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# South Plainfield Observer

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VOL. 1, NO. 23

50 CENTS

AUGUST 6, 1998

## Guys & Dolls



## Summer Drama Production Opens

Story and Photographs by Patricia Abbott

The brief moments before the curtains open on the darkened stage seem to stretch into an eternity for the cast of teenagers. In the dimly lit theater, some audience members may experience the same feelings. While anticipation explains the teens' temporary anxiety, for others it is a recollection of the electric tingle of a bit of stage fright. During the course of twenty-seven seasons, many of audience members once stood on stage awaiting the curtain. They return as adults to enjoy a new generation of performers and perhaps to relive their Summer Drama Workshop years.

Children of alumni are amongst those onstage. Many of the young thespians are second generation Summer Drama performers, some even appearing in the same shows their parents did. This is the case with Jamie Rose Helfand. Her daughter Candice is currently playing Rusty Charlie in *Guys & Dolls*. Candice's first Summer Drama appearance was *Oliver* in 1995; Jamie first appeared with Summer Drama in 1973 with *Oliver*. As she watches Candice bring life to a character, she remarks, "I am remarkably proud of my daughter and I hope that she continues to have the fun that I had in theater."

The *Guys & Dolls* staff is truly a unique group. While each is trained in their field and working in a professional capacity, they too may experience the tingle when the lights go down and the overture begins. The circle is complete. As Summer Drama alumni, they return not as parents of performers but as staff. Perhaps their Summer Drama experience influenced them in some small way. They each express fond memories of Summer Drama and are very much in tune with the students because of the time spent in the same roles themselves.

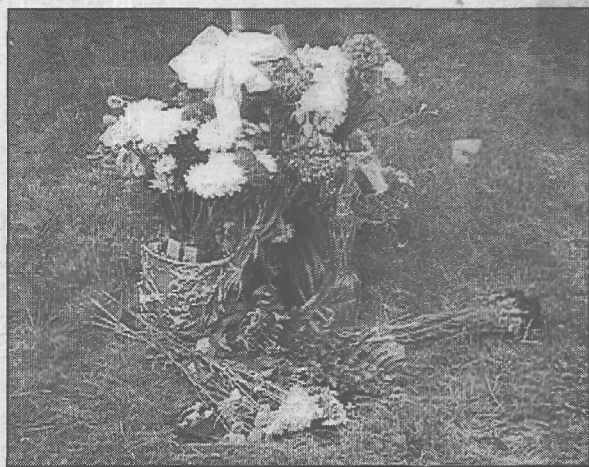
Continued on page 9



L. Stockman - Berkowitz

Observer To Celebrate First Anniversary at Labor Day Parade – See Page 4





Flowers placed on the corner of Stephenville Road and Plainfield Ave. in Edison, where 17-year-old Kevin Reitz was killed by a drunken driver on July 12. Memorial contributions can be made to Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Middlesex County Chapter, 1015 Amboy Ave., Edison, NJ 08837.

## In my OPINION

### Missing Children

By Patricia Abbott

You can see their faces in your newspaper, mail, on the news, on posters, flyers and milk cartons. The question is, will they be found? Missing children — some are spirited away by a disgruntled parent or another family member.

Then there are those who are abducted, kidnapped — words that strike fear into any parent's heart. One minute this sweet, innocent child is at play and the next, he is gone.

We strive to keep our children safe from danger at an early age. We tell them, "Don't talk to strangers," "Don't accept candy" and "Don't take rides from strangers." We teach them about safety in numbers, good touches,

bad touches, code words and more. Despite the best efforts of parents and teachers, the news frequently carries reports of missing children. We shudder and hold our children extra close when a child is reported missing or a body is found.

My son is now 12. As a baby in a stroller he was never out of my sight. As a toddler, he held my hand or stayed by my side. While shopping, he was never allowed to play under racks. I brought him with me into the ladies' rest room until he was old enough to protest. When using the men's room in the early days, I always reminded him to hurry and to leave immediately if someone made him feel uncomfortable. At home, he couldn't

*Continued on page 15*

Dear Editor,

This letter is to commend the South Plainfield Library for the fine event held Saturday, June 20. The event was the kickoff for the library's Summer Reading Program. Despite the hot weather, the event was a well-organized, well-attended and fun event. There were numerous activities surrounding a western theme, including desert bingo, pony rides and horseshoes.

One person who worked very hard to make the event the success it was for the many children who attended the event was Children's Librarian Judy Ellisworth. She devised the games, enlisted volunteers, created original crafts and was enthusiastic throughout the day.

Judy Ellisworth is a wonderful professional who always has time for children, parents and teachers. She is always willing to find a book or assist in research. Many a budding naturalist has enjoyed her displays in the library and look forward to spring and the arrival of the butterflies.

**SINGERLY,  
SARA GRZENDA**

To the Editor,

I just received my tax bill along with a letter from Councilperson Jim Vokral in which he states, "I am happy to say there will be no municipal tax increase this year."

This would be wonderful news for South Plainfield taxpayers if it were true. Unfortunately, it isn't. The 1998 municipal Tax rate is .76 per \$100 assessed value, while the 1997 rate was .72. That is an increase, not a decrease. It is about time Vokral and Gallagher stopped insulting the intelligence of South Plainfield residents. In fact, when Gallagher took office in 1995, he raised the local rate from .55

in 1994 to .59 in 1995. It has gone up every year since until it reached the present .76 percent. That is a 38 percent increase since Gallagher, Vokral and company have taken office.

In dollars, for a house assessed at \$100,000 the municipal tax increased from \$550 in 1994 to \$760 in 1998. No matter what Vokral and Gallagher say, that is an increase. Compare your own bills and I'm sure you will agree.

**SUSAN KRYSTOPIK**

To the Editor:

I would like the readers to know about two championship winning teams that get no publicity or little support from the South Plainfield Recreation Department. For the last eight years, the swim team has been in existence at the community pool. The diving team was established three years ago.

Their season has just ended with the New Jersey Swimming and Diving League. The swim team finished in second place and the diving team finished in third place. The swim team, under the direction of Laurie Post, Matt Schulte and Jen Otlowski and the diving team, under the direction of Brett Stensland and Nicole Moretti, have led their teams to victory, as well as developing many fine athletes who have done their personal best. Some of these athletes hold records around the state and have placed first, second and third at every meet. I would also like to thank Lynn Carlton for her help and guidance.

All monies to help these teams, are raised by the swimmers, divers and their parents. They have also used the funds raised to paint lane lines and purchase lane lines, starting blocks, and, presently, new diving boards for the community pool.

These teams are open to everyone ages 6-18. There are no fees, except pool membership. The season usually starts the last weekend in June and ends the last weekend in July. I am sure there are many fine swimmers and divers in our community who do not even know we exist because of the lack of publicity from the Department of Recreation.

You don't have to be a great swimmer or diver to join; just motivated. The participants and parents alike have a great time. Over the years we have watched young six-year-olds develop into 14-year-old record-winning athletes.

Next spring when you receive your membership form to join the pool, remember these teams and encourage your children to join. It beats hearing, "I'm bored. There's nothing to do."

**CHERYL NAGEL-SMILEY  
SWIM TEAM PARENT**

To The Editor,

As a resident of South Plainfield, I am happy to see how much this community cares about the children. When I was getting ready to move here three years ago my good friend told me about a program called "Safety Town," run by the Junior Woman's Club of South Plainfield. She was sending her daughter and suggested my daughter also attend. I agreed. She loved it and made many new friends. She also learned many safety tips. At the graduation, my mother sat next to me proud of her granddaughter. As the President of the Junior Woman's Club spoke, my mother elbowed me and said, "If you're going to get involved in an organization, this is a great one."

Well, Mother knows best! I did and I am now "Safety Town" Chairperson for a second year. My son is attending this year. I actually sat through some program activities. It is really great for children to hear and learn safety tips from the people they look up to and admire.

Officers Papa and LaMonda of the South Plainfield Police Department came and brought PC the Patrol Car and Buster the Bus. The South Plainfield Fire Department came with the fire truck and hats for all the children. They even got to sit in the fire truck. AAA came and talked to the children about bicycle safety. Nick the Pharmacist from CVS and spoke to the children about poisons and drugs. The children even walked to the Community Pool and learned about water and playground safety. So many members of the South Plainfield Community giving their time to teach safety to our children.

Local business owners even made donations to help keep the program alive: Century 21 Moretti Realty, Aiello Chiropractic, Dr. Mozo DDS, Plainfield Animal Hospital, Stilo Paving, Nicastro's Garage, Columbia Savings, Hall's Trucking, B & C Deli and Dr. DeCosta. Thank you for supporting such a worthwhile program.

Also this year, Daniel LaSpada, a boy scout working on his Eagle project, helped make badly needed repairs to our miniature town. Thank you to Daniel and all his helpers.

Thanks to the dedication and support of the South Plainfield community and the members of the Junior Woman's Club of South Plainfield this was the 23rd graduation of "Safety Town." I am proud to have helped make "Safety Town" such a success.

**TRACEY HARTMANN  
SAFETY TOWN  
CHAIRPERSON**

## South Plainfield Observer

The South Plainfield Observer is published every first and third Thursday of the month by

G&G Graphics, Inc.  
530 Union Avenue, Suite 3,  
Middlesex, NJ 08846

(732) 469-4380 • FAX (732) 805-0815

Web page at <http://www.spobserver.com>

For subscriptions, advertising or information, call (732) 469-4380.

