

South Plainfield OBSERVER

SOUTHPLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

VOL. 15, NO. 12

Member New Jersey Press Association

60 CENTS

NOVEMBER 18, 2011



Firefighters demonstrate vertical and horizontal ventilation utilizing the new training prop. —Photos courtesy of Louis Mormile

SPVFD Dedicates New Training Prop



Fire Chief Larry DelNegro

Members of the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department and Fire Chief Larry DelNegro dedicated a new training prop at a ceremony held on November 12 in the Department of Public Works (DPW) parking lot on Spicer Avenue. Afterwards, the group moved to the fire department where a luncheon was served for the attendees.

Chief DelNegro welcomed the guests, which included business owners and contractors who constructed the training prop, Mayor Matt Anesh, Borough Council President Ray Rusnak, Councilman Rob Bengivenga and Councilman-

(Continued on page 6)

Public Invited to Civil War Flag Dedication

A 33-star flag will fly over the Civil War Memorial Stone in Monument Park in honor of those residents of South Plainfield who gave their lives in defense of the Union at a ceremony to be held on Sunday, Nov. 27 at 1 p.m. (rain date is Sunday, Dec. 4). The pole and replica flag are gifts from the American Legion, UNICO and Robert Bengivenga, Sr. to the South Plainfield Historical Society.

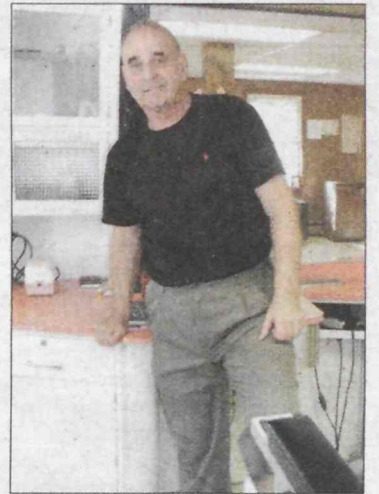
The 33-star flag is known as the Fort Sumter Flag because it flew over the military facility, located in the harbor of Charleston, S.C. at the beginning of the American Civil War. It was lowered by Major Robert Anderson when he surrendered the fort on April 14, 1861. The stars, arranged in a distinctive diamond pattern, represented each state of the union, although in actuality, there were 34 states in the union at the beginning of the war. The 34th state, Kansas, was admitted to the Union in late January of 1861, but had not yet been added to the flag's star motif until July 4 of that

year. President Abraham Lincoln had to decide whether or not to eliminate stars from the flag as southern states seceded from the Union. Lincoln's goal was to preserve the Union, so no stars were ever removed during the course of the war (1861-1865). Two more states were added to the Union before the end of the war: West Virginia became the 35th state in 1863, and Nevada the 36th in 1864.

In a twist of irony, exactly four years to the day that Fort Sumter surrendered to the Confederacy, Major Anderson, now a major general, raised the old flag in victory over the remains of the fort. Later that night, President Lincoln was shot at Ford's Theatre.

The Civil War Memorial Stone in Monument Park on Plainfield Avenue is dedicated to Lt. George C. Boice, Sergeant Henry Brantingham, Private Hugh Downey, Private Aaron F. Randolph and Private Augustus Ryno of this community.

For information, email Dorothy Miele at sphistoricalociety@verizon.net.



Al DeRosa, Jr.

SO LONG AL!

Move marks end to half a century of grooming South Plainfield

By Jane Dornick

Al DeRosa Jr., the owner of Al's Barber Shop at 2105 Park Ave., will be saying farewell to South Plainfield after serving customers for more than 50 years.

Born and raised in the borough, Al Jr.'s father, Al Sr., began cutting hair in 1938 in a storefront on New Market Avenue, a block away from Hamilton Boulevard. He remained there for more than 20 years when the two purchased the building at 1521 Park Ave., which, until recently, housed Frank's Automotive Service.

On September 14, 1961, Al Sr. and Jr. relocated their business just three blocks away to its current home on Park Avenue. The decor of the shop's interior and fixtures remain relatively the same as it was over 50 years ago—with big, black leather chairs and an antique cash register.

Over the years, Al and his father have cut the hair of many former mayors. His current clientele includes borough police officers and generations of familiar longtime borough families, including Scalera, Pellegrino and Resende.

Al and his wife of 45 years, Elaine, relocated to Hunterdon County over 30 years ago. They have three sons, Al, Joseph and Thomas, and four grandchildren, A.J., Anthony, Samantha and Madison. Even though he lives almost an hour away, Al still makes the trip to South Plainfield every day except Wednesdays to service his customers beginning at 6:30 a.m.

"I will miss everyone in town," said Al, who welcomes them to his new location cutting hair at Mr. C's, 14 Claremont Rd. in Bernardsville. His last day in South Plainfield will be January 7, 2012.



South Plainfield High School Tigers Varsity Head Coach Philip McGuane talks to the team after the 21-14 win against Scotch Plains-Fanwood on November 12. —Photo courtesy of Louis Mormile

Project Santa Underway

Register Now for Christmas Gift Delivery

It's that time of the year again when Santa will be travelling around town by fire truck, visiting the children and helping to raise money for the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Company. Area children will be excited to see Santa Claus arrive in front of their homes on a fire truck with lights and sirens playing Christmas carols.

Here's how it works: A \$20 donation will be requested from each family who would like Santa to deliver their gifts by fire truck; oversized packages will require a \$30 donation. Bring the completed form that was mailed to every home along with a small, inexpensive wrapped gift and a check made payable to "SPVFD" to the firehouse on Maple Avenue. Please choose presents that Santa can easily handle and that fit in a paper grocery bag. Then just leave the rest to us. Be

sure to mark your child's name and address in big letters on the package.

Drop off dates to bring the gift and order form are: Tuesday, Nov. 29 from 6-9 p.m.; Thursday, Dec. 1 from 6-9 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 3 and 4 from noon to 4 p.m.; and Tuesday, Dec. 6 from 6-9 p.m. Packages brought after December 6 will be charged \$40. All families must reside within South Plainfield.

Santa will be delivering the gifts to various school districts December 12-15 between 6 and 9 p.m. A delivery schedule will be announced at a later date.

If you need a form, call Santa's hotline at (908) 412-8868 and leave a message.

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

Aronowitz Named Trustee of the Year

Eric Aronowitz, president of the South Plainfield Library Board of Trustees, has been named the Trustee of the Year by the Libraries of Middlesex.

Aronowitz is being honored for his work as a trustee at South Plainfield Library. He has served as the board president for over 10 years. During his tenure, he oversaw a number of changes and improvements in the library's operation, including the expansion of the computer system, the installation of new software and procedures for circulation, and, most recently, the needed repairs and restructuring of the library building following Hurricane Irene and the resultant flooding. He has also been a tireless supporter of the ongoing efforts to improve or expand the current library facilities, or to move to a new building.

Aronowitz will receive his award at an event scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 29 at 6:30 p.m. It will be held at the Crossroads Theater in New Brunswick.



Eric Aronowitz



04879188483

STOP.
Before you head out to your mailbox next week to get the Observer, remember... we don't publish Thanksgiving week. Enjoy your turkey!!!!

In My Opinion

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

Residents of South Plainfield:

Mere thanks seem inadequate to express our appreciation, but to everyone who supported us last week we say a sincere thank you.

There's much to be done in 2012, and we won't forget why you elected us. Now more than ever it's time to make sure we focus on not only a smaller, more efficient local government, but one that excels at meeting the needs of residents.

We also want to earn the support of those who may not have chosen us at the polls. The election is over, and it's time to unite to keep South Plainfield going in the right direction. Our motto for 2012 continues to be the same one we chose for our campaign: Working Together, Getting it Done. In times like these, it's vital that we all work together to get results for our town.

Our work is just beginning. But we can't do it alone. Never hesitate to call or email us with your thoughts and questions. Also, there are openings on many of the borough's boards and agencies. Good government requires public participation, and that's why we encourage you to get involved by applying.

Finally, we want to wish the best to our opponents, Christine Buteas, John Sorrentino and Paul McCullen. Running for public office is a huge sacrifice, and anyone who chooses to make those sacrifices deserves the public's gratitude. We'd also be remiss if we didn't thank our amazing volunteers, people who worked hundreds of hours on our behalf. Without them, we would not be in a position to serve.

Again, thank you to everyone for your support. It will be an honor to serve you, and we won't let you down.

**COUNCILMAN ALEX BARLETTA,
COUNCILMEN-ELECT DERRYCK
WHITE AND DICK FRANK**

To the Editor:

Two years ago, I was honored to be selected as the first woman to serve as Senate Majority Leader in New Jersey history.

