

**Don't look for the Observer next week... We'll be home eating turkey!  
See you on December 1 with a "Big Issue" ... Happy Thanksgiving!**

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NOV 17 2006

# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 10, NO. 12

50 CENTS

NOVEMBER 17, 2006



VFW Auxiliary Past President Ann Goode and Post Commander with Julius Peterson at Veterans Day ceremonies.

## Veterans Day Ceremonies Held

Only about 50 people attended the Veterans Day ceremonies held at the VFW Post 6769 last Saturday. The ceremonies began at 11 a.m. with a prayer by VFW Chaplain Michael Poncza, followed by the placement of a wreath in front of the VFW building and a rifle salute.

The ceremonies continued inside with Post Commander Julius Peterson acting as master of ceremonies.

He began by reading a short essay entitled, "What is a veteran?"

Vice Commander Rudy Poczak explained the many services the VFW performs each year, but added that with the decline in membership, they may have to close their doors unless they can find new members. He noted that Chaplain Panza has officiated

at more than 280 members' funeral services over the years and their ranks are being depleted. This is also the case nationwide.

Since 1776, over one million soldiers have died defending our country's freedom.

Newly elected Auxiliary President Marge Sheldon gave an emotional

*(Continued on page 9)*

## Two Receive Annual Cappy Award



Phil Aiello, Dan Fiore, Jim Curcio, Lois Severini and Tulio Capparelli.

Capparelli spoke about the numerous volunteers who built the PAL years ago, the way it has expanded throughout the history of the borough through the efforts of countless volunteers, and how each generation has become a part of its success. He concluded by saying, "Thank you for being part of my life, and I hope that I have touched your life."

Speaking on behalf of Artie Fiore were Richard Curcio and Tom Walsh. Receiving the award on behalf of

*(Continued on page 9)*

Last Saturday evening Armando "Arti" Fiore (deceased) and Richard Curcio were the recipients of the Cappy Award at a dinner held in their honor. This is the fifth year the award ceremony has been held. All recipients have a plaque placed on the Wall of Honor at the PAL.

The guests were welcomed by Recreation Director Kevin Hughes and the invocation was read by Recreation Commission Vice President Calvin Gross. Master of Ceremonies was Recreation President Bill Cochrane.

The award is named for Tulio "Cappy" Capparelli, a former South Plainfield Police Department deputy chief, and a man devoted to family, community and the youth of South Plainfield. Through his efforts, generations of South Plainfield children have been allowed to expand their horizons and further develop their physical and mental potential. Those who are chosen to receive the Cappy Award have followed in his footsteps working with the youth of our town.



Armando "Arti" Fiore

## DOT Validates Blvd. Truck Ban

The Borough has received official notification from the State of New Jersey that they can ban truck traffic on Hamilton Blvd. from St. Nicholas Ave. to Spicer and Belmont Ave. from Hamilton Blvd. to Spicer Ave. The ban includes all trucks weighing four tons empty, unless they are making local deliveries.

Trucks have been banned on these roads for the past two years while construction was taking place on Hamilton Blvd., and more than 700 tickets have been written for infractions.

Restricting truck traffic on Hamilton Blvd. and the rerouting of the trucks on South Clinton and New Market avenues is part of a new traffic pattern proposed by Councilman Charlie Butrico. Part of the plan calls for removing three houses on Hamilton Blvd. so that trucks can proceed straight ahead and not have to make a sharp right onto Hamilton Blvd. and then a sharp left onto Spicer Ave. A road will be built through a small section of the Cornell Dublier site to route trucks on to Spicer Ave., thus eliminating the sharp turns.

The council had to pass two ordinances to ban trucks, and then get

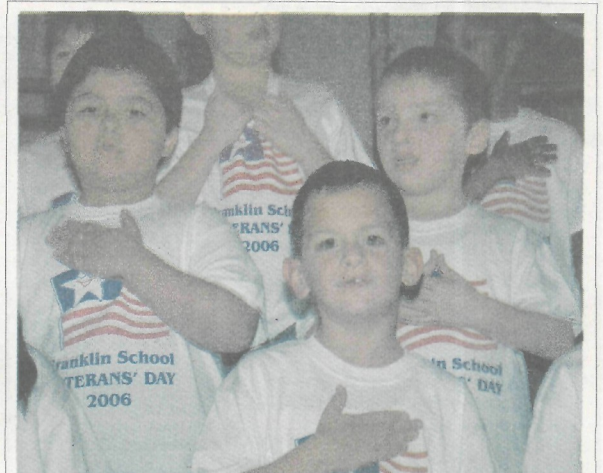
permission from both the county and state, which they have done.

A GOP political flyer which residents received the day before the election charged that Charlie Butrico had been told the state had rejected their request to ban trucks on Hamilton Blvd. and was keeping it a secret. It also claimed that the 700 summonses were in jeopardy because they were illegally issued.

At Monday's Borough Council meeting, Mayor Gallagher set the record straight by explaining that the borough has a legal right to restrict traffic in a construction zone, and that 60 to 70 percent of the offenders have already paid their fines. Three of them went to court to fight the tickets, but the judge found them guilty.

Work has begun on phase two of Hamilton Blvd., from Durham Ave. to Stelton Rd. It will be widened to two lanes both ways, but traffic patterns should not be affected.

Durham Ave. from Rt. 287 to Hamilton Blvd. is also undergoing a widening project. When completed, that section will also have two lanes of traffic in each direction.



Franklin students honor local veterans at ceremonies last week. Full story and photos in the next issue on Dec. 1.

## Give Thanks With Friends

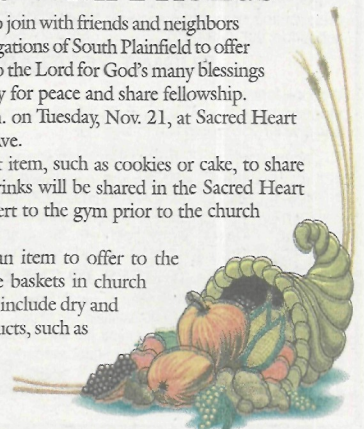
The community is invited to join with friends and neighbors from various Christian congregations of South Plainfield to offer a prayer of thanks and praise to the Lord for God's many blessings this Thanksgiving. Come pray for peace and share fellowship.

The services begin at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 21, at Sacred Heart Church on South Plainfield Ave.

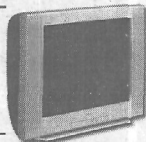
Please bring a small dessert item, such as cookies or cake, to share after the service. Food and drinks will be shared in the Sacred Heart School gym. Bring your dessert to the gym prior to the church service.

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

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



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Residents can view Borough Council meetings on Mondays at 8 p.m. on Comcast Channel 74.

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Log on to [southplainfieldnj.com](http://southplainfieldnj.com) for the latest meeting agenda

## council meetings

Meets twice a month on the first and third Tuesday  
Borough Hall Council Chambers • Questions? 908-226-7605

Date	Agenda Meeting	Public Meeting
Tuesday, December 5	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 19	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.

All meetings of the Governing Body are held in accordance with New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Avenue.

## planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month, \*except where noted.  
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641  
Nov. 28, Dec. 12 and Dec. 26.

## zoning board of adjustment

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month, \*except where noted.  
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641  
Nov. 30\* and Dec. 14.

## board of education meetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted  
Committee of the Whole, Wednesdays 7 p.m. -  
Dec. 13, Jan. 10, Feb. 14, March 14 and March 28.  
Regular Meeting Wednesdays 8 p.m. - Nov. 15, Dec. 20, Jan. 17, Feb. 21, March and April 4.

## taxpayers advisory group

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

## site plan sub-committee

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 8 p.m.  
Nov. 21 and Dec. 19

## recreation commission

Meets once a month on the second Tuesday of the month, except July and August  
PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716  
Dec. 12

## environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)  
Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7621  
Dec. 13 and Jan. 10.

## business advisory group

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)  
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 5 p.m. • Questions? 908-757-8100

## traffic safety advisory commission

Meets once a month (fourth Wednesday) at 7 p.m.  
in the Conference Room, Borough Hall (No Meeting in August)

## board of education curriculum/technology meetings

Meets once a month on Mondays at 8 p.m. in the 2nd floor conference room at  
Roosevelt Administration Building on Jackson Ave.

# South Plainfield Observer

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(908) 668-0010 • FAX (908) 668-8819

NANCY GRENNIER  
Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

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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 [sobserver@comcast.net](mailto:sobserver@comcast.net). Include your name, address, telephone number.

## 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: [sobserver@comcast.net](mailto:sobserver@comcast.net) or fax 908-668-8819. Letters should not exceed 200 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.

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# IN YOUR OPINION

The opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily those of the publisher.

## To The Editor:

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who supported me this year and for electing me as your mayor. As I promised and have demonstrated over the last five years, I will continue to work hard for all the residents of South Plainfield. I will make it a priority to keep municipal taxes under control, deal with our truck traffic issues and to preserve open space. I will also be sure to continue to improve the infrastructure of our town. Thank you for your ongoing support and I look forward to continuing to make South Plainfield the best community in New Jersey.

SINCERELY,  
CHARLIE BUTRICO

## Dear South Plainfield Residents,

I would like to express my sincere thank you to everyone in the Borough of South Plainfield who voted for me in this election. I am very fortunate to once again have the opportunity to serve our borough and the people who live here. There are many people who make my job as a councilperson easier; our director of recreation, Kevin Hughes and all members of the Recreation Commission who support our children with excellent programs; the director of the senior center, Joann Graff, and all the members of the Senior Advisory Committee who offer support to our elderly; and our mayor and council who support the ideas I bring back from those committees. I also would like to thank our freeholder, John Pulomena, who awards South Plainfield with so many grants and encouragement. Walking door-to-door is essential to maintaining the quality of life in South Plainfield and my thanks goes out to all the people who took the time to explain to me what they need and expect as a resident of our town. I appreciate their input on how it is to live here, and what can be done to make this town an even better place to live!

I am happy to see many projects either completed or in the process of getting started. The senior center has had many improvements throughout the building, including a kitchen that now serves meals, with more changes on the way. Our PAL building is in the process of getting an entrance counter, new kitchen and a new walkway! The Cotton Street and Walnut Street parks are getting new playground equipment and our community pool will also get new playground equipment. The Recreation Department has many more projects that will be introduced next year. I pledge that I will continue to listen to your ideas and encourage you to bring any ideas to the Recreation Commission or the Senior Advisory Committee.

In addition, I would like to congratulate my running mate and long-time friend, Joe Scudato, and welcome him on board to the council! My congratulations go out to our mayor-elect, Charlie Butrico, who will do an excellent job for our town! I will truly enjoy working with both of them for the next four years!

The process of campaigning, including the debates, can be exhausting and I would like to thank the Republican candidates for the hard work and effort they put into this year's campaign.

Lastly, from the bottom of my heart, I truly thank my family for all their understanding, support and encouragement through this campaign. I could not have made it this far without them!

I love this job and representing South Plainfield, the town that I love.  
SINCERELY  
RAYMOND S. PETRONKO

## Residents of South Plainfield,

I would like to express my gratitude to the residents of South Plainfield for electing me as your councilman on Nov. 7. I especially want to thank my family and friends for their constant support over the past several months. This campaign was one of the best experiences that I have had, and I enjoyed meeting many of you as I campaigned throughout the borough.

For those residents who voted for me, I would like to say thank you for the opportunity you have given me. I will not disappoint you. For those who did not vote for me, I will prove that electing me was the right decision. I promise to listen to your concerns and support every resident of South Plainfield.

I would like to congratulate my running mate Ray Petronko. It will be a great honor working with him on the council. My congratulations also go out to our new mayor-elect, Charlie Butrico. I know Charlie will be an excellent mayor for our town!

I would also like to thank the Republican candidates for their hard work and effort they put in this year's campaign.

As the newcomer to the council, I look forward to working with and learning from the current council members. We need to work as a team and continue to keep South Plainfield a great place to live and raise a family.

Thank you, once again, for your support.  
JOE SCRUDATO

## Dear Editor:

As a resident of South Plainfield for 30 years, I read with interest the front page story in the *Courier News* (Thursday, Nov. 2) regarding the Helen Street Project.

This project has been on the books for discussion long before 1998. This project is a feasible way to get truck traffic off of our residential streets and through the industrial section of town. Perhaps the journalist that wrote the article can go back to Robert Spiegel from the Edison Wetlands Association and ask him how Edison managed to put through Talmadge Rd. in Edison. They managed to put through a road, bridge, condos and townhouses. Did you know that Talmadge Rd. goes through the headwaters of the Bound

## Submit Letters to the Editor:

Please be advised that the *Observer* will no longer publish anonymous letters. Any letter received without identification will be discarded.

