event. We served hot dogs, pizza and hot chocolate in the school cafeteria.

The fire department judged and awarded prizes to the "best dressed" trucks. The winners were Roibal Family—first place; Mulhearn Family—second place and Bythell Family—third place.

It was an incredible night and the school raised more than \$1,000 for the Mulhearn family, who suffered a fire last month. Plans are already underway for next year's Trunk-R-Treat.

Thanks to the following businesses who donated to our fundraiser: A&P, Alfonso Pizza, Ciccio Pizza, Carmen's Restaurant, BJ's, Francesca Pizza, Hers Potato Chips, Stop and Shop, Tony's Pizza and Walmart. I would also like to thank Nancy Annetta for donating all the hot dogs, Diane Polizzano for all her "running around" and ALL the parents who donated their time and talents for this event.

**SINCERELY, TREE OLANO,
PTSO KENNEDY SCHOOL**

Dear Observer,

After last night I just had to write this letter!! I got a wonderful surprise from my daughter, Sheryl Lipuma, and Hometown Heros. I don't know about anyone else, but I am one of those parents that look through the school programs when one of my kids are in something and see what companies donated to the program. I am a firm believer in giving back to the people/companies that give. Almost every time I see Hometown Heros, I think it is wonderful that they contribute so much to South Plainfield. I try

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BOROUGHNOTES

■ Lordina Builders has been awarded a contract to construct a new PBA building at a cost not to exceed \$256,000. The building will be located behind the Municipal Building. Funding comes from drug forfeiture money.

■ The borough will enter into a contract with the Plainfield Area Humane Society for 2005.

■ Bridget Nelson has been promoted to full-time telecommunicator.

■ Christine Abbatemarco has been hired as a part-time telecommunicator.

■ Stilo Excavating, Petrillo Landscaping and All Clear Plumbing have been contracted to supplement the borough's snow removal services. The rates will vary depending on the type of equipment being used, but will range between \$90 and \$125 per hour.

■ Mayor Gallagher reported that he and Councilman Ed Kubala are continuing their negotiations with Comcast Cable contract.

■ Now that bulk pickups are completed residents should begin putting their leaf bags out on the curb for pickup. Residents should have received a map and schedule in the mail.

Target Store and Marshall's Coming to South Plainfield

Construction is underway on Phase II of National Realty & Development Corporation's (NRDC) Hadley Shopping Center, located on Stelton Rd. in South Plainfield.

The 242,000 sq. ft. development will be part of the established 316,000 sq. ft. Hadley Center anchored by Kohl's Department Store, Pathmark and Regal Cinemas. The existing Hadley Center has been operating since 1984 and is located immediately adjacent to the new property.

The tenant line-up for the Phase II Development of Hadley Center includes a 141,892 sq. ft. Target, a Marshall's Mega Store, Famous Footwear, Harmon Cosmetics and a free-standing Somerset Bank. Only 17,000 sq. ft. remains available for lease. When Phase II is completed in fall 2005, the shopping center will be largest in the area, totaling 558,000 sq. ft., as well as the largest center in NRDC's portfolio of New Jersey properties.

Hadley Center's close proximity to I-287, coupled with a tenant line-up of some of the industry's strongest retailers, will draw customers living in this densely populated area as far away as 10 miles from the center. The center will also serve over three million sq. ft. of office and industrial tenants within

a three-mile radius of the project.

Target at Hadley Center is the third Target store development for NRDC this year. North Haven Pavilion located in North Haven, Conn. and Hawley Lane Plaza in Trumbull, Conn. are the other two.

NRDC is one of the leading real estate development and management firms in the Northeast. The company currently has 14 projects planned over the next two years that will add more than three million square feet to its 14 million square foot portfolio.

Headquartered in Purchase, NY, NRDC was recently ranked in the top 10 privately held companies in the country out of the 100 shopping center owners/developers surveyed by Retail Traffic. For leasing information contact John Orrico, Managing Director of Retail Properties at (914) 272-8031. For a complete list of NRDC's portfolio, visit its website at www.nrdc.com.



South Plainfield Lions Club President Ron DeSciafani and Lions members Michael Grennier, Brian Capparelli and Deter Hollain helped with the Lions eyemobile during last week's Health Fair held at the Senior Center.

Borough to Receive \$100,000 In Extraordinary Aid

South Plainfield Borough will be the recipient of \$100,000 in extraordinary aid from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA).

"Even the most meticulously

planned municipal budgets can be thrown out of sync when emergencies happen," said Senator Buono, D-Middlesex. "When this happens, it is incumbent upon the State to lend a helping hand to ensure that unfortu-

nate circumstances don't translate into a higher property tax burden on homeowners."

The grant, announced today by Commissioner of Community Affairs Susan Bass Levin, is part of DCA's Extraordinary Aid program. The program addresses a municipality's need for additional state aid to offset an increase in the property tax rate that would occur despite efforts to provide property tax savings, due to circumstances experienced beyond the control of the municipality.

"Extraordinary aid is designed to keep property taxes level in the face of rising municipal costs," said Assemblyman Barnes (D-Edison). "The additional state aid provides relief for hard-working South Plainfield residents who otherwise would have faced a property tax increase."

"Property taxes are troubling for every community," added Assemblyman Diegnan (D-South Plainfield). "While we approach wholesale property tax reform, it is important for the state to provide additional relief to communities such as South Plainfield that are facing insurmountable costs."

Residents Reminded to Remove Signs

It is difficult to ignore all of the signs tacked up on telephone poles that are visible as one rides through town. They are an eyesore. In the past, we have referred to them as visual litter.

Residents are reminded that it is illegal to put up signs for garage sales, car washes and advertisements for any kinds of services. Most residents put up garage sale signs and immediately take them down when the sale ends. But just as many leave them up and let them just rot there for someone else to clean up.

Last month alone 275 signs were removed from telephone poles around town by borough employees. It costs taxpayer's money to hire someone to take down all of these signs and they look unsightly.

Just remember that in most instances your address or phone number are on these signs and code enforcement is within their rights to knock on your door and fine you.

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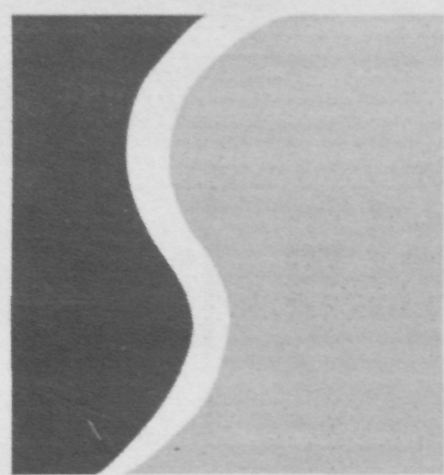
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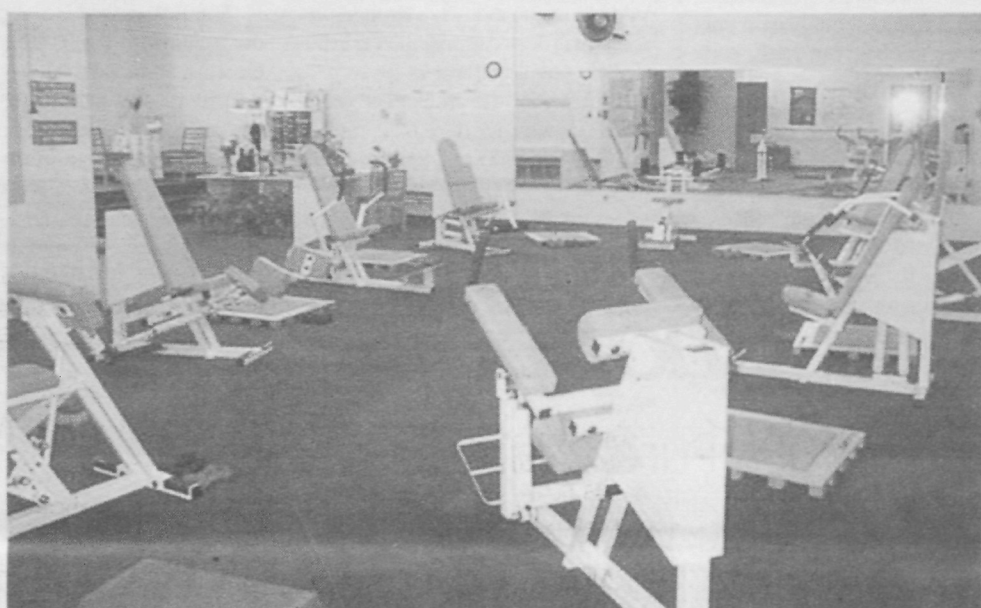


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Events Around Town

VFW Polish Night Dinner November 19

The VFW Post will be holding a 'Polish Night' dinner on Friday, Nov. 19 from 5 to 8 p.m. For information call (908) 668-9751.

Cultural Arts Country Western Line Dancing November 20

The South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission is sponsoring an evening of Country Western Line Dancing for all ages on Saturday, Nov. 20 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Georgeanne Valis, country western instructor from the Colorado Cafe, will lead the evening activities. Come and enjoy a free evening of country western line dancing.

Longaberger Basket Bingo/Raffle November 20

The Sacred Heart HSA is sponsoring a Longaberger® Basket Bingo/Raffle on Saturday, Nov. 20. Doors open at 6 p.m. and games begin at 7 p.m. Admission is \$20 (\$5 for admission and \$15 for Bingo sheets). In addition to the Bingo prizes, Longaberger® baskets will also be raffled. For tickets call Kathy Thomas at (908) 755-0891 or Sacred Heart School at (908) 756-0632.