This was an important milestone for our state, which has always led the nation in promoting diversity and inclusion. It was an important milestone for the Democratic Party, which quite literally relies on women to maintain its electoral majorities. And, it was a great personal milestone for me.

But I never thought a title was more important than a set of principles. I never believed that being in a particular position was more valuable than being true to yourself and to those who elect you. Majority Leader is a position that demands concessions be made—concessions I am unwilling to make when I do not believe that they are right for this state and this party.

The idea of creating a co-majority leader is both bad politics and bad

policy. It would be a terrible precedent to set, diminishing the position. One cannot help but note that this only came up when the first woman held the job.

Therefore, I am announcing that I will not seek re-election as Majority Leader.

This is not about intrigue and innuendo. This is about clarity. Last week's legislative elections underscore the reality that the people of New Jersey demand a check on the governor. I am proud to serve as an independent voice defending our core Democratic principles.

I thank you for your trust and friendship in bestowing on me the honor of breaking an historical glass ceiling. And I look forward to breaking many more.

BARBARA BUONO

To the Veterans Day Supporters:

I would like to personally thank everyone who came out to support our Veterans Day dedication on November 11 at the VFW. The attendance and support made me proud to be the commander of South Plainfield Post #6763. I would like to personally thank Corey Singer from South Plainfield High School for playing taps to complete our outdoor dedication and Lainie Harris and Carla Scala for singing a tribute to our veterans. A special thanks goes out to Assemblyman Patrick Diegman, Mayor Matt Anesh, former Mayor Charlie Butrico, Councilmembers Chrissy Buteas and Raymond Rusnak, Councilman-elect Derryck White, Police Chief Jim Parker and Officer McConville and his family for their attendance and support of our veterans. I also need to thank Presto Printing of South Plainfield for donating all of our printing needs, Harvest Market (Glen and Jeanie) and Mr. Subs for feeding all our hungry supporters.

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

VINCENT PERRY, COMMANDER

To South Plainfield Residents:

The South Plainfield Lions Club would like to thank the community for its support throughout this past year. The Lions booth at the annual Labor Day picnic and our spring gourmet breakfast were well attended by community members providing the funds for the club to provide needed services to the residents of South Plainfield.

We provided the following services this year:

- \$7,500 in scholarships were awarded to Carly Ashnault, Alex Khidre, Rocco Petrillo and Taylor Jarema;
- The South Plainfield Lions Club donated a First Response Chair to

South Plainfield High School. The chair, a FRC Model 440, is engineered to provide a safe option for transporting injured or disabled people down stairs when an elevator is not available. The chair will be stored in a high school stairwell on the second floor.

• The Keystone Community residents were treated to lunch by the Lions. Keystone serves adults with developmental disabilities and visual and hearing impairments by supporting them in residential/group homes and day programs. Each year club members design a menu and serve a lunch that consists of a homemade soup, entrée and dessert in the kitchen of Holy Savior Academy (formerly Sacred Heart School).

• Pony Power Therapies received support from the South Plainfield Lions Club so they can provide horseback therapy to children suffering from autism and loss of hearing and sight.

On a regular basis, students in need from our schools receive eyeglasses and hearing aids so they can make the most of their education.

The South Plainfield Lions put every dollar of every donation back into the community. We thank you for your continued support and look forward to seeing you this spring at our gourmet breakfast, and after the summer, at our booth at the Labor Day parade.

As always, if you know of a community member in need, see any South Plainfield Lions Club member to see if the club can provide assistance.

THE SOUTH PLAINFIELD LIONS CLUB

Dear Editor,

Congratulations are in order for our new councilmen, Dick Frank, Alex Barletta and especially my friend, Derryck White, who I know will do an excellent job for South Plainfield. No going backwards with foolish spending, no more bus companies or buying old buildings or property for a library that was not even planned, or taking down a firehouse which could have been used. The Republicans have a good group who work together well and have only the well-being of the taxpayers in mind. Congratulations to all!

TONY AND DONNA PISANIELLO

Dear Editor,

I am responding to a letter that was published in last week's *Observer*, written by Mr. Bogdan Fryszczyn, in which he expresses surprise and apparent dismay at my reaction to his original letter.

In his usual meandering style that I must have taken a cue from, Mr. Fryszczyn again proceeds to demean the students of another school district and point out the flaws of the Department of Education without offering any solutions. Mr. Fryszczyn keeps hurling unnecessary criticisms without taking his own time to fix what he correctly describes as some major issues within our education system.

He states that what he wrote in his original letter was directed only at the issue of long-serving coaches; he made sure to take a jab at a school district where I happen to teach, and made allusions that my school district's SAT scores, which are not up to par with Mr. Fryszczyn's ideal district, South Plainfield, which is 50 points below the national average, is somehow my responsibility.

In the 21st century, the SATs are no longer the model upon which a school's academic performance is evaluated.

I apologize for the "long and winding" letter, as I am sure Mr. Fryszczyn has better things to do with his time than to allow for me to respond properly to him, but I do not take unwarranted criticisms aimed at the school district where I teach lightly, as that has nothing to do with the matter at hand. The subject was the bowling coach, Mr. Fech, not the Rahway school district and it was not me who brought Rahway and their schools into this discussion merely to try and put down someone who did not agree with him. My response was based on his own "long and winding" letter, which quickly strayed from the original topic into the land of mudslinging with hardly a pause.

I must admit that I am rather surprised by Mr. Fryszczyn's need to take a personal shot at my intelligence, questioning whether or not I could understand the statistics he put forth, especially considering I did not attack him personally. If this is the route he

Submit Your Letters to the Editor

Send your letters to South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax to 908-668-8819, or via email: spobserver@comcast.net. **Deadline is Monday, 5 p.m.** Letters must be accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. Limit letters to no more than 200 words. We reserve the right to refuse a letter, to edit for clarity or length, and to limit the number of letters submitted on the same subject. Submission is not a guarantee of publication. We do not accept anonymous letters. Letters are strictly opinion.

feels he must take, then he will travel that particular road alone, as I will not engage in immature teasing in which we are reduced to schoolyard taunts. May I remind the good sir that I am currently working towards my masters, and I can assure him that I all too well understand his slanderous letter to the editor.

I cannot deny that I happen to agree with Mr. Fryszczyn on some of his quite valid concerns; I do not agree with his method of discussing them. There is no need to prop up his argument at the expense of those that are not as fortunate as South Plainfield residents, and there is no need to call my intelligence into question. This will be my final response to him, as I have seen exactly how he takes it when someone does not agree with his views, degrading the discussion into an argument in which there are no possible victors. Progress cannot be made when a differing view is taken as a personal insult.

I again invite Mr. Fryszczyn to attend a board meeting at his earliest convenience; I would welcome a differing viewpoint as that is the only way we can truly improve our town. Stagnation leads to decay and different ideas from varying viewpoints are what will enable us to improve our schools. My invitation to Mr. Fryszczyn to attend a meeting is not of an aggressive nature; I am genuinely curious to see what solutions Mr. Fryszczyn can offer. I do not doubt he can offer some ideas, as I have found his fiery and well-written letters to be earnest and well-meaning, if not slightly belligerent.

My largest concern is for the children of our towns, and making sure we do everything in our power to ensure they are given the highest quality education that we can possibly provide to allow them the opportunity to be as successful in life as they can be. While our opinions may differ on certain issues, I am sure that Mr. Fryszczyn would agree with me on this last point wholeheartedly.

JOSEPH SORRENTINO

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Email: spobserver@comcast.net
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Contributing Photographers.....Louis Mormile
Advertising Sales.....Jane Dornick, Jean Fultz, Roxanne Cortese

The South Plainfield Observer (U.S.P.S. 018253) is published weekly, except Thanksgiving week. Second class postage paid at South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080-9998. Postmaster: Forward change of address orders to G&G Graphics Inc. 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080-2004. Subscription rates \$29.95/year in South Plainfield; \$34.95 year out of town.

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

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Submit letters to the editor by mail, email or fax. Letters should not exceed 200 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. Letters must include name and phone number, for verification.

To comment on the content or to suggest a story idea, contact the editor at (908) 668-0010.

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

Support Shirley Thompson's Annual Christmas Dinner and Toy Donation

For the past nine Christmases, South Plainfield resident Shirley Thompson has organized a local effort to provide hot Christmas dinner and Christmas presents for families in town who, without the assistance of the community, may not have Christmas presents for their children. She and a

dedicated group of volunteers also deliver Christmas dinner to senior citizens who would normally receive Meals on Wheels, which does not deliver on Christmas Day.