Letters may be submitted to the *Observer*, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax 908-668-8819 or by email: [sobserver@comcast.net](mailto:sobserver@comcast.net). Deadline is Monday 5 p.m. Letters must be accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. Please limit letters to no more than 200 words. We reserve the right to refuse a letter, to edit for clarity or length, and limit the number of letters submitted on the same subject.

Brook and right through the Dismal Swamp? There is even a little green sign stating that this is the Dismal Swamp. If Edison was able to do this and put in many condos and townhouses, why can't South Plainfield put in a simple road? No condos, no townhouses, just a road to relieve the burden off the residential streets.

I suggest you go back and do more research on this and confront Mr. Spiegel as to where he and his association were during this process.

MARGIE REEDY

## To the Editor:

The South Plainfield Historical Society has once again published a Keepsake Calendar. We would sincerely like to thank the following ad sponsors: Ciccio's Pizza, Oak Tree Farms, Sportworld, Cindy Michaels Jewelers, Curves, Nicastro's Garage, Sherban's Restaurant, Marsh Associates-Awards by Marsh, Mo's Salon, Pulco International Inc., Cornerstone Architectural Group, Colwell Industries Inc., My Way Carpet, Councilman Robert Bengivenga, Jr., Suzanne M. Lyte-Attorney at Law, Kumon Edison II Center, Abacora Title Agency, Frank P. Licato Insurance, R.F. Electric, Bruno's Pizza Factory, Twin City Pharmacy, Jack Pederson from Prudential Properties, Cartridge World, Michael Pederson of Remax Best Realty, John Cecchetti Insurance Agency and Century Apex Properties. Without their support this calendar would not have been possible. We would also like to thank Curves, Oak Tree Farms, Twin City Pharmacy,

(Continued on page 12)

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# IN MY OPINION

The opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily those of the publisher.

### To the Editor:

We hope everyone had a chance to read the letter from Executive Director Robert Spiegel of the Edison Wetlands Association (EWA) published in last week's issue of the *Observer* and Sunday's *Home News Tribune*. It is apparent that Spiegel knows nothing about South Plainfield. He obviously doesn't even drive through it, otherwise he would know that there hasn't been truck traffic on Hamilton Blvd. and Belmont Ave. in nearly two years.

He professes to want to save our children from diesel exhaust, however only at certain times of the day. Well, Mr. Spiegel, trucks still have to pass residential areas throughout South Plainfield no matter where or what time of day. Asking us to keep our children indoors is ludicrous and outrageous. You say we are facing a major health threat. You are right. And our answer is the Helen Street Extension Project. It is not a "truck highway" as you say. It is a two lane road, one mile long. This road would take trucks traveling east through town in a faster, more direct route and away from residential areas. Helen Street needs to be approved for the health and safety of all of our residents, which is what your organization is all about. If you are truly concerned about our health, you would not be standing in the way. The end in sight is the completion of Helen Street and we are looking forward to your support.

This road will benefit all of us. We need to continue to write to Charlie Welch stating our need for the project at the Department of Environmental Protection, 501 E. State St. Second Floor, P.O. Box 439, Trenton, N.J. 08625-0439.

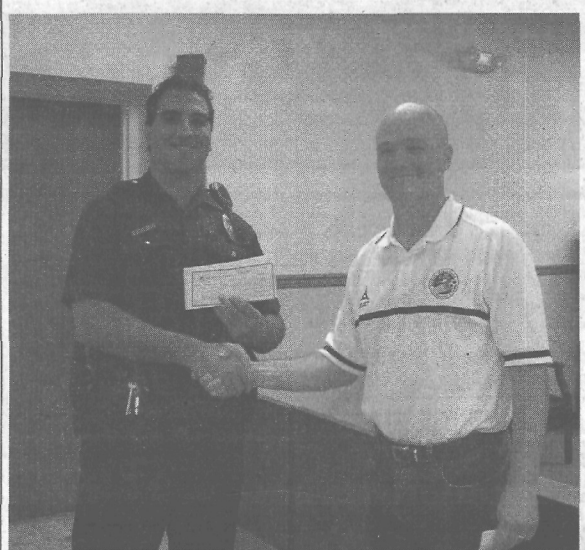
Please keep signing those petition letters available through either of us. They have obviously sparked an interest with all parties involved. We need to keep voicing our opinion until this project is finally approved.

JANE DORNICK AND DEBBIE BOYLE, HELEN STREET COALITION

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Detective Gary Cassio accepts a check for \$3,000 on behalf of PBA 100 from South Plainfield Soccer Club president, Al Vill. The soccer club received a substantial contribution in September for allowing a film crew to use their fields for the movie, "Gracie." The donation will help to pay medical expenses for two-year-old resident, Alyssa Riccardi, who is battling cancer.

### Coming Events at the Nature Reserve....

"Wandering 'round the Winter Woods" will take place on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Highland Avenue Woods Environmental Education Reserve, located on Sylvania Place (off South Clinton Ave.) For more information, call (908) 754-3073, or visit geocities.com/friendsofhighlandwoods or email SPNatureTrails@cs.com.

Each season of the year at the Nature Reserve is interesting, especially if you know what to look for. Dr. Alice Tempel, environmental specialist, will lead a walk through the Highland Woods Reserve to see what's there now and what was there in other seasons.

Visitors will also observe the resident winter birds at the Nature Center's feeders, including the assorted woodpeckers, juncos, titmice, nuthatches, chickadees, finches, cardinals, doves and perhaps get a glimpse of the resident

wild turkeys.

Make sure to wear warm clothing and comfortable shoes. Bring binoculars. Hot chocolate will be served after the walk at the Nature Center. This event is free and no pre-registration is required. This is recommended for adults and focused children age 10 and up.

Also in the month of December, a story time for children ages 3-6 will be held every Saturday beginning at 1 p.m. followed by a craft or activity. This is free, with no pre-registration.

An exhibit of rocks of New Jersey is planned for the entire month at the Nature Center activity center, which is open every Saturday from 1-3 p.m.

Children's wildlife art classes are held every Tuesday during the month of December at the Nature Center from 4-5 p.m. Ages 5-10, \$2 per class per student, no pre-registration required.

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# Scholarship Opportunity for Students to Study Abroad

"Qualified high school students are offered a unique opportunity to spend an academic year, three-month program, or summer holiday in Europe, Asia, North and South America, New Zealand, Australia or South Africa as part of the ASSE International Student Exchange Program," announced Gretchen Wietmarschen, Eastern Director of ASSE.

"Until a few years ago only a fortunate few could afford to spend a school year or summer abroad. ASSE has changed all that," continued Wietmarschen.

Students, 15 to 18 years of age, qualify on the basis of academic performance, character references and a genuine desire to experience abroad with a volunteer host family in one of the many ASSE host countries.

"ASSE host families are carefully screened to provide a caring environment in which students can learn the language and culture of their host country," explained Wietmarschen.

Students need not have learned a foreign language prior to program participation as they receive language and cultural instruction as part of the ASSE program. ASSE students attend regular high school classes along with their new teenage friends. "ASSE exchange students learn by living the language and culture of their new host country," Gretchen added.

ASSE International Student Exchange Programs was founded by the Swedish National Department of Education, and cooperates with the Canadian Provincial Ministries of Education and the New Zealand Ministry of Education.

ASSE also provides international opportunities for American families

to host students from Europe, the Republics of the former Soviet Union, South America, Asia, Canada, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. These select students are 15 to 18 years old and will attend the local high school for a semester or an academic year.

Students and families interested in receiving more information about the ASSE programs should call 1-800-677-2733 or visit ASSE's website at www.asse.com.

### How to Block Telemarketers from Cell Phones

On Oct. 1, all cell phone numbers were released to telemarketing companies and you may already started to receive sales calls that you will be charged for. To prevent this from happening to you, call the following number on your cell phone: 1-888-382-1222. It only takes a minute of your time, and by doing this, your number will be blocked for five years. Pass this message onto friends, or go to www.donotcall.gov.

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# Around Town

## VFW Meatloaf Dinner

November 17

VFW Post #6763, located on Front St., will hold a meatloaf dinner on Friday, Nov. 17 from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$8. Dinner includes salad, meatloaf, scalloped potatoes, dessert, coffee and tea. Public welcome. Call (908) 668-9751 for information.

## Pancake Breakfast

November 19

The American Legion Chaumont Post 243 on Oak Tree Ave. will hold a pancake breakfast on Sunday, Nov. 19 from 8 a.m. until noon. Adults \$5, children \$3, children under six are free. Profits go to our scholarship fund.

## AARP Chapter 4144 Meeting

November 20

AARP Chapter 4144's next meeting will be held at the senior center on Monday, Nov. 20 at 12:30 p.m. Ruth Avins of N.J. Health Care Advocate Volunteer Effort (H.A.V.E.) will speak on how to identify and protect yourself from fraud in Medicare and Medicaid.

Needlecrafters meet Weds. 1-3 p.m. They knit for DYRS and Muhlenberg Hospital. To join call Jean at (732) 752-0358.

## Knights of Columbus Open House

November 20

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus and Columbiettes are having an open house at their Knights Hall located at 334 Hamilton Blvd. (across from Pizza Stop, a block from New Market Ave.) on Monday, Nov. 20 at 8 p.m. For more information, call Brian Cargill at (908) 755-9717. Refreshments will be served. We are looking for new members in the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organization. Have fun, make friends, support your church and community. What could be more rewarding? Make your family part of ours!

## North-South Football Reunion

November 22

The North-South Football Reunion will be held on Thanksgiving eve, Wednesday, Nov. 22 at the North Plainfield Italian-American Club on Somerset St. The reunion of NPHS and SPHS football players, cheerleaders and alumni begins at 6 p.m.

Advance tickets are available for \$10 at SPHS and Middle School, the South Plainfield PAC, Bagelmaster in North Plainfield and Caruso Haircutters; \$15 at the door.

Please call Steve Novak Jr. at (908) 753-9338 for more information.

## South Plainfield SENIOR CENTER

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

Daily Events  
9-11 AM Coffee & Cake  
9 AM-4 PM Cards & Pool  
(908) 754-1047

## What's happening in NOVEMBER

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b>				<b>17</b>
<b>December 2 - Senior Snow Ball Dinner Dance, 6 to 10 p.m.</b>				Bingo 10am-2pm Lunch Available
<b>Hunterdon Hills Playhouse December 14-Cost \$58</b>				
Knitting/Crocheting 9:30am-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Art Class 11:30am	Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social Group 10am	Exercise Class 8:45am Line Dancing 10am Computer Classes 10am 11:30am & 1 pm Tai Chi Class 2pm	<b>23</b>  CENTER CLOSED for THANKSGIVING	<b>25</b>  CENTER CLOSED for THANKSGIVING
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.				

## Orchestra of St. Peter By the Sea Concert

November 26

Sacred Heart Church presents The Orchestra of Saint Peter by the Sea, Reverend Alphonse Stephenson-conductor, on Sunday, Nov. 26 at 3 p.m. at the church. General admission is \$25; seniors and students \$20.

For tickets call (908) 756-0632, ext. 10, (908) 755-6416 or (732) 549-9633.

## Edison Valley Playhouse

December 1-17

Edison Valley Playhouse presents "Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge" by Christopher Durang. Show dates are Fridays and Saturdays, Dec. 1 to 16 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 17 at 3 p.m. Ticket prices are \$15 for adults, \$12 for students and seniors.

For information visit our website at [www.evplayhouse.com](http://www.evplayhouse.com) or call us at (908) 755-4654.

## Senior Snow Ball Dance

December 2

The Senior Center will hold a dinner dance, the "Senior Snow Ball," on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person and will feature music by Art Smith and Associates.

For reservations, contact the South Plainfield Senior Center at (908) 754-1047 or stop in to the center.

## Breakfast with Santa, Tree Lighting

December 2

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus will be holding their annual "Breakfast with Santa" event on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 9 a.m. to noon

at their hall on Hamilton Blvd. (across street from Pizza Stop). The price for the breakfast (which will include eggs, bacon and French toast) will be \$3 a child, \$5 a adult or \$15 for a family. Reservations are required and must be made by Wednesday Dec. 1.

The Knights will also start a new tradition at their hall with a Christmas tree lighting ceremony. This will be held on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 7 to 9 p.m. their hall. Contact Steve Belanger at (908) 791-0640 for reservations and more details.