Night of Holiday Shopping November 21

A Night of Holiday Shopping on Sunday, Nov. 21 at Menlo Park Mall, from 6:30-9:30 p.m. will benefit the SP Jr. Baseball Club's Women Auxiliary and the Simon Youth Foundation. Tickets are \$10. The evening includes discounts in all the stores, WPLJ radio station, WABC soap star "Maria" (*All My Children*), yule tide carolers, winery, entertainment, a silent auction

What's happening in NOVEMBER

Daily Events
9-11 AM Coffee & Cake
9 AM-4 PM Cards & Pool
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Senior Center EVENTS

The Senior Citizen's Center is open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
NOW OPEN SATURDAYS 9:00 AM-12:30 PM—CREATIVE PAINTING 10AM

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
December 1 Atlantic City-TajMahal Bus Leaves at 9 a.m.				
December 13—Hunterdon Hills Christmas 10 a.m.				
Knitting/Crochetting 9:30-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Drawing Class 11:30am	Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social Group 10am	Exercise 8:30am Line Dancing 10am AARP Crafts 1pm Computer Class 10, 11:30, 1pm	Weekly Shopping Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11 & 1pm Lancaster, Pa. Center Closed Happy Thanksgiving	Bingo 10am-2pm Pizza lunch available
22	23	24	25	26

TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.

and giveaways. For tickets or information, contact Stacy Lake at (908) 757-9531 or Nancy Jakubik at (908) 757-5070.

Finding Nemo on Ice November 26

Recreation is sponsoring a trip to see Disney on Ice's Finding Nemo on Friday, Nov. 26. The bus leaves the PAL at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per person. There are only 45 tickets available, so purchase your tickets at the PAL now.

Fr. Alphonse Stephenson at Sacred Heart November 28

Father Alphonse Stephenson and his orchestra, St. Peter by the Sea, will present a Christmas concert at Sacred Heart Church on Sunday, Nov. 28 at 3 p.m. Purchase your tickets now. Admission is \$25, students and seniors

\$20. Purchase tickets after all masses. For ticket information call, the Parish Center at (908) 756-0632, ext. 10. Additional concert information can also be obtained by contacting (908) 755-6416 or (732) 549-9633.

— Out of Town —

Circle Players Present Twelfth Night November 18-20

William Shakespeare's Twelfth Night opens at Circle Players, the community theater on Friday, Nov. 12. Performances are Friday, Nov. 19; and Saturday, Nov. 20 at 8 p.m. For information, call (732) 968-7555.

Charity Auction November 19

The Metuchen-Edison Women's Club is planning a charity auction on

Friday, Nov. 19 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 17 Oak Ave., in Metuchen. Preview starts at 6:30 p.m. Bidding will begin at 7 p.m. Funds raised will be donated to Amanda's Crossing of Middlesex County. Light snacks, homemade goodies and beverages will be available at no extra cost. Any question or to make a donation, call Cassie Durka at (732) 985-7583.

Scandinavian Christmas Bazaar November 20 & 21

The 24th Annual Scandinavian Christmas Bazaar will be held at the Old Bridge Community Center in Old Bridge on Nov. 20 and 21. The bazaar is open to the public between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Admission is free. For information call the lodge at (732) 946-0450.

Civil War Lecture Series November 21

A five-part lecture series complementing the exhibit Our Long Endurance: the Story of New Jersey in the Civil War will be held at East Jersey Olde Towne Village in Piscataway. The first lecture will be presented on Sunday, Nov. 21 at 1:30 p.m. and will be repeated at 2:45 p.m. To register call (732) 745-4177.

St. Joe's High School Arts & Crafts Show November 21 & 22

The Father's Club of St. Joseph High School of Metuchen is having their 26th annual Fall Arts & Crafts Show on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 21 and 22. Doors open at 9 a.m. For more information, call (732) 549-7600 ext. 241.

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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Allan M. Kleiman

Holiday Books aren't for kids anymore!

Many of your most popular writers have begun to write holiday inspirational and mystery stories (that make you smile and laugh) centered on holiday themes. Some recent titles include: Fannie Flagg's *A Redbird Christmas*, Mary Higgins Clark's *The Christmas Thief*, Luanne Rice's *Silver Bells* and Debbie Macomber's *The Christmas Basket*. There are dozens to choose from for a light holiday read. Ask your friendly library staff for some suggestions.

Looking for a Job?

Our resume, job searching and interviewing classes will resume in January. Until then, stop by the Job Information Center and browse through our collection of materials. There are books on resume writing, changing careers and interviewing techniques. There are even titles on tape to read in your car. The materials are located near the Reference Desk.

South Plainfield History

Interested in South Plainfield history? The library has a small collection of photographs of the town that are always on display, books and vertical file clippings. We even have microfilm copies of local newspapers on microfilm back to 1947. We have a copy of the South Plainfield Borough Code as well as the criss-cross directory for this part of Middlesex County. Take a look in our magazine section and check out, "Weird New Jersey," magazine. It's a fun and haunting way to look at New Jersey local legends and lore. Speak to the Reference Librarian on duty and they can get you started in your "historical search."

Hat, Scarf, Glove Drive!

Brrrrrr! It's Getting Cold Outside! The Friends of the South Plainfield Public Library are once again collecting, new hats, scarves, and gloves for the FISH organization. These clothing items are distributed during the holiday season to members of our community that are less fortunate. You

VFW Seeking New Members

South Plainfield VFW Post 6763 is presently looking for new members to join their organization.

You can pick up an application at the VFW, located at 155 Front St, or call the VFW at (908) 668-9751 after 3 p.m. on weekdays and 12 noon on weekends.

Santa Claus to Visit The Senior Center

On Saturday, Dec. 18, Santa Claus will be visiting with children ages one to 10 at the Senior Center on Lakeview Ave. You must register at the PAL. There is a \$5 fee per participant. Everyone will receive a gift and a picture with Santa. Children must be residents of South Plainfield.

For more information contact the PAL at (908) 226-7714.

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can leave your donation in the basket located near the New Book Section up until Dec. 15.

Looking for a Good Book to Read?

Have you just finished a great book and were wondering if there is anything else like it? Well try one of the library's online resources called, NOVELIST. Here you can look for similar books like the one you just read, look for subjects in fiction, or even perhaps describe a plot and see if any books have been written about that. Also, you can create you own reading lists on a book type or subject in fiction. Any one of the librarians can help you get started. P.S. It can be used for all ages and age groups, too!

The staff and library board of the South Plainfield Public Library would like to wish the entire community a Happy Thanksgiving. Our Holiday Hours will be: Wednesday, Nov. 24 (close at 6 p.m.), Thursday, Nov. 25 (closed), Friday, Nov. 26 (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.), Saturday, Nov. 27 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and Sunday, Nov. 28 (closed).



Students at Sacred Heart School who were chosen by their respective teachers are shown being honored at the Mass held on Friday, Nov. 5. Each student was given a certificate and ribbon by Fr. John Paul Alvarado, pastor. Students were recognized for their respect for teachers, students, staff and visitors to the school during the month of October. In November students will concentrate on their responsibility as students.

BOE Takes Steps to Keep Budget Balanced

(Continued from page 1) were just on paper.

According to English these mistakes occurred due to human error, some from poor accounting, some from bad financial planning, but the sin is they all were avoidable. The board has already replaced personnel in financing, replaced the accounting software program and asked the state to come in

and review the board's corrective actions. He added that next year's budget will be austere, with layoffs and cuts in staff and programs. "Believe me, no one on the board wanted to use the surplus, and most of us are not happy with the book deal. But we must face up to the fact that it is our responsibility to fix these problems," said English.

Board President Pio Pennisi said that the letter to the NJ State Department of Finance has been sent and answered. A meeting has been set up on Dec. 6 with a representative from the state, the board auditors, the administrator and board members to assess everything that might have to be reviewed in regards to the district's accounting practices.



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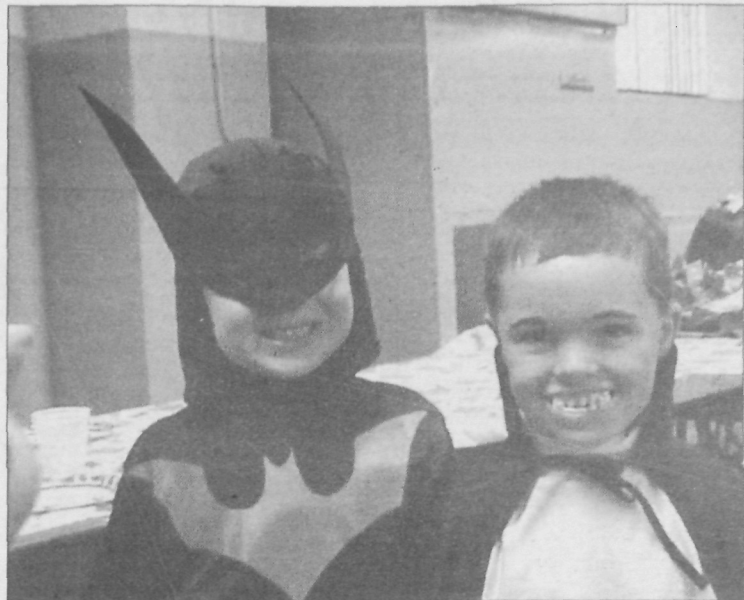
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Andrea & Jesse Lacerda



The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus and their sister organization, the South Plainfield Columbiettes, recently held their annual family Halloween Party at the Sacred Heart Church cafeteria on Oct. 30. Over 100 families attended this event. Pizza and soft pretzels were served, as well as an assortment of desserts. Many activities were held for the children, as well as a clown who was on hand to do magic tricks. The Knights would like to thank all the families that attended and all of the Knights' and Columbiettes' members who helped out. The co-chairpersons for this event were Mark O'Brien and Columbiettes President Linda-Susan Gitto.

VFW Men's Auxiliary Forming

Memorial Post 6763 Veterans of Foreign Wars is forming a men's auxiliary. The purpose of this auxiliary is fraternal, patriotic, historical and educational, also to assist the Post and members of the VFW.

Membership in the men's auxiliary is limited to husbands, widowers, fathers, grandfathers, sons, grandsons and brothers of persons who were or are eligible for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Members must not be less than 16 years old. Only six more men are needed for this auxiliary to become a reality.

Men interested in joining this auxiliary may pick up an application at the VFW Post Home, located at 155 Front Street. The post is open 3 p.m. daily and noon on weekends. For more information phone (908) 668-9751 during the hours listed.