All gifts for the children and food needed to prepare the hot Christmas dinners are purchased through donations received from local businesses, friends, family and neighbors.

This year it is expected that the needs will be greater than in past years. Thompson is asking, once again, for donations of the following items (all items should be new and unwrapped): book bags, children and teenagers' size clothing and pajamas, hats, gloves and scarves, socks, purses for teenagers, toys (no war toys), games, puzzles and coloring books. Tape for wrapping the presents is also needed. All items should be age-appropriate for children in elementary through high school. Thompson is also collecting non-perishable foods that will be distributed to the families. Gift cards that can be used to purchase presents for the children or for the purchase of food and other items needed to prepare Christmas

dinner will also be gratefully accepted.

This year there are a few different drop off points. All donated items should be dropped off any day before 7 p.m. through December 12 at any of the following locations:

- South Plainfield Rescue Squad: Collection boxes will be in the front of the building.

- 131 or 140 Montrose Avenue: Please place items in container on side porch.

- The *South Plainfield Observer* office: 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Please be sure to include your name on the package so we can properly thank you in the *Observer*.

"If you already participate in a holiday fund drive, please continue; I am not looking to replace something you already have in place," Thompson said. "Please feel free to share this article with anyone you feel would like to help."

If you are a local business and would like to hold a toy, clothing or non-perishable food drive, or for more information, call Thompson directly at (908) 756-7686.



Two members of the South Plainfield Knights of Columbus #6203 recently received the 4th Degree, the highest order in the 129 year-old organization. Sir Knights John Forcella and Thomas Berry were among the 225 men honored in a special ceremony held at the Sheraton Hotel in Eatontown on November 6. (L-R) Front row: Sir Knights John Forcella and Thomas Berry; back row: Sir Knights Roberto Morales, John Bush, Gene Buldowski, Greg Gaydos, Ted Rubino and Joe Wilkowski.

Ashnault to Receive 2011 Cappy Award

Bill Ashnault has been selected as the recipient of the 2011 Cappy Award. The award dinner is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 3 at 6:30 p.m. at the South Plainfield Senior Center.

Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased in advance at the PAL building, 1250 Maple Ave. or at the door. All attendees must purchase tickets.

(The full story on Cappy Award winner Bill Ashnault will be published in the December 2 issue.)

CORRECTION

• In last week's story, "Republicans Sweep Council Seats," Democratic Candidate John Sorrentino's name was incorrectly reported. Also, Sorrentino ran for a three-year term, and Paul McCullen ran for the one-year unexpired term.

• In "News from the Suburban Woman's Club," Designs for Tranquility is located in Frenchtown, not Freehold.

We regret the errors.

McCriskin Tree Lighting and Caroling

Once again, McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals invites the public to attend the annual tree lighting and Christmas caroling event on Saturday, Dec. 10 at 4:30 p.m. on the main lawn of the funeral home at 2425 Plainfield Ave.

The tree lighting ceremony is dedicated to the memory of the men of Task Force 3-502 101st Airborne Division Screaming Eagles, who died on December 12, 1985 when their plane crashed over Gander, New Foundland

on their way home from a tour of duty.

Members of the South Plainfield High School Traveling Choir will be performing. Following the tree lighting, everyone is invited to Christmas carol down Plainfield Avenue to Flanagan's Restaurant where appetizers and sandwiches will be served.

The caroling event is a good-natured way for the community to come together and celebrate the holiday season. All are welcome to attend and participate.

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Adopt a Family For the Holidays

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

If you don't have time to shop or are on a limited budget, you can still help

by providing a gift certificate to a local merchant or grocer. By participating in this program, your holiday season will be more meaningful and make life easier for our less fortunate families.

We are accepting donations of turkeys on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 17 and 18. Feel free to drop off your turkey as close to this date as possible.

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U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY CONDUCTING FIVE YEAR REVIEW AT THE CORNELL-DUBILIER ELECTRONICS SUPERFUND SITE IN SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently conducting a five-year review of the cleanup activities for the Cornell-Dubilier Electronics Superfund site located at 333 Hamilton Boulevard in South Plainfield, New Jersey. This is the first five-year review for to be conducted at the site.

The purpose of the five-year review is to ensure that the implemented portions of the cleanup plans remain protective of public health and the environment. The remedies selected by EPA consist of excavation of residential, municipal and on-site contaminated soil, on-site treatment of amenable soils to treatment by low temperature thermal desorption and off-site disposal of the remaining contaminated soils. The investigations of contaminated groundwater and the sediments of the Bound Brook are ongoing.

Once the five-year review is completed (anticipated to be completed in November 2011), the report will be made available in the local site repository at the South Plainfield Library at 2484 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey.

For further information on the five-year review process or on the Cornell-Dubilier site, please contact:

Diego Garcia, Remedial Project Manager
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 290 Broadway - 19th Floor
 New York, New York 10007
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 E-mail: seppi.pat@epa.gov

You can also access our website at www.epa.gov/region2/superfund/npl/cornell

events Around Town

Rutgers vs. Cincinnati Football Game

November 18

The Time2Shine Foundation has tickets for the Rutgers vs. Cincinnati football game on Saturday, Nov. 19 at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$55 for sideline seats. To purchase tickets, email time2shine@cox.net.

Holiday Boutique And Tea Room

November 19

Get your holiday shopping started early on Saturday, Nov. 19 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Wesley United Methodist Church's Holiday Boutique and Tea Room. Knitted and crocheted scarves, blankets and sweaters, handpainted tiles and furniture, original paintings, handcrafted jewelry,

stationery and cards, novelty items and Christmas wreaths. Discovery Toys, Dove Chocolate at Home, Longaberger, Partylite, Scentsy and Tupperware. Also homemade baked items along with delicious luncheon offerings.

Wrestling Club Fundraising Dinner

November 19

South Plainfield Wrestling Club will host the third annual Tiger Takedown Buffet on Saturday, Nov. 19 at the Polish Home on New Market Avenue.

Proceeds benefit the SPHS wrestling team's trip to the Virginia Duals. Tickets are \$20 and will be sold at the door. Cash bar. Gamin' Ride Truck for the kids and the drawing of the winning ticket for our Super 50/50.

For more information, call Pam Heilmann at (908) 294-6009.

Nativity of Blessed Virgin Food Festival

November 19

A food festival will be held at the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Orthodox Church, 400 Delmore Ave., on Saturday, Nov. 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. featuring homemade stuffed cabbage, pierogies, soups and cakes. Cash or check only.

For more information, call (908) 561-6366.

Medicare Seminar At the Senior Center

November 21

A free seminar conducted by the N.J. Department of Health and Senior Services and the Middlesex

County Office of Aging and Disabled Service's State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) will be held on Monday, Nov. 21 at 10 a.m. at the senior center. Seniors can learn about Medicare changes, enrollment period and Part D update. After the seminar, SHIP counselors will be available to assist with questions. Individual counseling sessions will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

To make an appointment, call (908) 754-1047.

Eagles Cheer Road To National Pasta Dinner

November 23

The South Plainfield Eagles Cheer Road To Nationals pasta dinner featuring a wide variety of pastas and desserts will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 23 in the high school cafeteria at 5 p.m. Cost for adults is \$8 and \$6 for seniors, students and children. Wide variety of pastas and desserts.

Join us for food, fun and prizes. Stay to cheer on SPHS during the annual bonfire and pep rally.

Tickets will be available at the door or call Kelly at (732) 991-3880.

Country Breakfast And Crafts

November 27

The South Plainfield American Legion Post #243, 243 Oak Tree Ave., will host a country breakfast with craft show on Sunday, Nov. 27 from 8 a.m. to noon. Menu consists of pancakes, French toast, ham, bacon, eggs, breakfast quiches, muffins, bagels, fruit and more. \$6 a person and \$3 for children under 12.

Quality crafters who are interested in selling items can call (718) 619-2751 for more information.

St. Peter by the Sea Concert

November 27

Sacred Heart Church presents the

annual Christmas concert featuring The Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea with the Reverend Alphonse Stephenson conducting on Sunday, Nov. 27 at 3 p.m. Advance tickets are \$25, \$20 for seniors and \$10 for students 17 and younger.

Tickets can be purchased by calling the Parish Center at (908) 756-0633, ext. 110 or 111 or Sandy Romasz at (908) 444-8554.

Tickets, available at the door, will be \$30, \$25 for seniors and \$15 for students 17 and younger.

