

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 1, NO. 19

50 CENTS

JUNE 4, 1998



Officers and members of the VFW and American Legion hosted several Memorial Day ceremonies on May 26. Members laid wreaths at the veteran memorials at Borough cemeteries. During the prior week, the VFW and American Legion placed flags on the graves of all veterans.

Cambodian Holocaust Survivor Addresses High School Students

By Jessica A. Stillman

Dith Pran spoke to the unfailing attention of juniors and seniors at South Plainfield High School on Tuesday, May 19.

Pran, a survivor of the Cambodian holocaust, was invited to the high school by the Social Studies Department to broaden students' understanding of the Vietnam War.

"What you are about to experience is living history," Anthony Barka, history teacher, explained to the students.

Pran is a well-respected authority on the Khmer Rouge regime, under which he suffered. The day before the lecture juniors and seniors viewed *The Killing Fields*, a movie based on Pran's life, as an introduction to the address.

Pran's lecture came to the school in a "fluky" way, according to History Teacher Fran Flannery. "In 1995, my AP [Advanced Placement] class went to Brookdale Community College to

hear Dith Pran speak. A former student, Eric Hanson, kept in touch with Dith via e-mail after the speech," Flannery said.

"I recently met Dith again at Morris County Community College at the New Jersey Council on History Education, and I asked him if he would speak. Then I asked the administration to arrange a date," Flannery said. The department intends to continue Pran's program, inviting him to speak every two years.

Pran's message to the students brings history to life, as Barka explained.

Pran said, "I want to explain this to you as a human being, not at an Asian, African, Jewish...we are all human. Evil should not flourish. Evil doesn't have a color. It is from human beings. It could happen anywhere on this planet."

Pran continued, "If we all understand that we could stop it - it happened to Jews because the world ignored it. It happened in

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Planning Board Reviews Plans For Proposed Apartment Complex

The Planning Board held a special meeting last Monday to review the preliminary plans for an apartment complex to be built on Durham Ave. The site is located on the property formerly operated as a golf range.

Villages at South Plainfield will consist of 252 units, of which 15 percent or 38 units will be designated as affordable housing.

The twelve, three-story buildings will include 126 one-bedroom, 117 two-bedroom and nine three-bedroom apartments.

The complex will also include a swimming pool and clubhouse. Each apartment will have a balcony and a full set of appliances.

There will be two gated entrances, one on Bushwick Ave. leading to Durham and the other on Main Street which intersects with Hamilton Blvd. A carded security system will also be installed.

The Planning Board is scheduled to continue the hearing on June 30. The public portion of the hearing will be held on that evening.

Students Experience the "Realities" Of Drinking and Driving

The South Plainfield Police Department held a drunken driver program at the high school in conjunction with the upcoming prom and graduation. Officers Joe Papa and Allen LaMonda talked to students about the choices they will be making concerning drinking and driving in the coming weeks.

Officer Papa emphasized the dangers of drinking and driving. He said that over 8,000 teens in

the 16-18 age group are killed each year. He told the students, "You have the right and responsibility not to get into a car with a drunken driver."

To prove their point, the officers asked two students put on virtual reality glasses, which simulate a 1.5 alcohol level. Students Kevin O'Keefe and Jen Vedutis both had trouble with their visual perception and could not walk a straight line. They needed the

help of the officers to just stand up straight. "What if these kids were behind the wheel?" asked Officer Papa. To further make an impact on the students, a coffin was on stage in full view during the program.

Officer LaMonda talked about some of his experiences in dealing with drunken drivers and how much one drunken driver incident can affect a student's future. He

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With the assistance of Police Officer Allen LaMonda S.P.H.S. junior Jan Vedutis experiences "virtual" intoxication as part of a police department program designed to warn students about the consequences of drinking and driving.

Construction To Begin On Maple Ave.

Please be advised that construction work is scheduled to begin this week on Maple Ave. from Lakeview to Woodland Avenues and will continue for approximately 120 days. The roadway will remain open during construction.

The work includes reconstruction of the intersection of Maple and Park Avenues and the resurfacing of Maple Ave. from Lakeview to Woodland Avenues. Delays are expected during the construction period.

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In my OPINION

To the Editor:

As another school year nears its end, we would like to take this opportunity to say "thank you" to Dr. Janet Munger for a job well done.

Dr. Munger, the principal at John E. Riley School, came to our wonderful school almost four years ago. She has brought her talent, insight, innovation, generosity, and tireless dedication to our school. Dr. Janet Munger is an educator with a "can do" attitude. She will go the extra mile to help her students at John E. Riley School succeed. She encourages parental and community involvement in school activities, thereby strengthening the bonds between home and school. Her positive and cheerful attitude makes Riley School a truly happy educational environment for her students. Dr. Munger's vision for our school is excellence.

Therefore, it is very distressing for us to hear rumors of her transfer to the Administration Building. We strongly hope it is untrue! Dr. Janet Munger is a vital part of our Riley School family in her role as principal.

We urge all Riley School families to let the Superintendent, Mr. Ferri, and the Board of Education know how pleased we are with what Dr. Munger has accomplished so far. We wish that she will be with us for many, many years to come. Please get involved before it is too late. Write letters, attend Board of Education meetings and sign a petition supporting your principal, Dr. Janet Munger

**SINCERELY,
ANN AND TOM DELANEY**

Dear Editor:

The South Plainfield Environmental Commission and The Friends of the Woods would like

to thank the following residents who came out on Saturday, May 16, to work on fixing up the trails of the Highland Ave. Woods Environmental Education Reserve: Andy Beagle, Barbara Bond and her son David, Terri and Conrad Bussey, Dennis Cerami, Rudy Gallina, Walter Kalman, Andy Keraga, Sarah Miele, Ray Petronko, Jay Scovronek, Keith Slicer and his fiancée Irina and Ed Zappi and his daughters Vicky and Veronica. Despite the suddenly warm weather, everyone worked hard on the trails — repairing damage from (illegal) dirt bikes, mulching, pruning, removing litter, and battling the invasive Japanese Knotweed. We also thank A&P and Freihofer's Bakery for their generous donations of soda and donuts.

It is because of these volunteers and others who have joined previous Trail Maintenance Days that the Nature Reserve stays in good shape for everyone to enjoy year-round. The next formal Walks 'N Talks event is scheduled for June 20 at 7:30 p.m., to celebrate the Summer Solstice. Until then, we hope Borough residents will feel free to explore the trails on their own. Wildflowers are in bloom and birds are nesting. Check it out!

**YOURS TRULY,
ALICE S. TEMPEL,
ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST
DIANNE PERFIT,
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEMBER**

Volunteer Fire Department Report

Chief Abbruzzese reported the fire department answered a total of 130 alarms during March and April. A total of 2,178 man-hours were spent during the two month period.

The breakdown is as follows: alarms, 1,422; maintenance, 378; drills, 241; and extra duty, 137.

RILEY SCHOOL is currently involved in the ongoing "School Fund-raising Made Simple" program sponsored by Target. This program allows Target guests to designate 10% of all Target Guest Card purchases to John E. Riley School in South Plainfield. Funds raised will go toward future playground equipment purchases. Current cardholders of Target Guest Cards can designate J.E. Riley School by calling 1-800-316-6142 or stopping by a Take Charge of Education kiosk at any Target store. If you would like to obtain a guest card, you can pick up an application in the Riley School office or stop by any Target store and complete an application to receive a card immediately.

UPCOMING OBSERVER PUBLICATION DATES:

Issue Date	Copy Deadline
June 18	June 11
July 2	June 25

Copy can be dropped off at Mohn's Flowers on Plainfield Ave., Twice Is Nice on Front St. or E-mail us at nancyg@spobsobserver.com. Mail to G&G Graphics 530 Union Ave., Suite 3, Middlesex, NJ 08846 or fax at 732-805-0815.



Carol Byrne is presented with an award by Marjorie Reedy, President of the Board of Education in recognition of her many years of service as a member of the Board of Education.

BOROUGH NEWS

Council

■ The Council awarded a contract to Garden State Sweeping Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$21,907. They will sweep all Borough roads twice and do an extra sweeping of the Labor Day Parade route before and after the parade.

■ Phil Cortese was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Recycling Commission expiring Dec. 31, 1999.

■ Marvin Deruyscher was appointed to the Library Board of Trustees to fill a vacancy expiring Dec. 31, 1999.

■ Mary Blue was appointed Public Agency Affirmative Action Compliance Officer for the remainder of 1998.

■ An ordinance was proposed prohibiting left hand turns at the intersection of Lakeview Ave. and Church Street; southbound on Lakeview Ave. to Church Street; and westbound on Church St. to southbound on Lakeview Ave.

■ Mayor Gallagher publicly thanked Brian Mazzallan from Timber Creek Landscaping for the work done to prepare the Veterans Memorial Site located in Veterans Park for Memorial Day. Gallagher also asked that a new law be written pertaining to animals on a

leash. After several complaints from residents about dogs running loose, he decided to look up the present law and found we do not have a specific law on the leashing of dogs.

■ Ray Petronko said he has met with Comcast and is working on plans to tape Borough meetings and other special occasions to be played later on the local cable channel. Petronko also announced that people who would like the Eternal Works Television Network, (ETWN) can call Comcast to cast your vote.

Board of Adjustments

■ The Board granted Nicholas Tufaro permission to construct a home on Eleanor Street.

■ Summit Bank on Oak Tree Rd. was granted a use variance to construct a third drive-thru lane, with certain conditions.

■ Home Depot, USA Inc. was granted a preliminary and final site plan to erect a parking lot and screened-in storage space in connection with its existing facility.