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

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### SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in South Plainfield Observer:

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 e-mail us on the web page at [spobserver.com](http://spobserver.com). Include your name, address, telephone number.

To Submit Photographs:

1. Make sure the photograph is sharp and bright.
2. Any size picture will do.
3. Black and white pictures are preferred.
4. Type the names of all the photographs, or accurately describe the action in the photograph. Do not write on back of photograph, except with non-reproducing pen or pencil.
5. All unsolicited photographs and stories sent to *South Plainfield Observer* will be considered the property of *South Plainfield Observer* and will not be returned, unless a self-addressed stamped envelope accompanies material.

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### UPCOMING OBSERVER PUBLICATION DATES:

Issue Date      Copy Deadline  
August 20 ..... August 13  
September 3 ..... August 27

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## BOROUGH NOTES

## Council

■ The Borough Council has only one meeting scheduled this month. It will be held on Aug. 13. The agenda meeting will take place on Aug. 10. Both meetings start at 8 p.m. The public is always welcome.

■ Because of a delay in mailing out the third quarter tax bills, residents will have 10 extra days to pay their third quarter tax bills. The bills are now due on Aug. 7 and the grace period for the balance is Aug. 17.

■ An ordinance to establish a no passing zone on Oak Tree Avenue between Park Ave. and Front St. has been passed.

■ Richard J. Naberezny, Borough Engineer has been re-appointed for a three year term.

■ Ray Petronko reported that Putnam Park is near completion. Shadyside Park is next on his list for repairs and renovations and he is in the process of assessing what work should be done.

## Board of Adjustments

■ Patrick Murray of South Clinton Ave. was granted a variance for a public garage to perform repairs to motor vehicles.

■ David Lackland was granted a use variance to construct a self-storage facility on the corner of Durham Ave. and Helen Street.

■ Kevin Arcur of Golf Ave. was given approval for a 5.79' setback to construct a 12x13 foot wood deck.

■ Raymond Sheedy of Sampton Ave. was granted a variance to construct a 8x12 foot wood shed.

■ George and Maureen Veinott were granted a variance to construct a 12x20 foot wood deck.

## Other Notes:

■ Golden Acres Shopping Center has been sold to developer Vincent Polimeni for approximately \$14 million. Plans for refurbishing the shopping center are now in the works. A new store, Maxim's International Farmers' Market is planning to open in September. It will feature seafood, deli items and American and Chinese cuts of meats.

■ The EPA recently announced that the Hamilton Industrial Park was placed on the National Priority List. This guaranteed the site would receive funding for a clean up of its PCB contamination. Tests conducted on nearby houses have shown elevated PCB levels. An extended study of the site will include groundwater testing and checking additional neighborhoods near the site.

## Keystone Community Residence Renews Front Street Adoption

The Keystone Community Residence at 154 Front Street has renewed its adoption of the entire length of Front St. between Maple Ave. and the railroad tracks. A year ago, Keystone signed an Adopt-A-Spot agreement with the South Plainfield Clean Business Association, promising to pick up litter, sweep sidewalks and curb, and pull weeds once a week. The crew of three to five residents and a staff person has fulfilled this commitment.

This is the same crew that is donating weekly litter removal services in all the Borough parks, at the PAL, the Municipal Building, the Library and in the New Market Avenue side of the Highland Ave. Woods Environmental Education Reserve.

The community residence opened fifteen years ago. The residents

have been participating in the annual Litter Clean-ups in April nearly every year since they began in the late 1980's.

Cathy Hoos, director of Support Services, says Keystone is glad to be able to volunteer in the community. Clean Business Association President Joseph Diegnan is particularly pleased with this adoption, which helps address the chronic litter problem downtown. The Adoption is in keeping with the current downtown revitalization. Drug Fair Plaza has just earned a CBA Glitter Award and last year two other businesses in the area, Cross Stitch Only on South Plainfield Ave. and Twice is Nice on Front St., won Glitter Awards as well.

For more information about the Adopt-A-Spot program, contact the Clean Communities Coordinator at 226-7621.

## Hearing Held on Recycling Facility Expansion

A special a state hearing on the application of Recycling Industries, Inc. to expand its recycling facility operations was held at Borough Hall on Monday, July 20. The Department of Environmental Protection has granted preliminary approval to the plan.

Recycling Industries, Inc., owned by Republic Industries of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., has been located on Harmich Rd. for the past 25 years. They recently constructed a new to 33,000 square foot building, installed new scales to facilitate truck traffic and moved all of their operations inside of the new building in an effort to alleviate noise and odor problems.

The facility plans to increase its volume from 150 to 850 tons a day and operate from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday, while the sorting in the facility will be in operation 24-hours a day. The recycling process handles paper, glass, aluminum, wood and concrete.

Residents from Edison, along with several South Plainfield officials, attended the public meeting to ask questions. Borough Administrator John Corica said Mayor Gallagher and the Council are concerned with the increase in truck traffic. They are also concerned with their plans to wash down the facility on a weekly basis, saying that health officials suggest it should be done at least once a day.

Jeanette Breitenbach, a resident of Edison, expressed concerns with the promises from the company. She said a company across the street has been causing an order problem for several months and their promises have not been kept. Breitenbach also expressed concern that the proposed Helen Street extension, which includes extending Kentile Road to Park Ave., will have a future impact on Edison traffic.

Republic Area President Anthony Coco assured everyone the truck increase would not be significant since Recycling Industries, Inc. has a fleet of trucks presently operating out of that facility. They depart and return everyday and dump at other facilities. Mr. Coco also stated he was not aware of any new roads on the planning boards right now.

Recycling Industries, Inc. has been granted approval from the South Plainfield Planning and Zoning Board and the Middlesex County Freeholders.



Chief of Police Steve Merkler and Officer Bill Frink present a certificate to Boy Scout Michael Gula for his assistance on the Bike Rodeo. Michael is working towards his Eagle Scout badge.

## Planning Board Set to Vote on Apartments

The Planning Board held its third meeting on the proposed application to build 252 apartment units on Durham Ave. known as the Villages at South Plainfield on July 28. This was the third special meeting the Planning Board held and the questions presented to the developer have been answered to the satisfaction of the Board. The Board plans to vote on the application at the August 25 meeting. The developer must first submit the finalized plans showing the changes that the Board and developer have agreed upon.

The public portion of the hearing, which was delayed until the applicant finished testimony, was opened very late in the evening. Many of the residents still in attendance complained that they should have been given an opportunity to speak sooner or at least had a specific date and time to speak, just as the applicant was afforded. Larry Randolph said many people were at earlier meetings and were frustrated because they had no idea when they would be able to speak.

Board Chairman John Hogan explained that the law states the Board must hear all the testimony from the applicant before the public can speak. Most of the speakers asked the applicant if he would donate to a fund toward the construction schools and roads.

School Board Member Frank Mikorski complained that the applicant misled the board by saying the schools had anticipated the increase in children by adding temporary classrooms to Roosevelt School. He explained to the Board these temporary classrooms were constructed in 1992 and in no way anticipated this development. After the public portion was closed, the board decided they did not have copies of the latest plans with the revisions that had been made over the last few meetings. The news plan will be submitted by the August 25 meeting and a vote will be taken. Since Mr. Hogan closed the public portion, he said there would be no opportunity for the public to speak at this meeting.



A FIRE BROKE OUT IN A HOUSE on George Street on Aug. 2. The fire was confined to the kitchen and attic areas. According to reports, Raymond Palazzo, the owner, was scraping paint with a heat gun when the paint ignited the paper on the back of the insulation. There were no injuries. Two companies from Piscataway were on the scene, along with three trucks from South Plainfield and the S.P. Rescue Squad. The fire department said the house was not habitable because of the damage to the kitchen area, the roof and the attic.

## Juvenile Conference Seeks Member

The South Plainfield Juvenile Conference Committee is seeking

a new member to serve on its committee. The J.C.C. is comprised of nine persons who are all residents of South Plainfield. The meetings are held Thursday evenings.

The Committee helps young people who have evidenced early signs of minor anti-social behavior by providing an alternative to formal court processing. It is a service to our community, children and families, requiring common sense, understanding and compassion.

If you are interested in applying for membership to this committee, please contact Eve Hook at 561-6321.

To advertise in the Observer, call 732-469-4380.

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# events around town

## SPHS Tigers Host Annual Golf Outing

The South Plainfield Golf Association is holding the Fourth Annual Golf Outing for the benefit of the South Plainfield High School Golf Team on Wednesday, Aug. 12, at Bunker Hill Golf Course. Greens fees, prizes, food and carts are included. All proceeds go to support the activities of the High School Golf Team. For more information contact Coach Mike Kavka at (908) 753-657.

## Police Department to Hold Golf Tournament

The South Plainfield Police P.B.A. Local #100 is holding its Seventh Annual Golf Tournament on Friday, Aug. 21 at the Gambler's Ridge Golf Club, Burlington Path Rd., Cream Ridge, NJ. A 1 p.m. shotgun start is planned. The awards banquet will follow at the Gambler's Ridge Pavilion located at the course and the P.B.A. is expecting the usual large turnout.