Music Boosters TGI Fridays Fundraiser

December 2

Moms, don't cook tonight! TGI Fridays will donate 20% of food sales all day on Friday, Dec. 2 to support SPHS Music Boosters when you present the flyer. Print your flyer through our calendar at www.sphsmusicboosters.webs.com. Must bring flyer. Tell your friends, family and coworkers!

Midnight Madness At High School

December 2

The SPHS boys and girls basketball team will kick off the season with a fun evening at Midnight Madness on Friday, Dec. 2 from 9-10:30 p.m. in the gym. Best fan costume, dunk and three-point shooting contests, a mixed team scrimmage and a special guest appearance. Admission is free. Come out-show your support.

Knights of Columbus Breakfast With Santa

December 3

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus will host the annual Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 3 from 9 a.m. to noon at the hall located at 334 Hamilton Blvd.

Price for the breakfast (which includes eggs, bacon, French toast, pancakes and much, much more) is

SENIOR CENTER Calendar

HUNTERDON HILLS

December 8, 4:30-9:30 p.m. - \$80

MONDAYS

Active Seniors 8:30 am
Crocheting 9:30 am
Yoga 10:30 am
Art Class 11:30 am

TUESDAYS

Bingo 10 am-2 pm
Ladies Group 10 am

WEDNESDAYS

Aerobics 8:45 am
Shopping 9 am
Line Dancing 10 am
Computer..10 am, 11:30 am, 1 pm
Crocheting 1 pm
Tai Chi 2 pm

THURSDAYS

Active Seniors 9:30 am
Crafts Class 10 am
Computer..10, 11:30 am, 1:30 pm
Exercise Class 1:15 pm

FRIDAYS

Bingo 10 am-2 pm

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Looking for members 55 or older to join our Billiards Club. Ladies are welcome.

If you enjoy shooting pool, stop in the senior center to sign up. It's fun and FREE!

Daily Activities: Morning coffee, pool, cards, board games, art, yoga and crafts.

Call (908) 754-1047 for more info or visit www.southplainfieldnj.com

Senior Center is open daily 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays & Sundays.

\$5 for adults, \$3 for children, or \$15 for a family of four or more. If you want Santa to give your child a present, please bring it with you.

For information or a reservation, call Tom Berry at (908) 531-0428.

Breakfast With Santa

December 10

Breakfast with Santa, benefiting Make-a-Wish Foundation, will be held on Saturday, Dec. 10 from 9-10:30 a.m. in the South Plainfield Senior Center. Complementary pictures with Santa. Cost is \$6 per person.

Chinese Auction & Family Fun Day

The Time2Shine Foundation, a non-profit organization formed in 2011 in memory of South Plainfield resident Mike Fry, will hold a Chinese auction and family fun day (date to be announced). \$5 for adults; children are free. Photos with Santa, face painting, food, door prizes and Chinese auction featuring prizes such as theme baskets, gift cards, a TV, airline tickets and more.

Proceeds will go to students interested in continuing their education in the arts and sports.

For information or to make a donation, call Rosemary (908) 816-0901 or Angela (908) 400-7259.

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\$14 per person (tax & gratuity included)

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• Beef Burgundy, Sausage & Meatballs, Kielbasa
• Chicken Tenders, Chicken Dijon, Chicken Marsala
• Penne Vodka, Baked Pasta, Penne w/Plum Tomato & Basil
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For tickets, call Councilwoman Chrissy Buteas at (908) 44-3466 or email christinebuteas@comcast.net.

— Out of Town —

Christkindlmarket (Christmas Market)

November 20

Deutscher Club of Clark, 787 Featherbed Lane, will hold an authentic Christkindlmarket (Christmas market) on Sunday, Nov. 20 from noon to 5 p.m. Indoors and outdoors; imported German linens and gifts, handmade items, jewelry, baskets, stollen, candies, cookies, Gluhwein, German atmosphere, dinners available. For information, call (732) 574-8600.

Woodbridge WOWs Open Dance

November 20

Woodbridge Widows Or Widowers will hold an open dance on Sunday, Nov. 20 from 7-11 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Morrissy Ave. in Avenel. Light refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome. Admission: \$10 members; \$12 guests.

For more information, call (732) 381-3255 or (908) 757-0515.

NJ Intergenerational Orchestra Concert

November 20

The New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra will present a free concert on Sunday, Nov. 20 at 3 p.m. at Madison Junior School, 160 Main St. in Madison. Artistic director and director program will feature violin soloist Na Young Yang playing Concerto No. 5 in A Minor by Henri Vieuxtemps.

Pre-Thanksgiving Singles Dance Party

November 23

Steppin' Out Singles is hosting a pre-Thanksgiving upscale singles dance party on Wednesday, Nov. 23 at 8 p.m. at the Woodbridge Hilton Grand Ballroom, 20 Wood Ave. South in Iselin. Ages 40 and up; no jeans/t-shirts/sneakers/shorts. Admission: \$17.

For information, call (732) 656-1801.

Trip to The Miracle Of Christmas

November 29

St. Luke's Leisure Club in North Plainfield will be sponsoring a trip to Lancaster, Pa. on Tuesday, Nov. 29 to see Sight and Sound Theatre's, *The Miracle of Christmas*. The cost for the show, lunch, bus and all taxes and tips is \$98 per person.

For more information, call Marilyn Mayer at (908) 757-5074 or email goggi5@aol.com.

Imperial Brass Christmas Concert

December 4

Imperial Brass will perform its annual Christmas concert on Sunday, Dec. 4 at 7 p.m. at Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Rd. in Scotch Plains. Tickets are \$15; \$12 seniors and students; children 12 and under are free. Light refreshments will be served after the concert.

For tickets or information, call (908) 232-5678 or visit www.willowgrovechurch.org.

Is your organization sponsoring a community event?
Send it in for our **Events**

Around Town.
spobserver@comcast.net



More than 40 walkers raised over \$4,800 to end world hunger in the South Plainfield Ecumenical Council of Christian Churches-sponsored annual CROP Walk to End Hunger on October 16. Twenty-five percent of the amount raised will be returned to the council for local food needs. Current members include Sacred Heart Church, First Baptist Church, St. Stephen Lutheran, Wesley Methodist, Pilgrim Covenant and Rescue House of Prayer.

Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

The annual Community Thanksgiving Service sponsored by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Ministerium will be held on Monday, Nov. 21 at 7:30 p.m. in Union Catholic High School auditorium, 1600 Martine Ave. in Scotch Plains. The Ministerium is comprised of clergy and leaders of Christian and Jewish faith communities in Scotch Plains-Fanwood, as well as leaders of organizations, such as the Jewish Community Center and YMCA, SPF School District and the elected officials and staff of Fanwood and Scotch Plains municipal governments.

The Interfaith Thanksgiving service, which is open to the community, has been a longstanding tradition for more than 30 years. The various houses of worship alternate hosting the service which features special music, readings, liturgy and prayer. An offering will be taken for the DiNitzio Fund, which provides emergency funds for utility bills and food for local residents.

"Each year, the Community Thanksgiving Service is a meaningful way to celebrate Thanksgiving and express our gratitude for our community that works together and worships

together," said The Rev. Cynthia Cochran-Carney, pastor of Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains and current president of the Ministerium.

Music will be provided by the choirs from congregations in the community, including Congregation Beth Israel's choir. Rabbi George Nudell of Congregation Beth Israel will give the sermon.

The service is free of charge. Complimentary light refreshments will be available at its conclusion.

Essay Contest Deadline Dec. 15

The deadline for high school students and their teachers to submit essays for the Bill of Rights Institute's national Being an American Essay Contest is fast approaching. The contest asks students to explore the founding principles outlined in the Constitution by answering the question: "How does the Constitution establish and maintain a culture of liberty?"

The contest is administered by the Bill of Rights Institute, a non-profit educational organization in the Washington, D.C. area.

The top three student winners from each of five geographical regions will be awarded \$1,000 (first place), \$500 (second place) and \$250 (third place). Teacher sponsors of winners will receive a cash prize of \$100.

Essays must be submitted online at www.BillofRightsInstitute.org/Contest by 11:59 p.m. PST on December 15. Supporting contest materials, including lesson plans meeting Common Core standards, are provided at no cost to teachers who want to incorporate the essay contest into their classroom.

For complete rules and guidelines, visit www.BillofRightsInstitute.org/Contest.