Enter Little Miss or Mr. Baseball Contest

Once again, it is time to crown Little Miss or Mr. Baseball 2005. We ask that all the girls and boys nominated march with the Baseball Club in our parade on April 9, 2005. The parade ends up at the Baseball Complex and during Opening Day Festivities, we will announce Little Miss or Mr. Baseball 2005. A requirement for the winner is that he or she must be present to be crowned. If he or she is not there, the runner-up will be crowned.

We will be accepting nominations for Little Miss or Mr. Baseball 2005 from Oct. 30 through Jan. 1, 2005. Girls and boys must be between the ages of five and 11 years old and be South Plainfield residents. To nominate someone, call Stacy Lake at (908) 757-9531.

Finalists will be phoned on Jan. 2. Little Miss or Mr. Baseball 2005 will be chosen by the "penny-a-vote" system. Boxes with finalists' pictures will be placed in various locations, including Quick Chek and B&C Deli, starting Jan. 5. They will remain there until March 31 when they will be removed and counted. The winner will be announced on Opening Day, April 9, 2005.

Get out and vote for our 2005 Little Miss or Mr. Baseball. If you have any questions, please call Stacy Lake at (908) 757-9531.

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Holy Days 9 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m.

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This year's Presidential election was a good test of our country's election process. As a result of the record setting turnout, we now have a reliable database upon which to make recommendations for reform. Overall the process performed well in almost all states, but clearly there is room for improvement. I am sponsoring two bills in Trenton that I believe will help to improve the integrity of voting, while at the same time encouraging people to participate in the process.

The first bill that I am in the process of drafting is a law to allow early voting in New Jersey. Under this proposal voters would be permitted to cast their votes beginning on the Monday of the week before Election Day. At least one polling place would be located in every municipal building for this purpose. Therefore anyone could vote during the seven days before Election Day, excluding Sunday. The law provides that additional polling places would be provided based on the population of each town. I suggest one polling place per 25,000 residents. This procedure was tried in Florida this year and it worked out well. My theory is that many times there are last minute emergencies that make it difficult or impossible to vote. For example, you find out that you need to go away on business or you must work overtime or one of the kids are sick. You can run out the day before election or a week before election and vote. Absentee ballots are not effective for last minute situations.

My second proposal provides that an individual can register to vote at any time right up to Election Day and then cast a vote. Under existing New Jersey law an individual must register 29 days before Election Day to be eligible to vote. The vast majority of people have no idea of the deadline and are totally confused as to how the process works. Anyone who is wants to vote should be allowed to vote. Under the proposed law an eligible voter could register at the polling place and then be allowed to cast a provisional ballot which is placed in a secure envelope and deposited in a secure box. After it is confirmed that the person registered properly their vote would be counted. We should encourage people to vote rather than make the process so complicated that very few understand it.

There are a number of other bills that have been proposed in Trenton, sponsored by Majority Leader Joseph Roberts. They would require paper backup to the electronic voting machines and allowing absentee voting for any reason along with establishing a voter's bill of rights. I support all of these proposals.

I must compliment South Plainfield's former Council President Jim Vokral who is now the Administrator for the Middlesex County Board of Elections. Jim supervised one of the most hectic election seasons in history. Every one in our county is proud of him. I speak with Jim regularly about his thoughts for improving the election process in our state and I will be introducing future legislation based on his input and the input of others involved in the election process in New Jersey. There is nothing more important to our democracy than protecting every citizen's right to vote.

If you have any thoughts about improving our voting process or any other item please contact me. My legislative office number is (980)757-1677 and my email address is AsmDiegnan@njleg.org.

News
From The State House
Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan

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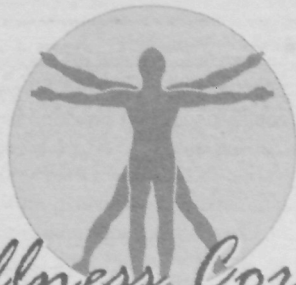
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Wellness Corner

Are All Chiropractors the Same??

By Dr. Patrick M. Aiello D.C.

Whether dealing with an acute and specific problem or improving overall health and wellness, more and more people are utilizing chiropractors—which brings to mind a question I've been frequently asked during my 13 years of practice: Are all chiropractors the same?

The answer to that question is an emphatic "No." Many, though, assume that if you've seen one then you've seen 'em all. Just as there are many types of medical doctors, though, so it is with chiropractors.

Before we go any further, let's take a moment to define chiropractic. Chiropractic is a drug-free approach to improving spinal health. Misalignment of the spinal column often results in an impaired nervous system, limiting range of motion and causing significant discomfort. In layman's terms, if things are knocked out of whack, they no longer run smoothly, and often hurt a lot, too.

That doesn't mean, however, that chiropractors do the same thing every time. Individuals often respond variously to identical treatments... and thus, different approaches are sometimes needed. Similarly to the manner in which a doctor might employ with a variety of drugs to treat a specific ailment, chiropractors draw upon numerous techniques to accomplish the goal of superior spinal health.

While there are many types of chiropractic practice (*i.e.* family oriented, sports oriented, auto-injury, etc), there are two basic broad approaches to chiropractic. The first type



Dr. Patrick Aiello, DC

dates back to chiropractic's foundation in 1895 and has worked successfully for years. It utilizes the chiropractic adjustment to help restore spinal alignment and function, thereby minimizing or eliminating any irritation/interference to the spinal nerves exiting the areas in question.

The second approach incorporates the first, but adds the employment of therapeutic devices aimed at enhancing the healing process—what might be termed a more holistic approach. Just like doctors, chiropractors might also recommend exercises or lifestyle changes that could aid in recovery and maintenance of health.

Regardless of the chiropractor you choose, they should respect your decisions regarding your health. After all, it is your health. Chiropractors, like other types of doctors, work for you, not the other way around.

Let them treat you, but don't let them *dictate* to you. It's your body and health. Ask yourself the following questions: Do they listen to me? Do they provide me with proper explanations and treatment options? Are they willing to refer me to another doctor if the need arises? Do you get a good "feeling" from them? In other words, do you think they're a good doctor?

For more information about chiropractic or how it could specifically help you, please call me at (908) 755-2289 or e-mail me at SoPlfdDoc@aol.com. To see if the State of New Jersey licenses your chiropractor, you can call the Division of Consumer Affairs at (973) 504-6200.

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Another Successful Year For Almost Famous Players

"Success" is the best way to describe the second annual Almost Famous Players Putnam Park Haunted Woods Tour. Last year's sellout tours led to expanding this year's production to six days to accommodate the crowds.

A dedicated staff over 50 performers and crew members worked for six weeks preparing the show. The 2004 show offered special effects and sets.

The show would not have been a success without the help and support of many. The *Observer* provided publicity for the show on a weekly basis. The troupe had the support of the Mayor and council from the start. Councilman Ray Petronko attended meetings and offered assistance. Another supporter was Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan. John Bundy, parent of lead performer Kaitlin Bundy, loaned the troupe numerous props.

The SPFD provided a light truck. The rescue squad made an appearance with a rig. Dale Dube and members of the South Plainfield Elks provided

the security, served hot chocolate to performers, and generously offered their hall for the cast party as well. Assemblyman Diegnan, Mayor Gallagher, Councilmembers Ray Petronko, Charlie Butrico and Kathy Thomas came to experience the tour and witness the results of many hours of rehearsing and hard work. Republican candidates Marjorie Reedy, Robert Jones and Ray Rusnick arrived with donuts and hot chocolate for the performers and staff. Several parents and residents—Audrey Schuetz, Karen Kunch, Bill Seesselberg and Bob Paterak, Rachel Henderson and others, provided security for the show. A big thank you also goes out to the many residents who donated items for our garage sale. Thank you to Joan Abbott who hosted the sale and neighbor Donna Cieszchiewi. All help was truly appreciated.

Almost Famous Players will be presenting checks to the Fire Department and Rescue Squad in the near future.

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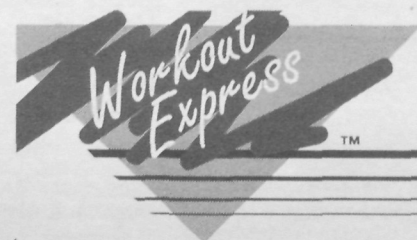


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Father Alphonse Stephenson to Perform at Sacred Heart



Father Alphonse Stephenson

The Sacred Heart Rosary Altar Society has announced that Father Alphonse Stephenson and his 45 member symphony orchestra, St. Peter by the Sea, will present a Christmas concert at Sacred Heart Church on Sunday, Nov. 28 at 3 p.m. This will be Father Stephenson's fifth appearance at Sacred Heart.

Father Alphonse Stephenson is well known for his versatility: part maestro, part comedian and part Priest.

Father Stephenson's first orchestra

was formed in New York's Theatre District while he served at St. Malachy's, the Actor's Chapel. In 1980, Michael Bennett, the late Broadway director and choreographer, hired him as conductor and music director for his smash hit, *A Chorus Line*. He conducted nearly 3,000 performances of the famous musical.

His concert will consist of traditional Christmas music and other seasonal favorites. Father Stephenson also entertains his audiences with his good cheer and charisma.

The Nov. 28 performance will take place at 3 p.m. in the Sacred Heart Church. The concert has proved to be a big hit with many, so purchase your tickets now.

General admission is \$25; students and seniors are \$20. Members of the Sacred Heart Rosary Altar Society are selling tickets after all masses. Ticket information is available by calling the Parish Center at (908) 756-0632 ext. 10. Additional concert information can also be obtained by contacting (908) 755-6416 or (732) 549-9633.



Cub Scout Pack 224 Hosts Recycling Fair

By Patricia Abbott

John E. Riley Elementary School Pack 224, Den 5 got a jump start on the Nov. 15 America Recycles Day by hosting a "Thank You for Recycling Fair." The Nov. 13 event was held at the PAL. The young scouts, John Michael O'Sullivan, Frank Ferraro, Anthony Santone, James Markey, Brandon Rickert, Christopher Markey and Zachary Henderson worked hard to put their program together. Their goal was to demonstrate how, with little effort, you can turn garbage into something useful. Their scout handbook provided ideas for games made out of recycled materials. During the afternoon, the boys helped to educate guests with a song and poem about the importance of recycling.