■ Sears Roebuck on Park Ave. was denied a use variance for the display and outdoor storage of materials in the sidewalk area.

Borough Council to Honor Cleanup Volunteers

South Plainfield Mayor Dan Gallagher and Borough Council will hold a Clean Communities Awards and Appreciation Ceremony at the regular public meeting on Thursday, June 11, 8:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Municipal Building. All those who participated in Volunteer Litter Pickup Week are invited to attend to receive their certificates. Those

schools that participated in the 1997-98 Clean Campus Program will also be recognized. The winning posters of the Friends of the Woods' Earth Day Celebration Poster Contest will be on display, and the winners will receive their prizes.

For more information, contact the Environmental Specialist at (908) 226-7621.

South Plainfield Observer

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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.

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1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
2. Mail or fax it to: Editorial Department
South Plainfield Observer, 530 Union Ave., Suite 3, Middlesex, NJ 08846 or drop it in the box at Mohn's Flowers on Plainfield Ave. or Twice Is Nice, Front St. or fax us at (732) 805-0815 or email us on the web page at spobsobserver.com. Include your name, address, telephone number.

To Submit Photographs:

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FLAG DAY — The Making of a Holiday in America

The fourth of July has been traditionally celebrated as America's birthday, but the idea of an annual day specifically celebrating our flag is believed to have first originated in 1885. In this year, B.J. Cigrand, a Wisconsin school teacher, arranged for the students in his Fredonia, Wisconsin public school to observe June 14 as "Flag Birthday." That year was the 108th anniversary of the official adoption of the Stars and Stripes. In many magazine and newspaper articles, and public addresses over the following years, Cigrand continued to enthusiastically advocate the observance of June 14 as "Flag Birthday," or "Flag Day."

On June 14, 1889, George Balch, a kindergarten teacher in New York City, planned appropriate ceremonies for the children of his school and his idea of observing Flag Day was later adopted by the New York State Board of Education. In 1891 the

Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia held a Flag Day celebration and in the following year, 1892, the New York Sons of the Revolution began their observance of Flag Day.

In 1894, the Governor of New York directed that on June 14 the flag be displayed on all public buildings. With B.J. Cigrand and Leroy VanHorn as moving spirits, the Illinois organization known as the American Flag

Day Association, was formed for the purpose of promoting the holding of

Flag Day exercises. As a result of their efforts, on June 14, 1894, and under their auspices, over 300,000 children participated in the first general public school children's celebration of Flag Day in Chicago!

Adults too celebrated this event. In 1904, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, a distinctively American organization, began their annual obser-

vance of Flag Day in San Diego. They were to become most instrumental in making this the national holiday we observe today.

In 1914, Secretary of the Interior, Franklin Lane delivered a moving Flag Day address in which he repeated the words he said the flag had spoken to him: "I am what you make me, nothing more. I swing before your eyes as a bright gleam of color, a symbol of yourself!" President Woodrow Wilson, in 1916 and at the urging of citizens across the land, declared June 14 to be a voluntary national observance. However in 1949, at the further urging of the Order of Elks, President Harry Truman, himself an Elk, proudly signed an Act of Congress designating the date June 14 of each year as National Flag Day in America. Thus Flag Day is observed on this date in all government offices and buildings everywhere.

Throughout all of the evolution of the various Flag Day celebrations and observances, the clearest signs of devotion to Flag and country still come from the citizens who fly our flag on this great day of respect. Citizens like the two Elk Marines who helped carry the flag to the top of Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima a generation ago, and like our children who go to school today that they may learn from the lessons of the past. The price of freedom and liberty remains high, and our Flag is the symbol of our high reward. This June 14 will see Americans everywhere celebrate Flag Day once again. Remember well our Flag, and it's long and glorious history. This is truly a day for all of us to celebrate and enjoy.

(This brief history of the Flag Day tradition in America is offered for the enrichment of all Americans by Briggs Longbothum who is a contributing editor to the South Plainfield Observer)

OUTSTANDING DEDICATION

William Nothnagel Will be Missed

By Mary Hohner
Contributing Correspondent

When William Nothnagel retires from the South Plainfield Recreation Department in June, it will be from a career in community service that has spanned over 25 years. For anyone who has participated in the Recreation Department's sports programs, Bill has been a ubiquitous and dependable presence as program coordinator.

As co-worker Mary Ann Schnyderite says, "Everyone loves Bill. He's a great guy."

Bill's involvement with the Recreation Department began in the summer of 1972 when he spent the nine weeks of his summer vacation from teaching as a counselor in the South Plainfield Parks Program.

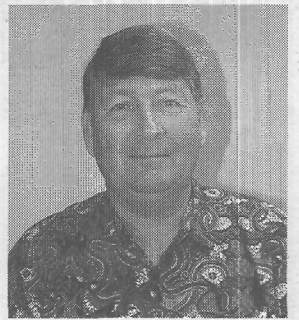
In the fall of 1972, he initiated and organized a basketball league for fifth- and sixth-grade students, in which the elementary schools in town formed their own basketball teams and competed against each other.

Shortly thereafter, the position of Recreation Department Program Coordinator became available, and Bill was hired to fill the position.

"I was just in the right place at the right time," Bill explains.

What Bill considers a fortuitous circumstance evolved into a job that often brings him into the Recreation Department office early in the morning before he begins his day as a physical education teacher at Riley School and then back again in the evening for several hours. He's even been known to make a quick trip into the office during his lunch hour!

As program coordinator for over 25 years, Bill has been a key figure in many of the community events that are cherished South Plainfield traditions, such as the Halloween Parade, Easter Egg



Hunt and Fishing Derby. He has been integrally involved in the youth and adult sports programs — he oversees the selection of teams, the assignment of coaches, and the scheduling of games, umpires and referees. Bill also checks the condition of the playing fields for safety and playability.

According to Nothnagel, the satisfaction in the job has been in seeing children participate in the sports programs, develop their athletic ability and enjoy playing the game.

"The best part of the job has been the kids," he says. "It's great to see so many children involved, learning about sports and getting exercise. My hope is that these good experiences will stay with them, and they will continue to make recreational activities a part of their lives."

Bill was recently recognized by the Pony Tail Softball League with a plaque commemorating his many years of outstanding service. He is also a recipient of the Governor's Teacher Recognition Award and will be honored for this distinction at a reception on May 21 at the East Brunswick Chateau.

While Bill admits candidly that he will miss all of the people with whom he has worked at the Recreation Department, he and his wife, Nancy, look forward to the day when he is also ready to retire from his teaching career.

"I've met and worked with some great people," he says. "My wife and I look forward to the next stage in our lives, and I will have some great memories."

Bill added, "I would also like to thank all the parents who volunteered their time to coach and help their children's coaches throughout the years. Without them, we would not have the youth programs we do."

Drama Workshop Holds Auditions for Guys & Dolls

The South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop will be holding auditions for its upcoming Musical "Guys & Dolls." The Auditions will be held at the South Plainfield High School located at 200 Lake St. All South Plainfield residents entering the sixth grade and up to graduating high school seniors are encouraged to attend the auditions on June 6 and June 11 from 6-9 p.m. Auditioners will have to sing and should wear comfortable clothes for movement.

We are also looking for people to help on other aspects of the production, including costumes, stage crew and lighting. For further information please call Patricia Abbott 756-8011.

Carousel Hair Salon

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Hometown Family Fun Theme of Labor Day Parade

It's official: "Family + Fun = Our Hometown" is this year's parade theme. Please join us September 7 for the 41st Annual South Plainfield Labor Day Parade.

The South Plainfield Public Celebrations Committee is now accepting nominations for Honorary Grand Marshal of the Labor Day Parade. If you would like to nominate someone, write to: Public Celebrations, 303 Lexington Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

If you're a nonprofit organization and would like to have a concession stand in Veterans' Park on

Labor Day, write to: Public Celebrations, 214 Hopkinson Street, South Plainfield, NJ 07080

Kindergarten Orientation Scheduled

A kindergarten orientation program will be held June 4 at 7 a.m. in Kennedy School for the parents/guardians of children entering kindergarten in September 1998. This orientation will provide important information concerning various aspects of the kindergarten experience, including curriculum, health and transportation services, the latchkey program, special summer programs

and tips for helping parents to prepare their children for kindergarten. Parents who have not yet registered their children for kindergarten are urged to do so at the Transportation Department (Rm 21) of the administration building between 8:00 a.m. and noon, Monday through Thursday.

Children who will reach the age of five by October 1 are eligible for enrollment. Parents with questions should call Mrs. Schenck at 754-4620, Ext. 224.

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events around town

William Tuthill Book Signing at Local Bank

On June 12 Bill Tuthill will be signing his book, "Mission to Haiti: Stories of Some of Our Experiences While Serving at Mission at Haiti" at United National Bank on St. Nicholas Ave., South Plainfield, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

St. Anthony's Carnival at Our Lady of Czesochowa

Our Lady of Czesochowa will hold their Annual St. Anthony's Carnival June 1-6 on the church grounds.

Blood Drive to be Held at High School

The American Red Cross Greater Plainfield Chapter and New Jersey Blood Services is holding an emergency blood drive on June 6 at the First Unitarian Church, 724 Park Ave., Plainfield, from 3 to 8:30 p.m. This drive will serve Dunellen, Edison, Fanwood, Green Brook, North Plainfield, Plainfield, Scotch Plains, South Plainfield, Warren and Watchung. Type-O and Type-B blood supplies exist only in a one-day supply.