Several sponsorships are available: a playing sponsor for \$210 will receive a commemorative pennant that is displayed on a green and a company representative may play for free. A donation of \$150 sponsors a beverage cart from which you will receive a great deal of advertising from having your commemorative pennant displayed on the cart. A \$100 non-playing sponsor will have their company name printed on a sign located on a tee. A donation of \$75 sponsors a golf cart which will have your company name professionally printed on a sign fastened to a player's golf cart.

Overall, this P.B.A. fundraiser cannot be successful without the public's support. Please contact any member of the Golf Tournament Committee to sponsor the 1998 tournament.

If you have any questions, contact Lt. Paul Bremb at (908) 226-7687.

## Adoption Support Group Announces Meetings

Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support (CHATS) meets at Watchung Ave. Presbyterian Church, 170 Watchung Ave., North Plainfield. On Monday, August 24, the meeting will discuss "I Wonder... Teenagers Talk About Being Adopted," and Monday, September 28, the discussion will be "Open Sharing."

Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support is a nondenominational

organization that seeks to involve and serve all members of the adoption triad (i.e. adoptees, birth parents and adoptive parents) as well as others interested in and impacted by adoption. The mission is to provide a ministry of emotional support to all members, community outreach and awareness and broad-based education about adoption-related issues.

For more information call Alyce at (732) 469-8093.

## Vacation Bible School at Wesley United Methodist Church

"Come to the Storytelling Tree" is the theme for this year's Wesley United Methodist Church's Vacation Bible School. It features five Parables of Jesus: The House on the Rock, The Forgiving Father, The Good Samaritan, The Sower and The Mustard Seed.

Classes will be held at the Wesley Church located at 1500 Plainfield Ave. from Monday, Aug. 10 through Friday, Aug. 14, from 9-11:30 a.m. The week will conclude with a closing program on Friday, Aug. 14, at 7:30 p.m. Songs, crafts, games, activities and snacks will be provided for each daily session.

Wesley's Vacation Bible School is open to all children, preschool through grade 5, for a donation of \$5.00 per child. To register, please call the church office at 757-2838.

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.

# Observer Plans First Anniversary Celebration at Labor Day Parade

Labor Day marks the first anniversary of *The South Plainfield Observer*. In keeping with the theme of the Labor Day Parade, Family + Fun = Our Hometown, *The Observer* will celebrate its first birthday with a party on September 7 at Veterans Park, at the conclusion of the parade.

The festivities will include a scavenger hunt, birthday cake, balloons, lemonade and giveaways.

The scavenger hunt will send participants throughout town to collect labels from various *Observer* advertisers. Labels will then be affixed to a game board (to be published in the August 20 and September 3 issues of the *Observer*, see sample game board at right). Completed cards must be brought to the *Observer* booth in Veterans Park from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Cake will be served at 1:30 and the drawings will take place at 2:00. Labels can be picked up

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**Trichofers** at  
901 Montrose Ave.

**Aiello Chiropractic**  
Located at 2204 So.  
Clinton Ave., Suite 1

**Carnegie Hair Salon**  
at 307 Oak Tree Ave.

**Starr Radiator** at  
700 Hamilton Blvd.

**OFFICIAL OBSERVER SCAVENGER HUNT**  
SAMPLE      GAME BOARD      SAMPLE

from participating advertisers starting August 20 through Labor Day. All game boards must be dropped off by 1:30 p.m. All correctly completed cards will be put into a drawing to win prizes. A list of the prizes will be announced

in the August 20 issue.

If any business or organization would like to be included in our scavenger hunt or donate a prize, please call us at 732-469-4380.

Please come out and join us in celebrating our first birthday.

# Labor Day Parade Plans Moving Along

This year's theme for the Labor Day Parade is Family + Fun = Our Hometown. The Parade Committee continues to make plans and prepare for the parade.

Bands participating include our own South Plainfield High School Band. Other bands are the Shriners, Funny Factory, Legionnaires, Westfield Fife and Drum and the Ragtimers.

The Rhythm Kings will be performing at the evening concert held at Spring Lake Park around the Gazebo. The concert is from 6-8 p.m. Fireworks are planned afterward.

This year the Department of Recreation is planning to run contests and games in Veterans Park after the completion of the parade. Jaye Joyce, with the help of vol-

unteer Debbie Krawiec, is planning a variety of games and contests for young and old alike. If you would like to volunteer to help with the games, call Debbie at 757-9432.

Another new addition at Veterans Park after the Parade will be "People Pleasers." They will be setting up several rides and games for the kids.

Emergency Management Coordinator Mike Zushma held a meeting with the police, fire, rescue squad, county police and members of the parade committee. More information on parking and street closings, as well as other important information will be in the next issue.

The South Plainfield Alliance for Substance Awareness and

Ricochet Racquet will hold a 5K run and 1.5 mile Fitness Walk before the Parade. If you register before the parade the entry fee is \$10 or \$12 on the day of the Parade. For more information call Bill Beegle at 754-4620.

Special attention is being paid to the concession booths in the park. If you are interested in having a concession stand in Veterans Park on Labor Day, please call Darlene Pinto at (908) 561-1511.

The Celebrations Committee is also looking for Parade Marshals. If you are interested, call Aidee Levine at (908) 561-9161.

Remaining Parade Committee meetings will be held on Aug. 25 and Sept. 1 at 6:45 p.m. at the Municipal Building. Anyone interested in helping is welcome to come.

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The South Plainfield Observer						
August 1998						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Recreation Comm. 7 pm	Board of Adjustment 8:00 pm	Court 9:30 am	Summer Drama Presents "Guys and Dolls" 7:30 p.m. Publication of So. Plfd. Observer		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Borough Council Agenda Meeting 8:00 pm	Library Board Meeting 7:30 p.m. Planning Bd. 8:00 pm	Environmental Comm 8:00 pm Cultural Arts Comm. 8:00 pm PAL Court 9:30 am & 7:00 pm	Copy Deadline for So. Plfd. Observer Borough Council Meeting 8:00 pm		
16	17	18	19	20	<b>Recycling Center and Yard Waste Hours</b> Regular summer hours through Labor Day at the Recycling Center are Tuesdays and Fridays, 1 to 8 p.m. and Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Regular summer hours at the Yard Waste Site are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 8 and Saturdays from 8 to 3. For updates call the Hotline at 226-7620.	
	Land Management Advisory Committee 7:30 p.m.		Court 9:30 am 7:00 pm	Publication of So. Plfd. Observer Scavenger Hunt Contest		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		Labor Day Parade Committee Meeting 6:45 Special Meeting on Durahm Apartments Planning Bd. 8:00 pm	Traffic Safety Advisory Comm. 7:00 pm Court 9:30 am 7:00 pm			



# Music Booster Club Plays Integral Role

By Mary Holmer

Recently, *The Observer* ran a story on South Plainfield High School's Athletic Booster Club, an organization of parents who volunteer their time to raise money to support and to enhance the athletic programs of the school.

Along with a comprehensive athletic schedule, South Plainfield High School also offers their students a myriad of opportunities to explore their musical talent in a diversified music program which runs the gamut from a traditional marching band and innovative lab band to a full range chorus and travelling choir. Close to 150 students participate in these programs, and these kids enjoy a very loyal and enthusiastic following, the Music Booster Club.

The Music Booster Club is also an organization of parent volunteers, and their objective is to offer encouragement and assistance to all of the students interested in developing their talent and participating in one of the school's available music programs.

To this end, the club initiates and oversees fund-raisers which allow the kids to raise money to offset the expenses associated with travel, competitions, band camp and awards banquets.

Some of these fund-raisers have included selling candy bars, candles, gift wrap paper and Gertrude Hawke candy for the holiday seasons. With the cooperation of the Middlesex Recycling Commission, the club also raises money by participating once a month in a newspaper recycling drive. What makes these fund raisers especially worthwhile and motivating is that each student can directly benefit from his or her own efforts.

Marjorie Reedy, club treasurer, explains, "We have a fund-raiser every month and each student can choose to participate or not to participate. But choosing to participate allows each child to add points to his or her own student account, and these points earn money to be put toward the cost of competitions or trips."

The student accounts referred to by Reedy are opened for each incoming freshman who is involved in one of the music programs at the high school. Whenever a student actively takes part in a fund-raiser, a portion of the profits earned by that individual student are translated into points and placed in their student account.

These points, in turn, can be used as money to assist the student in covering expenses associated with their program, for in-

stance paying for transportation to a competition or covering the expense of dinner at an award's banquet.

"It's a great motivator," Reedy adds. "The kids can determine the number of points they accumulate through their own hard work and determination."

The club's most successful fund-raiser is their annual Band Festival, held every October at Jost Field. Invitations are sent to high schools statewide to participate in this competition.

Students help make this event a success by soliciting endorsements from local businesses for the Ad Journal, and Music Booster Club volunteers lend a hand to sell tickets, provide chaperone and security services, man the refreshment booths and pitch in wherever else they are needed.

Along with coordinating the student accounts, the club also funds a general account which is used to award scholarships to graduating seniors. All of the money raised from the October Band Festival is earmarked for

this purpose. The largest of these scholarships is the \$500 Spisso Scholarship, named in honor of South Plainfield High School graduate Daniel Spisso who co-authored with Judy Krieg the school song, "Hail to Thee."

Creighton Pfeifer, who served as club president for two years, explains that the Band Booster Club awards scholarships ranging from grants of \$50 to the \$500 Spisso Scholarship.

All eligible seniors who apply for a club scholarship will receive an award.