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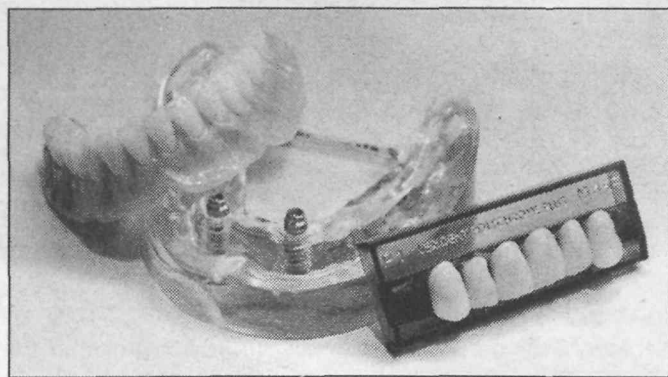
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Fire Department members demonstrate an emergency bail out.

-Photos courtesy of Louis Mormile

SPVFD Dedicates Training Prop

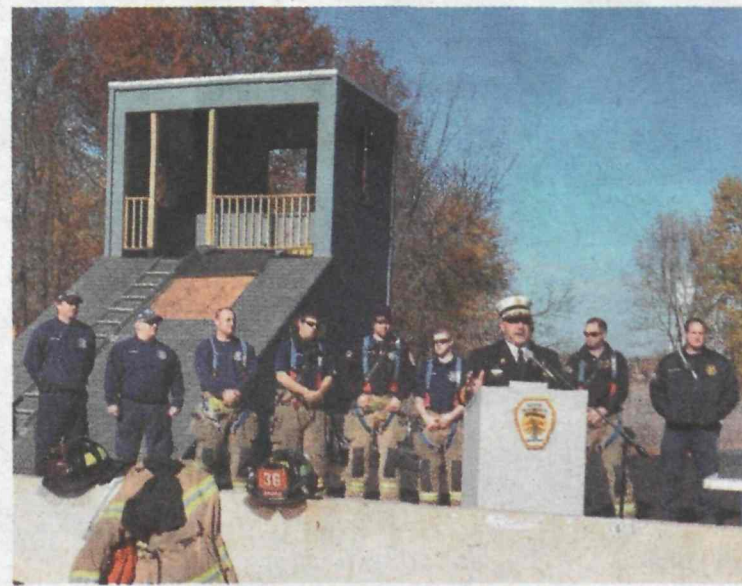
(Continued from page 1)
elect Derryck White. The area was dedicated and blessed by the fire department's chaplain, Reverend Charles Mingle.

The project to build the training prop has been in the works for the past three years and was designed by architect John J. Haerberle, AIA.

The Home Depot and Ferro Corporation contributed financially towards the purchase of the materials utilized in the construction of the training prop. Knights of Columbus member Bill Butrico organized the

Squires to assemble the prop over a twelve week period. Robert Stilo of Stilo Construction and Robert Capparelli, supervisor of the DPW, graded and paved the area so there would be a smooth, safe surface on which to conduct training sessions. Materials for the paving were provided by a local contractor. Penyak Roofing provided the roofing materials.

The training prop will be utilized to train fire department members in forcible entry, vertical and horizontal ventilation and emergency egress or bail out training from structures.



Chief Larry DelNegro addresses guests. In the background is the new training prop.

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Library Accepting "Books to Keep"

Once again, South Plainfield Library will be participating in the Books to Keep program.

Founded in 1990, Books to Keep is a program provided by the Libraries of Middlesex, a consortium of New Jersey public libraries, and the Middlesex County College Library. The program promotes literacy by distributing new books to needy children and young people during the holiday season. They receive the books through area service organizations and social service agencies. Since the program began, well over 120,000 books have been collected and distributed throughout the county.

South Plainfield Library has served as a collection point for Books to Keep for many years. This year, though, South Plainfield's participation has been affected by flood damage to the library building following Hurricane Irene, and the resultant closing for repairs; however, Sr. Library Assistant Kenneth Morgan, who coordinates the program for South Plainfield, is optimistic. "We're starting a bit late this year, but our community will make up for the delay. I've always been impressed with the generosity of our patrons towards the program. They've been willing to help in the past, and I'm sure they'll come through again for this very worthy cause."

The library will be accepting donations of new books until December 1. Books for both children and young people, from pre-school to adolescence, will be accepted, in both hardcover and paperback formats. Monetary donations are also being accepted for the program. Donation envelopes, as well as the collection box for books, may be found at the library's Circulation Desk. Contributions may also be sent to Books to Keep, c/o Monroe Township Public Library, 4 Municipal Plaza, Monroe Township, N.J. 08831; checks should be made payable to the Libraries of Middlesex.

South Plainfield Free Public Library is located in the South Plainfield Municipal Complex at 2484 Plainfield Ave. For more information, please call (908) 754-7885 and ask for Morgan, or visit the library's website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us or its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/southplainfieldlibrary.

SPHS Athletic Department Toy Drive

The South Plainfield Athletic Department and the South Plainfield High School Athletic Booster Club are sponsoring a toy drive.

Bring a new unwrapped toy (ages 12-17) suitable for a holiday gift by Wednesday, Dec. 9 to the high school athletic office or the pep rally and receive free admission to one high school sports event in December.

Donations will be made to South Plainfield families through the South Plainfield Social Service's Department.

LEGAL NOTICES

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

An appeal has been filed by Catherine M. Golden requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit: 1) existing 80 square foot wood shed which is 49' from the rear fence line; 5' is required. 2) Existing deck exceeds the 25% lot coverage by 58.5 square feet or 1.2%; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 530 Harrison Avenue, Block 166, Lot 28, R-75 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, December 8, 2011 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey at 7:00 p.m.

The files and documents pertaining to this appeal are available for public inspection in the Planning/Zoning Office in Borough Hall between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

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VFW Post #6763 Commander Vincent Perry places a wreath at the flagpole outside the post.



Honoring the Service and the Courage

South Plainfield VFW Post #6763 held its annual Veterans Day program at 11 a.m. on November 11 (11/11/11). Guests bundled up in coats braved the biting wind to gather on the front lawn where they were welcomed by Post Commander Vincent Perry.

Perry and Margaret Sheldon, Ladies Auxiliary president, placed a wreath at the foot of the flagpole outside the post. The color guard honored veterans with a rifle salute. As the sharp sound of the rifles died, *Taps* was played. The outdoor portion of the ceremony was quickly concluded and guests hurried indoors and out of the cold where the presentation of colors was held. Vocalists Lainie Harris and Carla Scala sang the National Anthem. Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, Jr. and Mayor Matt Anesh addressed the audience.

A crowd of about 80 joined Borough Councilmembers Chrissy Buteas, Ray Rusnak, Chief of Police Jim Parker and Officer McConville (and his family) and officers from both the American Legion and the VFW for the ceremony.

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



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SPORts

U-13 ARSENAL

Submitted by Mark Resende

Arsenal Fit to Be Tied

On a beautiful mid-November weekend, the South Plainfield Soccer Club's U-13 boys team, Arsenal, played two games and had to come from behind in each of them to earn a tie.

The opponent in the first game, played on Saturday at the home complex on Kenneth Avenue, was the Woodbridge Warriors. The Warriors grabbed the lead in the first half on a breakaway despite the fact Arsenal controlled most of the play. Jared Marks scored for Arsenal in the second half off of a feed from Jake Hoffman to even the score at one goal apiece, which would prove to be the final tally.

For the second game of the weekend, played on Sunday, Arsenal had to travel to Basking Ridge to square off against the Somerset Hills Rockets. The Rockets were awarded a penalty kick in the 21st minute of the first half and converted it for the 1-0 lead. They increased their lead to 2-0 early in the second half with a goal in the

37th minute, and that's when Arsenal kicked it into high gear.

Arsenal kept the pressure on the Rockets for the remainder of the game, and their efforts paid off. William Arias scored in the 54th minute and Wallace Truesdale added a goal just four minutes later to even the tilt at 2-2. Arsenal had multiple chances in the closing stages of the game, including several corner kicks, but could not find the back of the net again. They settled for their second draw of the weekend to bring their record to 4-2-2.

Nick Plate was solid in goal, as always. Jason Belanger, Jason Cieszkiewicz, Dylan O'Connor, Alec Paez, Ricky Pellegrino, Mason Resende, Elijah Robinson, Edwin Rivas and Kevin Solano all played hard and hustled. Caleb Kuberiet missed this weekend's action but will be back for the last two games of the season on November 19 and 20 as Arsenal goes for first place in Flight 4. Go Arsenal!