There were several special guests on hand for the event including Senator Barbara Buono, Rosemary Guktelov of the Middlesex County Improvement Authority and Somerset Patriots baseball mascot Sparky.

Puddle Jumpers was a popular game for the children. To create these odd looking walking devices, a long piece of string was added to the top of a set of large tin cans. This created a loop or harness to hold. The boys placed a foot on top of each can and pulled up on the string enabling them

to walk. Somerset Patriots baseball mascot Sparky acted as the finish line for Puddle Jumper relay races.

The scouts also made bean bags out of old towels. They cut holes in the top of a cardboard box and covered it with construction paper. The result; a fun toss game. A similar game was created with newspapers rolled and shaped into rings. Decorated bottles were set out to catch the recycled rings.

Rosemary Guktelov introduced the audience to MC Blue, Middlesex County's recycling robot. MC presented 'Recycling Show & Tell,' a program that provides detailed information about how various household items are transformed into something different and useful. The children discovered that plastic bottles can become underwear or t-shirts or that denim can be turned into pencils.

Visitors were asked to pledge to recycle more of their trash. The pledges were collected and a drawing was held. Resident Patty Vincent won a recycling bin donated by Alice Tempel, South Plainfield's Recycling Coordinator. All of the pledges will be forwarded to Washington DC to be included in their National Recycle Day drawing.

Special guest Senator Barbara Buono had a surprise the boys. She presented each child with a citation from

the State Senate, which read: "Commendations and praise are extended to (child's name) by the citizenry of the 18th New Jersey Legislative District, through their elected representative, Senator Barbara Buono. Upon organizing South Plainfield's Thank You for Recycling Day this person has brought honor and pride to the State of New Jersey. I extend my best wishes to continued success." Buono took the time to try her hand at bowling using the scouts' homemade game. The kudoes didn't end with Buono. In response to a request from the scouts, Mayor Gallagher sent a proclamation declaring Nov. 15 as South Plainfield Recycling Day. The boys also received a proclamation and a letter of congratulations from former Governor McGreevey. They were especially excited about phone calls received from the offices of Senator McKeon and Assemblymen Diegnan.

The Scouts would like to thank: Mike English, South Plainfield's Director of Recreation for the use of the P.A.L., Dr. Rosado, Superintendent of Schools for sending our pledges and flyers home with the students, Boy Scout Robert Parillo and Cub Scout Joshua Coupe for the help and last but not least leader Mrs. Markey who helped them coordinate the event.

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Families and staff have found Alzheimer and Dementia residents who utilize our sensory room to be less agitated and confused. Alzheimer residents who used to wander the halls at night have enjoyed a better night's sleep, which assists them in their confusion of time and place. Facility staff can utilize this room to tackle their stress at work and home as well.



CEDAR OAKS CARE CENTER

For additional information, please feel free to visit Lorie Antonelli, Director of Recreational Services, Cedar Oaks Care Center, 1311 Durham Ave., or call at (732) 287-9555 ext. 139.

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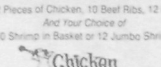
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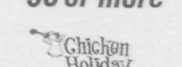
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Franklin School Students Salute Our Veterans



Robert Debbi, Phil Cortese, Metro Kopchak, Rudy Poczak, Julius Peterson

(Continued from page 1)
review was presented by the fourth graders. They began with the Revolutionary War speaking eloquently on each battle for freedom—the War of 1812, Mexican War, Civil War, Spanish American War, WWI, WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War, Persian Gulf War and ended with the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on our country.

Members of the SPSH Traveling Choir accompanied the third and fourth grade Franklin School Chorus. Musical numbers included “Grand Old Flag,” “Over There,” “Ballad of the Green Berets,” “God Bless the USA,” “This is My Country” and many more. Teacher Linda Sticco soloed with “I’ll be Seeing You.”

During the weeks leading up to Veterans Day, classes devoted a lot of time delving into U.S. history. From the youngest kindergarten student to experienced fourth grade youths, each child discovered the importance of the freedom we often take for granted. They begin to understand what a veterans are, and their role in maintaining freedom. While kindergarten children are introduced to Veterans Days the older students continue to add to their knowledge every year.

Essays on Veterans Day are a Franklin School tradition. Students



South Plainfield Veterans (L to R) Metro Kopchak, Rudy Pozak and Phil Cortese.

have the opportunity to express their thoughts about veterans and the meaning of the holiday. The top four essays were read during the program. Winners were Jesse Deffler, David Landy, Naomi McNeill and Joshua Stasenko.

Highlighting the afternoon was the presentation of military flags by Veteran guests, Army Master Sergeant First Class Walter Janus, tenth Special Forces Group; Private Metro Kopchak, Navy; Chief Petty Officer

Charlie Koestner, WWII veteran; Chief Petty Officer Jack Deffler, Operation Iraqi Freedom. Deffler also served as a Marine, then completed an interservice transfer to the Navy Seabees; Coast Guard Petty Officer



Essay winner David Landy, fourth grade



Essay winner Naomi McNeill, third grade



Colter Sonnevile; Air Force Staff Sergeant Rudy Poczak, Flight Engineer on B-26 Bomber during the Korean War; Marine Private First Class Phillip Cortese, Korean War and Corporal Greg McGinty, Vietnam veteran. Principal Nancy Erickson was noticeably missing from the program. Erickson was hospitalized with a broken leg resulting from a fall on Tuesday, Nov. 9.



Essay winner Joshua Stasenko, first grade

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And the Winner Is...

The original essays read by students during the Franklin School Veteran's Day program are without a doubt the most poignant moments of the morning. "Out of the mouths of babes" is truly the only way to describe their take on our heroes and the meaning of this somber holiday.

The children's innocent, heartfelt words speak volumes. There is seldom a dry eye amongst the audience and honored guests. The youths unaware of the hearts they have touched, beam with pride. Despite the tears there are wide smiles from family and friends in attendance. Selecting the winners must have been a difficult job for the staff.

Essay winners were, first grade student Joshua Stasenko, Naomi McNeill, grade three; David Landy, grade four and Jesse Deffler, grade four.



On November 10 Franklin Elementary School students received a visit from a U.S. Army helicopter. The youths watched from the classrooms as the helicopter landed on the soccer field. The wind from the rotating propellers brought leaves swirling down. Once the propellers had been secured the children were brought out to see the huge green "bird". They there were "uhhs" and "ahhs" and dozens of questions from the curious youths. Bob Wolfskeil, father of teacher Kim Wolfskeil, made the arrangements for the helicopter with the Army National Guard in Trenton.



Pam Janizak performs "The Lord's Prayer."



Councilman Ed Kubala

VFW Honors Its Own

(Continued from page 1)

The first grade students at Riley School made Happy Veterans Day cards and they were placed on the tables for the guests to read. The cards will be taken to the Veteran's Hospital for the patients to enjoy.

Guests included Assemblyman

Patrick Diegnan, Mayor Dan Gallagher, Police Chief Robert Merkler, Councilmen Ed Kubala and Ray Petronko, to name a few.

South Plainfield resident Pam Janizak sang "The Lord's Prayer" to conclude the ceremonies, which were followed by a buffet lunch.



Councilman Raymond Petronko

Best Wishes for a Speedy Recovery


Franklin School Principal Nancy Erickson was noticeably absent from the school's annual Veterans Day Program. Miss Erickson broken her leg in


a fall on Nov. 9. The school noted she had surgery and is doing well. However she will be unable to return until the end of the year.

Photos by Chris Abbott

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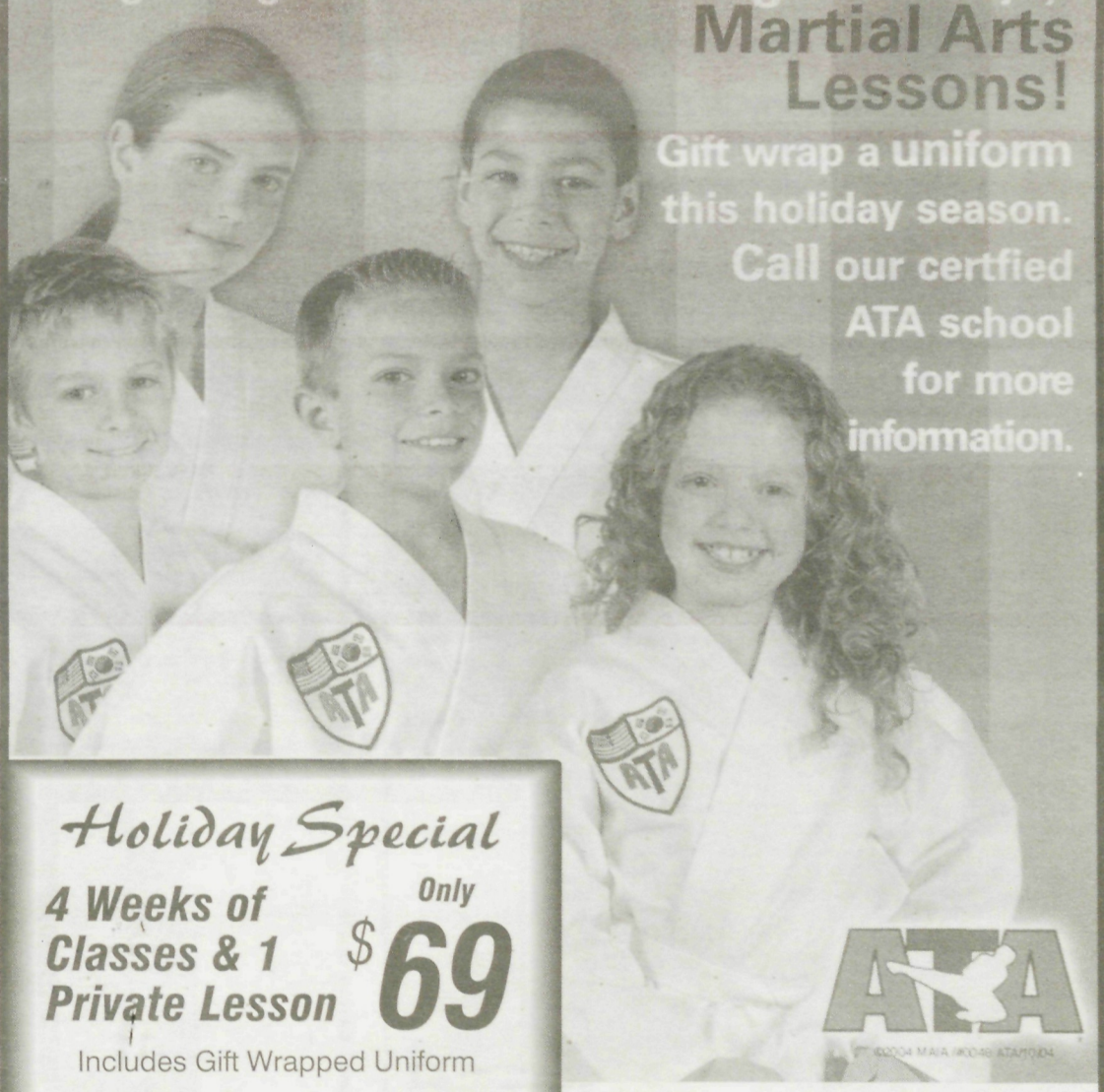
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McCriskin's Announces a "Coping With Grief During the Holidays" Seminar