"Seniors fill out an application which is really a resume of their activities, contributions and accomplishments," Pfeifer states.

"We give a scholarship to all of our applicants. The final decisions on the specific dollar amounts are made by a committee comprised of the band director, the choral director, the booster club treasurer and three parents who do not have graduating seniors."

The club membership, which numbers close to 300, includes the parents of all students partici-

pating in the music program, and it is governed by an Executive Board. Marjorie Reedy serves on the Executive Board with Carol Provaire, Tom Falocco, Kathy Petrocelli, Sue Vroom and Connie Palmer.

Reedy also credits fund-raising chairpersons Laurie Graisser and Pat Anderson for their valuable contributions to the club. "We really are a team effort," Reedy explains when describing the dynamics of their organization.

"We have many club members who work hard. When you volunteer for a project, you can be sure that there will be someone there ready to help you."

Reedy would like to encourage more of the club's members to become active and volunteer their time.

"All parents need to be involved in their kids' education," she states. "Whatever your child's interest is, whether it is sports, music, drama, journalism, art, science — whatever they are involved in — parents need to take an interest and help. This is so important for both the parents and the kids."

The Music Booster Club meets September to May on the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the Band Room. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

## INTERACTIVE COMPUTER CORNER

By Briggs Longbothum



The news, the information, the dis-information (yes, there's some of that going around too) and the warnings are definitely mounting regarding the "year 2000 bug." Call it the "Millennium Bug," "Y2K" or whatever, it is sure raising the temperature of the press and airwaves whenever the topic comes around. You've heard it mentioned here before too, but from a reporting standpoint only. This really is something to learn about and watch as it develops.

But I'm not so sure anymore. Not that I'm joining the chorus of soapbox preachers foretelling the coming of the end, but rather I am thinking now that this Y2k thing will be a whole lot more than what is being commonly believed.

I would sure appreciate (even anonymously) any readers who would care to share their thoughts and understanding of the issue. What does your company say when you ask them about what it will mean to them? Do they have an "official company line?" Let's ask and find out.

My motivation for revisiting this

issue comes from the extreme warning I'm hearing lately, and I want to be sure that we have the level facts. By the way, just so nobody gets caught unaware, the raw effect of this has already started, as the venerable insurance company: Lloyd's of London has already begun receiving Y2K related claims! But the real blossoms will become visible next April 1, when entire economies begin their new fiscal year. That would include Japan and New York for starters, with others to follow. This will be very interesting indeed.

TIP: Make sure your operating system (ie; Win95, Win98) and applications are running in their most current versions with updates and fixes. Not to say that there's anything wrong with what you have now, but with more new stuff coming down the line all the time, your applications may start stumbling later. A good place to check first is to go the manufacturer's website and look for patches, plug, fixes and updates. You'll always find more than you bargained for and usually some very handy user tips and ideas as well. Check back often, it's worth the trip.

TIP: There are several "reminder" services that will advise you by email whenever a website

changes! This makes it easy to stay on top of your favorite sites or keep current with selected update sites. Microsoft's Insider Update Newsletter is free and is good, as is LiveUpdate!

Hey, here's good news: I'm hearing that Comcast is beginning to turn on some network nodes in South Plainfield for their long-anticipated Cable Modem Internet Access. I know that I've been a thorn in their sides for staying on top of their build out of this new service, and I will probably be the last one in town to get installed, but it is coming. Please let me know when you are advised that your area is open for internet service. We should all be excited for this new service. Your Internet downloads will fly like rockets, and the all-too-familiar "world wide wait" will be a memory of the past!

How is everyone doing with online training and education? Did anyone notice that Middlesex County College's Fall course offerings now lists online courses? These are for "CEU's" or continuing education credits and not actual academic credit, but that too is available online, only from other institutions. How long before our local secondary schools have online offerings? Do we have any teachers or school administrators who would care to share their thoughts on online training? Let's hear from them, also.

And as long as we're inviting commentary, what topics or subject would you like to see covered here? You can send suggestions, comments and other feedback to this column c/o the *South Plainfield Observer* or Briggs Longbothum care of my email address: Bruggo@earthlink.net. Let's get in touch. See you next issue.

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# School Work

## Middle School Honor Roll Fourth Marking Period

### HIGH HONOR ROLL-

#### GRADE 8

Luis Dimacje, Alan Graziano, Violet Huynh, Jeffrey McKnight, Matthew Peloquin and Thomas Sniscak.

#### GRADE 7

Christopher Addvensky, Joseph Adorna, Christopher Baron, Joseph DeAndrea, Denise DiMeglio, Kristen Fredericks, Christina Furka, Lauren Kaczka, Jaclyn Noonan, Elayne Russell and Ryan Vroom.

#### GRADE 6

Elaine Alexander, Danielle Aronowitz, Robert Barone, Jonathan Buggy, Ryan Decker, Brittany DeNitzio, Martina Ganiaris, Miguel Garcia, Tara Israel, Katherine Kaczka, Kyle Kazimir, Jordan Lynch, Michelle Puskas, Michael Salerno, Daniel Sierzega, Alexander Tierney, Adam Toth and Katherine Whalen.

### HONOR ROLL -FOURTH PERIOD GRADE 8

Malika Aaron, Brielle Anderson, Lindsay Ardis, Matthew Bizup, Cassie Bosse, Michael Brooks, Jennifer Butrico, Salvatore Carrano, Ashley Casey, Christopher Catalfamo, Pamela Cianfrocca, Kamel Conde, Christopher Cornish and Jaclyn Cox.

Gina D'Urso, Shannon Dabrio, Joseph Dezzmin, Rafael Diaz, Scott Doerr, Tamara Dombrowski, Edward Donnelly, Meghan Elsmann, Jonathan Fredericks, Rodney Gateau, Christopher Greivous, Sean Greivous, LeeAnne Gronski and Norma Guevara.

Mark Hadjar, Colombino Headley, Cheryl Hoh, William Humber, Jessica Irber, Elliot Kaplan, Daniel Lahey, Amy Leso, Danielle Lytwyn, Jessica Macklin, Robert Merkle, Dave Micabalo, Sarah Miele, Gregory Moore, Timothy Morgan and Thelma Morgan.

James Nguyen, Matthew Noll, William Olson, Michelle Oppelt, Mary Orlowski, Michelle Paterik, Kimberly Pfeifer, Danielle Schweers, Martin Seiz, Sally Serago, Danielle Servadio, Joseph Sierzega, Michelle Socha, James Stoeckel, Nakia Tate, Reginald Thompson, Thomas Troia, Stefanie Waingraw, Jacqueline Wong and Jason Yu.

#### GRADE 7

Kristy Aboosamara, Alain Amazan, David Anthony, Katherine Baldessari, Heather Barrett, Jason Basile, Christine Benak, Tiffany Boyle, Lauren Brobeck, Jesse Brown, Jody Chepulis, Michael Chrysanthopoulos, Meredith Cooper, Gary Curcio, James Curcio, Lori Cushner and Kristina Cwikalo.

Nadia Deba, Christina DeMatos, Martin Diamant, Christopher Diana, Kimberly Dziomba, Michael Espin, Cathleen Fodor, Amanda George, Nybil Ghanem, Jessica Giannini, Jamie Glowacki, Dale Goberdhan, Johanna Goolsaran, Shelly Graziano, Nicholas Green and Kristen Gumina.

Kelly Harty, Thomas Haus, Amanda Hermann, Daniel Hernandez, Alexander Huynh, Christopher Imbrosciano, Michael Jankoski, Amit Kalia, Meredith Kalman, Michael Kasmer, Timothy Keller, Michelle Kravetsky, Lamar Lawson, Nathalie Londono and

Christina Lorange.

Christina Meleo, Richard Muglia, Minh Nguyen, Kristen Nietzer, Kristina Ogonowski, Chinedum Okparaake, Ellery Pagala, Avinash Patel, Cynthia Prybella, John Rayho, Joseph Reach, Edison Refe and Eva Rodriguez.

Anthony Santos, Meaghan Schweers, JaKyle Shirley, Jennifer Silhanek, Danielle Skoba, Joseph Smalley, Jeffrey Smith, Steven Sobel, Joseph Sorrentino, Prasanna Sridharan, Daniel Stallone, Allison Stoloff, Stephanie Swierc, Erica Thiry, Justin Toth, Janine Turrisse, Denise Vita, Matthew Wells, John Wiekowski, Michael Wiczorek, Frank Wrublevski and Victoria Zappi.

#### GRADE 6

Regina Alin, David Allara, Almasa Amini, David Amini, Katie Anson, Geraldine Ascencio, Victoria Boley, Joseph Bundy, Kaitlin Bundy, Kristie Butrico, David Cacciatore, Tarryn Carlton, Michael Carmon, Jonathan Chiang, Shade Coleman, Ryan Cornell, Jason Cosma, Michael Cupo, Lori Cushner, Christopher Czaplinski and Justin Czarnik.

Joseph DeBiase, Kevin Demarest, Allison DiCanto, Frank Dietzold, Lindsay Diller, Claire Dolling, Christopher Egan, Catherine Flannery, Gregory Garbowski, Jaime Gaughan, Beverly Gee, Jacquelyn Graisser and Sarah Green.