Donors must be in good health, weigh 110 pounds or more, be between 17 and 76 years old and have a form of identification. Seventeen-year-olds may donate with signed parental consent.

Bank Holds Wine and Cheese Card Exchange

First Union Bank will hold a wine and cheese card exchange on the evening of June 10 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at their branch office on Oak Tree Road.

Cemetery Walk To be Repeated

The Environmental Commission is holding a repeat History Walk on June 6 at 1 p.m. in the Samptown Cemetery. One of the oldest cemeteries in the area, it contains the graves of many people who were prominent in the area's history. It is located in what was once the churchyard of the

Samptown Baptist Church. Mr. Randolph, local historian and chairman of the Environmental Commission, will lead the walk.

There is limited parking on the cemetery grounds. Additional parking is available along side streets in the neighborhood. Rain will cancel the event. For more information, call A. Tempel, environmental specialist at (908) 226-7621.

Cedarcroft Bible Chapel Hosts Party

In celebration of their centennial, Cedarcroft Bible Chapel will be holding a neighborhood Block Party on June 6 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m..

The Chapel will be holding a free pig roast from 5:30 to 7:00. If interested in the roast, contact the Chapel at (908) 756-8244 to give your name and the number of persons in your party.

From 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., contemporary Christian musician Kevin Doyle will be entertaining. The concert is also free and will be held indoors in the case of inclement weather.

Book Fair to be Held at John E. Riley

On June 3, 4 and 5, a Scholastic Book Fair will be held at John E. Riley School. The Fair will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. The public is welcome to

come and shop. Outsiders are requested to sign in at the main office prior to going to the fair in the gym/all purpose room if shopping during school hours.

Proceeds will go towards needed library materials. For further information or questions, call Janice Gray at 754-7524.

Celebration Dinner Planned for Father Michael McGuire

Sacred Heart is planning to hold a dinner dance in celebration of the 40th anniversary of Father McGuire's ordination to the priesthood.

The affair will be held at the Pines Manor, Rt. 27, Edison on June 29 starting at 5 p.m. with a cocktail hour and hors d'oeuvres followed by dinner. The price is \$50 per person. For information and reservations call the Parish Center at 765-0633.

Historical Society to Hold Yard Sale

The South Plainfield Historical Society will be holding a yard sale on June 13 at 711 Thompkins Avenue from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

The Historical Society will be accepting small furniture, household items, etc. Items may be dropped off at 126 Baker Avenue or 510 Franklin Avenue. For information call 756-9654 or 753-7852.

To have your organization included in events around town, submit your information to the Observer editorial department at 530 Union Ave. Suite 3, Middlesex, NJ 08846 or fax to 732 805-0815.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Time for some more news from South Plainfield Library. We'll be following our regular storytime schedule for the next two weeks.

The programs for children ages three to six are at 6:30 p.m., Tuesdays at 10:15 a.m. and Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. The programs for children ages one and one-half to three years old are on Thursdays at 11 a.m. There is no need to register for these programs. For more information, talk to Judy Fischer, the Children's Librarian.

Mark your calendars! The kick-off program for this year's summer reading club, "Reading Round-Up", is set for Saturday, June 20 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. It will feature games, crafts and pony rides. Space for the pony rides is limited, so you must register in advance. There is also a weight limit. Again, Judy Fischer can provide more information.

The Library Board of Trustees will meet on Tuesday, June 9 at 7:30 p.m. Members of the public are encouraged to attend.

This month's group of circuit videos is now available. Tapes can be borrowed from this group until June 27.

While we're talking about videos, we've just added some tapes to our permanent collection. These include *Platoon*, *No Way Out*, *Casino* and the Special Edition of the *Star Wars Trilogy*. Like all of our tapes, they can be borrowed for two days. Additions to the juvenile and collections are coming soon.

For those of you who missed our column in the last issue here's an important reminder. Starting June 1, we'll be adding a 50-cent postage/materials charge on overdue items for which we send out

notices. We're also charging a processing fee to patrons who lose the bar-code cards from circuit items. As you can see, keeping track of the items you borrow makes good economic sense.

With all this talk about finances, you might be wondering how much you owe, if you owe at all. There's an easy way to find this out, aside from asking us. Our catalog terminals can now provide access for patrons to check their own records (outstanding fines, checked-out books, etc.). If you're worried about somebody else tapping into your private files, don't be. Records are accessed by your personal bar-code number (which, we assume, you haven't shared with anyone). All in all, it's pretty convenient.

Finally, Saturday, June 6 marks the anniversary of the D-Day invasion of Normandy. Our video collection includes the film *The Longest Day*, the acclaimed star-studded re-enactment of this pivotal event. Or, for those who prefer pages to videotape, we have Cornelius Ryan's book, upon which the movie was based. Both items are highly recommended.

School Board To Present Recognition Awards

Please be advised that the Special Public Meeting for Student/Staff Recognition Awards, originally scheduled for June 9, has been changed to Tuesday, June 16, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Board Conference Room, Administration Building on Cromwell Place.



FREE ESTIMATES

- HOMES • DECKS
- PATIOS • WALKWAYS
- DRIVEWAYS

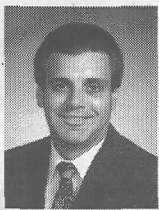
For more information, please call Vinny at

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The South Plainfield Observer						
June 1998						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	High School Prom Night 5	6
	Recreation Comm. 7 pm	Board of Adjustment 8 pm	Court 9:30 am Business Advisory Group 6:30 pm	Taxpayers Advisory Group 7:00 pm Publication of So. Plfd. Observer		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Council Agenda Meeting 8 pm	SP Library Bd of Trustees 7:30 pm Historical Society 7:30 SP High School Bd. of Health 8:00 pm Planning Bd. 8:00 pm	Environmental Comm 8:00 pm Cultural Arts Comm. 8:00 pm PAL Court 9:30 am & 7:00 pm	Council Meeting 8 pm Copy Deadline for So. Plfd. Observer		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Flag Day	Land Management Advisory Committee 7:30 p.m.	Board of Adjustment 8 pm	Court 9:30 am 7:00 pm	Publication of So. Plfd. Observer	High School Graduation	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Father's Day	Council Agenda Meeting 8 pm	Planning Bd. 8:00 pm	Traffic Safety Advisory Comm. 7:00 pm Court 9:30 am 7:00 pm	Recycling Comm. 8:00 pm Council Meeting 8 pm Copy Deadline for So. Plfd. Observer		

The Alternative View

By Dr. Anthony J. DeCosta, D.C.



I have recently been reading about the current crisis of antibiotic resistant bacteria. Do you have any information on this? - L.P.

Dear L.P.:

Antibiotics are valuable drugs when they are used appropriately. But the evidence today points to massive overuse. Antibiotics are often prescribed for medical conditions that do not warrant them. For instance, they are routinely given for colds, but most colds are the result of viral infections, and while antibiotics kill bacteria, they have no effect on viruses.

A recent study published in The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), entitled, "Antibiotic Prescribing for Children With Colds, Upper Respiratory Tract Infections, and Bronchitis," reports that "antibiotic prescribing for children diagnosed as having colds, URIs and bronchitis, conditions that typically do not benefit from antibiotics, represents a substantial proportion of total antibiotic prescriptions to children in the United States each year." Upon review of pediatric data, 44 percent of those with colds got a worthless antibiotic, 46 percent for URIs and 75 percent for bronchitis. When extrapolated to the nation, the data suggests that 11.2 million unnecessary and worthless prescriptions are written for children every year.

The use of antibiotics can also result in a variety of side effects due to the way their powerful actions can interfere with the delicate balance of the body's systems. This can result in the destruction of the friendly bacteria in the body, leading to yeast overgrowth, both locally, such as in vaginal infections, and systemically, in the form of candidiasis; interference of nutrient absorption; the development of food allergies; recurrent ear infections; and immune suppression, as evidenced by the large percentage of adults suffering from chronic fatigue syndrome who have histories of recurrent antibiotic treatment as children or adolescents.

Bacteria develop resistance to drugs when exposed to them for

extended periods. Bacteria can also pass the genes for resistance from one type to another. A sort of information superhighway exists among bacteria that allow resistance to spread rapidly among bacteria that have not even been exposed to a particular antibiotic. These and other factors have caused traditional medicine to take a halting look at the current way in which antibiotics are used.

Many alternative health care doctors believe that illness from bacterial infection is far more likely when the immune system is compromised in some manner. A proper working nervous system (neuroimmunology), diet, nutrition, lifestyle, environment, social and psychological factors all influence the immune system in significant ways.

When unfavorable changes occur in these areas, immune function may suffer and bacteria may more easily gain a foothold. The treatment of bacterial infection should, therefore, at least include efforts to correct imbalances in these areas. The use of chiropractic, proper diet, regular exercise, proper rest, reduction of pollutants, and reduction of stress are all ways to improve immune function.

In *Emerging Infections: Microbial Threats to Health in the United States*, the Institute of Medicine, in Washington, D.C., urges that to solve the antibiotic crisis, we must adapt "health-promoting behaviors", such as I have listed above. For further information on these health-enhancing behaviors, I refer you to the book by Dr. Michael A. Schmidt, *Beyond Antibiotics: 50 (or so) Ways to Boost Immunity and Avoid Antibiotics*, North Atlantic Books, 1994.