The McCriskin Home For Funerals and the South Plainfield Office on Aging is pleased to announce they will host a grief seminar entitled "Coping with Grief During the Holidays," on Sunday, Dec. 1 at 1:30 p.m. at the Senior Citizen's Center. The program will be presented by Carol Burner, MA Certified Grief Recovery Specialist. Refreshments will be served immediately following the program.

of the most challenging and difficult experiences. At a season when everyone is supposed to be happy, you may be feeling sad and lonely. No one has to suffer passively through this season. Whether your loss occurred a week ago or many years ago, this seminar may help you to cope with the emotional pain that often accompanies the winter holidays.

Come join us and learn about some steps for grieving which will ease your pain and make the season more en-

joyable.

All are welcome. For more information, contact McCriskin Home For Funerals at (908) 561-8000 or Joann Graf at the Senior Center at (908) 754-1047. RSVP is requested by Wednesday, Dec. 1.

Santa Wants Your Letters!

It's that time! Santa will visit all the little boys and girls around the world in just a few weeks, but there's still time to get your list in Santa's hands!

Santa's elves delivered a special mailbox to the South Plainfield Post Office for boys and girls. All mail placed in the box is delivered to Santa himself at the North Pole so he can write back to all children who write to him.

Put your letter to Santa in an envelope addressed "Dear Santa" and drop it in the special mailbox at the post office no later than Dec. 18. Santa will get your letter in time for Christmas!

In addition to your list, tell Santa a little about yourself and what your greatest wish for the world is this year. Although Santa writes back to everyone who writes him, he likes reading letters that contain more than just a list of toys. Be sure to include your name and address in your letter.



Pat DeSantis, from "Women Aware" accepts a \$150 check from Riley Student Council President Patrick Boyle, Vice President Johnny Cetone and Secretary Janet Kelly.

Riley Students Make a Donation to Women Aware

A donation of \$150 was given to the Riley School Student Council by the Boyle Memorial Foundation.

The Student Council took that money and in turn donated it to "Woman Aware" of Middlesex County.

Women Aware is a Domestic Violence Shelter for women and children.

The donation will be converted into gift certificates for the families at the shelter to purchase things for their Thanksgiving holiday.

Santa Claus Is Coming To Town... on a Fire Engine

PROJECT SANTA 2004

To help raise money for their upcoming 100th Anniversary (May 2007) and Firemen's Memorial, the members of the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Company will have Santa deliver Christmas presents by fire engine. Can you imagine how excited your children would be to have Santa bring them a present on a fire engine?

Here's how it works: We are requesting a \$25 donation from each family who would like Santa to deliver their presents. The \$25 should be a check made payable to the SPVFC 100th Anniversary. 100% of the \$25

goes directly to the 100th Anniversary fund. We also ask that you wrap a small gift for Santa to give to your child. Small presents are all that is necessary. Gifts should cost no more than \$20. Please no expensive gifts! After you wrap the gift, please put your child's name and address in big letters securely on the gift. Firefighters will visit every block in the Borough to deliver the gifts. They will sound their sirens and activate their lights. The children can then come to the engine and receive their gift from Santa and his elves. All you need is a camera. Families must reside within the Borough of South Plainfield.

Stop by the South Plainfield Fire Department to fill out a form and drop off your check. Gifts can be dropped

off at fire headquarters from Monday, Nov. 29 through Friday, Dec. 3 between the hours of 6 and 9 p.m., on Saturday, Dec. 4 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 5 between 1 and 4 p.m. No packages will be accepted after Dec. 8.

Santa will be delivering presents on Dec. 13 through Thursday, Dec. 16 between the hours of 6 and 9 p.m. A delivery schedule will be announced at a later date. This is a huge undertaking by the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department so it is very important that your address and child's name are on each gift so each child is not disappointed.

Santa's hotline number is (908) 412-8868. Call if you have any questions; leave a message.

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American Martial Arts 2004 Garden State Cup Champions



American Martial Arts, located at 902 Oak Tree Rd., closed its 2004 tournament season with a victory. Starting with the Masters Open in early October, Master Kevin Vigneri's Tae Kwon Do competition team of 10 brought home eight gold medals and two silver in sparring alone. This was clearly a remarkable feat.

Following the Masters Open and closing the year, was the Garden State Cup Tae Kwon Do Championship. Representing American Martial Arts were Juan Arrubla, Benjamin Bakshiyeva, Spencer Bovell, Craig Gorbunoff, Eric Hunt, Richard Kazandzhidi, Isaiah Mackson, Kalani Mackson, Lamar Mackson, Christopher Marrero, Denzel Mensah, Maggie O'Connell, Robby O'Connell, Raymond Perez, Daniel Quintin, Danver Quintin, Arvind Senthilkumar and Alexander Sheyer.

Standing at the top of this tournament winning 18 gold, 10 silver and five bronze in the events of sparring, breaking and forms, American Martial Arts was recognized as the Garden State's Best Tae Kwon Do School for the fourth consecutive year. Leading his students to yet another year of success, Master Vigneri was recognized as the Best Instructor for the fourth consecutive year as well.

Congratulations to the students of American Martial Arts. Be proud of your high accomplishments!

Conroy Funeral Home Under New Management

South Plainfield will soon be welcoming a new neighbor to town. The owners/operators of the Piscataway Funeral Home and the Middlesex Funeral Home have acquired the James W. Conroy Funeral Home, located on Plainfield Ave. The funeral home will be known as the "South Plainfield Funeral Home/James W. Conroy Funeral Home since 1949"...once approved by the State Board of Mortuary Science. "We decided to add the name of "South Plainfield Funeral Home" to the existing "James W. Conroy Funeral Home" because we felt it reflected a respectful blend of the borough's history and the changing times in our community," said Paul Chickene, one of the new owners.

Jim Conroy began serving families at 2456 Plainfield Ave. in 1949 and his son-in-law Bob Hunter, has been carrying on that tradition for the past 35 years. "We are extremely proud and respectful of the history and heritage of this business and have every intention of preserving that," said Chickene. "Funeral service is the type of business where pooling the resources of our three local operations allows us to keep costs down, which we are able to then pass on to the families that we serve," Chickene added.

Paul Chickene has been in funeral service all his life, having lived above

his father's funeral home in Bloomfield. Funeral service is very much a "family" business, and like me, many people who choose this as their career having grown up in it. "We have the best of both worlds really...being privately owned, we are in touch with individual families needs, but by operating three locations, we have more flexibility in scheduling and pricing, which are both important to the families we serve," Chickene said.

"I've known Bob Hunter for over 20 years, and now we will be working as teammates serving families. Life is sometimes ironic that way," Chickene stated. "Bob will continue to be a big part of our operation, but has decided to slow down his life pace and spend more time with his family. As a lifelong South Plainfield resident, he plans to continue to be available to the families we serve and be an active member of the borough."

Tamara Hawbaker will be the registered manager of the funeral home, as recognized by the State Board of Mortuary Science. Prior to becoming a funeral director, Tami was a hospice nurse. She is very much a people person and has dedicated her life and career to helping others. Tami will reside in South Plainfield and will be an active member of the community.

The property is undergoing an ex-

tensive renovation. The men's, ladies and handicap accessible rest rooms are being relocated on the first floor, allowing people challenged by stairs easy access. Beyond that, the renovation are mostly cosmetic. "There is a lot of history in this building and we very much appreciate and respect that," explained Hawbaker. "It's our goal to restore the original grandeur of this turn of the century building and combine that with modern conveniences necessary to make families comfortable." Hawbaker continued, "During the renovation, families are being served at either our Piscataway or Middlesex Funeral homes, whichever they prefer. They are door to door, just 2.5 miles from the South Plainfield building. Both of our other facilities have undergone the same beautification renovations and so far families have been gracious and understanding with whatever inconvenience the renovation here may cause."

The scheduled completion date of the renovation is Thanksgiving. A grand re-opening celebration event is planned for sometime around the holidays. The entire community is welcome and invited to attend. Watch the *Observer* for the exact date and time of the grand re-opening celebration.

Help With Thanksgiving Meals Needed

The American Red Cross, Tri-County Chapter is seeking your help in providing Thanksgiving meals for people in need in our area. We are currently collecting food to distribute to families for Thanksgiving dinner. You can "adopt" a family and donate the fixings (canned goods and non-perishables) for a complete turkey dinner, including a turkey. If you prefer to make a cash donation, food vouchers will be purchased for local stores.