## Little Treasures Plans Open House

December 2 and 3

Little Treasures Learning Center, located at 2177 Oak Tree Rd., will hold an open house on Saturday, Dec. 2 and 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Little Treasures offers infant care to kindergarten and summer camp programs to fit the needs of children ages six weeks to seven years.

Come meet the staff and visit the center for a tour during normal operating hours (7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday). For directions and additional information, please call (908) 769-3224.

## Suburban Woman's Club Theater Party

December 3

The South Plainfield Suburban Woman's Club is sponsoring a theater party at the Edison Valley Playhouse on Oak Tree Ave. The play will be "Mrs. Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge," a comedy by Christopher Durang. The tickets are \$17, which will be used to benefit the scholarship fund and local charities. Performance is at 3 p.m. on Dec. 3. There will be complimentary refreshments and door prizes during the intermission.

For tickets, see the members of the Woman's Club or call (908) 757-6163 or (908) 757-3680.

## Elks Dinner Dance

December 9

Live entertainment, dinner and dancing, featuring Bill Turner and Blue Smoke Band playing country, oldies, Elvis, top 40 and more on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 8 p.m. to midnight. \$20 per person. Dinner includes chicken, ribs, potato, baked beans, vegetable, desserts, coffee, tea and soda. Cash bar. Tickets must be purchased in advance only at the Elks club, 1254 New Market Ave. See the

bartender.

For more information call Debbie at (732) 491-5310.

## Breakfast With Santa

December 10

The South Plainfield Elks will be hosting a "Breakfast with Santa" on Sunday, Dec. 10 at the South Plainfield Elks Lodge #2298, 1524 New Market Ave. from 8 a.m. until noon. Cost is \$6 for adults and \$4 for children ages 5-10. Children under 5 free. Breakfast consists of eggs, bacon, pancakes, sausage, French toast, cinnamon raisin French toast, home fries, coffee, tea and juice.

## — Out of Town —

## Tricky Tray to Benefit Newborns in Need

November 18

Newborns in Need first Annual Tricky Tray Auction will be held on Saturday, Nov. 18, 5 p.m. at Rose and Sharon Family Life Center at 817 W. 7th St. in Plainfield. Prize calling 6 p.m. \$10 donation includes admission ticket and food.

For information call Daphne, (908) 561-8613.

## Young Sierrans Meeting

November 18

Young Sierrans, a life stage section of the Sierra Club for 20 and 30 year olds will meet on Saturday, Nov. 18 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Somerset County Library in Bridgewater. Fun introductory social, light refreshments and afterwards group discussion.

RSVP required to MistyAngel22@aol.com or (732) 764-9073

## Annual Greek Night

November 18

The St. George Greek Orthodox Youth will hold its Fourth Annual Greek Night dinner dance on Saturday, Nov. 18 from 6:30 to 11 p.m. at St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 1101 River Rd. in Piscataway. A variety of Greek foods, desserts and beverages are also included in the ticket price. Tickets are \$30 for adults; \$10 for children under 12 and free for children under five.

For information, contact Sophie Exarchakis, (732) 723-9088. No tickets will be sold at the door.

## St. Francis Concert

November 19

A Sunday afternoon concert will be held at St. Francis Episcopal Church in Dunellen on Sunday, Nov. 19 at 3 p.m. The concert will feature selections of arias and duets from the sacred, classical and music theater literature.

For information, please call the church at (732) 968-6781.

## MCCC After Hours

November 21

Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 21 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Washington Mutual Bank, 390 George St. in New Brunswick. \$15 for members, \$20 for member walk-ins, \$25 for non-members.

Contact Debbie, (732) 821-1700, ext. 202 or email [Debbie@mcrc.org](mailto:Debbie@mcrc.org).

## Somerset Ostomy Assoc. Meeting

November 21

The Somerset County Ostomy Association will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 21 at 7:30 p.m. in conference rooms C&D at Somerset Medical Center, located on Rehill Ave. in Somerville. The meeting is being held free of charge; no pre-registration is required. Refreshments will be served.

For more information about the meeting, please call Ed Wheeler at (908) 534-7897.

## Blackrose Performs

November 25

Blackrose, the band will be performing classic rock and roll music and today's hits at Rugs & Riffy's, 493 Rahway Ave. in Woodbridge on Nov. 25. There is no cover charge.

## Last Garden Workshop in 2006

November 29

On Wednesday, Nov. 29, Middlesex County's Agricultural Extension Office will be presenting a Garden Workshop from 6 to 8 p.m. at the EARTH Center in Davidson's Mill Pond Park in South Brunswick. The topic will be "How to Care for Your Holiday Plants."

Registration is required by Nov. 24. Fee is \$25. The size of the class will be limited, so register early to insure a space. For more information call (732) 398-5262.

## MCCC Seminar

November 29

A Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce Seminar will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 29 at Chamber Office, One Distribution Way in Monmouth Junction from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. For more information call Debbie at (732) 821-1700, ext. 202 or email [Debbie@mcrc.org](mailto:Debbie@mcrc.org).

## Adoption Support Group

November 27

CHATS (Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support) will meet from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 27 at Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church in North Plainfield. "What Every Adoptive Parent Needs to Know" will be presented by Debra Castaldo, Ph.D., LCSW, MSSW. Open sharing of adoption-related stories. Light refreshments will be served.

For information, call Alyce at (732) 227-0607.

## Scotch Plains Music Center

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Professional Staff	✓	-	Service	✓	-
All Accessories Drums Too!!	✓	-	Free Parking	✓	-
Guitars - Basses	✓	-	Friendly Help	✓	-
All Wind Instruments	✓	-	Swimming Pool	-	✓
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# Elks Continue a Legacy of Giving

Charity is "the cornerstone of every Elk structure, the highest virtue of every Elk creed." This speaks to the core of who Elks are as members, as well as being representative of what the Elks are about as an organization. For the past 138 years, the Elks have stepped to the forefront to assist those in need.

As part of their mission statement, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America will serve the people and communities through benevolent programs, demonstrating that *Elks Care and Elks Share*.

The Elks are involved in a wide variety of programs, from scholarships to drug education to veterans services. Our Special Needs Committee (formerly the Handicapped Children's Committee), addresses the needs of children in our community.

The New Jersey State Elks Special Needs Committee maintains a summer camp in Haskell. Elks Camp Moore (also known as "The Miracle on the Mountain") averages 700 handicapped campers per season. Elks lodges in the state bear the responsibility of paying for each camper that attends camp. Elks Camp Moore's primary function is to enable children to use and further develop recreational, social and leisure skills through activities presented in a positive, enjoyable, and appropriate manner and in a real life situation. Every summer, South

Plainfield lodge prepares a barbecue complete with food, fun, dancing and music with a DJ. It is an experience that truly warms the heart.

The lodge assists patients of Somerset Treatment Center, supplementing funds for those who are in need of financial assistance. In addition, we provide supplies such as wheelchairs, crutches and other items to those in need of assistance.

Each spring, the Elks sponsor the Special Olympics, supplying the children with uniforms, t-shirts, a banner and refreshments. The children are honored with a party in which they are given awards for their participation.

Our themed poster contest, run in conjunction with the local schools, is an event that the children look forward to every year. They are awarded prizes ranging from medals, trophies, certificates and other rewards. The posters are judged at the lodge level, the district level, and if they are chosen, they go onto the state level. In 2006, we had 66 entries, with 24 Lodge winners, 15 District winners and six State winners.

This past winter, we held our first Winter Festival at Roosevelt School which was a phenomenal success! Games, cotton candy, ice cream, treats, and other prizes were the highlight of the night out for both parents and children.

The holidays are a special time for

families. Each December, a holiday party complete with special guest Santa Claus, is an event that is enjoyed by all. The children each receive a special gift from Santa and enjoy refreshments and a DJ with dancing and games.

Buddy Ball is where children are paired with a "buddy" to participate in the sport event of their choice (soccer, basketball, baseball, etc.) They are most excited to be able to enjoy their favorite sport.

Most recently, the Special Needs Committee made a donation to the fundraiser "Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer" which was sponsored by Century 21 Moretti Agency and the Old Timers Motorcycle Club of South Plainfield.

As you can see, South Plainfield Elks is committed to the children of our community and the Special Needs committee is only one of the many committees the Elks are proud to serve.

Have you been looking for something to do with your spare time? Come on down to the South Plainfield Elks and see what we are all about. We are looking to expand our membership—maybe you are that new member! We are located at 1254 New Market Rd. If interested, please contact the Elks at (908) 668-9750 for further information.

—Submitted by Debra Czech, Leading Knight

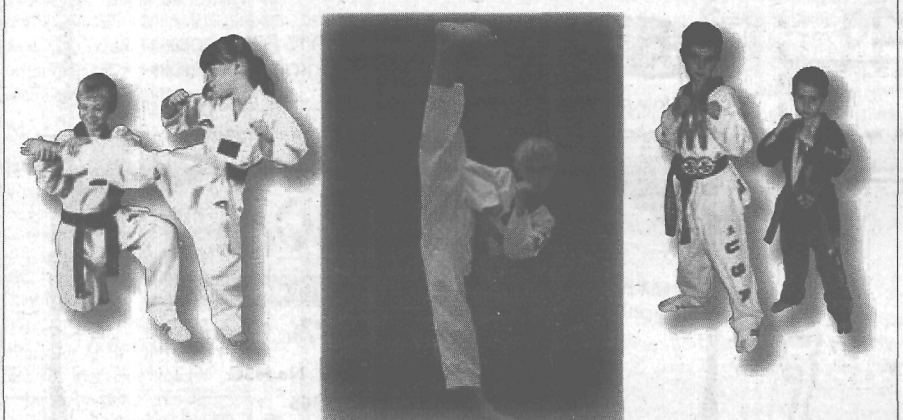
## St. Helen's Support Group Meetings

A support group for those with elderly or chronically ill loved ones meets on the first non-holiday Monday of each month at 8 p.m. in the parish center of St. Helen's Church on Laberts Mill Road in Westfield. These are information and sharing sessions.

For more information, please call Marilyn Ryan at (908) 233-8757. The next meeting is on Monday, Dec. 4. Dates set for the year 2007 are Jan. 8, Feb. 5, March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4, July 2, Aug. 6, Sept. 10, Oct. 1, Nov. 5 and Dec. 3.

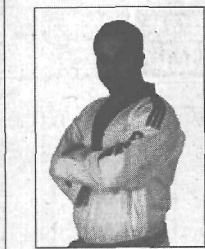
The Observer will not be published on November 24. It's our one week off every year. Happy Thanksgiving!

# CONFIDENT KIDS DONT GET BULLIED!



Today, a child is bullied every seven minutes. Fear and intimidation damage self-esteem and hinder success. And out of embarrassment, most children never tell their parents they are being bullied.

At AMERICAN MARTIAL ARTS, we'll bully-proof your child. By teaching today's most effective non-aggressive self defense, we'll fill your child with confidence. **AND CONFIDENT KIDS DON'T GET BULLIED**

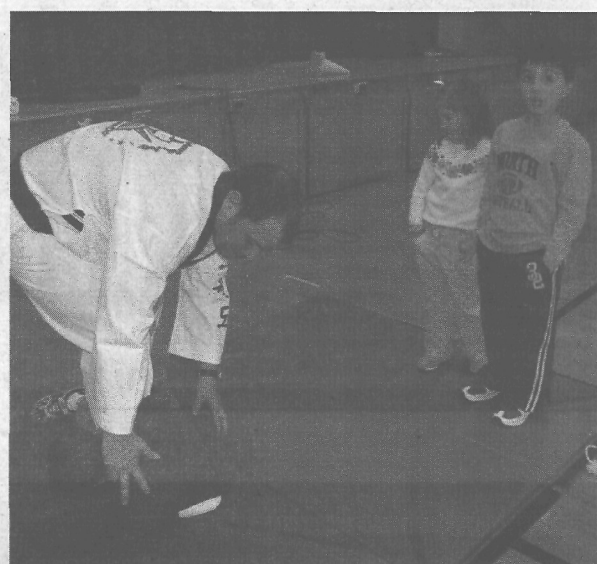


Master Kevin Vigneri  
6th Dan Black Belt

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www.dragonlitetkd.com



Master Kevin Vigneri shows Riley School first grader Jalil Palms how to "grip, dip and spin" to avoid being abducted by a stranger, while Joseph Kelly and Isabella Ardito look on.