Questions for *The Alternative View* should be addressed to: *The Alternative View*, c/o Dr. Anthony J. DeCosta, D.C., 129 South Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080



Vo-Tech Students Honored for Railcar Restoration Project Efforts

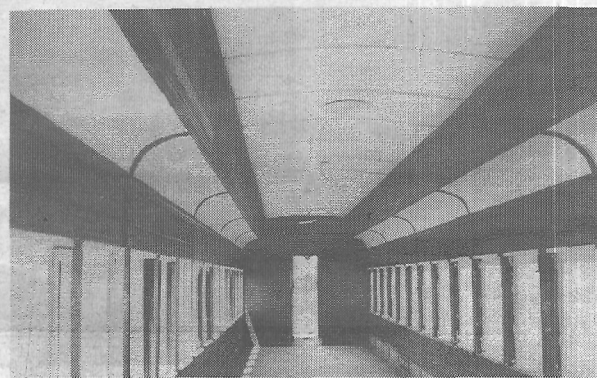
By William Tutthill

Middlesex County Vo-Tech High School students were honored at a picnic-party recognizing the work they have been doing on the railroad renovation on Thursday, May 28. The railcar will become the future home of the South Plainfield Historical Society Museum.

Since last October Vo-Tech students have been putting in two hours a day, twice a week. The ceiling is in place and painted. New lighting fixtures have been installed and wired. The mahogany paneling has been hand-sanded and prime-coated.

New windows were built, using Lexan in place of glass. The next job is sandblasting the rusty spots to prepare the car for painting.

Each of the participating students was presented a certificate of



The restored interior of the Central Railroad Observation Car, the future home of the South Plainfield Historical Society Museum.

recognition from the Borough of South Plainfield. Joseph Colombo, superintendent of Vo-Tech Schools, says he welcomes this type of project for the students. He said it gives the students a real hands-on-

the-job feeling. Robert Terrano is the principal of Piscataway Vo-Tech and John Ujobi is the instructor in the construction trades classes.

Participating students were Daheem Cooly, Erwin Fenn, Charles Washington, Christopher Stokes, William Balian, Paul Manfre, Travis McPartland, Greg Tarantino, Rodney Williams, Joseph Canavari, Scott Mann, Alex Zaballis, Cory Brown, Ryan Hoffman, Lawrence Orders, Keith Hollaway, Louis Battone and Michael Herbert.

Students from the Adult Evening School's Maintenance Mechanics Class who assisted the students by rewiring and hanging fixtures were also present. They are Bill Turkus (Instructor), Richard Cichowski, Glenroy Anglin, Barry Pearse, Jose Rodrigues, Richard J. Anderson, Robert Moffett, Alaa Hasein and Richard Van Pelt.

Six students of Mr. Ujobi's class will be graduating in June. The others plan to return in September to put the "finishing touches" to the job.



Pictured above are from left to right: John Ujobi, Vo-Tech High School instructor; Darlene Pinto, S.P. Business Association member; Mayor Dan Gallagher; Paulette Giroux, president, South Plainfield Business Association; Rusty Spooner, Joe Klein And Joey Massa of Home Depot; Maria Elena Jennette and Art Muglia of the South Plainfield Business Association.

Attention Graduates

If you are a graduating high school or college South Plainfield resident or have made the dean's list, please send us your name, school and personal information along with your photograph and telephone number. We would like to include you in the June 18 issue of the South Plainfield Observer.

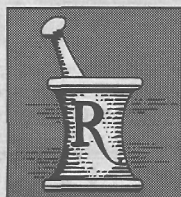
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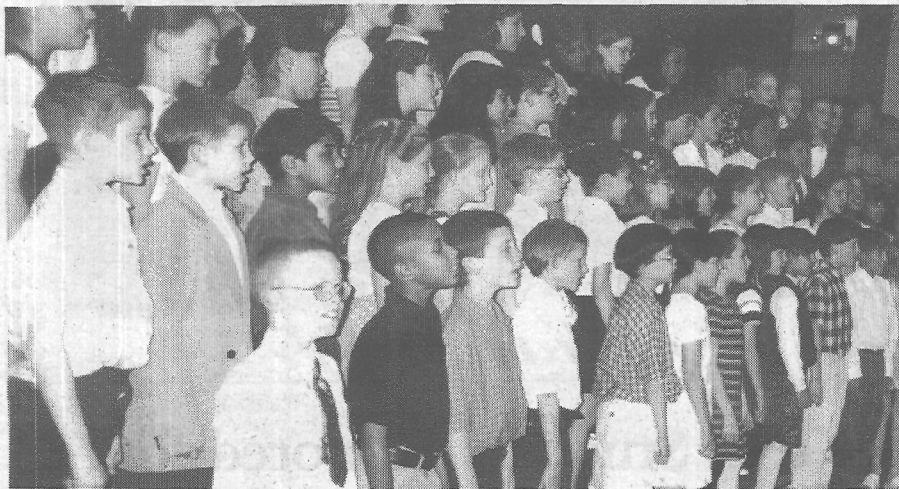
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Congratulations to South Plainfield graduates!!

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School Work

Riley School Celebrates the Arts at Spring Concert



Students at John E. Riley School showcased their musical talents at the annual Spring Concert on April 27 in the All-Purpose Room. 173 fourth and fifth grade students performed for their proud parents, relatives and friends.

The concert opened with third graders performing five selections on the recorder, under the direction of Joanne Gurske, vocal music teacher. The children began studying in January in preparation for this performance. In addition to learning how to play a musical instrument, students learned to read musical notation, perform together in an ensemble and present a performance.

The String Ensemble performed six selections, including "Trumpet



Tune" by Purcell, "Feather Theme" from *Forrest Gump*, "Crystal City March," "Austrian Folk Song" and

"Petite Tango." The ensemble includes 32 students from third, fourth and fifth grade. This was the



first concert for the third grade students. Carleen Tedeschi, director of the ensemble, founded the string program in South Plainfield 24 years ago and currently teaches strings at Riley, Kennedy and the Middle School.

The Riley School Band, under the direction of Mrs. Joan Stasio, has 33 members in the fourth and fifth grades. Highlights of this portion of the concert included "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" and selections from *Anastasia*. This concert was also the premier of the Riley School Jazz Ensemble which played a piece called "Bionic Blues" from *The Little Jazz Suite*. Mrs. Stasio is a graduate of South Plainfield High Schools and has been the instrumental director at

Riley and Franklin School for the past 14 years.

The concert concluded with selections by the Riley School Chorus under the direction of Joanne Gurske. The 75-member chorus performed five selections, including a ragtime song, a spiritual and the finale, a patriotic tribute. Mrs. Gurske has been the vocal music teacher at Riley School since 1972 and has taught music in all the other elementary schools over the years.

Many of the students involved in this concert also had the opportunity to participate in the All-District Music Festival which was held March 27 at South Plainfield High School. This event is held yearly to celebrate National Music in Our Schools Month.

Students Create Garden Habitat at S.P. High School



SPHS students cultivate the garden as part of the Schoolyard Habitat grant.

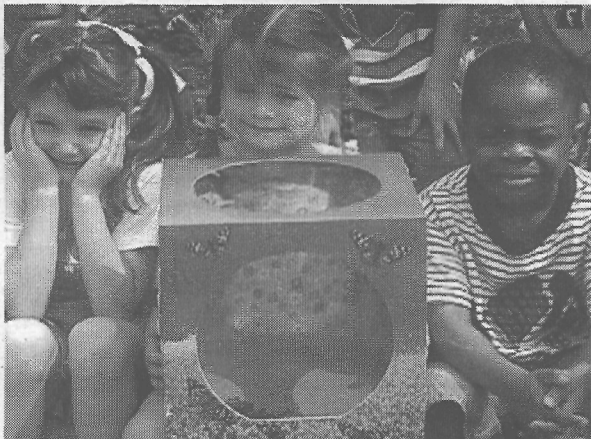
By Patricia Abbott
A seed was planted and an idea grew and blossomed. The result of this "seed" can be found on the circle in the front of South Plainfield High School. The non-descript grassy area in the center of the circle is being transformed into a butterfly garden.
Because of their desire to create environmental awareness in others South Plainfield residents Emil Leporino, Dr. Emile Devito, a naturalist, Diane Perfit, and Dr. Alice Tempel are at the core of this ongoing project. It was Dr. DeVito who suggested the butterfly garden. From this point on, the project took off much as the newly released butterflies in the garden did.
The idea was brought before

Vice Principal Helen Gottlieb. Her enthusiasm was contagious and four high school teachers immediately became involved: Mary Ann Smith, environmental science and biology teacher, Mike English, social studies teacher, John Lartaud, applied arts teacher

and Greg Genz, a special education teacher. Mike English began fund-raising for the project, while Mary Ann Smith began researching grants. Three grants were issued. The first for \$5,000 came from Middlesex County for plant life in a school yard habitat. The second was a recycling grant for \$800. The trellis, borders and benches in the garden will be made of recycled plastic bottles that are turned into plastic wood. The third grant for \$2,500 was used for site preparation.

In February of 1996, Dr. DeVito asked Hazel England, a naturalist for Somerset County Environmental Commission to speak to the students and the committee. Her words fueled more interest and the source of manpower expanded. On any given day you can find teachers and student volunteers hard at work on the site. Hazel England also designed the garden. It was this copyrighted design that gar-

See HABITAT, Page 11



Preschoolers from Pat Santillo's Future Stars "Rainbow Group" raised butterflies for a class project. The butterflies were released on May 29 at South Plainfield High School garden.