Food donations are being accepted until Tuesday, Nov. 23 at the American Red Cross, Tri-County Chapter office at 332 W. Front St., Plainfield. Because we don't have refrigerated storage space, turkeys can only be dropped off on Tuesday, Nov. 23 after 8 a.m.

The Tri-County Chapter services 22 towns in Union, Middlesex and Somerset Counties. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please call (908) 756-6414.

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LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
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LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Frank and Joseph Currao requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the erection of a 12x22 addition. Proposed addition lacks 8' required side setback, 5.19' being proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 329 Liboural Road on Block 129, Lot 2 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, December 16, 2004 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

The maps and documents pertaining to this appeal are available for public inspection in the Building Inspector's Office, South Plainfield Borough Hall, Monday through Thursday, between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm. \$35.00

November 19, 2004

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2004 SPHS Girls Volleyball Varsity Team players are: seniors Shakera Beverley, Ashley Bishop and La-Toya Johnson; and juniors Theresa D'Adezzio, Kazuki Daimo, Sandya Dawlat, Jane Gomez, Kelly Orlandi, Adriana Rivera, Amanda Veinott and Lea Vissaggio.

SPHS Girl Volleyball Completes First Season

South Plainfield High School's Girls Volleyball Team completed its first varsity season. The team competed in 20 varsity matches and 16 junior varsity games. The varsity had a final record of 2-18, and the junior varsity was 0-16. There were 30 girls who participated in the program and 13 received varsity letters.

The biggest highlight of the season was when the team won the first ever volleyball match played at South Plainfield High School, defeating Plainfield High School two games to one. The team was led by senior captains La

Toya Johnson and Shakera Beverley.

The statistical leaders were: best server freshman Jamie Ensel at 90%, most serving aces Latoya Johnson and Jamie Ensel with 19, most digs Shakera Beverley with 24, most kills junior, Amanda Veinott with 42, best hitting percentage junior Adriana Rivera at 21%, most blocks sophomore, Samantha Horvath with seven and most assists sophomore Amanda Makowski with 13.

The team is already looking forward to next year and with only two seniors, competition for playing time will be intense. The coaching staff would like to thank the Board of Education, high school administration, the Athletic Department and the other fall coaches for their support and word of encouragement as well as the support of the volleyball team's parents who attended all of our matches.

Submitted by Coach John Ferguson

Battle of the Blast Won By SP

The last game of the fall season pitted the South Plainfield Blast against the Lawrence Blast and South Plainfield won by a score of 4-2. The Blast finished their fall season with a record of 4-4-2, winning their last two games.

Jose Fernandez scored the first goal on a breakaway. The second goal was scored by Kenny Breslau on a nifty pass from Max Cordova. The third goal was scored by Christian Barrientos, who made a long and high kick into the top of the net and the final goal was scored by Jose Fernandez on a penalty kick.

Goalie Jared Christopher made a lot of good saves during the first half and kept the Lawrence Blast with a goose egg on the scoreboard.

Good passing and offensive skills were shown by Nicky Pauls, Allan Garcia, Jonathan Cursi and Rafael Urena. Midfielders Ian Collins and Max Cordova played great and were all over the field. The Goalie duo of Nick Jeglinski and Jared Christopher played great all year long.

However, my favorite was the fabulous defensive trio of Joey Lacerda, Joseph Gonzalez and Emma Gambini. They were great and all I can say about them is FAST-EASTER AND LIGHTING FAST was our defensive core this year. I also want to mention to Kevin Veliz, who also played defense most of the season and was the staying force of the defensive team.

Congratulations to the coaching staff of Carlos Gonzales and Ed Collins, who both put in a lot of time with the team this year, which showed on the playing field. I look forward to a great spring season to come. I thank all the parents for their support and good behavior and especially to Rob Breslau for all his hours in running up and down the lines to make the right calls for the teams playing.

This is Jim (The Columnist) Christopher saying it was a pleasure following the team this year and writing about them.

Sports

South Plainfield Soccer Club Weekly Roundup

U-8 Storm—Defeated Piscataway Anaconda 6-0 last Saturday.

U-9 Thunder—Lost to Hillsborough Vortex 7-3. Despite the loss, the Thunder is improving and look forward to their final match against North Plainfield. The match will be played at North Plainfield. Time and location has not been determined.

U-9 Rockets—Won against South Brunswick Earthquake 5-0 last Sunday. Next and final match for the Rockets is 3:30 p.m. at Kenneth Ave. Field against the North Hunterdon Grizzlies.

U-10 Hotspurs—Lost to Linden Youth Soccer Flames 5-3 last Sunday.

U-11 Bullets—Lost to the Franklin Warriors 3-0 last Sunday at Franklin Township. The Bullets next match is at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 20, when

the Bullets play a must-win match against Millburn Gunners.

U-12 Power—Lost a close match to Somerset Hills Avalanche 2-1 Sunday.

U-12 Spirit—Battled to a 0-0 tie against the West Windsor-Plainsboro Eclipse on Sunday.

U-12 Sonics—Lost to the Montclair United Waves 3-2 in a very close match last Sunday.

U-13 Ice—played a tight contest that ended in a 3-3 tie against the Manville Thunder on Sunday.

U-13 Fire—Hosted the South Brunswick Commets in a game that saw the Fire win 6-4 on Sunday.

U-14 Blast—Traveled to Lawrence Township to play the Lawrence Blast.

For most of the teams in the South Plainfield Soccer Club this Sunday, Nov. 21, will be the last regularly scheduled game of the season. Any games played after this are make up games. Please don't miss this weekend which could be your last opportunity to see the soccer club play this fall.

U-12 Spirit Haunts Eclipse

After suffering a devastating loss at home to West Windsor-Plainsboro Eclipse early in the season, Spirit was determined not to be defeated a second time. This was truly an exciting game to watch as the boys went up against the second place team.

The defense was rock solid on the combined efforts of Edwin Molina, Cory Limone, Brandon Staynings and Marc Paez.

Covering mid and offensive positions were Jesse Allen, Ryan Hutchison, Jason Pattison, Ryan Billich, Joseph Krawiec, Andrew Sanchez and Daniel Zwatschka. Goalkeeper, Nicholas Tuyp, played an outstanding game preventing any balls from entering the net. The game ended with a 0-0 tie and smiles on all of the boys faces.

Final game of the season is Sunday, Nov. 21 against Roselle Park at home.

Submitted by Michele Billich

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Engine City Officially Opens Their Doors

Engine City Technical Institute, a leader in the diesel training and the mechanics industry for over 34 years, held their first open house at their new location on Hadley Blvd. Last Thursday, Mayor Dan Gallagher was on hand for the ribbon cutting ceremonies, officially welcoming them to South Plainfield.

After the ribbon cutting, Mayor Gallagher, Councilwoman Kathy Thomas, Councilman Petronko and the *Observer* were given a tour of the facility by Engine City President and School Director Dan Kasper. The tour included the shop where students actually take diesel engines apart and rebuild them, the HDVC section where students learn about refrigeration in trucks, the computer center and the transmission shop, to name a few. Students work on actual engines, some donated, some purchased. They also do actual repair work for trucking companies for experience, for which they only charge for parts, not labor.



Police Captain John Ferraro, Phil Diamant, Mayor Dan Gallagher, and Councilpersons Kathy Thomas and Ray Petronko help cut the ribbon.

The school also offers on site corporate training and has been training most major corporations including the U.S. Coast Guard.

The school offers financial aid to those whom qualify and offers free on-going job placement assistance. Because of a severe shortage of diesel technicians, job placement is at an all time high. According to Kasper, for every 100 graduates, there are 600 jobs available.



President and School Director Daniel Kasper gave Mayor Dan Gallagher, Councilwoman Kathy Thomas and Councilman Ray Petronko a tour of the facility.

According to Kasper, for every 100 graduates, there are 600 jobs available.

The school is owned wholly by Kasper and is not a chain school and approved by the NJ Department of Labor,

accredited by the ACCSCT, approved for veterans and is a participant with all government retaining programs.

For more information, contact the school at 1-800-305-3487, or log onto their website at: www.enginecitytech.com.

800 Volunteers Needed for OEM Mock Exercise

On Thursday, Dec. 2 and Sunday, Dec. 5 the South Plainfield Office of Emergency Management (OEM) will conduct a mock exercise and they are in need 800 volunteers to help participate.

These exercises will test South Plainfield's emergency response to a bio-hazard event. Additionally, plans will be tested concerning the opening of a pharmaceutical distribution site here.

The exercise will be done in two phases. Phase one will test our response to a bio-hazard event. Phase two will require the setting up of a pharmaceutical distribution site. Participating will be public health professionals, registered nurses, physicians, clinical health professionals, health administrators and the NJ State Dept. of Health.

In order to simulate a crowded room and a large pharmaceutical distribution, volunteers are still needed. Those interested in volunteering

should call (908) 753-3775. Leave your name, address and telephone number. Volunteers will be contacted about the time and date of a meeting which will explain their roll during the exercise. Please come out and volunteer.

Rec Forming Assisted Youth Basketball League

South Plainfield Recreation Department is forming an assisted Youth Basketball League for children with challenges. Games will be played on Sundays at the PAL during winter months. The children will be assisted by volunteers from the high school.

If you have a child who might be interested, please call the Rec Office at (908) 226-7714.

Hopefully, this will be the beginning of a whole array of assisted sports events for the children of the borough.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
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Cabernets	Chardonnays
Columbia Crest 8 ⁹⁹ Black cherry, berry and spicy oak notes let on a luscious, silky finish.	Kendall Jackson 9 ⁹⁹ Spicy, creamy, pear and fig flavors with vanilla and lemon acidity for the finish.