12U South Plainfield Outlaws Fall All-Star Team

Outlaws 12U All-Stars Finish Fall Season

The 12U South Plainfield Outlaws Fall All-Star Team finished a successful baseball season. The league consisted of towns and AAU teams from Milltown, East Brunswick, South Brunswick, North Brunswick, New Jersey Black Yankees, NJ Marlins and Hopewell. In the regular season, the Outlaws finished in first place with a record of 5-1, outscoring their opponents 63-49. In the semi-finals, the Outlaws were defeated by the South Brunswick Black team 9-6 in a very exciting and tense game.

This was an injury filled year for the Outlaws. The team lost Shaun

O'Brien and Niko Vasquez for the entire season with arm injuries as well as Andrew Bisgaard for most of the year with concussion-like symptoms. Several other all-star players filled in this year, and Manager Joe Scudato is greatly appreciative of this and thanks Conner Adams, Mike Marrero, Marc Giordano and Gavin Jones for their support.

The team welcomed back Mike Stanczak who pitched great all year as the team's starting pitcher. Andrew Bisgaard, Jack Scudato, Conner Wolpin and Marc Giordano also pitched great this year.

The Outlaws had many star hitters throughout the season!

Mike Stanczak led the team in home runs as well as RBIs; "Mr. Leadoff" Brandon Wizda once again had many successful bunts to set the stage for the middle of the lineup. Angelo Rivera, Donny Grabinsky, David Chatel and Jack Scudato had

clutch hits all year. Every player on the team contributed in making this a great fall season.

The 12U South Plainfield Outlaws Fall All-Star Team players were: Andrew (Big Red) Bisgaard, David (Spanky) Chatel, Donny (The Jet) Grabinsky, Joey (The Beast) Heilmann, Shaun (OB) O'Brien, Jacob (Speedy) Rivera, Jack (The Hammer) Scudato, Mike (the Polish Hammer) Stanczak, Luke (The Duke) Tamboro, Niko (Tremendo) Vasquez, Conner (The Kid) Wolpin and Brandon (WizKid) Wizda. The team was managed by Joe Scudato with Assistant Coaches John Wizda, Dave Delrio, Dan Tamboro and Angelo Rivera.

The coaches would like to thank the parents, family members and South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club Board Member Gary Rohrer for coming to all of the games this year in support of the Outlaws team this fall. Your loud cheers were heard all year long.

SPHS Weekly Sports Schedule
South Plainfield High School

Thursday, Nov 24
10:30am Boys Varsity Football @ North Plainfield High School

Monday, Nov 28
4:00pm Coed Varsity Swimming @ Wardlaw - Hartridge School

Wrestling Club fundraising dinner this Saturday.
See events on page 4 for details.

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Dos XX 2/12 Bottles \$19.99 Peroni 2/12 pk case bottles \$23.99

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2/3 lb. Genoa Salami +
1/3 lb. Provolone Cheese \$6.99 lb

It's a Winner!

Debbie Kurland of Hometown Heros delivers dinner to Junior Journalist winner Vaishnavi Girirajan, pictured with her mom Sesi, dad and brother, Vishnu.

Junior Midget Cheerleaders to Compete in Disney World

The South Plainfield Eagles Junior Pee Wee and Junior Midget cheerleaders performed at the Pop Warner Eastern Region Cheer Championships on November 12 at Sun National Bank Center in Trenton for a chance to advance to the Pop Warner National Championships at Disney World.

Starting off the day for South Plainfield were the Junior Midget cheerleaders who competed in the morning session and hit the mat with tons of spirit, energy and determination. Being the first of the nine teams in their category to compete, the Junior Midgets used their lucky number one spot to their advantage and secured one of two spots at nationals as the Junior Midget Large Novice runner-up. This squad of 28 girls in grades six through eight are very excited to be traveling to Orlando the beginning of December to take on teams from the United States for a chance to be declared the National Champions.

South Plainfield's presence was heard once again in the afternoon session as Eastern Region surely saved the best for last in the Junior Pee Wee Large Novice division. The Junior Pee Wee cheerleaders, performing last out of 11 teams, took the mat by storm with lots of energy and performed their best routine by far this season. Although they did not advance to nationals, they certainly proved that they are a force to be reckoned with in 2012! With more than half the squad competing at a competition level for the very first time, the girls should be extremely proud of their achieved this season.

The South Plainfield Eagles board is extremely proud of all these girls have accomplished this season. It truly has been a pleasure watching the girls grow as athletes since the beginning of August.

William L. Montwid, Sr.



William L. Montwid, Sr.

William L. Montwid, Sr. of South Plainfield passed away on Friday, Nov. 11 at home surrounded by his family.

Mr. Montwid was born in Newark on January 31, 1921 to Joseph and Grace (Jamouneau) Montwid.

Mr. Montwid entered the business field after high school graduation. His interest was in casualty insurance and he attended night sessions at the Insurance College of America in NYC until Pearl Harbor. He then enlisted in the Army Air Corps in December of 1941 and rose through the ranks to be commissioned and sent on active duty with the Air Transport Command, the 7th Ferrying Group in Great Falls, Mont., until his honorable discharge in February 1946 as a 1st Lieutenant.

With a pilot's license, Mr. Montwid wished to continue in the aviation field and was hired as an air traffic controller at the Newark Tower in September 1946. After a successful career with the CAA/FAA, Mr. Montwid retired from the Morristown Control Tower in 1980 as a training officer and a watch supervisor after 34 years of service.

Mr. Montwid was an avid tennis player for over 75 years. He won the Middlesex County Men's Singles Championship from 1958 until 1968 and also was a four time winner of the Plainfield area tournaments. He was a past president of the East Orange Tennis Club and a long time member of the Westfield Tennis Club.

Mr. Montwid is a founding member of the U.S. Air Museum in Britain and the WWII Memorial Plaza in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Montwid also had a great interest in antique VW car restoration and still has a running 1973 VW car.

He was also a member of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, the Senior Citizens Club of South Plainfield, the American

Legion Post in South Plainfield and the Green Bay Packer Football Club.

Mr. Montwid is survived by his wife of 66 years, Beverly M. Montwid; a son, William L. Montwid, Jr. and wife Rosemarie of Flemington; and two daughters, Judith Quist and husband John of Wilbraham, Mass. and Cindy Dahlin and husband Jeffery of Jackson Hole, Wyo. He also leaves behind eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren whom he loved very much.

Funeral services were held at South Plainfield Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers donations may be sent in his name to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, 2520 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

Melvin Joseph Pleasant Sr., 82

Melvin Joseph Pleasant Sr. died on Saturday, Nov. 5 at the Community Living Center of the Veterans Administration Health Care System in Lyons.

Son of the late Lynwood and Mary Pleasant, Mel was born and raised in Jersey City, settling in South Plainfield in 1968.

He served two tours of duty with the US Navy. From 1948-1950 Mel was stationed in Chicago and from 1951-1955 he was stationed at the U.S. Naval Hospital in San Diego, Calif.

Mr. Pleasant was employed by the VA Hospital at Lyons as a medical technician from 1955 until his retirement in 1976.

He is predeceased by three sisters, Alma, Hazel and Lois; and by two brothers, Herman and Roland. His brother Rudolph followed him in death on Sunday, Nov. 6, 2011.

Surviving are his beloved wife of 55 years, Barbara (Pressey); three sons, Melvin Jr., Mark and Gerard; six grandchildren, Christopher, Tiffany, Joshua, James, Christina and Rachel; a brother, Joseph Pleasant; five great-grandchildren; three brothers-in-law, David (Lear), Booker (Hortense) and Kenneth (Marjorie) Pressey; and a sister-in-law, Elvira Pleasant.

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

Carmella E. (Mammano) Ventre, 76

Carmella E. (Mammano) Ventre died on Thursday, Nov. 10 at her home.

Born and raised in Irvington, Carmella graduated from West Side High School in Irvington and briefly lived in Newark before settling in Clark in 1959.

A member of St. Agnes Parish in Clark, she was well known having worked for Clark Drugs in Clark for over 22 years.

Mrs. Ventre is predeceased by her husband, Joseph who died in 2007 and two brothers, Raymond and Joseph Mammano.

Surviving are two children, a daughter, Catherine DeFrancesco and husband Ron and a son, Joseph Ventre and wife Jennifer; a sister, Maria Petrucci; a brother, Ronald Mammano and wife JoAnn; a granddaughter, Melissa Moorehouse; and a great-granddaughter, Amanda.

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

In addition to flowers, donations can be made to the Multiple Sclerosis Society Mid New Jersey Chapter, 246 Monmouth Rd., Oakhurst, N.J. 07755.