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Sunday 7:45, 9:00, 10:30 a.m. and 12 Noon
Weekdays 9:00 a.m. (church)
Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.
Holy Days 7 p.m. (Vigil); 7, 9 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 11 a.m.- 12 noon, 5:15 -5:45 p.m.
and after 5:45 p.m. Vigil Mass

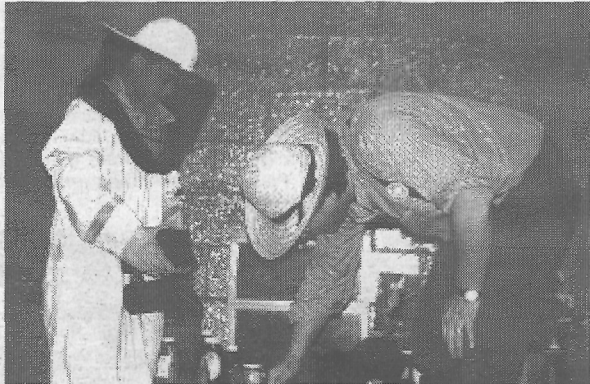
Roosevelt Students Enjoy "Dancin' With the Honeybees" Program

Cliff Wright-Sunflower is a master beekeeper and a master environmental educator who recently visited Roosevelt School. In his audience participation program, "Dancin' With the Honeybees," he brought the scientific

balance of the bee colony and the world around it - how fruits and flowers depend on bees to reproduce, and what that means to each of us.

"Without bees, we'd have no apples," Cliff said.

Honey Farms. As an environmental educator talented in audience communication, Wright-Sunflower relates the bee world he has come to know by weaving music, puppetry skills and scientific understanding into a program of creative dramatics that makes "Dancin' With the Honeybees" an educational and entertaining event.



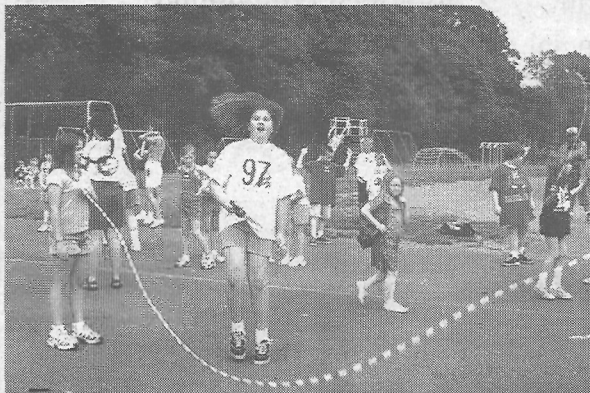
Roosevelt School participates in "Dancin' With the Honeybees."

magic of the beehive to life. First, he demonstrated the precision of a beekeeper working in a beehive. He then turned children and accompanying adults into a working hive, complete with queen, nursemaids, brood, construction workers, drones, guards and flowers. The children learned firsthand about the delicate and complex

Cliff's enthusiastic reverence for science was contagious and inspiring.

Wright-Sunflower has gained a hands-on understanding of bees and their place in the natural world through his 12 years of experience as a beekeeper, working with wife Lois and their four children on the 200-beehive Bear

Franklin Students "Jump" For The American Heart Assoc.



Franklin School students "Jump for the Heart"

Franklin School held their Fifth Annual "Jump for the Heart". A record number of students from all grades raised money for the American Heart Association by jumping rope. The 200-plus student earned money by garnering sponsors to support their jumping. The students were divided into teams and took turns jumping rope in the parking lot of the school. The Jump for the Heart event was held under the direction of Gym Teacher Drew Smith. The day proved to be very warm but the weather didn't hamper the jumpers' efforts. The students raised a record \$7,713.75 for the American Heart Association, sur-

passing last year's \$5,000. Each student received a certificate for his/her participation and enjoyed a pizza party and refreshments afterward.

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Habits That Save the Habitat

Middle School students recently traded daily lessons for a lesson on the environment. On Wednesday, May 20, South Plainfield resident Dave Street brought his *Habits that Save the Habitat* theatrical program to the school. The program teaches litter prevention as the start of environmental responsibility. Street presented three shows, one for each grade. The students responded enthusiastically and Dave said, "They were so great, it made me proud to be from South Plainfield."

Dave grew up in South Plainfield and attended local schools. He travels state-wide presenting a variety of environmental programs. While the shows are for grade school age through high



Dave Street

school, he specializes in middle schools. He has performed in South Plainfield as well as in Plainfield, North Brunswick, South Brunswick and Red Bank.

The presentation was sponsored by the South Plainfield Clean Communities Program administered by the South Plainfield Environmental Commission.

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SCHOOL HAPPENINGS SACRED HEART



Field Day - 1998

After two weeks of rain, beautiful sunshine and cool breezes welcomed Sacred Heart students (K-7 grade) to a morning of jumping, running, sack racing, obstacle course maneuvering, T-ball batting, inflatable javelin throwing, et al., at Field Day 1998, sponsored by the Home & School Association on Wednesday, May 13. Two hours of field events were organized by Gym Teacher



Debbie Fusco, and conducted by the eighth graders. Students, in teams of four, participated in activities, from formal athletics such as basketball shooting, to purely fun

events such as a relay race, in which each runner had to eat a cracker and then whistle in the middle of the race. A barbecue lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs, fruit, drinks and goodies were served by HSA members and parent volunteers. Everyone enjoyed a day of sharing good fun, good food, and glorious weather.

Pre-K "Precious Heartbeats" Hold Graduation

The sound of children singing filled the gym, as Sacred Heart School's Pre-K program "Precious Heartbeats", held its graduation ceremonies at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 28. Led by Teacher Julie Anderson and full-time aide Joan Monroe, the children performed several songs learned during the year, received their diplomas and then enjoyed punch, cookies and cake with their families.

The Pre-Kinder-graduates are: Shannon Bell, Nicole Chabok, Helena Cunicella, Lauren Keané, Oliver Howarth, Kelly Pauls, Alicia Petgrave, Jason Presley, Gerald Pinto, Alexandra Pisack, Allyson Ricarte, Karla Rodriguez, Jake Salerno, Bridget Taylor, Brian Tjong, Kristin Treslar and Joseph Valente.

Mrs. Anderson describes the Pre-K curriculum as following Sacred Heart's philosophy of developing the whole child, spiritually, physically, socially and intellectually. She feels that for four year olds learning should be fun, and spark wonder and enthusiasm in the children. Academics include letter and number recognition and books based on penguins, dinosaurs and much more. Motor skills are stressed in arts and crafts, as well as active play. Religious and social values introduce children to the Bible and encourage respect for others. According to Mrs. Denise Muglia, a former pre-K parent, "I feel the academic and spiritual aspects of Sacred Heart's Pre-K prepared my child for kindergarten better than other programs in the area that I am familiar with. I highly recommend it."

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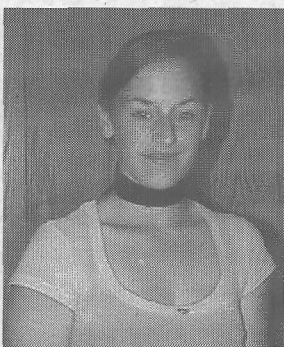
South Plainfield High School Girls Softball Team Win GMCT

The South Plainfield Softball Team defeated J.P. Stevens 2-1 last Saturday to take the Greater Middlesex Conference Softball Tournament.

Joy Walter pitched a one-hitter, struck out five and retired 20 consecutive batters in the game. J.P. Stevens's pitcher Krystle Petty allowed only two hits, struck out six and walked one.

The only hit by J.P. Stevens came in the first inning, advancing Joanne DiMuzio to third. She had reached first on an error, was sacrificed to second and scored when Lauren Feeley hit a grounder to the pitcher, Joy Walter. Walter threw home, but it was not in time. The catcher, Sheryl Thimons, then threw out DeMartini who was attempting to advance to third base on the play. This was the only run J.P. Stevens produced in the game. Walter did not allow another runner in the final six innings.

South Plainfield scored two runs in the fourth inning. Amanda Bremer led off with a single to center and took second on a walk to Joy Walter. Laura Walter hit a grounder to the shortstop, who overthrew third base, allowing



Joy Walter

Bremer to score easily.

Dana Curcio's single past second base allowed the second run to score. These two runs were all South Plainfield needed.

Walter is ending her high school career with a record of 83-17. She holds a 4.08 grade point average and will be attending St. Peter's on a softball scholarship. She also helped lead South Plainfield to the field hockey championships.

Joy was also recently honored as top female student athlete at the 36th annual Greater Middlesex Conference Scholar-Athlete Banquet held recently.

Junior Baseball Club Standings

Small Fry A

Team	Wins	Losses
Braves	7	2
Devil Rays	7	2
Mariners	6	3
Marlins	4	5
Diamond		
Backs	3	4
Yankees	3	7
Mets	1	8

Pony A

Teams	Wins	Losses
Marlins	7	1
Devil Rays	3	2
Mariners	3	3
Diamond		
Backs	2	3
Mets	3	5
Yankees	2	7

Pony B

Teams	Wins	Losses
Yankees	9	0
Devil Rays	4	4
Diamond		
Backs	3	4
Marlins	4	7
Mets	3	8

You can fax your baseball/softball standings to us at 732-805-0815, or call us at 732-469-4380.



Members of the Oakland Athletics are: Erika Blaszk, James Charneco, Vincent Genova, Matthew Gross, Rob Maistickle, Thomas Manolio, David Miglis, Billy Moates, Brain Murtagh, Anthony Petriello and Daniel Piowar. The manager is Joe Maistickle and coaching is Kevin Murtaugh.



Members of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays: Kyle Baker, Anthony Ettore, Nicholas Grego, Nicholas Jeffreys, Justin Kelly, Nicholas Sbordone, Stephen Tangorra, Kyle Thomas, Frankie Vedutis. The manager is Joe Grego and coaching is Jack Kelly.