Heather Hanley, Robert J. Hoffman, Christopher Horn, Janice Hussain, Jamie Irber, Joshua Jackson, Galen Johnson, Edward Kania, Jacqueline Kaufman, Christopher Kelly, Wendy Kollarik, Courtney Krajcik, Kristen Kunie, Daniel Lammi, Margaret Lay, Brittany Lee, Pauline Lee, Ian Levine, Heather Loenser and Kristina Lopez.

Charlyn Magat, Amy Magner, Michael Maher, Alisha Makoski, Earl-Joseph Marcelo, Jennifer Martinez, David Miglis, Timothy O'Brien, Michael Olim, Francesca Pasquale, Ankit Patel, Natalie Picciottoli, Jaclene Prongay, Gregory Publik, Amanda Rastelli, Ashley Ritchey, Jessica Rodger, Jonathan Rodger and Josef Rodriguez.

Shari-Liane Sangster, Matthew Santone, Guy Severini, Garone Shirley, Jenna Smith, Lauren Smithline, Lisa Sniscak, Carly Stoeckel, Renee Stopherd, Rachel Tambone, Adam Tamzoke, Chiara Tomei, Courtney Turner, Stephen Turrisse, Keith Whitney, Audrey Wilhelm and Chrisann Zushma.

## Safety Town Holds 23rd Graduation

Safety Town, a special course dedicated to teaching pre-schoolers safety tips while walking and riding bikes, held its graduation ceremonies Friday, July 24. The program, which started 23 years ago, was sponsored by the South Plainfield Junior Woman's Club. This year's chairperson was Tracey Hartman and committee members were Darlene Shamus, Carol Ullom, Michele Fugazzi and Dawn Jeffreys.

Fifty-six children were enrolled in the two-session course. The sessions, taught by Julie Anderson and her assistant Kristen Pfeifer, met July 13-24. Seven teenage volunteers also helped out. They were Amanda George, Kristen Nietzer, Mary Orlowski, Kim Pfeifer, John Rayho, Joey Reach and Janine Turrisse.

Various organizations helped make this year's Safety Town a success. The South Plainfield Fire Department participated by bringing a fire truck and talking about what to do if a fire should break out. Some of the students put on a fireman's uniform. All sat in the fire truck and received a fire hat. The Police Department brought PC the Patrol Car and Buster the Bus.

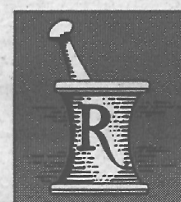
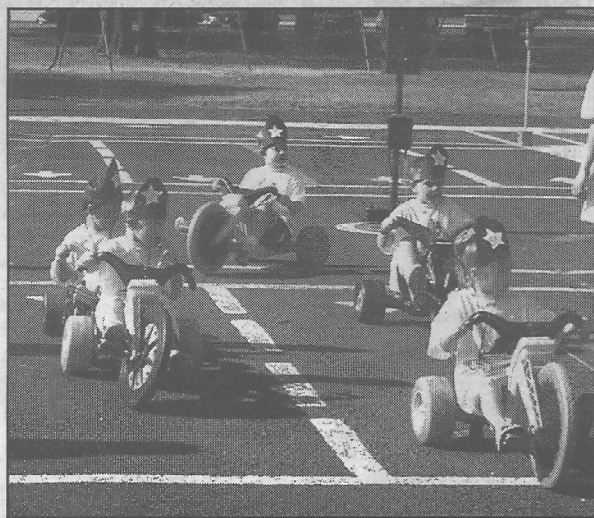
AAA came to talk about bike safety. The children were also visited by a pharmacist, who talked about drugs and poison. They visited the Community Pool to learn water and playground safety. During the graduation ceremony, the children demonstrated what they had learned about walking and bike riding. They carefully crossed streets, followed the signals at stop lights and stop signs while they proceeded along the Safety Town roads and sidewalks.

Graduates from Session One are Elizabeth Becker, Jaclyn DeCillis, Francine Glaser, Jillanne Gulotta, Oliver Howarth, Andrew Kovalevich, Patrick Landy, Joseph Nicastro, Kyesha Oliver, Anthony Pisano, Zachary Slotterback, Brian Tjong, Kaitlyn Vacca and Kayla Vokal.

Jillian Cortese, Joseph Fugazzi, Allyson Gruber, William Hartmann, Joseph Ifrach, Steven Kovalevich, Michael Mocharski, Patrick O'Connor, Alexandra Pisack, Kyle Pompillo, Bridget Taylor, Nicholas Thuy and James Vokal.

Session Two graduates are Rachel Alexa, Taylor Bullard, Alex Frank, Connor Gillis, Dana Hunt, Michael Jefferys, Jesse Kline, Megan McCarthy, Chelsea Ng, Nicholas Okosko, Sarah Roibal, Amanda Steger, Jonathan Sukenik, Shana Tom and Daniel Zwatschka.

Jayne Bishop, Michaela Fore, Amanda Fritze, Kaitlyn Graziano, Danny Hunt, Lauren Keane, Julian Krupit, Sarah McCarthy, Shane O'Connor, Alexa Rocco, Timmy Shamus, David Stogoski, Michael Sullivan and Ellen Zinsky.



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## Screaming Eagles Hold Annual Picnic



By Patricia Abbott

On Saturday, July 18, the 101st Airborne Division Assn., Screaming Eagles, held their first annual Vietnam Memorial Picnic at the American Legion, Chaumont Post 243. The picnic commemorated the 33rd anniversary of the deployment of the 1st brigade to Vietnam on July 29, 1965.

The 101st Airborne, General Anthony C. McAuliffe NY/NJ Chapter is based in South Plainfield at the American Legion after a recent move from Elizabeth, NJ. Officers for the chapter are Presi-

dent Vincent Vicari, Vice President Frank Miller, Treasurer Laura Harris, Secretary Larry Anglin, Photographer Mickey Cohen and Sergeant at Arms Carmine Fabrizio.

To the casual observer it may have been no more than a newsworthy but simple event. As the staff writer sent to cover this Vietnam Memorial Picnic, I can tell you it was not a news story I found, but rather a *people* story. A history lesson, a future lesson and even a lesson in humanity and the politics of solving international relationship problems before they degenerate to war could be learned.



A brief flag ceremony was held at noon and then the festivities began. Marines, paratroopers, Navy Seals and others gathered with family and friends to enjoy the day. The branches of our military are quite different as those who have been in the service will quickly point out. However, once you gather these veterans together in one place, you would think they all fought the same battles together and had been lifelong buddies.

While much of the "militaryese" was lost on me, the camaraderie and the depth of friendship between them, from the World War II Veteran to the Vietnam Vet to the young Marine, was something quite inspiring.

They explained that no one can truly understand what a man faces in war except another veteran. Yet I found it to be a fascinating, living history lesson. A retired Marine spoke with a fierce passion about the veterans, saying, "These men... know by name those who bought your tomorrows with their lives. They know of men who live only in their memories."

Military service is the great leveler, crossing boundaries of age, race and your family's class. Many of those who served in the military in time of war put their lives on hold for the sake of the rest of the country. This affected the rest of their lives and their family's future as well.

The Vietnam vet continued, "Heroes. Veterans are heroes. The world today knows nothing of heroes. These men in jeans and old sweaters are the heroes. Their uniforms may look archaic to most today but those uniforms are soaked in the blood of history."

As I listened to the stories, I had to stop and think — Where would some of these men have been had they been able to go from high school right into college or straight into business — to begin building their future? Still, I saw no regret, only pride in their uniforms and their country.



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

*Dear Dr. DeCosta: Life seems to be so full of stress for many people these days. Without resorting to drugs, how can alternative medicine help to deal with stress? -M.T.*

Dear M.T.:

Stress can be defined as a reaction to any stimulus or interference that upsets normal functioning and disturbs mental and physical health. It can be brought on by internal conditions such as illness, pain or emotional conflict, or by external circumstances such as a death in the family or financial problems. Even a positive experience — a new marriage, a job promotion, or financial gain — can be a stress provoking event.

Konrad Kail, N.D., past president of the American Academy of Naturopathic Physicians, reports that stress is not always an unhealthy experience and some people even seem to thrive on it. For example, stress can help top-level executives control anxiety. Middle-management employees, by contrast, are far more susceptible to uncontrollable situations and, as it turns out, are at higher risk for cancer.

According to Frederick Levenson, Ph.D., who teaches at Hofstra University and the Center for Modern Psychoanalytic Studies in New York, "Any stress that allows an individual to defend against anxiety... is anticancer. Any stress that places the individual in high performance anxiety situations in which the variables cannot be manipulated will produce high levels of internal carcinogens."

Everyone reacts differently to stress and the amount of emotional stress a person experiences depends on the individual's coping functions. Likewise, the degree of anxiety that a person experiences often indicates how well he or she is coping.

Some symptoms of stress and stress-related anxiety include excessive or unwarranted worrying, a rising sense of panic, restlessness, insomnia, trembling or feeling shaky, muscle tension, fatigue, shortness of breath, heart palpitations, sweaty or clammy hands, headache, nausea, hot flashes or chills, dizziness, irritability and difficulty concentrating.

Fortunately, stress and its effects can be reduced through exercise, relaxation, biofeedback, guided imagery, counseling, involvement in social groups and support groups, meditation, chiropractic, acupuncture, massage, yoga, deep breathing and other lifestyle changes. These therapeutic, non-drug approaches can help restore normal function to the internal biochemical processes and help to reverse chronic stress.