Christine C. (Fresolone) Schaefer

Christine C. (Fresolone) Schaefer died on Tuesday, Nov. 8 at the Barbara E. Cheung Memorial Hospice in Edison.

Christine was born and raised in Newark and lived in Union prior to settling in South Plainfield in 1965.

During her younger years Mrs. Schaefer worked for Prudential in Newark. After she married, Christine became a homemaker caring for her family. Upon raising her two daughters, Mrs. Schaefer decided to

re-enter the workforce working at the Stillman School in Plainfield for 20 years before retirement.

She was a member of the South Plainfield Senior Center where she enjoyed playing scrabble with her fellow seniors. Christine loved crossword puzzles, was an avid reader and was well known at the South Plainfield Public Library.

She is predeceased by her husband, Paul K., who died on May 13, 1993.

Surviving are two daughters, Karen Schaefer of South Plainfield and Cathy Potter of Westampton; a sister, Maryann Boes and husband Robert of Blairstown; two grandchildren, Erik Potter (Christine Schwarz) and Nicholas Potter; and a great-grandchild, Chase Schwarz.

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

Filomena Miniere, 98

Filomena Miniere of South Plainfield passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 9 at The Woodlands in Plainfield.

Born on June 16, 1913 in Plainfield to Michael and Angela (Suppa) Miniere, she resided in Plainfield before moving to South Plainfield in 1980.

Miss Miniere was a supervisor in the womens garment industry for many years. She was a member of the Womens Garment Union (ILGWU), a communicant of St. Bernard and St. Stanislaus Parish in Plainfield and an avid Yankee fan.

Miss Miniere was predeceased by two brothers, Anthony in 2007 and Matthew in 2010 and by a brother-in-law, Nicholas Testa.

She is survived by three sisters, Mary Skula and husband Joseph of Plainfield, Rose Miniere of South Plainfield and Angela Testa of Marlton. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at the South Plainfield Funeral Home.

— IN TRIBUTE — Kevin

Kevin was a traveler who understood we are all fellow travelers ... stranded along roadsides where things are always breaking down... where help is always needed... where a smile is the fiercest weapon to beat back the darkness.



He was not a cautious man. He was an open door—authentic and trusting as sunlight—inviting you into his truck, or his life ... or his heart.

Now he has been called away, leaving behind an empty road. His memory challenges us—not to look back in anger or sorrow—but to follow that road forward beyond our comfort zones—to risk more than others think is safe... to care more than others think is wise... to dream more than others think is practical.

This is Kevin's legacy. It runs through each of us now like a long beckoning highway. Somewhere a tow truck waits—engine idling, ready for the next call... Will we stop to help a stranger? Will we keep our hearts open a little wider, a little longer? Will we use the tow-chains to pull some troubled person to safety... or use them to tie ourselves down, enslaved by fear and anger?

His journey continues on, beyond our ability to understand. But he has left us with these challenges... and these hopes. A gift more precious than gold. We thank you for this, Kevin. We are all better travelers for having known you.



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POLICE REPORT

- On Oct. 26 Derrick D. Headen was arrested at the Ramada Inn for disorderly conduct.
- A Cumberland Street resident reported their unlocked vehicle had been rummaged through. Nothing was taken.
- On Oct. 27 Jennifer Urrutia was arrested for filing a false police report.
- An 11th Street resident reported that their unlocked vehicle had been rummaged through. Nothing was taken.
- A W. Crescent Parkway resident reported the theft of a Redmax leaf blower from their garage.
- On Oct. 30 Quick Check on Sampton Avenue reported the theft of four, 24-packs of Red Bull by a male who fled on foot.
- Eric Vincent Magazine was arrested for obstruction of justice and resisting arrest.
- On Oct. 31 Fady S. Aziz was arrested for careless driving and an outstanding warrant.
- A Clark Lane resident reported that the rear driver's side door and front passenger side door had been dented and the rear passenger side had been scratched.
- A Hillside Avenue resident

- reported the theft of a 1999 Honda quad from their front yard.
- On Nov. 2 Nicholas F. Dicanto was arrested at the Ramada Inn for disorderly conduct.
- On Nov. 3 David Isidro was arrested for driving while intoxicated and reckless driving.
- The DPW reported the theft of four storm grates.
- On Nov. 4 Thomas L. Warthen was arrested for driving on a suspended license, no trucks on Hamilton Boulevard and several outstanding warrants.
- A Salem Street resident reported that their bank card had been used to purchase services on a website.
- On Nov. 5 Betty N. Collins was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.
- A South Clinton Avenue resident reported the theft of their wallet from their unlocked vehicle.
- On Nov. 8 Shop Fair Super Market on Clinton Avenue reported that a customer had left the store without paying for mascara.
- The Erika Lynn Foundation reported the theft of a clothing bin from 2201 South Clinton Avenue.

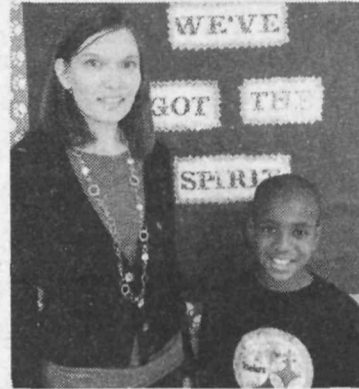


O'Leary Named Junior Journalist

Brandon O'Leary, a fifth grader at Grant School, is this week's winner in the Junior Journalist program. His poem, "South Plainfield Town of Champions," has earned Brandon dinner for his family, courtesy of Hometown Heros.

The program, which encourages students to express themselves through creative writing, is a joint cooperation between Hometown Heros and the *South Plainfield Observer*. Students should submit their original works to their teachers, the *Observer* or to Hometown Heros. Winners are selected weekly; students and their works are published in the *Observer*. Hometown Heros makes arrangements to deliver dinner for the winner's entire family.

At the end of the school year in May, Hometown Heros and the *Observer* hosts a banquet celebrating all of the weekly winners and their families. A \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bond



Junior Journalist winner Brandon O'Leary with teacher Megan Basile.

is awarded to one student by Hometown Heros; additional U.S. Savings Bonds are also awarded. Students are recognized by the mayor and the state assembly as well.

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

South Plainfield Town of Champions

By Brandon O'Leary

Look around and what do you see?
A town of champions looking at me
Our wrestling team is best in state
Our Eagles cheerleaders are 2011 great
Spring Lake Park is loved by all
Friday night football games are a ball!
The PAL Easter egg hunt is the place to be
And the Labor Day parade and fireworks is a must see
South Plainfield is a town to love
It's a perfect fit, like your favorite pair of gloves!

Police Dept. Hires Seven Dispatchers

By Libby Barsky

Seven new dispatchers have been hired by the South Plainfield Police Department in order to reduce the amount of overtime expenses incurred by officers working extended shifts. The dispatchers have completed 80 hours of training in Basic Telecommunicator and Emergency Medical Dispatch courses. They will be working on a per diem basis at \$17.05 an hour.

The dispatchers are Susan Anthony, Teresa Eisenberg, Joseph Grago, Shirley Heron, Christina Tedesco and two retired South Plainfield Police officers, Allen Lamonda and Karl Schuetz.

Councilwoman Chrissy Buteas asked about the hiring methods used, to which Police Chief James Parker responded that he had recruited and advertised for the positions.

According to Chief Parker the dispatchers will save money for the department because they will only work the hours they are needed and will not receive health benefits.

The Borough Council approved the resolution to hire the dispatchers at the November 7 meeting. Originally, the resolution was placed on the agenda for the October 17 meeting; however, it was removed by Chief Parker who had not yet approved its appearance on the agenda. At the time, not all of the new dispatchers had completed the required training courses.

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Austin Family Renews Adopt-A-Spot Contract

Elizabeth Austin has renewed her family's Adopt-A-Spot agreement with the South Plainfield Clean Business Association for the next two years. She and her son will remove litter and recyclables along both sides of Plainfield Avenue between McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals and Maple Avenue.

The Austins joined the Adopt-A-Spot program in 2006, and they have been instrumental in maintaining the streetscape in this busy part of town.

Borough municipal facilities—Borough Hall, the police station, public library, rescue squad, Monument Park, Firefighters' Memorial and the senior center—face the firehouse across Plainfield Avenue, where Spring Lake Park offers a pastoral view. Austin volunteered to adopt this area because so many residents and out-of-town visitors come through and form their impression of the borough here.