Junior Baseball Club Notes....

The South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club will hold its annual All Star Weekend this Sunday, June 7 at the baseball complex. Teams from the American and National League will be playing in each age group from 8 to 15.

The game times for the respective age groups are as follows:

ages 8,9,10,13 play at 1:00 p.m. Ages 11 through 15 play at 4:00 p.m. Scheduled events include a radar gun to clock pitching speeds, a possible home run derby, and PA announcers at each field.

The day is planned to be a family affair, so come out and enjoy

the fun. Hot dogs and soda will be provided for the players.

The traveling all-star tryouts were recently held and teams will be picked this week.

The Baseball Dance scheduled for Saturday, June 13 has been cancelled.



The South Plainfield Community is open on weekends.

Top Ten Reasons To Join the Community Pool

- 1 Scientists say 1998 is going to be a very HOT summer!
- 2 The leak is fixed and the water is great!
- 3 Pool membership is such a bargain!
- 4 Pool membership is a great way to meet people!
- 5 It's a nice way to get out of the house and still stay cool.
- 6 The staff is committed to making your pool experience terrific!
- 7 It's a great way to let the kids let loose while mom and dad take it easy!
- 8 Someone else worries about the lawn, the chemicals and the liability!
- 9 The pool complex is beautiful and clean!
- 10 No need to deal with shore traffic, gas or tolls!

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Ribbon Cutting Marks Opening Of First Union Banking Centers



First Union National Bank conducted ribbon-cutting ceremonies recently to officially open its two new financial centers at 905 Oak Tree Road and 4801 Stelton Road. Mayor Dan Gallagher and Vito Nardelli, First Union's Consumer Banking Director, cut the official ribbons at both locations. Assisting in the ribbon cuttings were Freeholders H. James Polos and David B. Crabel and First Union team members Mark Tasy, Colleen Connolly, Harry DeLorenzo, Leonard Sullivan, Alfred LaBianca, John Choy, Alanna Stufano, Joan Roberts and Nancy Huffman.

First Union broke ground during the first quarter of 1998 and spent approximately one million dollars at each location to construct the new offices. "These new financial centers demonstrate our commitment to the South Plainfield community," said Vito Nardelli, First Union's Consumer Banking Director. "We're planning for growth in the future and these new offices will provide us the perfect environment to best serve our customers."

The new financial centers have expanded interior space to best serve customers as well as safe deposit facilities, night depositories, three lane drive-up facilities including an ATM, on-site parking and beautifully landscaped grounds.

Both financial centers offer traditional banking services in addition to mutual funds and annuities, a variety of investment options, trust services and other products.

Local Students Will Attend Presidential Classroom Program

Christopher Santoro and Elizabeth Santoro, students at Saint Joseph's High School and Mount Saint Mary's Academy, will travel to our nation's capitol as participants in Presidential Classroom, America's premier civic education program. The program will take place June 13 to June 20.

Joining hundreds of high school students from across the country and abroad, Christopher and Elizabeth will take part in seminars presented by leaders representing each branch of government, the military, media and lobbying organizations. Students are also scheduled for a private tour of the White House, appointments with their Senators' and Representatives' offices and a visit to a foreign embassy.

The balance of the week in Washington will be filled with small-group workshops on today's hottest issues, visits to the monuments and museums, a night at the theater and a commencement celebration.

Since 1969, Presidential Classroom has provided more than

740,000 of America's finest students with unprecedented access to Washington's halls of power and the people shaping public policy. Alumni have gone on to be leaders in their own communities and many, like U.S. Representative Chet Edwards (TX) and U.S. Senator Robert Torricelli (NJ), have returned to Washington as public servants.

Presidential Classroom also offers the Business, Labor and Public Policy Program; the Science, Technology and Public Policy Program and, for international students, the Future World Leaders Summit.

To participate, students must be juniors or seniors in high school, hold a "B" average or higher or rank in the top 25 percent of their class and show commitment to community or school involvement through participation in co-curricular activities.

For information about Presidential Classroom, call 1-800-441-6533 or visit their web site at <http://www.presidentialclassroom.org>.

INTERACTIVE COMPUTER CORNER

By Briggs Longbottom
and Eric Tillman



Wow, I can't believe the ton of email I got about the last issue's trivia questions! Probably you shouldn't either, cause there really wasn't any! I'm going to jump ahead and guess that those questions were too easy and that everyone knew the answers. In any case, you'll have to wait till someone gives it a shot before I'll give up the real answers. So this week you'll have another set of questions to beat your heads on, in addition to those puff-balls from last issue. Don't forget, our library has three internet connected computers, in addition to the good, old-fashioned, reference books. I know there's got to be at least one SPHS senior who can knock these out, let's see who got a brain out there.

And how about progress on nudging Comcast Online for our high speed internet access? Did anybody call them? They sure are good about sending out cable TV signup incentives, but they still need a push if we're going to get online with them. My guess is that they're going to blow past another "due date," and leave us treading water as is their pattern so far. I know that there's at least a few of us who don't take their BS quietly. Are South Plainfielders mice or men (please don't say cheese!). Remind them that we're waiting for them by calling 1-888-793-5800.

I wrote in the issue before last, about the "millennium bug" or the "Y2K" problem. The pages of the tech mags are really heating

up over this one and the techtalk shows are on it too. You can check into

www.garynorth.com for quite an eye popping view of his insight on the issue. Financial analysts are very cautious about this as well, since so many industries and businesses are dependent on digital systems that are incredibly likely to fall victim to some kind of Y2K effect. This is way bigger than even I realized when I wrote about it a month ago! Even the federal government is actually (dare we say "warning") the populace on their websites, try www.itpolicy.gsa.gov and www.sbaonline.sba.gov/hotlist/year2000.html

Believe me, this is going to be big! And don't forget to fasten your seatbelts! A great internet search is to enter "Y2K" as your keyword and see what the noise is all about.

I'm often asked about using a TV instead of real monitor for computer use since everyone has one already and they're less expensive! Seems some folks would rather buy a new and fancier television, than a monitor. So what's the difference? In a (small) nutshell, it's this. Although they both display images, a television displays primarily moving images while a monitor displays static and moving images. Because of this, sharper "pictures" are required for static images! The television updates or refreshes its images 30 times each second, whereas a good monitor refreshes its image at least twice that fast, 70-85 times each second. The more the better and more costly! That's because monitor circuitry must be more stable and precise. Hence, the big price differential! Do yourself a favor, don't even think of using a TV instead of a true monitor.

TIP: When you use preprinted stationery, like a letterhead, you'll probably use this only for the first page with plain blank sheets for subsequent pages. In MS Word, it's easy to do that by choosing File, Page Setup, and click on Paper Source. Here you can choose to use Manual Feed for the first page and the default paper bin for your following pages. Insert your letterhead and when it is done printing, the printer will continue from the bin.

And now for more trivia you thought you live without! Don't forget to email me with your answers at Bruggo@earthlink.net. Show us how smart you are, see your name in lights, get recognized, and become famous! It begins right here:

Q1, If you put a tanga on a garota, or took one off for that matter, what would you have? Q2, What point on the earth is farthest from the center of the planet? (hint, your first thought is probably wrong!). Q3, (too easy!) When you enter the Panama Canal from the Pacific Ocean, what exact direction do you travel and what body of water do you enter on the other side? Let's hear from you, you should get at least one of these correct. See you next issue.

WE WANT YOUR NEWS!!

If you have news about South Plainfield people or events, send us a note or give us a call (732) 469-4380. We would like to include your story in the paper.

The ELKS TALE

The South Plainfield Elks, in conjunction with Elks across the state and other groups, is raising money to fund the return of the "USS New Jersey" to our shores to become a memorial and a museum. Pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters in addition to greater donations are being accepted at the Elks Lodge on New Market Avenue and in coin collection jars around town (Witty's liquors on Plainfield Avenue next to CVS).

Please help us by donating your

spare change. All monies will be counted on Saturday June 20. We need your help for a great project. On Flag Day June 14, 1998 at one o'clock in the afternoon, the Elks invite all citizens to join us at the lodge for a brief ceremony of honor. The service describes the evolution of our Flag and concludes with refreshments afterwards. Please bring a friend and a family member. The service lasts approximately 20 minutes. See you there.

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Saturday evenings 5:30 PM
Sunday mornings 8:00 and 11:00 am

Obituaries

■ Elizabeth Anne (Kittredge) Walsh, 71

Elizabeth Anne (Kittredge) Walsh of South Plainfield died on Sunday, May 24 at the Bridgeview Care Center in North Branch.

She was born in Marlboro, MA and was a former resident of Hudson, MA before moving to South Plainfield 40 years ago.

Mrs. Walsh was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church and a member of the Alter Rosary Society and the Care and Share program at Sacred Heart.

She was predeceased by her husband James E. Walsh who died in 1983 and her brother William Kittredge who died in March of 1998.

She is survived by two sons, James E. Walsh, Jr. of Ft. Collins, CO, Thomas Walsh of South Plainfield; two daughters, Anne Walsh of Dunellen and Jane Sabosik of South Plainfield; a sister Barbara Coolidge of Hudson, MA and five grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad.

■ Stanley E. Shumsky, 77

Stanley E. Shumsky of South Plainfield died on Monday, May 18 at the Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

He was born in Oyster Bay, NY and was a former resident of Plainfield before moving to South Plainfield 44 years ago.

Mr. Shumsky was a carpenter for the New Jersey Carpenters Union Local 155 in Edison for 30 years before retiring in 1988.