Dr. Kail suggests the following to increase your ability to cope with stress:

- In addition to practicing relaxation and stress-management techniques, plan regular diversions and cultivate outside interests.
- Get enough sleep and rest. Set up a ritual that establishes a regular hour of bedtime. Avoid sleeping pills.
- Get regular vigorous exercise — relaxed muscles mean relaxed nerves. Choose whatever exercise you enjoy that is appropriate for your age and physical condition, but do it on a daily basis.
- Avoid hurry and worry. These far too common behaviors alter your patterns of eating, sleeping, working and recreation. They are learned behaviors and can be unlearned.
- Don't be afraid of compromise. In a stressful situation you can either fight back, back off, or compromise. Seldom is the ideal situation available.
- Love more. Learn to use things and love people, instead of using people and loving things.
- Identify your fears, even list them. Fear adds to paralysis. To break this cycle, make a decision, right or wrong and then act on it. Anxiety results when you sit in the middle and let your fears tug at you from opposite direction.
- Laugh more. Laughter is a good tension breaker. Try to maintain calm in the face of stressful situations. Reestablish calm after unavoidable upsets.
- Avoid self-pity.
- Avoid loneliness. Reach out and take the initiative in friendship. Treat people as though they were already your friends. Seek out people with common interests.
- Avoid coping solutions that involve alcohol or drugs. Using chemical means of escaping from your problems soon leads to addiction and increases your problems. This also applies to stimulants such as tobacco, caffeine and sugar.

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.

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## Weichert Honors Sales Couple for Achievement



**Paul and Maryhelen Thievon**

The Weichert Realtors husband and wife sales team of Paul and Maryhelen Thievon, associates in the company's Warren office, have been recognized for their outstanding achievements.

In addition to winning the regional quarterly award as the leaders in resales, the couple finished among the top five in total sales and resale revenue units.

Lifelong residents of South Plainfield, the Thievens were associated with another local real estate company before joining Weichert

in 1997. Together the couple has 15 years of hometown real estate experience and numerous awards for their listing, sales and production achievements. Through the end of April they recorded sales of more than \$5 million.

Maryhelen Thievon, licensed broker, is a member of the Hunterdon/Somerset and Middlesex County Boards of Realtors and the Garden State Multiple Listing Service. Her accomplishments include membership in the New Jersey Association of Realtors' Million Dollar Club for each of the past four years, including earning the Silver Award in 1996 for listings and sales of \$5 million or more. She won three consecutive annual top associate awards.

Paul Thievon owned a commercial painting business for 32 years before joining his wife in real estate. He specializes in buyer representation, calling upon his construction experience to assist first-time and trade-up buyers and those interested in new construction. He is a member of the Middlesex County Board of Realtors.



**Cheryl and Robert Fox**

## Cooper and Fox Exchange Vows

Cheryl A. Cooper, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick E. Heyeck of Mystic Island, NJ, became the bride of Mr. Robert J. Fox, son of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin J. Fox of Wycoff, on April 25, at the Zion Lutheran Church in Oldwick. Pastor Mark Summer officiated at the ceremony. A reception followed at Somerset Hills Hotel in Warren.

The bride was given in marriage by her father, Frederick. Her sister, Lisa Lawrie, was matron of honor and bridesmaid was Cynthia L. Heyeck, also the bride's sister. William, the groom's brother, served as best man and Benjamin, also the groom's brother, served as usher.

The bride is a graduate of South Plainfield High School and received a degree from Seton Hall University. She is employed by Muhlenberg Regional/Medical Center in Plainfield as a case manager. The groom graduated from Ramapo Regional High School and received a law degree from Vermont Law School. He is a partner with Carter, Von Rensselaer and Caldwell. Following a wedding trip to the Southern Caribbean, the newlyweds will reside in South Plainfield.

## Lions Club of South Plainfield Gives Thanks

At a recent South Plainfield Lions Club meeting some very special people were recognized for their help during the past years with Lionism and giving back to South Plainfield. During the past few years at our Gourmet Breakfast, held on Palm Sunday, children and grandchildren of our members have helped set up, clean up and take care of dining room duties.

Also honored were Gisela Thiel,



charki, pictured above with Dr. Aiello. Over the past several years, Mrs. Thiel handcrafted and donated beautiful afghans for the Lions Gourmet Breakfast. Mr. Mocharski was very helpful with the Lions luncheon for the Keystone Kids at Sacred Heart. Mr. Mocharski helped in setting up and organizing this event.

The Lions have been serving South Plainfield for over 50 years. Without the help of these fine volunteers, the Lions would not be able to truly serve South Plainfield.



pictured above with her husband Ferdie and Lion Club President Dr. Patrick Aiello and John Mo-



Pictured above are Rachel Schwartz, Gina Severini, Chris Czaplinski, Mike Alvarez, Guy Severini, Jennifer Capparelli, Ashley Capparelli, Cassie Capparelli, Samantha Cihanowicz, Alex Cihanowicz and Tracey Cihanowicz.

## Fessock Receives Law Enforcement Degree

Robert Joseph Fessock, son of Paul and Leonor Fessock, a 1989 Graduate of Saint Helena Catholic Grammar School, North Edison and a 1993 graduate of South Plainfield High School, was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army Reserves on May 15 at Loyola University in Baltimore, Md.

He has a three year active duty commitment and will be attending military police school, Fort McClellan Alabama.

Robert received a BS Degree in Law Enforcement from Towson University, Baltimore, MD.



**Robert Joseph Fessock receives BS Degree in Law Enforcement from Towson University.**

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3. (a) to look at with attention //
4. to perceive, notice, come to know by seeing //
5. to comment, to note attentively

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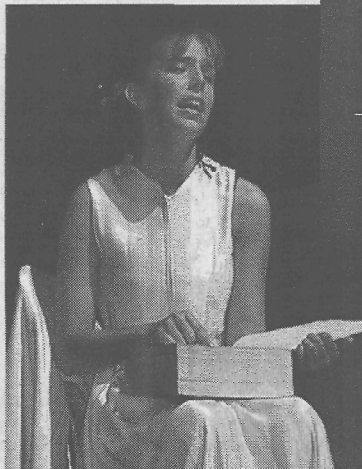
# Summer Drama

## Guys & Dolls Opens August 6

(Continued from page 1)

Joan Stasio, band director for *Guys & Dolls*, was involved with Summer Drama in the earlier years. She spent many years in the pit band as well as taking a turn onstage. In later years, she held the position of music director. "I knew the program was good and I enjoyed it. I also knew that there was nothing else like it for students like myself, who were interested in theater and music."

While in college, Joan worked with vocalists and instrumentalists as a director. Summer Drama gave her hands-on experience that is hard to come by. Joan noted, "When studying music education, you get very few opportunities to direct an ensemble. Summer



**Laura Walters (Adelaide) sings of the woes of single life and being engaged for 14 years.**



**Vinnie DeNizo as Nathan Detroit and Greg Publik as Big Jules discuss business.**

Photos by Patricia Abbott

Drama gave me that opportunity." Joan's brother and sister also appeared both onstage and in the pit band.

Choreographer Michele Reilly first appeared in the 1985 production of *Annie* as Lily St. Regis. It was her first musical theater production. Prior to *Annie*, she was strictly a dancer. Reflecting on her experience on stage, she remarked, "I learned a lot about acting and singing as well as dance for theater. I fell in love with musical theater, hence my love of choreography."

Michele is an important part of Summer Drama. She has choreographed for five consecutive years, her dazzling moves were seen in *Grease*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Oliver!*, *Oklahoma* and *Wizard of Oz*. Viewing Summer Drama from the "other side of the fence" as a staff member, Michele said, "I believe the Summer Drama Workshop is a wonderful opportunity for the children to have a hands-on arts experience. They learn to collaborate, concentrate, and create—the three C's of arts education. As she concludes her sixth year with the group, Michele expressed her thoughts, "It has been a pleasure and honor to work with such a wonderful group of performers and watch

them grow through the years."

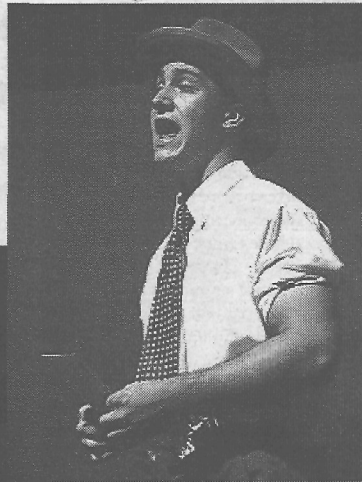
Director Shayne Miller first appeared on the Summer Drama stage in the 1991 production of *Anything Goes!* He appeared as Doody in *Grease* in 1993 and starred as Curly in *Oklahoma* in 1996, under the direction of his father, Bill Miller. He was also the artistic director for *Wizard of Oz*.

Kean College added a long list of credits to his name both onstage, directing and in the technical field. Following in his father's footsteps Shayne returned to take on Summer Drama from a new angle—directing. "Directing Summer Drama is a challenge for anyone. The large cast, the age range, diverse talents of the students and the fast pace keep you on the go. It is hard work but immensely satisfying. I am proud of the cast and the great show we've put together," Shayne said.