This Adopt-A-Spot is important to the downtown area. The CBA is look-

ing for more businesses or individuals to adopt spots in the commercial districts including Hamilton Boulevard, Church Street, South Plainfield Avenue and Oak Tree Avenue. Another area that needs attention is the stretch of Plainfield Avenue between Sampton Avenue and the middle school.

For more information about the Adopt-A-Spot program, contact the Clean Communities coordinator at (908) 226-7621 or email atempel@southplainfieldnj.com.

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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

So, we're back. Miss us? As you read this, South Plainfield Library has been re-opened for nearly a week. And while we've put the downtime to good use (mainly for repairs and reorganization) it's good to be up and fully running again. Now let's bring you up to date on a few things.

First up, we're back on our normal operating schedule. In case you've forgotten, that means we're open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesday and Friday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday; and 1:30 to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Be advised of some upcoming changes: We'll be closing early at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 23, and we'll be closed all day on Thursday, Nov. 24 in observance of Thanksgiving. We'll be closing early at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 29 to allow our staff to attend a special event. (More on that in a moment.)

Regarding our children's programs, Miss Linda and Miss Mija are still getting things squared away in the Children's Room, so we're going to wait to restart our children's story programs until the first full week of December. We'll pass along the full details later on.

Regarding all the items that have been checked out while we've been closed, we're still taking the flood and closing into account. Items that were due during that period won't be charged for overdue fines; however, we'd like to clear up the backlog as soon as we can. So, if you have something out from that period, please return it as soon as possible. If you have any questions about this, please call and ask.

As noted on page 6, the library is once again participating in the Books

to Keep program. We're collecting new books for distribution to needy children and young people during the holiday season. We're getting a late start on the program this year, but we're sure you'll be as generous as you have in the past. You'll find the collection box at the Circulation Desk, along with a collection jar and donation envelopes for those who wish to make a monetary contribution.

Turning back to our early closing on November 29, that's so our staff can attend an award ceremony. The president of our Board of Trustees, Eric Aronowitz, has been honored by the Libraries of Middlesex for his work with the library. We on the staff greatly appreciate his efforts (and it's not just because he signs our paychecks), and we'd like to be there to offer our congratulations when he's officially recognized. Thanks for your consideration on this.

Finally, a request: While we were closed, we were still receiving items we'd ordered for our collection. Unfortunately, with all of our stuff packed away, we couldn't do anything with them. Now, though, we're back to regular service and we're processing them as fast as possible. First, we'd appreciate your consideration as we get these items ready for borrowing. Second, we'd really appreciate your coming in and borrowing the stuff we've already done, so we can free up shelf space for the rest of the new stuff.

That's all for this week. For more information, call us at (908) 754-7885 or visit our website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/southplainfieldlibrary. Thanks for your attention and we'll see you at the library.

You still remember where it is, right?

Classifieds

LOCAL CLASSIFIEDS

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PART-TIME CLERICAL/SECRETARY IN South Plainfield. Fax resume to (908) 412-8635.

OPERATIONS ANALYST (S. PLAINFIELD, NJ)-interpret info obtained from mgmt in order to define op issues. Req- MS in Op Research, Mgmt, or rel. Engineering, + 1yr exp in job. Send res to Hanssem Corp. 155 Helen Street, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

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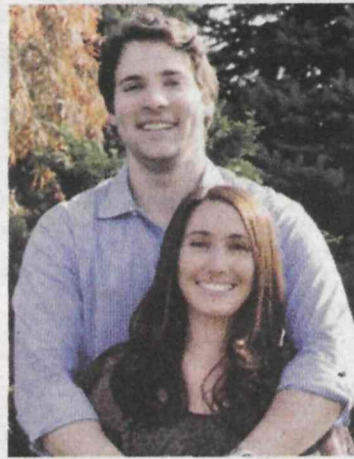
Luke Sprenger

Luke Sprenger, a resident of South Plainfield and a student at St. Joseph High School in Metuchen, has successfully completed the two-week Norwich University Future Leader Camp (FLC) at the nation's first senior military college in Northfield, Vt. The FLC is designed to develop the leadership skills of qualified high school students by providing a challenging and meaningful adventure

camp experience. Physical fitness training was part of the first week, as were paintball, rappelling, climbing, basic first aid training, crisis preparedness, water survival skills, orienteering and leadership classes.

After qualifying, participants went for a day of rappelling on the 80 foot cliffs of Deer Leap Mountain in Killington, Vt., and the following day made a seven-mile hike to the top of Mount Ascutney. After a three day wilderness survival trip, the students were tested in team and individual competitions. Each participant served as a team leader during the program and received a written evaluation from their instructor and senior staff.

To qualify for the FLC, applicants needed a minimum GPA of 2.5 and had to submit letters of recommendation. All applicants also had to demonstrate involvement in leadership-driven organizations such as Junior ROTC, Civil Air Patrol, Sea Cadets, student government, athletics, scouting, church, community, employment and/or volunteer organizations.



Mandy Madurski and Martin Seiz

Madurski, Seiz to Wed

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Madurski of Colonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Mandy Madurski, to Martin Seiz, son of Thomas and Linda Seiz of South Plainfield.

Mandy, a graduate of Columbia University, is an occupational therapist at The Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation. Martin, a graduate of Lehigh University, is a mechanical engineer at the Picatinny Arsenal.

A wedding is planned for 2013.



Congregation Beth Israel's Mitzvah Clowns

Beth Israel Trains Mitzvah Clowns

Congregation Beth Israel in Scotch Plains held its annual training session on November 6 to teach middle school students how to become "Mitzvah Clowns" (clowns who perform good deeds, or "mitzvahs").

The children were taught how to apply face makeup, create balloon animals and engage an audience. Veteran mitzvah clowns then joined the newly trained clowns and entertained

residents at Atria Assisted Living facility in Cranford. The mitzvah clowns will provide entertainment throughout the year at sites such as nursing homes, hospitals and centers for ill or special needs children.

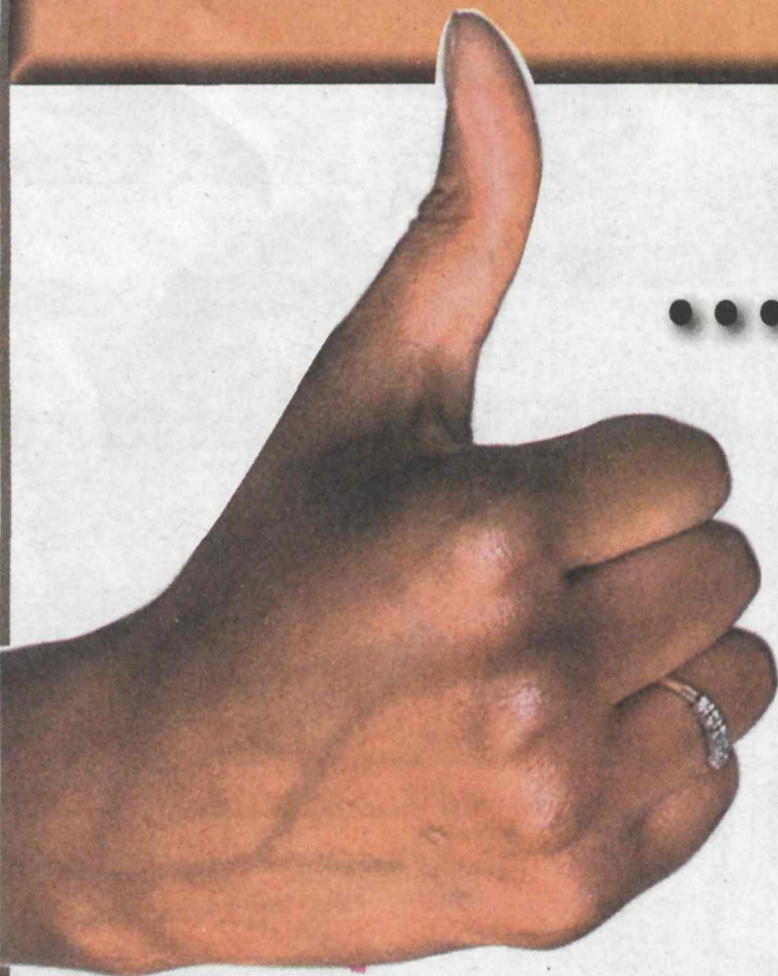
Congregation Beth Israel has been training mitzvah clowns annually for more than a decade. The clown troupe is open to both members and non-members of the synagogue.

Girl Scouts Forming New Troops

The South Plainfield Girl Scouts are still forming new troops and are especially looking for adult volun-

teers. If you are interested, email Michelle Biggs at MichelleB5@comcast.net.

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