## American Martial Arts Teaches Kids Safe Program

By Jane Dornick

Master Instructor Kevin Vigneri, owner of American Martial Arts on Oak Tree Rd., spent time with students at Riley and Roosevelt Elementary Schools recently teaching his "Kids Safe" and anti-bullying programs.

"Today, a child is bullied every seven minutes. Fear and intimidation damage self-esteem and hinder success. And out of embarrassment, most children never tell their parents they are being bullied," explained Vigneri so he put together a "3P" approach for kids to use as their first line of defense. Step one is to prevent a fight from happening by avoiding it; two is prepare and use your brain instead of fists to resolve a fight; and three, protect yourself by learning self defense physical skills. He told the audience, "Physical skills are your last resort, not the first. You need to use your brain and be creative and don't be afraid to walk away." Vigneri also offered a 12-step program on how to walk away from a bullying situation with confidence.

He suggested using humor, reasoning, ignoring, taking a stance and refusing to fight. The winner of a fight is the one who prevents it and to be a victor, not a victim.

He then introduced his "Kids Safe" program, his version of the "stranger danger" lesson. Vigneri explained to the children that people who want to abduct children don't necessarily use weapons. They can entice them with candy, a video game or even an Ipad. He demonstrated the "grip, dip and spin" maneuver with audience members teaching them how to get away from an assailant. Volunteers were shown how to effectively struggle in the grips of a captor by holding on tight, dropping the head towards the ground and spinning to be released where they can run to safety.

Vigneri is a 6th Dan Black Belt and has been teaching Tae Kwon Do since 1998 at the Oak Tree Ave. location. For more information about American Martial Arts, call (888) USA-TKD3 or log on to www.dragonlitetkd.com.

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Pre-Lit Artificial Christmas Trees  
Fiber Optic Christmas Trees  
Fiber Optic Table Top Items  
Fiber Optic Outdoor Items

Monday, November 27 – Saturday, December 2, 2006  
9:30 am – 4:30 pm Monday – Friday  
10:00 am – 2:30 pm Saturday

3630 Kennedy Road  
South Plainfield, NJ

Cash Only - All Sales Final  
Pictures are just an example of items for sale



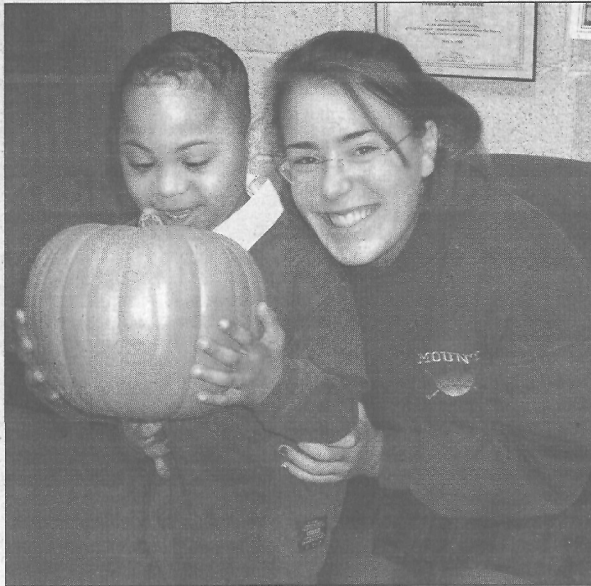

## Stanko Loves Working with Special Children

Gracemarie Stanko of Edison has found her passion through summer work and volunteerism. An 11th grader at Mount Saint Mary Academy in Watchung, Stanko spent many hours at McAuley School for Exceptional Children in Watchung working as a teacher's aide. Most of the students there have Downs Syndrome.

While most teachers are not drawn to this population, Gracemarie said, "I just love working with the children. You need caring, loving patience. We give affection for approval and sternness when correcting a student. Sometimes it is frustrating when I am unable to teach a concept, but I also see slow growth—two steps forward, one step back."

The team approach at McAuley School provides an excellent working condition. "We all work together and celebrate together each small success. After the work day ends, we continue to socialize. We have fun at work and we have fun after work."

Stanko stated, "Five of my aunts are special education teachers, so I learned about Special Education early. I'm looking for a college with a strong Special Education program. Those moments of learning make the work worthwhile. I love what I do; it fills



Gracemarie Stanko, a student at Mount Saint Mary Academy in Watchung, with McAuley School student Josiah Matthews from South Plainfield.

me with joy no matter how tired I become."

When asked what she has learned, Gracemarie said she knows society is hard on people with differences and

her students face frustration and ridicule. She has learned not to fear differences. "I treat my students with respect because of the special human beings they are."

From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Well, Thanksgiving is almost upon us, bringing up images of Pilgrims and Native Americans, food and family, football and parades, and some pretty unlucky turkeys. But, we're going to briefly break into your nostalgia with news from the South Plainfield Library.

The library will close at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 22, and will be closed all day on Thursday, Nov. 23, in observance of Thanksgiving Day.

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, we'll be following an abbreviated schedule of children's programs. In this case, "abbreviated" means we'll have only one program per age group. "Storytime," for children age three and over, will be held on Tuesday morning at 10:30. "Time for 2's & 3's," for children ages two and three, will be held on Wednesday morning at 10:30. And "Books 'N Babies," for children up to age three, will be held on Friday morning at 10:30. Each program lasts about an hour; no pre-registration is required. For more details, please call us at (908) 754-7885.

We've also got some programs for

adults on the way. First, don't forget about tomorrow's financial and home buying seminar at 2 p.m. Mortgage consultant Elise Counts of First Equity Home Loans will speak about various related subjects, including refinancing, investments and credit repair. Spanish translation is available. The program is being presented free, but pre-registration is requested.

The next day, Sunday, Nov. 19, we have a program related to this month's display, provided by Johanna's Creations of Middlesex, of a variety of creative treatments applied to photographs, as well as other specialized gifts and items. On Sunday at 2 p.m., Johanna Salvemini, owner of Johanna's Creations, will speak at the library about how these items were created. She'll also take orders from patrons for special holiday gifts in the same style. A portion of the profits from each sale will be donated to the library to aid in current and upcoming library projects. Everyone is invited to this program.

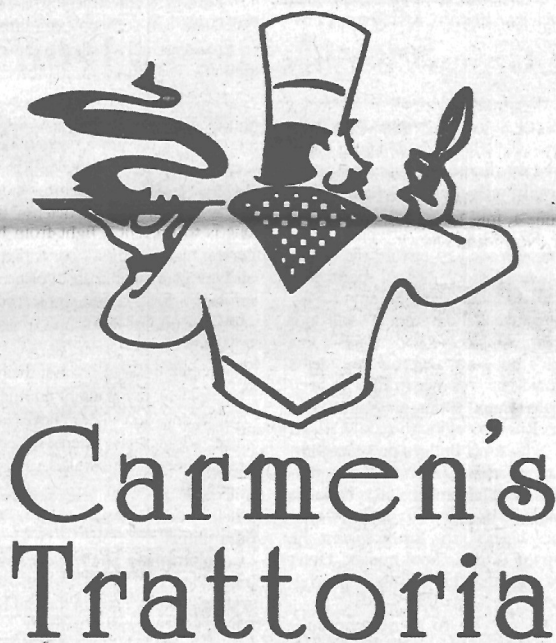
Looking a bit further a head, singer Heather Mulvey will make a return appearance at the library on Sunday, Dec. 3, at 2 p.m. A native of New Jersey, Mulvey performs a wide variety of music, including Celtic, bluegrass and traditional American songs. Her latest song program will feature both Christmas carols and Hanukkah songs, as well as sing-alongs with the audience. This 45-minute holiday program is being presented free, and no pre-registration is required.

This year, the library is once again participating in the "Books to Keep" program. A program of the libraries of Middlesex and the Middlesex County College Library, "Books to Keep," provides new books to needy children during the holiday season. Since its inception, over 140,000 books have been distributed in cooperation with 49 different agencies and organizations throughout Middlesex County. You can donate books to the program at the library until Dec. 15. You may also make a monetary donation using one of the donation envelopes, found at our circulation desk next to the "Books to Keep" collection box.

Finally, just a word to those of you planning for next week's Thanksgiving Day meal. We at the library would like to help you. While we can't chip in towards the grocery bill or cover your bets on the football games, we do offer a pretty wide variety of cookbooks and cooking videos. These should give you a lot of ideas you can use when putting the day's menu together, whether you favor the traditional turkey or some other alternative. (Thanksgiving nachos, perhaps? Or maybe Thanksgiving moo goo gai pan.) And, for the aftermath of the feast, we have a lot of exercise and fitness titles to help you shed the extra ballast (though all the mall walking on Black Friday might just do the trick). All part of our attention to service, folks.

That's about all for now. We'll see you on the aforementioned Black Friday. And we, at the library, wish you all a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

All together now! "Over the river and through the woods..."



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Carmen's Trattoria is proud to present our new Head Chef, Darek Haupt.

Darek has worked at some of New Jersey's best Italian restaurants.

He graduated 5th in the Class of 1987 at Culinary Institute of America.

Darek is a resident of South Plainfield, with many ties to the community,

making Darek a perfect addition to our staff. So, come on down to

Carmen's and taste some of our new and exciting specials.

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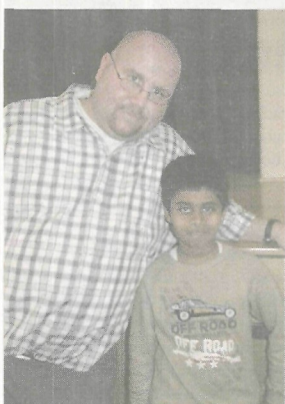
Specializing in Catering for all occasions.

### Readers Please Note!

There is no Observer next week. Our next issue will be December 1.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving.

### Kiran Rajan Named Junior Journalist



Kiran Rajan, Roosevelt School third grader, with teacher Michael Bertram.

Kiran Rajan, third grader at Roosevelt School, is this week's winner in the 2006-07 Junior Journalist program. His untitled poem about fall has earned him dinner for his family, courtesy of Hometown Heros.

Students should submit their original written works to their teachers, school principal, Hometown Heros on Hamilton Blvd. or the Observer office at 1110 Hamilton Blvd.

Winners and their families will receive a catered dinner from Hometown Heros and will be honored at a year-end banquet in May of 2007.

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

### 2006 JUNIOR JOURNALIST

#### Untitled

By Kiran Rajan

1

Fall is nice. Swoosh, crunch.  
Tweet, the birds are calling their babies from flight.  
Soon they will grow.  
Soon the plants will die. It is a terrible sight.  
But it is how life goes on.  
It is fall.

### FROM THE DESK OF DEBBIE BOYLE

The Helen Street Project has to continue and must be supported by everyone. Voice your opinions loudly to protect the safety of yourselves and your children. Do not let this project be placed on the back burner. There is definitely strength in numbers and organization, so let us unite!

The Edison Wetlands Association has some big plans for South Plain-

field. They are people who do not live here, yet claim to know how to protect our children and are trying to dictate when they should be outside. Helen Street was used as, and is not, a political football, and this nonsense has to stop. We all need to work together to continue fighting for the completion of this project. It was okay for Edison to put a bridge over the

Dismal Swamp. Yet they don't want South Plainfield to build a road there.

Grant monies were graciously received by South Plainfield Board of Education through the efforts of Senator Barbara Buono, of which a portion was used to restore the South Plainfield Middle School sports programs. Grants must be applied for annually, and these programs will once again be subject to budget cuts if this year's budget is defeated. Residents should band together to fight to keep academic and sports programs when Dr. Rosado begins the 2007 Board of Education budget presentations. Plan to attend, listen and ask questions. And remember, voters in South Plainfield do not affect teachers' contract when voting for or against the passage of the school budget. Don't lose sight that this is all about the children.

Thank you to those who supported the SPHS Athletic Booster Club used clothing drive benefiting

the Jost Field ticket booth and SPHS indoor bleachers. The clothing, shoes and bedding filled two American Used Clothing Company trucks. Thank you Bob Boyle of Roma Food, for the use of the truck and for unloading and reloading them. Collected items will be sent to Russia and Poland to benefit less fortunate families.

Once again, thank you to the SPHS Peer to Peer Leadership program, under the direction of Mary Ellen Marzko, Ms. Vandermark, Mr. Baker, Ms. Zurka, Mr. Encinas and Mr. Hajduk, and the Grant School PTO, for their generous donations and baskets to be distributed to nine less fortunate local families. What a great satisfaction it is to help others and give back to the community.

Congratulations to the New Jersey Red Raiders 12U, AAU baseball team for their first place win in the Fall Ball League Championship game.