Vocal director Eric Witkowski had his eye on the Summer Drama stage from an early age. Watching the annual productions, he anxiously waited until he was old enough to join the group. In 1987 he was cast in *Grease*. He appeared in *Guys & Dolls* in 1988, played the title role in *Pippin* in 1990, performed a lead role in the 1991 production of *Anything Goes* and returned in 1993 to star in *Grease*.

Reflecting on those years, Eric noted, "Summer Drama Workshop has had such a great impact on my life. It was here that my love for music and theater really began."

A long way from the child with stars in his eyes, Eric's Summer Drama experience led him to his BA in Music Education from Trenton State. Now the tables are turned as Eric returns as a director to share his knowledge and



**Vinnie DeNizo as Nathan Detroit**

love of theater. "I would now like to give back to the program that provided me with a solid foundation in musical theater," Eric stated.

Paul McCullen is assistant music director for *Guys & Dolls*. A talented musician, Paul has played with the Summer Drama pit band for many years. A 1997 graduate of South Plainfield High School, this is his second year assisting with musical direction. Last year, he assisted Tracy Murray with *Wizard of Oz* and this year returns to assist Joan Stasio for this production.

Producer Patricia Abbott has been with the program for 23 years, many years as a student and general assistant, and the past 14 years as a producer. Her son, Christopher, is currently a Summer Drama performer and like Jamie and Candice Helfand, his first appearance with Summer Drama was with *Oliver* in 1995. Pattie's first production, *Oliver*, was in 1973.

New producer Bill Seesselberg is no stranger to Summer Drama. He produced in 1972, 1973 and 1974. He assisted in the transition of Summer Drama from the Grant School PTA to the Adult School in the early '70's. He also returned to produce in the mid-'80's.

Kristin Pfeifer, a senior at South Plainfield High School, is the assistant director and prop master for *Guys & Dolls*. The Summer Drama Workshop was her first experience with a large musical production. Kristin entered Summer Drama as a shy, quiet child. Over the years, she has performed in *Grease*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Oliver*, *Oklahoma* and *Wizard of Oz*. She is now a confident young adult who is already experiencing Summer Drama from a different side. Kristin has plans to stay with the group. Perhaps one day in South Plainfield we will find her name in the program as a professional director as well!

As the curtain opens on the 27th season of Summer Drama Workshop and people begin to reminisce, in the audience watching are members of the next generation, the third generation of Summer Drama. Children, like the young Eric Witkowski, with stars in their eyes and a dream of being on that stage when the lights come up.

### Review....

## Guys & Dolls Bursts With Energy

By Jessica A. Stillman

When the scrim rises during Summer Drama Workshop's 27th annual production, the audience will be transported onto a New York street in the late '40s. The underbelly of the city is revealed by the parted curtains, showing the escapades of pickpockets, scam artists, gamblers and those who try to save the criminals' souls.

On Thursday, Aug. 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium, the hard work of the cast and crew will be rewarded by a predictably enthusiastic reaction of their first audience. Summer Drama Workshop's production of *Guys and Dolls* bursts with excitement and energy, highlighted by the strong acting of the lead characters, the "only small actors" attitude of the supporting roles and the vivacity of the huge chorus.

"We have a whole new generation of talent which looks very optimistic," said the 21-year-old director of *Guys and Dolls*, Shayne Miller. This musical is the 15th show that Miller has contributed his skills to, along with South Plainfield High School's spring production of *Godspell*.

The action of the show revolves around two rather unlikely love stories, both of which seem destined to fail. The unlikelyness of the affair between Sky Masterson, a gambler with a reputation for placing unreasonably steep wagers and Sarah Brown, a missionary with the devotion of a nun, is somehow easily overlooked because of the actors' ability.

Steve Ambielli, who portrays Sky, adopts the poise of a gangster, despite the fact that he bares no resemblance to anything that could be called "seedy" in his everyday existence. The stagelights seem to gather on Ambielli whenever he is on stage seducing the audience along with his romantic interest.

Sky falls for Sarah Brown, played by Nichole Scavone, the leader of the local Save-A-Soul mission, when Sky's gambling buddy Nathan Detroit bets Sky that he will not be able to convince Sarah to go to Cuba with him.

Scavone plays the straight-laced character with remarkable ease. Her budding, operatic singing voice is unparalleled to anything on a stage from South Plainfield to Carnegie Hall.

Seasoned actor Vinnie Dinizo plays Nathan Detroit with the energy and comedy that South Plainfield audiences have grown to expect from him. His acrobatic dancing and gambling antics will have the auditorium in stitches. Nathan, the operator of the "oldest, established, permanent, floating crap game in New York," has been engaged to Miss Adelaide for fourteen years.

Miss Adelaide, the swanky night-club singer who's biological clock is ticking, is played with style by Laura Walter. Miss Adelaide is on a quest to change Nathan to make him suitable husband, but her efforts have been to no avail. Her humorous voice inflections are a highlight to the show, along with her captivating dancing.

Other acting highlights include Adam LaSpata's portrayal of Nicely Nicely Johnson, Nathan's sidekick. LaSpata's featured song, "Sit Down You Are Rocking the Boat," with strong chorus support is one of the show's best moments. Harry the Horse, the male gambler played by Lindsay Noonan, will surely grab a few laughs, along with Jose Pineda's impression of a drunk.

The Hot Box Dancers, Miss Adelaide's entourage, are a lovely addition to the show. Their captivating dancing, choreographed by Michele Rielly, are a vital asset to *Guys and Dolls*.

There will be three performances of *Guys and Dolls* at South Plainfield High School on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and one matinee on Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

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South Plainfield  
**SPORTS**

# Ponytail 10-and-Under All Stars Champions in Sayerville Tournament

South Plainfield didn't get off to a good start in the Sayerville Tournament. The 10-and-under team lost its first game in the tournament to St. Joseph's of Keyport, 16-9. This was also the first loss of the season for South Plainfield, who is 7-0-1 in Tri-County action and sitting on top in their age bracket.

In the second game of the tournament, South Plainfield bounced back with two wins, 9-4 over Sayerville and 7-4 over Hazlet in extra innings. Melissa Szeliga, Lacey Santone and Donna Garcia had big hits in the seventh inning for the win.

In the fourth game of the five game format, South Plainfield jumped on Iselin early for a 9-2 lead, only to watch it dissolve in the top of the sixth, when Iselin tied the game 9-9. South Plainfield came back and scored one in the bottom of the inning when Ashley Chosney singled and scored on back to back hits by Melissa Szeliga and Lacey Santone.

The last round robin game was played against the Edison Angles "A" team. South Plainfield, down 2-0 in the third inning, got to Edison's pitcher, who is one of the top pitchers around in this age group. Melissa Szeliga's double with the bases loaded and Carlie Kazimir's triple drove in four of the runs and Kathleen Morgan's and Morgan Walter's back to back hits scored the fifth run of the inning. The game went back and forth and ended at 9-9 in the sixth inning. Because of a time limit and the fact that Edison had another game at 8:00 that night, no extra innings were played. South Plainfield and Edison each ended round robin play at 3-1-1; however, Edison got the top seed for the playoffs due to less runs scored against.

South Plainfield's first play-off game was against third-seeded

Hazlet. Kathleen Morgan pitched her best game of the year, striking out nine and allowing only one run in six innings of work. Our offense supplied plenty of support, scoring eight runs in five at bats for a 8-1 victory, putting them into the championship game. The attack was led by Mallory Cooper with two

hits and triples by both Carlie Kazimir's Stephanie Wieckowski. Their opponent for the championship game, as expected, was Edison.

South Plainfield came ready to play and scored five runs in the first inning. The top of the order all hit well. Capping the five-run first inning was a home run by Mallory Cooper. Edison responded in the second inning with three runs and got three more in the fourth to tie the score at six. Our offense went back to work in the fifth, scoring four as Donna Garcia, Morgan Walter, Mallory Cooper and Stephanie Wieckowski all scored. Melissa Szeliga again had the big hit. Pitcher Kathleen Morgan took to the mound and started to look tired. After pitching most of the last nine games in the last eight days, the coach decided to take a chance by bringing in Morgan Walter, with the bases loaded and one run in. After walking the first two batters, she settled down and limited the damage to three runs. She got two big strike-outs and Kelly Downes made a great catch in center for the third out. In the sixth, Edison tied the game at nine, sending the game into extra innings.

In the top of seventh, Morgan Walter doubled in Virginia Gomez from second base to take a two run lead into the bottom of the seventh. Kathleen Morgan retired the last two Edison batters with strike-outs and South Plainfield captured the Championship at the Sayerville Tournament.



# Eleven-Year-Old American All Star Team Takes Second Place in Fords

## SP 10-East Brunswick 1

Chris Bakazan was a questionable starter before the game as he was still recovering from a badly bruised index finger suffered during practice. However, the team took a chance on him as the extra hitter and it paid off. He was three for three, a single, double and a triple and drove in three runs while scoring twice.

Nick Cesare also had a big triple with the bases loaded in the fifth inning that drove in three runs to seal the victory over East Brunswick. Billy Merkler also drove in two runs while scoring once. Peter DeAndrea, Mike Downes, Ryan Kenny and Mike Benak each scored a run.

Chris McKnight scored one run and drove in another. Vince Velez was also three for three, all singles, while scoring a run. Mike Downes gave a stellar pitching performance for his three innings and was followed by three brilliant innings of shut out pitching by Vince Velez. Billy Merkler also fielded several hard hit balls at short stop. South Plainfield's defense was flawless as they made no errors.