Beringer Founder's 7 ⁹⁹	J. Lohr 11 ⁹⁹	Clos Du Bois 9 ⁹⁹	Rodney Strong 8 ⁹⁹
Blackstone 8 ⁹⁹	Rodney Strong 12 ⁹⁹	Columbia Crest 8 ⁹⁹	Simi 12 ⁹⁹
Clos Du Bois 12 ⁹⁹	Simi 17 ⁹⁹	Edna Valley 10 ⁹⁹	Smoking Loon 7 ⁹⁹

Merlots	Australian & German
Clos Du Bois 13 ⁹⁹ Nectarine, bell pepper, vanilla and berry flavors that are full and alive.	Black Tower 5 ⁹⁹ Luscious, creamy, pear and fig flavors with vanilla and lemon acidity for the finish.

Italian/French/Chilean	Champagnes
Luna Di Luna 7 ⁹⁹ All blends—750ml Year choice of any one of the award winning blended wines.	Moet & Chandon 26 ⁹⁹ White Star Extra Dry—750ml An aura of flowers, strawberries, and hints with a fruity finish, evoking the peach.

Zinfandels	Ports & Sherries
Ravenswood 8 ⁹⁹ Light, with herbal and tart flavors of blackberries, bay leaf, and rose.	Harvey's 9 ⁹⁹ Bottle of 1880's Fizzy as an aperitif on the rocks with a wedge of lemon or in an after-dinner treat, straight.

Liquor & Spirits

Seagram 7 14 ⁹⁹	Jim Beam 22 ⁹⁹	Seagram 19 ⁹⁹	Crown Royal 18 ⁹⁹	Glenlivet 28 ⁹⁹	Glenfiddich 28 ⁹⁹	Johnny Walker 29 ⁹⁹	Old Smuggler 17 ⁹⁹	Dalmore 25 ⁹⁹	Beefeater 27 ⁹⁹	Seagram 15 ⁹⁹	Absolut 30 ⁹⁹	Grey Goose 24 ⁹⁹	Fris 21 ⁹⁹	Wolf Schmidt 13 ⁹⁹	Courvoisier 22 ⁹⁹	Frangetico 17 ⁹⁹	B&B 25 ⁹⁹	Romana 17 ⁹⁹	Bailey's 17 ⁹⁹	Amaretto 17 ⁹⁹	Kahlua 14 ⁹⁹	Arbor Mist 5 ⁹⁹	Stock 4 ⁹⁹
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At some stores prices may vary, quantities may be limited and some products may not be on hand. NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS. All prices subject to sales tax. We reserve the right to limit quantities. Selected Buy-Rite stores open Sundays.

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908-561-0051 Mon. Tues. Wed. 9-9
Thurs. Fri. Sat. 9-10
Sun 10-6

Sports

By Lee Flanagan

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

The last chance for early registration is on Friday, Dec. 3 from 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 4 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This will be the last opportunity to receive the early discount. After these dates registration will go up \$20 per child. Also, numerous individuals have signed up to manage and coach our kids in the 2005 season. *Reminder to everyone—you must have your Rutgers certification and must be a member of the club in good standing.* Just signing up on a sheet of paper to manage and coach does not guarantee you anything. We could use your assistance on the maintenance of our complex before the winter sets in, in attending club meetings, or volunteering on a

committee. Your time is valuable to the kids of South Plainfield Junior Baseball. Any questions about work detail, call Bob Bors at (908) 510-0746.

At our next monthly on Dec. 6 we will vote on rules and bylaws changes. We currently have 27 individuals who can vote on these changes. You must also have your club membership up to date for the 2005 season. Contact Chris Hansen if you think there might be a question on your voting status.

A big thank you goes out to the individuals supporting our efforts in the fall maintenance of the SPJBC Complex. I cannot stress enough that those who volunteer their time now, will be given first consideration when se-

lecting managers and coaches for the 2005 season.

We have tickets on sale for the brand new Mercedes available from Nancy Salici or any executive board member. Call the SPJBC for tickets at (908) 754-2090.



SPHS Field Hockey Swipes State Sectional to Nab Championship

(Continued from page 1)

Senior right mid Melissa Szeliga shot in the second goal with senior center forward Jackie Muglia collecting the assist. It seemed the team had the win wrapped up, when suddenly with only 34 seconds left in the game Hopewell again scored and tied the game. The score remained tied after double overtime. Then during the first round of strokes, senior left mid Jesse Manning fired in a shot to win the game 3-2. Senior Goalie Katie Kelliher had seven saves. The team had 19 shots on goal and 27 penalty corners.

The sectional finals was a truly spectacular game, with our team shutting out second seeded, eleventh state ranked Ridge. Junior right wing Megan Wilson once again scored the winning goal, this time unassisted. Five minutes into the second half, senior center mid Stef Miller fired in a penalty stroke to insure the 2-0 win.

Senior Goalie Katie Kelliher has six saves. They had 10 shots on goal. This team played every second of this game beautifully and are so well deserving of the honor of State Sectional Champions! Congratulations to both players and coaches.

The team will next enter into State Group 3 semifinals, playing Mt. Olive at Montclair HS on Wednesday, Nov 17 at 2 p.m. The winner of this game will go on to play the winner of the Moorestown vs. Kingsway game in the State Finals. The Finals will be held at The College Of New Jersey at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Nov 21.

Please come out and support a wonderful team of players. You don't want to miss seeing this team play.

The best of luck to players and coaches in the States. Go Tigers!!!

SPHS Pride Still Strong

(Continued from page 1)

comprise the court and then a king and queen will be crowned. This pair will begin the week's North-South game, officiating the coin toss.

Thanksgiving Eve will see a trio of activities at the high school. First, the month-long Banner Decorating Contest will be judged. Extracurricular groups in the school have been designing banners to promote school spirit for the Tigers in their upcoming game. Next week, all the finished products will be hung outside the school for everyone to see and a winner will be announced on Wednesday. Monetary prizes will be awarded to the victorious clubs for their hard work.

Also on Wednesday, SPHS will be holding their first Powderpuff Football game in over 10 years. This game is played by the normal rules of football, but with a twist—the boys will be cheering the girls on as they play! The game will be played on the high school soccer fields starting at 3:30 p.m. and it is gearing up to be one of the most interesting activities the school has had to offer in a long time.

The night will close with a traditional pep rally and bonfire at 5:30 p.m. at the high school. Then at 10:30 a.m. on Thanksgiving Thursday, it's off to Jost Field for the Tigers and the Canucks as they add another notch to their rivalry.

Once again, pride in South Plainfield has hit a new high. Don't miss all the fun there is to offer in the week to come!

Watch the Dec. 3 issue of the *Observer* for complete coverage of Homecoming and all of the events.

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Hoop Shoot

The South Plainfield Elks are hosting their annual Hoop Shoot on Sunday, Nov. 21 at the PAL at noon. This event is a free throw competition for girls and boys ages 8 to 13. You need not be a member to participate, it is open to all residents. Please bring a copy of your birth certificate. Any questions, please call Dale Dube at (908) 656-5994.

Obituaries

Arthur R. Notte, 83

Arthur R. Notte died on Tuesday, Nov. 16 at home in South Plainfield.

Born in Newark, Arthur resided in South Plainfield for more than 48 years, where he raised his family. A member of Sacred Heart RC Church, he was employed as a machinist with Engelhard Industries in Carteret for more than 25 years.

A veteran of World War II, Arthur served in the army, earning the rank of master sergeant. He was an avid Pittsburgh Steelers and NY Giants football fan and was very pleased when the Boston Red Sox beat the Yankees in this past ALCS.

A devoted husband and loving fa-

ther and grandfather, he also enjoyed listening to Frank Sinatra.

He is predeceased by his wife, Susan (Camarata) who died in 2003.

Surviving are a daughter, Cheryl Tenisci of South Plainfield; a son and his wife, Bruce Notte and Joyce of Tinton Falls; a sister, Nan Centenni of New Jersey; two brothers, John and his wife, Lee of Texas and Robert and his wife, Catherine of Short Hills and two grandchildren, John and Anthony.

Funeral services will be held on Friday at 10:30 a.m. in the McCriskin Home For Funerals, 2425 Plainfield Ave.

Interment will follow in Holy Redeemer Cemetery.

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Robert Hunter Director NJ Lic. No. 3337

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Every Little Bit Helps

You can help support the South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop by doing your holiday shopping at Menlo Park Mall's Nov. 21 Evening of Giving. Tickets are \$10 each with \$7 going to Summer Drama. The annual event is an evening of special sales, entertainment and more, exclusively for ticketholders. The mall is closed to the general public early and reopened for the Evening of Giving at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call (908) 756-6461.



Scouts from John E. Riley Pack 224 volunteered at Sacred Heart Church to assist in the special collection for Haiti...

IN MY OPINION

(Continued from page 2) to give them business whenever I can and mention to people to do the same.

Hometown Heros sponsor the "Jr. Journalist" contest. I read about them all the time in the paper. I always tell my wonderful daughter Sheryl that she should enter a poem...

We had a wonderful dinner and a great family memory. I think it is awesome what Hometown Heros does for South Plainfield.

Sheryl, I am so proud of you and thank you Hometown Heros for making it possible.

REGARDS, NANETTE BABINETZ PROUD MOTHER

Dear Editor, This year, the Riley School PTSO will be hosting a Pasta Dinner with Santa Sal Severini on Friday, Dec. 17 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Riley School...

Dinner will consist of fine Italian food from Bob Boyle, Roma Food, which will include "dinners to go" for those who cannot stay. Please come out and support our children...

Also, a big thank you to Sue Rickert, Wendel Born and Bob and Beth Bors for donating the golf putting green to Riley School; to Phil Masters for picking up the green; Casey Butrico and Jessica Olah for working so diligently with the 'Fortune Teller' and Joan Stasio...

SINCERELY, DEBBIE BOYLE AND SHIRLEY AFFINITO, CHAIRWOMEN, RILEY SCHOOL HALLOWEEN AND HOLIDAY FESTIVALS

Dear Mrs. Grennier and The People of South Plainfield, My name is Christopher Markey and I'm in fourth grade at Franklin School. I am writing to you because I am upset about what happened at my home and school on mischief night.

At home, my mom's car was sprayed with shaving cream, which left marks on it after we washed it off. Before I could go Trick or Treating I had to help wash our car. We had other things we were supposed to do. This was selfish of someone else and just not right.