He was a 1944 graduate of the United States Merchant Marines Academy in Kings Point, NY and was a navigation officer for the U.S. Coast Guard during WW II. He was an avid golfer and a member of the Plainfield West Nine.

He is survived by his wife Genevieve Mazin Shumsky; two daughters, Lisa Shumsky of South Plainfield and Lauren Greenspan of Jamesburg and one grandson.

Funeral services were held at James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

■ James W. Linger, 53

James W. Linger died suddenly at his home in West Long Branch on Tuesday, May 19 of apparent natural causes.

He was born in Plainfield and resided in South Plainfield, where he grew up, before moving to West Long Branch 19 years ago.

He had graduated South Plainfield High School in 1963 and then entered the U.S. Coast Guard, where he served for four years and had been stationed at various points including Alaska and the

local Coast Guard Station in Sandy Hook.

Mr. Linger had been a sales representative for the United Gilsonite Laboratories (UGL) of Scranton, Pa. His sales area covered seven counties in New Jersey including Monmouth, Ocean, Middlesex, Somerset, Union, Morris and Hudson.

He was an award winning historic car enthusiast and a member of the Little Antique Motor club of Monmouth Co. He was also a lighthouse collector and enjoyed boating. He was a member and past president of the N.J. Paint Travelers Association and a member of the West Long Branch Vol. Fire Co. #1, where he had served on the Fire Police. He was also a former member and past president of the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Dept. and a member of the West Long Branch, South Plainfield and New Jersey State Exempt Firemen's Associations. He was also a member of the American Legion Chaumont Post #243 of South Plainfield.

Surviving are his wife, Susan McClintock Linger; a son, William J. "BJ" Linger of West Long Branch; his mother, Mary Linger Watter of Lakehurst, N.J., whose husband, Herbert Walter, died last month; three brothers, Jack Linger of Boca Raton, FL, S. Collins Linger of Mission Viejo, CA, and Theodore Linger of Colorado Springs, CO. and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral Services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Donations in his memory may be made to the American Diabetes Association, c/o 200 Cottontail Lane, Somerset, New Jersey 08873.

■ Doreen J. Pickett, 44

Doreen J. Pickett died on Friday, May 29, in the South Amboy Memorial Hospital, South Amboy.

Born in Plainfield, she had resided in South Plainfield for many years and South River for two years before moving to Sayreville last year.

She was a Homemaker.

Her Husband, the late Bernard Pickett died in 1995 and her father John Helbo, Jr. died on May 9, 1998.

Surviving are a son, James B. Pickett of South Plainfield; her mother Jean M. Helbo of South Plainfield; a sister, Deborah Helbo of Basking Ridge; a brother, Gary Helbo, of East Stroudsburg, PA.

Funeral Services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

■ William Kistler, 76

William Kistler died on Saturday, May 30, at the Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield, NJ.

Mr. Kistler was born in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. and was the son of the late Walter W. Kistler and Nellie Hammer Kistler. He came to New Jersey in 1943 and had resided in

East Orange and in Newark before moving to South Plainfield where he has resided since 1951.

He was a 1939 graduate of Meyers High School in Wilkes-Barre and in 1943 he received his Bachelors of Arts Degree from Colgate University in Hamilton, NY. In 1947, he earned his Master of Business Administration Degree from the Harvard School of Business in Cambridge, MA.

Mr. Kistler was employed by the Association of National Advertisers in New York City from 1951 until his retirement in 1985. At the time of his retirement he was vice-president of the company.

He was a long time member of the Covenant United Methodist Church in Plainfield where he had served on the Church's Finance Committee, taught Sunday School and had been an usher.

His daughter, Barbara Clark, died in 1996.

Surviving are his wife, Helen Oliver Kistler, a daughter, Carol Levandowski of Pennington, NJ; a son, Kenneth Kistler of Standfordville, NY; a sister, Florence Reynolds of Wilmington, Del. and his brother, David Walter Kistler, MD, of Wilkes-Barre, PA. He is also survived by his four grandchildren.

Funeral services were held by McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Memorial donations to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, 2506 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080, would be appreciated.

■ Dowlat Mangar, 66

Dowlat Mangar died Wednesday, May 20 at home.

Born in Guyana, Mr. Mangar came to the United States in 1985 and has resided in South Plainfield since 1986.

He was employed as a warehouseman with Lynn Steel of South Plainfield for 12 years before retiring in 1996.

Mr. Mangar was a champion swimmer in Guyana, where he was the recipient of the Silver cup in 1956.

He is predeceased by his son Jainarin Dowlat who died in 1990.

Surviving are his wife, Dorothy Mangar; four daughters, Maureen Dowlat and Kamal Ramphas, both of New York City, Geteta Ramagado and Babita Sewdat, both of South Plainfield; three sons, Parimanand Dowlat, Jalporsaut Dowlat, and Bisram Dowlat, all of South Plainfield. Also surviving are 15 grandchildren.

Funeral Services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

■ Ann R. (Rac) Rogers, 81

Ann R. (Rac) Rogers died on Tuesday May 19 at Delaire Nursing and Convalescent Center in Linden.

Born in Linden, Mrs. Rogers had also been a life long resident of the community. She was employed as a line worker during the 1950's by the former Gordon Gin Company of Linden.

Mrs. Rogers is predeceased by her husband, Gerard W. Rogers, who died on Dec. 8, 1993 and her two brothers, Adolf Rac and Frank Rac.

Surviving is her daughter, Geraldine A. Novak of South Plainfield; her sister, Mary Hart, of Linden and her two granddaughters, Adrienne & Virginia Novak.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Center for Hope Hospice, 176 Husa St. Linden, NJ. 07036.

High School Honor Roll

Ninth Grade

Michelle Aboosamara, Nicole Adorna, Lindsey Aiello, Samuel R. Alexander, Eric Amrielli, David Aquino, Jessica L. Arndt, Sandhya Balkaran, Jason Bataille, Kimberly N. Benson, Shannon Bishop, Jonathan J. Bloodgood, Nicholas J. Bloodgood, Che Bowman, Tom Bowman and Allison Buttrick

Johana Camino, David Cupo, Thomas J. Daly, Mark Dimacje, Michael Edgecomb, Joshua P. English, Rachel Feller, John Foscolo, Emma Fulton, Angelique Ganiaris, Richard Gebauer, Antonio Gigante and Alissa N. Gittens.

Lisa Hewitt, Melissa N. Jamieson, Maria Antonell Leonardis, Nicole C. Luthman, Erin Mackey, Joseph A. Maglaque, Joanne Michalski, Kathryn G. Moyers, Adrienne Nagy, Joseph Nappe, Cathy Nguyen, Huy Nguyen, Lam D. Nguyen, Joseph Nicolay, Bryan Novajosky, Gregory Ogonowski and Sarah Oppelt.

Julie Palmer, Annette Papa, Jessica Pasco, Millie Patel, Heather Pedersen, Jessica Persa, Steven A. Popp, Stephanie Prybella, Jennifer Reynolds, Christopher Sangster, Karl Schuetz, Evan J. Sims, Mitchell Skolnick, Mark J. Skrzypczak, Jessie Spayder and Julyn C. Stay.

Douglas Tackach, John Tempe, Alison Tietjen, Anh L. Trinh, Kristin A. Turner, Christina Varma, Veena Varma, Justin Woo, Eman Younes, Veronica Zappi and Qui Ping Zang.

10th Grade

Melinda Agostino, Diana Algoo, David Alles, Johanna Alzate, Jessica Ardis, Alison Barrett, R. Justin Benford, Amanda Bertrand, Raymond Brandes, Krissy Brooks, Christine Buteas, Laura Buttrick, Cindy Carlson, Shannon Cassidy, Laura Collicchio, Lyra-Akina Cummings and Sheryl Cwickale.

Michael Dematos, Margaret Derosa, Dina Diaz, Kelly Doerr, James Donelson, Brian Donnelly, Jediaiah M. Donnelly, Pamela Eng, Courtney L. English, John Espin, Christopher J. Francis, Roberto C. Gaitan, Jessica Graisser and Krista Gundersen.

Andre Harry-Penn, Lynda Hepburn, Rebecca Horn, Maria A. Hudak, Jennifer Infante, Eric Jackson, Michelle King, Matthew Kravetsky, Theresa M. Lamastro, Jason Lichtenstein, Stefani MacDougall, Julie Makowski, Brenda Mendez, Ruben S. Mera, Lisa Mocerino and Jane Nguyen.

Dominique Pender, Jr., Rebecca Perez, Lauren A. Perry, Shanee D. Person, Peter Vu Pham, Jennifer Rayho, Tracy Regan, Ashley Retteberg, Heather Roth, Joseph Scotto, Carol Ann Serago, Katherine Skoba, Matthew Square, Robin Stayvas, David Stoeckel, Bradford Tierney, Yolanda Toca, Eric Toth, Laura Walter, Kimberly Wilcox, Nichole Wrublevski, Rania Younes and Lauren Yulick.

11th Grade

Fatima Ahmad, Michele Allen, Tanya Altomare, Steven Ambielli, Gloria Anthony, John A. Blondet, David Bosse, Bradley Carlton, Melanie Carmon, Nicholas Cesare, Lisa Christensen, Erinn Crane, Dana Curcio, Michael Delucca, Rachel K. Denno, Daniel Devens and Rochelle Dimacje.

Chiemeka Ejiochi, Juliette Falocco, Christina Freeman, Charles Frick, Michael Gage, Brendan Gaynor, Amy Glowacki, Victoria Gray, Roscoe Hill III, Jillian Hoppe, Shaline Itwaru, Krishnan Iyengar, Randolph Kuhn, Melinda Lawson, Khanh Le and Joanna M. Llerena.