Congratulations to the SPHS girls softball team, coached by Joe Mat-

themselves.

Winners will be announced after presstime and will be published in the December 1 issue.

Other homecoming events scheduled for Nov. 22 are the Powder Puff game at 3 p.m., pep rally at 5 p.m. and bonfire at 6:45 p.m.

### Johanna's Creations Featured at Library

Throughout November, the SP library will host a display provided by Johanna's Creations of Middlesex. The display will feature a variety of creative treatments applied to photographs, as well as other specialized gifts and items. On Nov. 19, at 2 p.m., owner Johanna Salvemini will speak at the library about how these items were created. She will also take orders

from patrons for special holiday gifts in the same style. A portion of the profits from each sale will be donated to the library to aid in current and upcoming projects.

For information, call the library at (908) 754-7885 or visit [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us). For info about Johanna's Creations, call (732) 469-3210 or email [jo@johannas.com](mailto:jo@johannas.com).



### A Labor of Love Ends with a "Yes"

The Labor Day Parade is a special day for many in South Plainfield. This year will be memorable for this couple after a surprise marriage proposal ended with a "yes." Thank you to South Plainfield Lions Club for catching this on film.

### SPHS Homecoming Nominations Announced

South Plainfield High School has announced the nominations for Class of 2007 Homecoming King and Queen.

The nominees for Homecoming King are Nicholas Baldassarre, Christopher Bizup, Michael J. George, Garrett Gianneschi, Daniel Hubner, Michael Jakubik, Darren Kaczowski, Taylor Mandel, Daniel McCreesh and Thomas Pryor.

The nominees for Homecoming Queen are Nicole Benak, Megan Boyle, Sarah Brooks, Melissa Budhan, Kristina Cursi, Desirac Davis, Katie Eder, Jessica Hill, Cassie Hoffman, Kassandra Joynier, Brittani Kennedy, Phong Le, Jennifer Little, Maria Lopez, Nicole Miglis, Susan Mott, Katie Noonan, Meshva Patel, Sonali Patel, Kate Reichert, Kyla Rouse, Chris-

tina Shuetz, Geraldine Valladares, Brittanie Wong and Alyssa Woodel.

Nominees must maintain at least a 2.75 GPA and participate in two current extracurricular activities. The nominees were asked to sign verifying they meet the qualifications and to write a brief biography about

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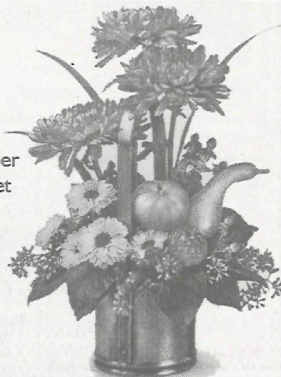
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# Veterans Day Ceremonies Held

(Continued from page 1)

speech about their membership problems. She explained that her six brothers all served during the war and all returned alive and unharmed. "They stood in the mud and rain and helped build this VFW building and I don't want to see this place close. We are going to



Navy Veteran Joseph Yednak

stand strong and we will not let them down," she explained.

Among the many guests in attendance were: Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, Mayor Dan Gallagher, Councilmen Matthew Anesh, Robert Bengivenga, Jr., Charles Butrico, Ray Petronko, former Councilman Ed Kubala and Police Chief John Ferraro. Each speaker emphasized the sacrifice our veterans made for all of us and were thanked for their service to our country. "The fact that we just held free elections is just one of the many reasons we should thank every veteran who ever served," said Gallagher.

Veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Iraq were in attendance, some in full uniform. World War II Veteran Joseph Yednak, 80, was just one of the many veterans who attended, wearing his medals and navy cap. He was born in South Plainfield just before it became incorporated. Joe and his five brothers proudly served in World War II.

Following the ceremonies, the ladies auxiliary hosted a luncheon.

If you would like to join the VFW, call (908) 668-9751.



Members of the VFW perform a gun salute during the ceremonies.

# VFW Ceremonies May Be the Last for Local Veterans

Each year on the 11th day of the 11th month at 11 o'clock ceremonies are held all over the country to remember our veterans. Those who served our country in both peace and wartime are honored.

Each year members of the South Plainfield VFW host their ceremonies locally, but this could be the last year

they will be able to do so if their membership does not increase in the near future.

One cannot help but notice that the membership at the VFW is dwindling each year. Most of the active members are in their 70's and 80's and the VFW is losing members each and every month while not enough

younger veterans are stepping up to take their place.

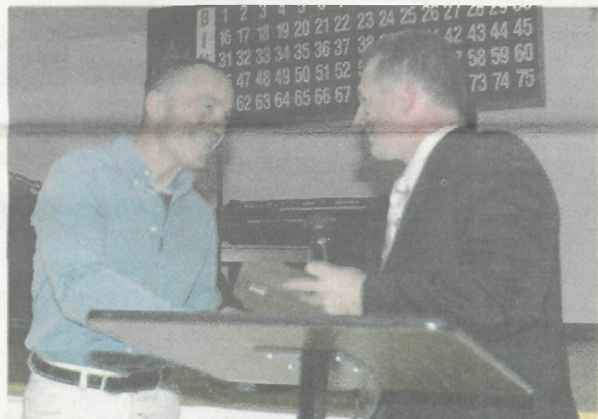
During the ceremonies held on Saturday, VFW Commander Julius Peterson said, "We are losing 15,000 veterans a day and we need veterans to replace our older members. Otherwise this organization will cease to exist and our doors will have to close."

The VFW is more than just a social group. Members visit schools and talk to students about their experiences in the service, instruct them on the proper care of the flag, work with the boy scout troops, sponsor democracy essay contests and give out scholarships. But most importantly, they regularly visit patients at the

Lyons Veterans Hospital. Sometimes the only visitors patients see are the members of the VFW and they look forward to their visits.

If you would like to learn more about joining the VFW, you can attend the men's auxiliary meeting to be held on Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 7:30. Or you can call (908) 668-9751.

# Two Receive Annual Cappy Award



Donald Fiore accepts the Cappy Award on behalf of his father, Artie.

(Continued from page 1)

Fiore was his son, Donald. Curcio said Fiore was, "an athlete, a boxer, a football and baseball coach. But most importantly, he was a great father, a great husband and a great person."

Fiore worked with the youth of South Plainfield for over 35 years. During those years, he touched the lives of thousands of children. His experience of more than 30 professional fights helped him train many

of South Plainfield's youth. There were at least three Golden Gloves State champions who were given an opportunity to learn and work with him. He did his training in the original PAL gym. Besides boxing, Artie was also a coach for Pop Warner Football and the Junior Baseball Club for 30 years.

Speaking about Jim Curcio was Owen Kelly and his son, Jim. Curcio was indeed a visionary when it came

to our youth sports. He was at the forefront in finding a field for the Pop Warner Football program. In fact, after years of asking members of the council for a place for the kids to play, he held football practice on the front lawn of Borough Hall to gain the public's attention. It worked. Today the press box at the field bears his name. He also organized the coaches from the cheerleading conference and hosted the first competition at SPHS. Later he was instrumental in starting the Ponytail Softball program. Again, after getting nowhere with the council, he simply announced signups for girls to play softball, and after hundreds enrolled, a league was formed. Today they play at Pitt Street Park, a complex Curcio helped develop.

Both men were early pioneers volunteering at a time when sports programs in South Plainfield were just emerging. They set a standard of volunteerism for others that is hard to match. Fortunately, each generation has followed their lead, and sports in South Plainfield continues to grow and expand. One can only hope that future generations will continue to volunteer as those in the past have.



Bill Ashnault congratulates Jim Curcio on receiving the Cappy Award.

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# Sports

## South Plainfield Elks Announce 34th Annual Elks "Hoop Shoot" Competition

The South Plainfield Elks competition for the 34th annual Elks "Hoop Shoot," the national free throw shooting contest for youngsters ages 8

through 13, will be held at the PAL building on Nov. 26 at 1 p.m., with registration beginning at noon.

Over three million youngsters from throughout the country entered last year's competition for boys and girls in the age categories 8-9, 10-11 and 12-13. Each contestant has 25 shots at the hoop. The boys and girls in each age group with the best scores advance through four tiers of competition to qualify for the national finals to be held in Springfield, Mass.

Local winners will compete against other contestants in the district event to be held in New Brunswick in early

January on a date to be announced.

The winners of the district contest will advance to the state competition, to be held in Woodbridge on February 11, 2007. Names of the national winners will be inscribed on the Elks National "Hoop Shoot" plaque on permanent display in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass.

Contestant's age group will be determined by their age as of April 1, 2007. Proof of age will be required.

For further information, please contact Sharon Reuter at (908) 791-1214.

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Thank you Referee Tim for all your time with the recreation soccer "A" League. We appreciate you!  
 -Joan

By Glenn Cullen  
**JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES**

SPJBC will hold its final early registration for 2007 on Friday, Nov. 17, from 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 18 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Registration for coaching, managing and umpiring can also be done during these signups.

Volunteers for the 2007 season are also being sought. In particular, the SPJBC needs snack stand captains. Anyone interested is asked to call the SPJBC at (908) 754-2090 or e-mail www.southplainfieldjbc@yahoo.com. Also, feel free to visit our website at www.leaguelineup.com/spjbc.



### SOCCER

## Fusion Avoids Explosion

The South Plainfield Soccer Club's U-14 Fusion went on the road last week to face off against the Aberdeen-Matawan Explosion once again, after suffering a 1-0 loss early this season at home.

Fusion opened the scoring with a beautiful kick to the goal by Will Mott in the first half. Explosion answered back with an unfortunate direct goal penalty, which was narrowly missed by goalkeeper Jason Partison, who has done a great job stepping up to this position. The rain picked up during the second half along with Fusion's determination to win. The combination of excellent shooting, passing and ball control resulted in two additional goals scored by Stephen Lanza and Jake Salerno. The game ended with a 3-1 win for South Plainfield, bringing Fusion's record to a respectable 3-3-3.

The coaches are extremely proud of their team and their flexibility in constantly switching positions on the field. Also doing a fantastic job this season are: Jesse Allen, Ryan Billich, Edgar Callejas, Jeff Gillen, Lucas Goitandia, Ryan Hutchison, Edwin Molina, Matias Palma, Kyle Pompilio and Mike Zelasko. With an excellent job in the second half protecting our goal was Nicholas Ross, who scored a goal in last week's game and was incorrectly identified as another player-sorry Nick!

Our final game will be at 8 p.m., Friday, Nov. 17 at home against the Berkeley Heights Boomers. Come out and support our last weekend of the fall season and don't forget to stop by our snack stand.

## U-8 Boys Tie Monroe

Last Saturday, on a warm November afternoon, the U-8 boys team tied Monroe Township 2-2. Arsenal has come a long way. This is their first season together and they are proving to everyone that they can hold their own.

The team played a strong game. With Tyler Curtis, Nicholas Plate, and Ricky Pellegrino in net, Alec Paez, Jake Hoffman, and Jason Cieszkiewicz on offense, and Jose Arrubla, Jake Smith, and Jake Giordano in defense, they dominated most of the game. Their ball control and passing skills are really shaping up as they play each game. There is only one game left in the fall season which is on November 18 at 5 p.m. at the Kenneth Ave. fields. Please come out and show your support of team Arsenal and the rest of the South Plainfield Soccer Club.

**Readers Please Note!**  
 There will be no Observer next week. Our next issue is December 1. Have a Happy Thanksgiving.

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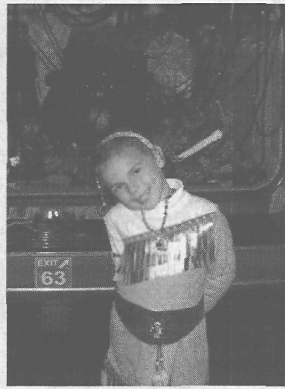
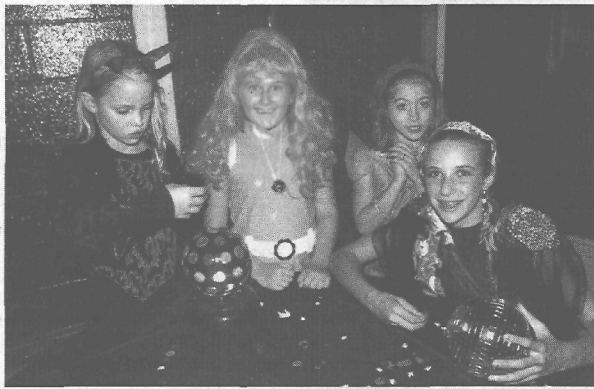
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**2006 JUNIOR JOURNALIST**

Charlie and Debbie Kurland of Hometown Heros deliver dinner to Junior Journalist winner Kelly O'Brien, pictured with her mom, Kathy; dad, Mike; and sisters, Kate and MacKenzie. Also pictured is Kelly's friend Kayla Massaro, whom the poem was written about.