Then on Monday when I went to school at Franklin, I arrived to find caution tape all around our playground equipment. We were told we could not play on it. Someone had put butter all over it so that kids would get hurt when they played on it. Butter on bars we climb on. That is so wrong.

How could someone want to hurt someone else on purpose? Especially kids! People gave up their lives for us to have freedom. This is not what they wanted. It is terrible that people would use that freedom to hurt others.

Please don't do these kind of things. Or if you know who did this, please call the police.

CHRISTOPHER MARKEY, AGE 9

LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

ADVERTISEMENT AND NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that sealed proposals will be received by the Borough of South Plainfield for the "IMPROVEMENTS TO DURHAM AVENUE" and publicly opened and read aloud at the Borough of South Plainfield, Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080 on Wednesday, December 1, 2004, at 10:00 a.m. prevailing local time.

The project generally consists of the widening of the eastern side of Durham Avenue from its intersection with Helen St. to its intersection with Hamilton Boulevard within the Borough of South Plainfield, including bituminous concrete milling, hot mix asphalt base course pavement installation, 2" average compacted thickness of hot mix asphalt surface overlay, including sweeping, tack coating and other pavement preparation, drainage improvements, traffic signal improvements, any related work, and all other associated work as contained in the Contract Documents or as ordered by the Engineer.

Contract documents and plans for the proposed work prepared by David J. Samuel, P.E., Borough Engineer CME Associates, may be examined at the office of said engineer at 3141 Bordentown Avenue, Parlin, New Jersey, and the office of the Borough Clerk, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey, during business hours and may be obtained at the Borough Engineer's office until 48 hours prior to the time set for the opening of bids upon payment of \$100.00 per set. No refunds will be made...

Each bid must be accompanied by a certified check or cash in the amount of not less than ten (10%) percent of the bid payable without any conditional endorsement as a guarantee that in case the contract is awarded to the bidder, he will within ten (10) days thereafter execute such contract and furnish satisfactory performance bond. Upon failure to do so he shall forfeit the deposit as liquidated damages and the acceptance of the bid will be contingent upon the fulfillment of this requirement by the bidder...

Each bid must also be accompanied by a certificate from a bonding company licensed to do business in the State of New Jersey guaranteeing that if the proposal of the bidder be accepted they will furnish the bond set forth in paragraph one of the General Conditions of the contract and the acceptance of the bid will be contingent upon the fulfillment of this requirement.

The Borough reserves the right to increase or decrease quantities specified in the manner designated in the Specifications. The Borough reserves the right to award this contract based on funds available.

All bidders are required to be registered with the New Jersey Department of Labor if they elect to bid public works projects. The bidder shall be required to comply with "The Public Works Contractor Registration Act" (P.L. 1999, C.238), as identified in Section B - Instruction to Bidders paragraph B3.13 and in the Appendix of these Specifications. All Contractors and Subcontractors working on prevailing wage projects, which have a public building component, must attach a certificate of registration from the Department of Labor, to all bids.

All bidders are required to submit "Proof of Business Registration" to the contracting agency if they elect to bid public works projects. Proof of business registration shall be a copy of Business Registration Certificate issued by the Department of the Treasury, Division of Revenue. The bidder shall be required to comply with business registration provisions of N.J.S.A. 52-33-44; P.L. 2004, C.57 (Chapter 57), as identified in Section B-Instruction to Bidders paragraph B3.14 and in the Appendix of these specifications. All Contractors and Subcontractors working on public work projects must attach a Business Registration Certificate to all bids.

The successful bidder shall be required to comply with the provisions of the New Jersey Prevailing Wage Act, Chapter 150 of the laws of 1953, effective January 1, 1964.

During the performance of this contract the Contractor agrees to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, C. 127 (N.J.A.C. 17:27), all requirements of the State of New Jersey Worker Health and Safety Act (N.J.A.C. 12.110 et seq.) as amended and the United States Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) (29 CFR 1910), as amended with regard to work and jobsite safety.

No bidder may withdraw his bid for a period of sixty (60) days after the date set for the opening thereof. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a surety company bond in the full amount of contract indemnifying the Borough of South Plainfield, New Jersey, for all proceedings, suits or actions of any kind of description and conditional for the faithful performance of the work.

All bid security will be returned to all Bidders except the three (3) apparent lowest bidders within 10 working days after the opening of bids, all to the three

(3) apparent lowest Bidders within three (3) working day after the successful Bidder has executed the contract and his Contract security has been approved by the Borough.

The award shall be subject to the approval of the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

Bidders are advised that the capital improvements are partially funded by the State of New Jersey, 1984 Transportation Trust Fund Authority Act, and the successful bidder will be required to fully comply with the applicable current "New Jersey Department of Transportation Standard specifications for Road and Bridge Construction" if, and as amended or

supplemented by the N.J. DOT Local Aid District Office.

The Borough reserves the right to reject any or all bids if in its opinion it is in the best interest to do so and to award the contract for any and/or all items.

BY ORDER OF THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD.

ATTEST: Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$185.15 November 19, 2004

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South Plainfield

Man Seriously Injured in Automobile Accident

Carlos E. Palacios, age 29, sustained serious injuries to his legs in an accident which occurred on at 3 a.m. last Sunday. The accident took place on New Brunswick Ave. near New Market Ave. Palacios was transported to Robert Wood Johnson University Medical Center for treatment.

Early Sunday morning, the Piscataway and South Plainfield P.D. received a report of a car fire on New Brunswick Ave. near New Market Ave. The vehicle was a 2000 Volkswagen Passat, owned by William Fragosa of Parlin. Piscataway Police found the vehicle in the northbound lanes of New Brunswick Ave., fully engulfed in flames. The vehicle was operated by Delisa Jackman, age 21, of Plainfield and two passengers, Anthony Vaughn-Owens, age 24, of Woodbridge and Tynetta Worrell, age 22, of Plainfield.

As additional Piscataway and South Plainfield Police units arrived, they found Carlos Palacios pinned underneath a 1993 Honda Accord. The ve-

hicle was owned by Rose Gomez-Aragon, age 26, of Plainfield. It was parked in the northbound lanes of New Brunswick Ave., approximately 400 feet south of the Volkswagen.

An initial investigation found that Palacios was apparently operating the door of the Honda and was struck by the Volkswagen, causing the vehicle to burst into flames.

Palacios may have been either exiting or standing outside of the vehicle when it was struck, causing him to be pinned under the Honda.

The South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad extricated him. Paramedics from Muhlenberg Hospital also responded.

Tynetta Worrell was transported to Muhlenberg for treatment of minor injuries.

The South Plainfield Police Traffic Safety Unit is investigating the crash. If anyone has additional information or witnessed the crash, please contact Sgt. Kevin Murtagh at (908) 226-7679.

Junior Journalist Corner



Nina Bavosa Named "Junior Journalist"



Left to right Roosevelt third grade teacher Michael Bertram, Nina Bavosa and Principal Jacqueline Keogh.

Nina Bavosa, Roosevelt School third grader, is this week's winner in the *Observer*/Hometown Heros Jun-

ior Journalist Program. Her poem, "2 Cool 4 Drugs," has won her dinner for her family, courtesy of Hometown Heros.

Students are encouraged to submit their original poetry, articles, opinion pieces or essays.

Winners and their parents receive a catered dinner from Hometown Heros and will be invited to a banquet in June of 2005.

You can submit your entries to your teacher, school principal, Hometown Heros located on Hamilton Blvd. or the *Observer* office.

For more information, call the *Observer* at (908) 668-0010 or Hometown Heros at (908) 755-4376.

2 Cool 4 Drugs
By Nina Bavosa

See, here is the way to have a great day.
It starts by saying no smoking,
Don't throw your life away.
You're cool and you rule,
Just fine without drugs.
So don't be a fool,
Don't take drugs.
Your lungs will be snug as a bug in a rug
But, if you take drugs your lungs will be all...
Clickety-Clack,
Clapity-Clap,
Fristy-Fris,
And Papiy-Pap
And lungs shouldn't do that,
Don't take drugs,
So your lungs won't crack!

See our first two winners receive dinner in the the Dec. 3 issue.

police report

• On Nov. 9 Antonio Silva, 33, of South River was arrested at DMV for exhibiting fraudulent government documents for ID.

• On Nov. 10 Curtis Tyrell Stroud, 24, of Plainfield was arrested for exhibiting a false insurance card, obstruction, driving while suspended, a fictitious inspection sticker and failure to inspect a vehicle at a motor vehicle stop.

• Tashan A. Madison, 32, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license, hindering apprehension and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.

• On Nov. 11 Francisco Menendez, 32, of North Plainfield was arrested for exhibiting a fake license and being an unlicensed driver.

• Kahlel I. Cunningham, 29, of Montclair was arrested for driving on an expired license and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.

• Tremayne T. Edwards, 22, of South Plainfield was arrested for having an unregistered vehicle, driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.

• Micro Smart Inc. on Kennedy Rd. reported receiving bad checks in the amount of \$10,092 from a computer center that no longer exists.

• A Tompkins Ave. resident reported the theft of a UPS package from her front porch.

• On Nov. 12 Ashley E. Whitehead, 20, of Metuchen was arrested for driving while intoxicated, careless driving and operating a motor vehicle under 21 with a blood alcohol level of .01% or more at a motor vehicle accident.

• A Perth Amboy resident reported the theft of her change purse from a table at the China Buffet on Park Ave.

• A South Plainfield Ave. resident reported the theft of her 2000 Pontiac Grand Am from her driveway.

• On Nov. 13 Nimesh Patel, 33, of Iselin was arrested for driving on a suspended license, having a rear light out and an outstanding warrant.

• Donald E. Williams, 28, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license, having no insurance and six outstanding warrants.

• A Randolph Ave. resident reported that her debit card had been used for unauthorized purchases in Oklahoma and California.

• On Nov. 14 a Clark Ln. resident reported that his driver's side mirror had been broken with an unknown object.

• A South Plainfield Ave. resident reported that her driver's side mirror had been broken off.

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