Megan Mahoney, Michael Maina, Sara Malave, Erica McGrath, Zachary Moore, Brianne Morrison, Richard Mowrey, Linda T. Nguyen, Mihn Dinh Nguyen, Samantha Noonan, Melissa O'Connor, Dina Pasco, Dimple Patel, Danielle Persa, Thais Petrocelli and Kristin Pfeifer.

Prachi Rastogi, Candace Romascindo, Kelly Ann Schnyderite, Lisa Sepkowski, Elizabeth Serago, Kaminee Sewdat, Gary Shelhimer, Roger Vroom, III, Erin M. Walter, Patricia Walter, Judy Wang, Marhew Wojcik, Riza C. Ysla and Sara Ziobro.

12th Grade

Shelly Algoo, Maria K. Berberabe, Dana Bertrand, David Bond, Jennifer P. Borja, Michael Calderone, Jamie L. Cammarata, Joseph Celentano, Adrienne Christatos, Thomas Doerr, John Drangula, Elizabeth Dressler, Keith Ducker, Shaun Galya, Susan Garfield, Rebecca C. Gross and Monique M. Heavens.

Sunaina Joshi, Janie Joy, Kieko Kameda, Michelle Lamberti, Brendan Lazar, Nghi Le, Sarat Munjuluri, Hai Dinh Nguyen, Jennifer Otlowski, Keith Palmer, Allison Raiti, Diane Ringel, Jessica Servodio, Christine Smally, Elaine Smith, Stephanie Stahlin, Marlana Swinick, Carolyn Timinski, Heather Vankleef, Joy Walter and Stephanie Wrublevski.



Pictured above is Auxiliary President Joan Jepsan and Commander George Green of VFW Post 6763. Last issue we incorrectly spelled Joan Jepsan's name. We are sorry for the error.



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South Plainfield High School students plants flowers as part of the ongoing Schoolyard Habitat project.

Garden Habitat

Continued from page 6

nered the main grant of \$5000.

Before the garden was begun the area contained trees, grass, and few bushes. Nothing thrived. Today the butterfly garden, nicknamed *Tiger Turf* by the students, boasts five different beds of plants, windbreaks to protect them and wild animals. Although no tigers have been spotted, butterflies and wildlife have taken up residence in the garden.

Pat Santillo's Future Star preschoolers "Rainbow Group" recently set free butterflies they have been raising as part of the project while volunteer high school students planted native nectar and larval supporting perennials, vines, shrubs, and trees in the Schoolyard Habitat. The students created this unique habitat for song birds, butterflies and other wildlife.

While the project is far from complete, enough has been accomplished to give the casual observer a chance to see an ecosystem in formation. Dedication is the name of the game, and the many involved look forward to a future bright with color.



Led by First Grade teachers Maria Campagna, Theresa Glowacki, Jennifer Iannacone, Jennifer Lepore and Vocal Music Teacher Joanne Gurski Riley School students performed songs to the delight of their parents on May 28.

Cambodian Holocaust Survivor

Continued from page 1

Cambodia because no one would talk about it."

"We can minimize the casualties by talking about it. When you hear that a holocaust might happen, you will react. That is why we are here," Pran explained. "This is the story we want in the future: if you stand up and talk, you can save lives."

While in Cambodia in the midst of the genocide, Pran endured unspeakable horrors. He watched as his fellow citizens were killed by fellow citizens.

Pran was separated from friends and lost more than 50 family members. He was worked to exhaustion, while being starved.

"I learned that crickets, grasshoppers and scorpions were not bad things. You would not say that a rat is not a bad thing to eat. You would learn to say that a scorpion

is your friend," Pran said.

Pran documented his hardships and those of others that shared his plight in a novel, *Children of Cambodia's Killing Fields: Memoirs by Survivors*, which was published by Yale University Press in 1997. Pran donated the book to the South Plainfield High School Information Center. Students were invited to view Pran's web page for more information: <http://www.DithPran.org>.

High school junior Dana Fore spoke of the lecture, saying, "I

thought it was an excellent program in that Dith Pran got to do what he wanted to do with his life: spreading the word. He teaches the youth of the world about genocide to keep history from repeating itself like it has so many times before, including in the Cambodian genocide."

Said Pran, "I am a one-person crusade. I must speak for those who did not survive and for those who still suffer. I don't consider myself a politician or a hero. I'm a messenger."

Students

Continued from page 1

listed the penalties of driving while impaired, which legally is a .10% alcohol level or above. The penalties are as follows: a first offense carries a \$250-\$400 fine, loss of license for six months, a second offense carries a \$500-\$1000 fine, community service for a period of 30 days and loss of license two years and a third or subsequent violation carries a \$1,000 fine, imprisonment for not less than 180 days and loss of license for ten years. In addition if you are arrested for drunken driving your legal fees will run at

least \$4,000.

Officer Papa explained that if you are in an accident when drunk, it cannot not really be considered an accident because you had a choice not to drink. If you cause a death while driving drunk, you can be charged with vehicular manslaughter or more.

New Jersey has a no-tolerance law for underage drinking. Any person under 21 years of age, who tests over .01 will be prosecuted. New Jersey also prohibits an "unsealed container" of an alcohol beverage in a motor vehicle. Drivers as well as passengers are subject to a mandatory fine of \$200 if caught.

Officers Papa and LaMonda told students to enjoy graduation and the prom. "We don't want you to remember the prom and graduation for the wrong reasons."

Volunteer Fireman Provide Many Vital Services

In many communities, the volunteers who belong to the fire department and the rescue squad are the sole defense a community has against fire, medical emergency, motor vehicle accidents, floods and weather-related disasters.

For many Americans across the United States of America, the volunteer fire department or rescue squad is the only line of defense against disaster.

Volunteer fire fighters do more for our communities than many of our society's "heroes," but do not receive as much recognition.

Volunteer firefighters comprise approximately 80 percent of the firefighting force protecting America's cities, suburbs and rural areas. Even New York City still has two active volunteer fire companies responding to emergencies within the city limits. Emergency calls in most communities have increased dramatically within the last three to five years, adding burdens to an already time-strapped volunteer fire force. Volunteer firefighters are virtually always on call. Emergencies are not scheduled; they occur at all hours of the day, afternoon and evening. When emergencies occur the public expects to receive rapid, reliable, and reasonable care. The professional image of the volunteer firefighter still needs to be cultivated. The public in some cases still associates "volunteer" with unpro-

fessional. But in most every state, the "volunteer" firefighter training has the same rigor as the career firefighter. They are trained in advanced first aid and CPR. Many are skilled emergency medical technicians and some are paramedics.

Volunteer firefighters perform other key services to communities: they educate citizens, especially children, about how to survive should a fire occur.

The reason volunteer fire departments exist is purely one of economics. Having a force of people who receive no or very little compensation is an obvious a benefit to the local tax rate and the taxpayers. But the cost of operating a volunteer fire department is skyrocketing. The equipment, apparatus, clothing and supplies cost the same for a volunteer fire department as they do for a career fire department.

1998 is the 350th anniversary of the volunteer fire service. The volunteer firefighters and rescue squad members are the longest serving volunteer organization in the United States of America. During national volunteer recognition week, Americans who are served by volunteer fire department and rescue squads are reminded to remember to express their appreciation and thanks to those community heroes who make themselves available to handle emergencies and disasters that affect people's lives.

Special Delivery

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POLICE REPORT

• A fire was reported last week at Kennedy School playground on the wooden slide. The fire department immediately put out the fire. Cigarette butts were found near the bottom of the slide.

• An Oak Tree Avenue resident observed a man park his car in his neighbor's driveway and walk into the back yard. He later came out of the yard carrying fishing equipment. The neighbor asked what he was doing there and he said he had permission to borrow the fishing equipment. Later that day the neighbor came home and was informed of what happened. The neighbor said no one was permitted to take anything and called the police.

• Fragrance Plus, located at the Middlesex Mall, was burglarized last Friday. The suspects, who entered through the roof, removed a large quantity of perfume and cologne. An aluminum ladder was apparently used to gain access to the roof of the mall. The thieves then cut a hole in the roof to gain entry. A video surveillance camera was on at the time and has been secured by police. Over 1,500 bottles of assorted perfume, valued at \$40,000 were taken.

• A van parked at Home Depot was scratched and marred with

paint. The entire van was damaged.

• Someone attempted to enter a vehicle parked on Delmore St. by punching in the passenger side door lock. No entry was gained.

• A computer system valued at \$1,387 was reported stolen from a locked storeroom at the School Administration Building on Cromwell Place last week.

• A resident of Garden Drive was awakened by his dog barking and saw a man in a tee shirt hop over the fence. Shortly afterward a suspect who fit the description was arrested in the Quick Check a few blocks away. He had muddy shoes and fit the description of the suspect. Pictures were taken of the footprints in the yard which matched his muddy shoes.

South Plainfield Observer

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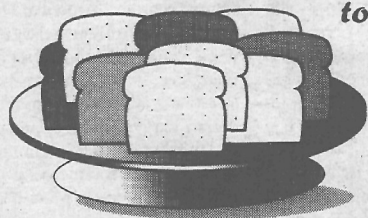
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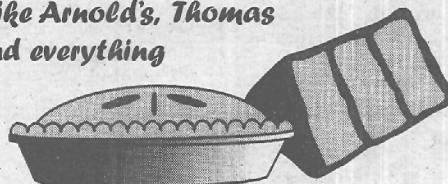
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