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## Kennedy School Students Enjoy Trunk R Treating

By Jane Dornick

A little rain didn't dampen the spirits of youngsters Trunk R Treating at Kennedy School on the evening of Friday, Oct. 27. Parents spent an hour decorating the trunks of their cars with spooky Halloween themes for children to visit and receive some early holiday treats. There was also a "haunted hallway" inside the school with lots of fun and scary decorations.

In the gym there was plenty of food and crafts for everyone including a fortune teller played by Chelsea Cullen. Prizes were awarded for the best decorated trunks.

The first place winner was the Czarnik family. Second place went to the Davison's and third place went to the O'Brien family. Thanks go to Barbara Bythell for putting together another wonderful event.

## Obituaries

### Charles E Butrico, Sr, 82

Charles E Butrico, Sr. died on Tuesday, Nov. 14 in the Haven Hospice Unit of Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield, surrounded by his family and friends.

Born in New York City, he resided there until 1937 when he moved to South Plainfield.

A Navy veteran of WWII, Charles saw duty in America, European, African, Asian and Pacific areas as a gunner aboard a Liberty Ship.

As a graduate of the class of 1943, he and his school friends called "the lunch bunch" met once a month for lunch and had most recently met this past Tuesday.

He began his career as a real estate broker and a builder before entering the family business, Lehigh Utility of South Plainfield. He retired in 1992 only to continue to work with his son doing carpentry.

Charlie was a past president and life member of the South Plainfield Italian American Club, the Manville VFW #2290, a life member of the South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 and a past officer and team manager with the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club.

In addition, Charles was an active member of Our Lady of Czestochowa RC Church and a member of their Holy Name Society. He was also instrumental with the construction of the new church. Charles was also faithful to Sacred Heart RC Church, volunteering and assisting with different tasks through the years.

Surviving are his wife of 48 years, Irene (Jaskulski) Butrico; five sons and their wives, Charlie and Sherry, Bill and Suzanne, Vincent and Maria, Michael and Gayle, all of South Plainfield and Paul and Laura of Warren; three sisters, Grace Bertrucci, Ann Demico and Theresa Tolischus and three brothers, Angelo, Frank and William Butrico. Charles is also the proud grandparent of 17 grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, Nov. 18 at 9:15 a.m. in the McCriskin Home For Funerals on Plainfield Ave. followed by a 10 a.m. funeral mass in Our Lady of Czestochowa Church. Interment will follow in Holy Redeemer Cemetery in South Plainfield.

Visitation will be held on Friday from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to Our Lady of Czestochowa Church.

### Anna Coccorese DeFillipo, 87,

Anna Coccorese DeFillipo of passed away Wednesday, Nov. 8, at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Anna was born in New York City, and in her early married years she resided briefly in New Brunswick before moving to South Plainfield 56 years ago.

Anna was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield and a member of their Monday Morning Club and the Alter Rosary Society.

Anna was past president of the ladies auxiliary of the South Plainfield B.P.O. Elks 2298 and a former member of the ladies auxiliary of the Italian American Progressive League in South Plainfield.

Anna is predeceased by her son, Angelo DeFillipo, who died in 2003.

She is survived by her husband of 58 years, Louis A. DeFillipo; two daughters, Gloria DeFillipo of Springfield, Mass. and Nancy and husband Peter Guarraci of South Plainfield; a brother, Ernst Coccorese of Long Island; a daughter-in-law, Lorraine DeFillipo of Berlin; six beloved grandchildren, Anthony and Anabel Guarraci, Christopher Guarraci, Maria, Stefani and Nicholas DeFillipo and a great grandson, Griffin.

Funeral services were held at the South Plainfield Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory can be made to the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department, 123 Maple Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

### Elsie H. Walsh, 92

Elsie H. Walsh died on Thursday, Nov. 9, at her home.

Born in Irvington, she resided in the Irvington and Newark area for all her life except when she moved to South Plainfield to live with her daughter four years ago.

Elsie was a lab technician for Victory Engineering of Springfield for 30 years before retiring in 1989.

Elsie had a great love for everyone in her family and she will be sadly missed by them all. She also enjoyed crocheting and creating a variety of different crafts.

Her first husband, Christopher Tighe, and her second husband, Raymond Walsh, have both predeceased her.

Surviving is a daughter and son-in-

law, Maureen Ann and James Mosier of South Plainfield; a sister, Mildred Johnson and a brother, Joseph Huth, both of California. Also surviving are five grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

### Barbara Jean Palumbo Loth, 47

Barbara Jean Palumbo Loth passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 8 at Community Hospital in Toms River.

A long-time resident of South Plainfield before moving to Seaside

several years ago, she was the former owner of the Shake Her Lounge in Dunellen for 15 years, and worked with her mom for several years at The Little Store on Clinton Ave.

Barbara is predeceased by her father, Joseph Nagan; a sister, Patty Loth; a brother, Lonnie Nagan and her grandparents Helen and Joseph Jurusik.

Surviving are two sons, Michael and Vincent Palumbo; her mother, Jean Sabino; a sister, Carol Trezza and brother-in-law, Rocky Trezza; two brothers, Alan Nagan and Gary Nagan and 11 nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were private.

### Michael Drahus, 77

Michael Drahus passed away Friday, Nov. 10, at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Funeral services were held at the South Plainfield Funeral Home.

### Carl Burke, 78

Carl Burke died at home on Thursday, Nov. 9.

Carl was born in 1928 in Plainfield, but was raised in North Plainfield. At the age of 17, he joined the U.S. Navy and served in World War II on the USS Constitution. He was honorably discharged in April of 1949. A proud veteran, Carl was awarded the American Victory Medal for his service during wartime.

After serving in the Navy, Carl was employed at Mack Trucks in Bridgewater and retired after working there for 30 years. Upon his retirement from Mack Trucks, Mr. Burke worked in the maintenance department at United National Bank in Plainfield for nine years.

Carl resided in South Plainfield since 1961 and was a member of the United Auto Worker Union for more than 40 years. He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

He is predeceased by his wife, Josephine (Lechowicz) Burke, who died in August of 2004 and two brothers, Harold Jr. and Clarence.

Surviving are two daughters, Carol Christian and husband Brian of North

Plainfield and Jeanne Boucher and husband Ray of New Hampshire and six grandchildren, Ryan, Melissa, Shanna, Christopher, Patrick and Jonathan. Also surviving is one great-grandson, Gavin.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

### Anne P. (Cotignola) Onorato, 90

Anne P. (Cotignola) Onorato died on Sunday, Nov. 12 at home.

Born and raised in Woodbridge, Anne lived in South Plainfield, Piscataway and Toms River before moving back to South Plainfield nine months ago.

During WWII, Anne worked at Cornell Dubilier on the assembly line. After Cornell Dubilier, she worked in the cafeteria of Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield, retiring in the 1970's.

A former member of Sacred Heart RC Church, Mrs. Onorato enjoyed reading and playing cards.

She is predeceased by her first husband, Michael Cotignola, and by her second husband, Salvatore Louis Onorato and all of her brothers and sisters.

Surviving are two sons, David and Michael Cotignola of South Plainfield, five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

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It is far easier for your family if you plan ahead

# IN YOUR OPINION

The opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily those of the publisher.

(Continued from page 2)  
Cindy Michael's Jewelers and South Plainfield Senior Citizens Center for helping us distribute them. Calendars are also available at the History Center on Tuesdays from 2-8 p.m. or by calling (908) 754-7268. Once again, thank you.

### THE CALENDAR COMMITTEE

#### To the Editor:

I am writing this letter on election eve, hoping that whoever wins will set aside partisan bickering and be strong, vocal advocates for the needs of South Plainfield. Our town has some problems, but also much potential to be realized if we work together.

As a town we seem to have an identity crisis, as demonstrated by the move several years ago to change the town's name. We, as a community, need to decide what we want our town to be in the next 20 years and devise a "master plan" to get there. We are fortunate to have fields, streams and woods within the town limits. Preserving our heritage and our open spaces, creating bikepaths and greenways around town, and changing our zoning ordinances to increase lot sizes will ensure our quality of life.

Perhaps the most urgent task at hand is to insist that the EPA restore the Cornell Dubilier site on Hamilton Blvd., one of the country's most polluted EPA Superfund sites, and remove all contaminants now. Nothing has been done about this site, which borders our homes, our parks and our water supply. The contaminants at Cornell Dubilier include PCBs, TCE and its dechlorination products, volatile and non-volatile organics, 19 different pesticides, as well as 23 metals and dioxins. The EPA's Final Report of the N.J. Comparative Risk Project lists the effects of these as "neurodevelopmental retardation, decreased thyroxine levels, reproductive dysfunction, immune system suppression, carcinogenesis and enzyme in-

duction." The chemicals there are linked to breast cancer, non-Hodgkins lymphoma, liver and gall bladder cancers, pancreatic cancer and more. It is imperative this be addressed now.

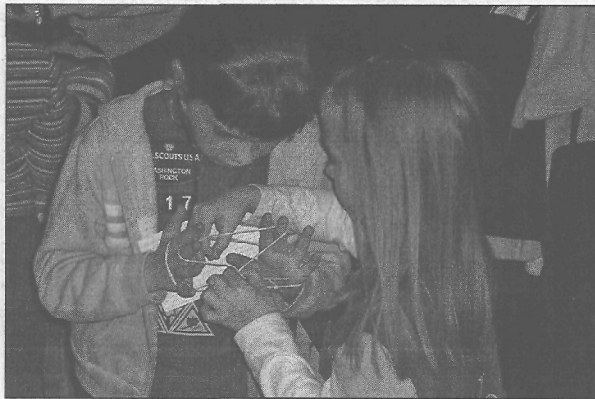
We can capitalize on our assets without destroying the best of our past. We forget that New Jersey was center stage for the American Revolution, with Bound Brook the front line between the British and the Americans. How about SPHS students researching the handful of older houses in town and getting them listed in the State historical register? The Polish Home was chosen as a film location because it was "retro." We have a charming downtown area that could be Anytown USA from the 1920s to present day. With an organized effort on our part perhaps more filmmakers would use South Plainfield.

Another project that would bring a great deal to our town is light rail service. A light rail line could be built on the existing Conrail right-of-way. This was done between Trenton and Camden. This would draw passengers not only from town but also from the overcrowded stations of Dunellen and Metuchen and make home ownership in town more attractive to those who already commute by rail.

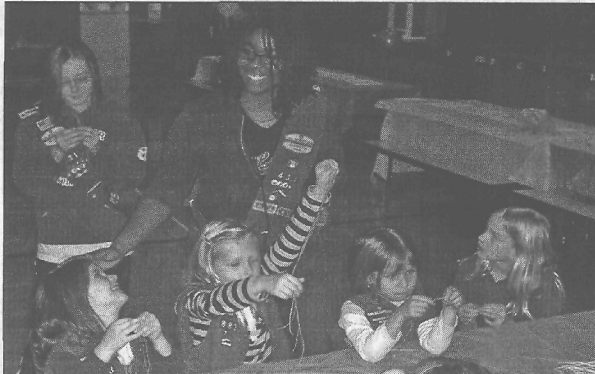
To avoid creating future Superfund sites it is important that new commercial investment in South Plainfield be clean industry. The Tingley Rubber site would be a great place for an outlet complex, since the closest are in Elizabeth (Jersey Gardens) and Flemington (Liberty Village). This would provide jobs and with close access to Rt. 287, would not add to traffic in the center of town.

This is a town where neighbors know each other, where our children and their futures are the focus of daily life, where cars will still stop to let people cross the street from CVS to the bank at "rush hour." We have a great deal to be proud of, and so much more is possible if all of us work together.

JANET MOYERS BOWMER



Girl Scout Troop 431 celebrates the birthday of Juliette Low, founder of Girl Scouting.



## Girl Scouts Celebrate Juliette Low's Birthday

South Plainfield Troop 431 organized and ran a Juliette Low Birthday Party at Riley School last month. The evening commenced with a customary flag ceremony and included six craft stations scattered throughout the school's gymnasium designed for Brownie Girl Scouts.

Nearly 50 girls attended the event, coming away with a variety of crafts they created as well as a Juliette Low Birthday Party Fun Patch. The group got a head start on celebrating the founder of the Girl Scout movement's

birthday as she was born back on Oct. 31, 1860.

South Plainfield is one of 24 communities proudly served by the Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council. Founded in 1957, GSWRC provides the optimal Girl Scout experience to over 11,000 girls and adults. Be sure to visit the council's home in cyberspace at [www.westfieldnj.com/girlscouts](http://www.westfieldnj.com/girlscouts).

## Open Enrollment For Prescription Drug Plan Begins

Last year, seniors were asked to sign up for Part D: Medicare Prescription Drug Plan. Because so many plans were available, some may have been confused and chosen a plan that doesn't quite meet their needs.

Open enrollment began Nov. 15 and runs through Dec. 31. Seniors have the opportunity to change their plans. They can change plans only during the open enrollment period.

Drugs cost have increased, which can put them in the "donut hole" sooner and they will have to pay full cost for drugs. Premiums have gone up, deductibles have increased, some drugs may have been dropped from former plans, plus there are many other changes which could affect coverage.

If anyone requires help sorting out their options and saving money, they can call the Office on Aging located at the South Plainfield Senior Center at (908) 754-1047 for an appointment. A SHIP (Senior Health Insurance assistance Program) counselor is available.

### BOE Meeting Dates

The Finance Committee meetings held at 7 p.m. in the Roosevelt Admin. Bldg., 2nd floor conference room will be held on Monday, Dec. 18; Tuesday, Jan. 16; Tuesday, Feb. 20; Monday, March 19 and Monday, April 2.

The Building & Grounds Committee meetings held at 6 p.m. in the Roosevelt Administration Building on the 2nd floor conference room will be held on Mon., Dec. 18; Tues., Jan. 16; Tues., Feb. 20; Mon., Mar. 19 and Mon., Apr. 2. These will be work sessions only. No public comment will be taken.

## LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
LEGAL NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE that the undersigned shall expose for sale, in accordance with R.S. 39:10A-1, at public auction on November 24, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ, the below described motor vehicles which came into possession of the South Plainfield Police Department through abandonment or failure of owners to claim same.

The motor vehicles may be examined by contacting Traffic Safety.

Year	Make	VIN#	Status	Desc.	Min. Bid
1994	Cadillac	1G6EL12YORU622970	Resale	Eldorado	\$4000
1995	Olds	1G3GR62C854128576	Resale	Aurora	\$2800
1986	Honda	1HG8A7435GA054287	Junk	Accord	\$1000
1995	Ford	1FBJS31H36HA55586	Resale	Econoline	\$2000
1995	BMW	WBAB6825SED16986	Resale	318i Conv.	\$6000

South Plainfield Police Dept.  
Off. Karl W. Schuetz  
Traffic Safety Officer  
\$51.30

November 17, 2006

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(908) 756-7686

Please call between 10-12 Monday through Friday by December 23.

## Heather Mulvey Will Perform at the Library

On Sunday, Dec. 3, at 2 p.m., singer Heather Mulvey will make a return appearance at the South Plainfield Library.

A native of New Jersey, Mulvey performs a wide variety of music, including Celtic, bluegrass and traditional American songs. Her latest song program will feature both Christmas carols and Hanukkah songs, as well as sing-alongs with the audience. This 45-minute holiday program is being presented free, and no pre-registration is required.

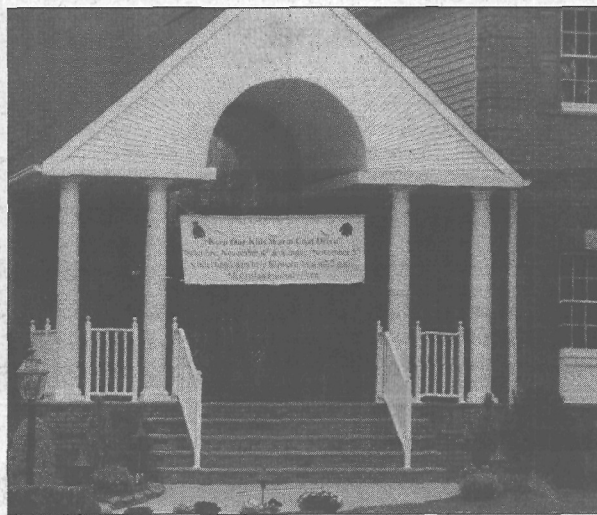
If you'd like more information, please call the library at (908) 754-7885 or visit the library's website at [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us). For more information about Ms. Mulvey and her program, please visit her website at [www.heathermulvey.com](http://www.heathermulvey.com).

## Toys for Kids at Thanksgiving Football Game

The South Plainfield High School Athletic Department and the South Plainfield Athletic Booster Club will be collecting "Toys for Kids" at the South Plainfield vs. North Plainfield annual Thanksgiving Day football game.

Anyone bringing a new, unwrapped toy, suitable for a holiday gift, will receive free admission to the game. All collected toys will be donated to South Plainfield Social Services and the First Marine Division Toys for Kids Program for distribution to local families during the holiday season.

Game time is 10 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 23. Anyone who cannot attend, but would like to donate a toy, can contact South Plainfield Athletic Director Mike Buggy at (908) 754-4620, ext. 252.



Banner for "Keep Our Kids Warm Coat Drive" hangs in front of McCriskin Home For Funerals. The two-day coat drive was a huge success, with 75 coats donated for children in our community.

## "Help Keep Our Kids Warm" is Huge Success

This past weekend at McCriskin Home For Funerals, in conjunction with South Plainfield Social Services Director Marge Ackerman, held a coat drive called "Help Keep Our Kids Warm." The drop-off location was the main entrance of the funeral home and borough residents who participated donated 75 coats, making the coat drive a great success.

All of the coats that were collected throughout the two-day coat drive will be donated to children throughout South Plainfield who are in need of a winter coat for this upcoming winter season. All of us at the funeral home, along with the social services director, would like to thank all who participated in this small, but important, community service project. It has demonstrated that we have pride in youth and community, as well as lending a helping hand when asked. Thank you for a job well done!



Collection boxes inside the main entrance of McCriskin Home For Funerals at the start of "Help Keep Our Kids Warm."

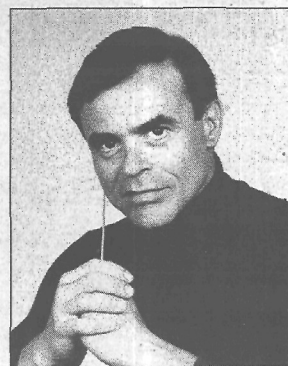
## Orchestra of St. Peters to Perform at Sacred Heart

Father Alphonse Stephenson Returns to Sacred Heart Church on Sunday, Nov. 26 at 3 p.m. The orchestra is under the direction of the internationally renowned Reverend Alphonse Stephenson.

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

His orchestra consists of 45 members, who collectively have hundreds



Father Alphonse Stephenson

of years of study and performed tens of thousands of concerts and recitals. The performance will take place in the church.

Tickets are \$25 for general admission, \$20 for seniors and students and may be purchased by phoning (908) 755-6416 or (732) 549-9633.

## New Years Eve Celebration Will be Held at Polish Home

There will be a New Year's Eve celebration at the Polish National Home, located on New Market Ave., on Dec. 31 at 8 p.m., featuring The John Roesch Orchestra, an 18-piece big band. They will be playing all of your favorite big band era music as well as modern and Latin songs for dancing and listening enjoyment!

A scrumptious buffet including chicken marsala, salmon, a sirloin carving station and a shrimp and lobster station will be served along with fabu-

lous hors d'oeuvres and hour before hand. Along with that will be an open bar all evening with a champagne toast at midnight. There will also be door prizes given out during the night.

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to a special jazz scholarship fund to be awarded to a graduating senior in the SPHS Jazz Band. The cost of tickets is \$100 and will only be sold in advance. For more information, please call John Roesch at (908) 753-0688.

## LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE  
ORDINANCE No. 1761

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

Ordinance #1761 entitled: A CAPITAL ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$45,000 FOR THE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS was adopted on final reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, November 17, 2006 and that a public hearing be scheduled for Tuesday, December 5, 2006 at 8:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

ORDINANCE NO. 1761

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$45,000.00 FOR THE ACQUISITION OF VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY as follows:

Section 1. That there is hereby authorized pursuant to applicable statutes of the State of New Jersey, as a general improvement, the following improvements in the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, New Jersey:

Purchase of a Mason Dump Truck	\$45,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$45,000.00</b>

Section 2. That the improvements described in Section 1 hereof shall be authorized as general capital improvements for the Borough of South Plainfield in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey.

Section 3. It is hereby determined and declared by this Mayor and Borough Council as follows:

- That the maximum estimated amount of money to be raised from all sources for the purposes stated in Section 1, hereof, is \$45,000.00.
- That the cost for said projects shall be financed by from \$35,000.00 from the Reserve for Public Works Equipment and \$10,000.00 from capital Surplus.
- The estimated useful life of said improvements is hereby determined to be five (5) years.

Section 4. That the total amount of the appropriation to be expended for Architectural and inspection costs, legal costs, advertisement of ordinance and other expenses as provided in Section 48:2-20 of the Revised Statutes, is not to exceed \$1,000.00.

Section 5. This ordinance shall take effect after final passage and publication in accordance with the law.

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$110.20

November 17, 2006

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
LEGAL NOTICE

November 11, 2006-Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment at its' meeting held on November 9, 2006.

A. Case #06-09/M-Hamilton Commons, LLC. Block 269; Lots 1.01, 5, 6.01, 6.02, 7 & 12; Hamilton Blvd. The applicant's request for final site plan approval, preliminary & final subdivision approval & the front yard setback variances for the (2) residential structures was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

B. Case #57-06-Elon & Raywatee Viran. Block 259, Lot 3; 213 Church St. The applicant's request for a variance to expand a non-conforming single family use by permitting an addition and to allow (2) 8 ft. by 8 ft. sheds to remain on the property was hereby GRANTED subject to (1) additional voluntary condition.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary Beth Khidre  
Secretary-Board of Adjustment



"Santa Claus is coming to town!"

South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department  
Presents.....

## Project Santa

IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN, WHEN SANTA WILL BE TRAVELING AROUND TOWN BY FIRE TRUCK, VISITING THE CHILDREN AND TO HELP RAISE MONEY FOR THE SOUTH PLAINFIELD VOL. FIRE DEPARTMENT. CAN YOU IMAGINE THE FIRE TRUCK PULLING UP WITH SANTA CLAUS PLAYING CHRISTMAS CAROLS WITH LIGHTS AND SIRENS?

Here's how it works. We are requesting \$ 25.00 donation from each family who would like to have Santa deliver their presents by fire truck. You will need to complete the form below and enclose a check in the amount of 25.00 Payable to the SPVFC. We also ask that you please wrap a SMALL inexpensive gift (no more than \$20.00) and mark it with your child's name and address in big letters, and the rest is up to us. So sit back and relax and the rest is up to us.

Family name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Child or Children name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Age of child or children \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of gifts \_\_\_\_\_  
 School District \_\_\_\_\_

You can drop off the form and the packages at fire headquarters on:  
 Monday Nov 27<sup>th</sup> thru Dec 8<sup>th</sup> between 6:00pm - 9:00 pm  
 Sat Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> 9:00am -1:00pm Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> 1:00pm- 4:00pm

**NOTE: Packages brought in after DEC 8<sup>th</sup> will be charged \$50.00**

Families must reside with the borough of South Plainfield. Santa will be delivering to the various school districts between Monday Dec 11<sup>th</sup> through Thurs Dec 14<sup>th</sup> between the hours of 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm A delivery schedule will be announced at later date.

Santa's hotline number is 908-412-8868 leave a message you will receive a call back during the evening.

On behalf of the fire department we would like to thank you and have a safe and happy holiday.



Chris Abbott as Old Man Strong and Dave Garatino as Bobby Strong.

### Local Residents to Perform in Urinetown

Middlesex County College Performing Arts Department presents *Urinetown, The Musical*, on Friday, and Saturday, Nov. 17 and 18 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 19, at 2 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center Theater.

Cast members include South

Plainfield residents Dave Garatino, as Bobby Strong, Christopher Abbott as Old Man Strong/Hor Blades Harry and Jason Jackson as Senator Fibb.

Tickets are \$10 general admission and \$7 for students, staff and seniors. For reservations call (732) 906-2589.

### "Books to Keep" Program at Library

Once again this year, the library is participating in the "Books to Keep" program, collecting donations of new hardcover and paperback books for distribution to needy children throughout the Middlesex County area during the holiday season.

A project of the Libraries of Middlesex, a consortium of public libraries, and the Middlesex County College Library, "Books to Keep" was started in 1990 to promote the joy of reading, encourage library use, and foster pride in book ownership. Since its inception, over 140,000 books have been distributed in cooperation with

49 different agencies and organizations throughout Middlesex County. Books are distributed through service clubs and social service agencies, including day care centers and Head Start programs.

New hardcover and paperback books for children and young people may be brought to the library until Dec. 15. Monetary contributions to purchase additional books are also accepted. Donation envelopes are available at the library's circulation desk, next to the "Books to Keep" collection box.

The library is located in the South

Plainfield Municipal Complex at 2484 Plainfield Ave. If you'd like more information, please call (908) 754-7885 or visit the library's website at [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us).

### policereport

On Nov. 8 Verizon on Hadley Rd. reported the theft of a fusion splicer worth \$11,000 from an unlocked truck.

On Nov. 9 Yasmeen C. Evans, 25, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license and two outstanding warrants.

A Walnut St. resident reported that eggs had been thrown at their house.

On Nov. 11 Quincy D. Jones, 31, of Plainfield was arrested for hindering apprehension, driving on a suspended license and three outstanding warrants.

On Nov. 12 a Maple Ave. resident reported the theft of a bicycle from their back yard.

**Don't look for the Observer next week. We don't publish Thanksgiving week.**

### Holiday Food Drive Announced

The time of year is approaching when we very often count our blessings and think of ways we can share our good fortune with others. We hope that you will consider sharing your blessings to help a family in need.

A statewide food drive is being sponsored by the Association of New Jersey Chiropractors, a non-profit state organization. Drop off non-perishable food for those in need at DeCosta Chiropractic Office, Dr. Anthony J. DeCosta, located at 129

South Plainfield Ave. Food will be donated to local food banks in that region. All non-perishable food will be donated to FISH Hospitality Program. FISH has been serving homeless women and families since 1990, providing shelter and meals, as well as offering assistance locating employment and affordable housing.

Drop off all items at the DeCosta Chiropractic office before Wednesday, Nov. 22. For information or office hours, call (908) 755-1117.

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 John "Jack" Pedersen Realtor-Associate  
 Michael Pedersen Realtor-Associate



SPHS teacher Brandon Cosby with Democratic Congressional candidate Linda Stender, who spoke to Law and Government classes telling a SPHS student she is Linda Stender...the defender and contender. Stender visited the school just before the election.

## Sacred Heart Church Presents "Matters of Life and Death"

Sacred Heart Church will present a three-part panel presentation of life's important issues surrounding death and dying. "Matters of Life and Death" is free and open to the public Monday-Wednesday, Nov. 27-29, from 7:30-9 p.m. in the Sacred Heart School cafeteria. A panel of professionals will address: Nov. 27-The Theological and Spiritual Aspects of Death

and Dying; Nov. 28-The Legal and Practical Issues of Estate Planning, Wills, Trusts, Bequests and Advanced Directives for Health Care; Nov. 29-Pastoral, Hospice and Palliative Health Care and Funeral Arrangements: Pre-planning and "at need" Planning.

Please call with number attending- (908) 756-0633, ext. 10.

# Classifieds

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\$15 for 3 lines, \$1 for each additional line. 10% disc. for four insertions. **Deadline:** Monday, 5 pm. Garage Sale Ads: \$20. To place an ad, call 908-668-0010; or email your ad to [spobsver@comcast.net](mailto:spobsver@comcast.net)

### HOME FURNISHINGS FOR SALE

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**MATTRESS SET-FULL SIZE ORTHO** plush set new w/warranty. Sell \$100. (732) 259-6690

**DINING ROOM SET-DOUBLE PED-**estal table, 6 chairs w/lighted hutch. Value \$2600, sell \$1300. Call (732) 259-6690.

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**FIREWOOD FOR SALE-\$180 CORD** delivered. (908) 769-9698.

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# Keeping South Plainfield Clean Through Enforcement

The New Jersey Clean Communities Act was adopted in 1986 and was reauthorized permanently in 2002. The tax on litter-generating products funds a comprehensive program to reduce littering in the state. Following the Keep America Beautiful model, the program consists of litter removal, education/prevention and enforcement.

A lot of litter is accidental. Something falls out of an uncovered truck. Something blows out of an uncovered trash can. An advertising circular blows out of a shopping cart. Litter prevention involves covering the truck, covering the trash can and disposing of the advertising circular before leaving the store.

However, a lot of litter and trash is created intentionally. Why anyone would want to do this is a mystery, when there are easy ways to handle discards properly. The fact is, though, that there are people who deliberately throw their fast food packaging out their car windows, who drop cigarette butts on the ground, who blow grass clippings into the street, and who dump a load of trash in a vacant lot instead of bringing it to the Borough's trash compactor.

The Borough tries to encourage accidental litter prevention through education, publicity and organizations like the Clean Business Association and the Glitterbug Club and deals with deliberate littering through enforcement. The Code of the Borough of South Plainfield includes Chapter 125 "Littering."

The following are the terms and meanings:

**Litter**-Any used or unconsumed substance or waste material that has been discarded. Everyone knows what litter is.

**Prohibited Acts**-It shall be unlawful for any person to throw, drop, discard or otherwise place litter of any nature upon any public or private property other than in a litter receptacle. Use a litter can.

**Open or overflowing bins**-It shall be unlawful for any residential or commercial property owner to permit open or overflowing waste disposal bins on his or her property. Empty your cans often enough so they don't overflow.

**Commercial establishments and residents**-It shall be the duty of the owner, lessee, tenant, occupant or person in charge of any structure to keep and cause to be kept the sidewalk and curb abutting the building or structure free from obstruction or nuisances of every kind and to keep sidewalks, areaways, backyards, court and alleys free from litter and other offensive material. No person shall sweep into or deposit in any gutter, street, catch basin or other part of the storm sewer system or public place any accumulation of litter from any public or private sidewalk or driveway. Every person who owns or occupies property shall keep the sidewalk in front of his or her premises free of litter. All sweepings shall be collected and properly containerized for disposal. Keep your property clean. Pick up litter in front of your house, sweep your storefront and put the sweepings in a trash can, not the gutter; don't ever put anything into a storm drain.

**Placement of litter in receptacles**-Persons placing litter in public receptacles or in authorized private receptacles shall do so in such a manner as to prevent it from being carried or deposited by the elements upon any street, sidewalk or other public or private place. Make sure your litter stays in the trash can. Don't try to put litter into an already-overflowing can.

**Lakes and fountains**-It shall be unlawful to throw or deposit litter in any fountain, pond, lake, stream, river or any other body of water in a park or elsewhere in the borough. Don't throw anything in the water.

**Uncovered vehicles**-It shall be unlawful for any vehicle to be driven, moved, stopped or parked on any highway or street unless such a vehicle is constructed or loaded to prevent any of its load from dropping, shifting, leaking or otherwise escaping there-

from. Any person operating a vehicle from which any glass or dirt, sand, gravel, shavings or other light materials of any sort or manufacturing or household waste, refuse, rubbish and any sort of ashes, manure, garbage or other organic refuse or other offensive matter or objects have fallen or escaped which could cause an obstruction, damage a vehicle or otherwise endanger travelers or public property, shall immediately cause the public property to be cleaned of all glass or other matter or objects and shall pay the costs thereof. If you drive a truck, cover the load so nothing falls out. If something falls out, clean it up.

**Illegal dumping**-It shall be unlawful for any person to discard or dump along any street, on or off any right-of-way, any household or commercial

solid waste, rubbish, refuse, junk, vehicle or vehicle parts, rubber tires, appliances, furniture, construction debris, grass clippings or other yard waste or on property not specifically designated for the purpose of solid waste storage or disposal. It shall be unlawful to dispose of residentially generated garbage in publicly owned litter receptacles or in privately owned litter receptacles or solid waste storage containers except with the written consent of the owner of said containers. Don't put household garbage in a public litter can. Don't put household garbage in a private dumpster.

**Vehicles tracking dirt, etc. onto roadways**-It shall be unlawful for an owner of property to permit, allow or cause any vehicle to track, deposit or allow to fall dirt, mud or other

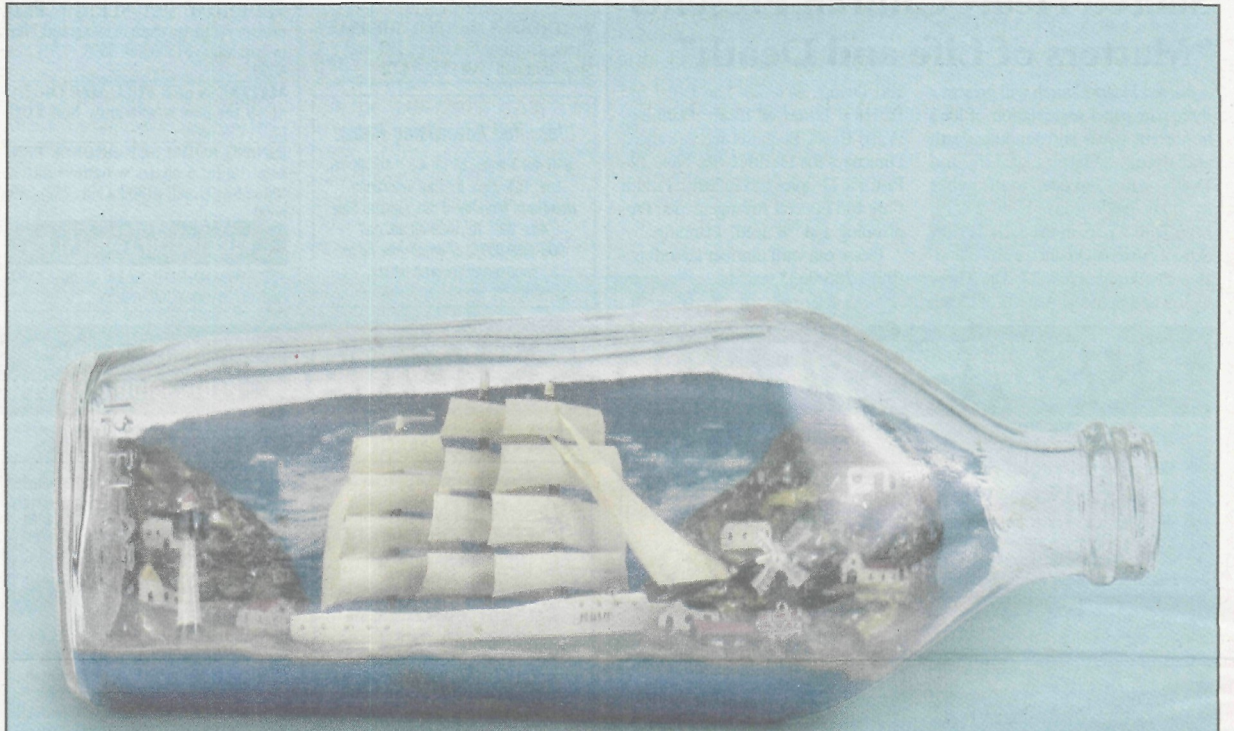
materials onto any road located within South Plainfield from construction sites or other unpaved sites. The property owner shall be responsible for installing and maintaining truck pads or other effective means or devices to prevent dirt, mud and other materials from leaving the property and shall be responsible for immediately cleaning from the road any mud, dirt or other materials that has been tracked, deposited or allowed to fall upon a road located in the Borough.

**Violations and penalties**-Any person who violates any of the provisions of this chapter shall, upon conviction thereof, be subject to a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or be imprisoned in the county jail for a period not exceeding thirty (30) days, or both. Each day

such violation is committed or permitted to continue shall constitute a separate offense and shall be punishable as such hereunder. The provisions of this chapter shall be enforceable by the Police Department, the Property Maintenance Code Officer for the borough and the Board of Health, and the Code Enforcement Officer. You can be fined up to \$1,000 and put in jail for up to a month if you are convicted of littering or dumping.

The Clean Communities Advisory Board urges you to clean up your act and keep South Plainfield clean!

For more information about the Clean Communities program, contact the Clean Communities coordinator at (908) 226-7621 or e-mail [atempel@southplainfieldnj.com](mailto:atempel@southplainfieldnj.com).



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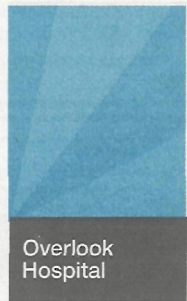
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