## SP 14-Shrewsbury 1

South exploded for 14 runs to send home the Shrewsbury Canes. Earlier in this tournament they suffered the only loss of the season to this team 1-0.

Mike Benak led the offense with a walk, two singles and scored three times while collecting a pair of runs batted in. Vince Velez, with the bases loaded in the second inning, drove a two ball/two strike pitch in to the right field gap driving in three runs. With the bases loaded and two outs in the third inning, Chris Bakazan hit a hard, high chopper that took a second high bounce over the shortstop's head and proceeded to roll in the left center gap, all the way to the fence. By the time it was over Bakazan was at third and had driven in three runs. Billy Merkler promptly followed with a towering drive that went well over 200 ft. and would have been a homerun in most any other field, but on this oversized field it was a long double that easily scored Bakazan from third for his second run of the day. Mike Downes walked and singled twice. He scored two runs on the day and had an RBI. Also scoring two runs each were Dan LaVerne and Andrew Miller. Crossing the plate once each were Brian Murtaugh, Nick Cesare and Peter DeAndrea. South Plain-

## Eleven Year Old American League All Stars Final Stats

NAME	AB	BB	HITS	S/O	SAC	OAB	RUNS	AVE	RBI
BAKAZAN	48	8	21	4		40	17	525	20
BENAK	37	9	9	4		26	10	346	9
CESARE	35	2	13	0		33	10	394	14
DE ANDREA	44	8	15	2	36	11	417	3	
DOWNES	42	5	16	1		37	12	432	11
LA VERNE	29	3	7	7	1	25	4	280	5
McKnight	31	2	7	4		29	8	241	6
MERKLER	42	7	18	1	2	35	14	514	19
MILLER	39	9	7	3	1	29	6	241	5
MURTAUGH	22	5	4	10	17	4	235	3	
KENNY	36	3	10	7		33	7	303	7
VELEZ	36	6	14	0		30	9	467	11

Home Runs out of the park—Chris Bakazan 1, Billy Merkler 2, Nic Cesare 1, and Ryan Kenny, 1.

field once again played error-free baseball, with some very nice plays made by Mike Downes and Vince Velez. While pitching, they each snatched sharp line drives that were headed up the middle for base hits. Bakazan also made a nice play on a ball that ricocheted off the first baseman's leg. Bakazan dove for the ball and threw from his knees to get the runner at first base. Once again, excellent pitching by Downes and Velez enabled South to 10 run-rule a team for the seventh time this year.

## SP 13-Iselin 1

Billy Merkler walked twice and singled once while scoring three runs and Chris Bakazan tripled in the first inning to drive in two runs and score one run himself when Nick Cesare hit into a fielder's choice. Nick Cesare scored three runs on the day and drove in one run. Vince Velez also scored two runs while driving in another. Scoring one run each were Peter De Andrea, Andrew Miller, Ryan Kenny and Mike Benak. Mike Benak was two for three and drove in three runs with a bases loaded double in the third inning. Good pitching by Mike Benak and Billy Merkler held Iselin to only one run as South 10 run-ruled a team for the eighth time this season.

## Cranford 12- SP 7

After losing the first game in this tournament, South Plainfield kept fighting their way back in the losing bracket for almost three weeks. The sixteen team tournament saw South Plainfield work their way back up to the semifinal round, 10 run-ruling almost every team that got in their way. But today was not the case as their bats were silenced by the fine pitching and excellent defense of a very good Cranford Club. South Plainfield tried to come back many times. Chris Bakazan and Billy Merkler were both robbed of extra base hits on stinging line-drives that could have changed the game. However, Cranford's defense would have no part of it as they fielded the drives flawlessly. In the mean time, South Plainfield's pitching, which has been so good, was getting rocked and their defense crumbled with countless errors and seemingly lackluster play. Scoring one run each on the day were Pete DeAndrea, Brian Murtaugh, Chris Bakazan, Nick Cesare and Ryan Kenny. Mike Benak scored two runs and had two hits. South took home third place trophy and ended the season going undefeated in South Plainfield and North Edison. All and all it was a very successful season.

# 11-Year-Olds Repeat Championship For 3rd Year

## SP 9 - Edison Boys 2 North Edison Tournament

South Plainfield Eleven-Year-Old American League has repeated their championship in the North Edison tournament for the third consecutive year. Billy Merkler was two for three and scored a run. While driving in two runs, Mike Downes walked and singled and scored two runs. Nick Cesare singled, drove in two runs and scored once. Also scoring a run each were Chris Bakazan, Andrew Miller, Pete DeAndrea and Brian Murtaugh.

The game was not exactly a defensive gem as both teams made numerous errors. South Plainfield normally combats fast pitching, but the Edison Manager deliberately put in a slower pitcher which kept the South Plainfield's power hitters off balance most of the game.

However, the Tiger hitters, with the help of a few walks and a couple of key errors, managed some very timely hits. The Eleven-year-old All Star Team will continue its quest to go three for three in tournament championships for the second consecutive year. They head to Fords, where they are also defending champions.

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# Soccer Club Looking For Players

The South Plainfield Soccer Club is looking for serious players in the 10 to 14-year-old age group to play on the Club's traveling Soccer Team. Those interested should call 226-1999.



## South Plainfield Tiger Sharks Swim and Diving Team

By Lynn Reed  
Swim & Diving Team  
Publicity Chairperson

The Tiger Sharks, in existence for seven years, swim from June 1 through the first week in August at the South Plainfield Recreation Community Pool. The team has seen tremendous growth in the past years and has swimmers who swim not only in the summer, but year round at local Ys. A very active Tiger Sharks Parents Organization, through its fundraising, has purchased new starting blocks, a starting system, a new diving board, etc.

The team competes in the N.J. Swimming and Diving Conference which is made up of four Leagues (A,B,C & D) and 31 teams from across Central Jersey. This year the Tiger Sharks were in the B League, moving up from C and D over the past few years. Other clubs that participate are: Middlesex Municipal Pool, Crystal Springs Aquatic Center from East Brunswick, Cranford Gators from Cranford, Gran Centurions from Clark, Frog Hollow Club from South Amboy and the Coppermine Club from Bridgewater.

### Results at the "B" League Championships

The South Plainfield Recreation Community Pool Swim Team, known as the Tiger Sharks, finished the 1998 season claiming the second place dual meet season trophy and finishing the season with five wins and three losses. The Tiger Sharks also took home a third place trophy at the N.J. Swimming and Diving B League Championships held Sat-

urday, July 25 at the Gran Centurions Swim Club in Clark. At the Championship meet the Cranford Gators finished first, East Brunswick SandPipers finished second and the Gran Centurions of Clark finished fourth.

Lauren Reed, 13, was the Tiger Sharks high scorer in the Championships with three first place finishes in her individual events, first in each the 100 Meter Freestyle, the 100 Meter Backstroke and the 100 Meter Butterfly. Lauren also swam freestyle as the anchor leg in the 200 meter medley relay for a come from behind first place finish.

Katherine Kaczka, 11, and Calvin John Smiley, 12, each had two first place wins. Kaczka was first in both the 100 Meter Freestyle and the 50 Meter Backstroke. She also finished third the 50 Meter Freestyle. Smiley, 12, claimed first place in both the 50 Meter Freestyle and the 100 Meter Freestyle. He also finished second in the 50 Meter Backstroke.

Christopher Reed, 10, and Shannon Dabrio, 14, each claimed a first place victory. Chris was first in the 50 Meter Breaststroke, second in the 100 Meter Individual Medley and fourth in the 50 Meter Freestyle. Shannon finished first in the 100 Meter Breaststroke, second the 100 Meter Backstroke and fourth in the 200 Meter Individual Medley.

Other Tiger Sharks winners were, Lisa Primavera, 10, second in both the 50 Meter Freestyle and the 100 Meter Freestyle. Devin Gunasekara, 11, second in the 50 Meter Butterfly and fifth in the 50 Meter Backstroke.

*Continued on page 16*



Seated is Brian Hanley. Kneeling is Tommy Whalen, Anthony Petriello, Tommy Deschaine, John Holt, Ryan Driscoll and Robbie Strani. Standing is Justin Huffsmith, Ryan Taylor, Keith Dezmin, Kevin Siedenburt, Conor O'Brien and Michael Hanley. Manager is Frank Hanley and Coaches are Gary Huffsmith, Bob Strani and Mike Whalen.

## South Plainfield 10 Year Old Traveling All-Stars — American Team — Results

The South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club 10 year old Traveling All-Stars finished second in a group of fourteen teams and received the second place trophy in the North Edison tournament. The team also played in tournaments in South Plainfield and Fords.

The All-Star players are: Tommy Deschaine, Keith Dezmin, Ryan Driscoll, Michael Hanley, John Holt, Justin Huffsmith, Conor O'Brien, Anthony Petriello, Robbie Strani, Kevin Siedenburt, Ryan Taylor, and Tommy Whalen. The bat boy is Brian Hanley. The team is managed by Frank Hanley, with coaches Gary Huffsmith, Bob Strani and Mike Whalen.

### North Edison Tournament

**SP 6-North Edison 2**—South Plainfield defeated the host team in their first tournament game. Conor O'Brien had a single, a triple and scored twice. Michael Hanley had two hits and scored three runs. Kevin Siedenburt scored once Keith Dezmin pitched a strong game striking out 14 batters.

**SP 4-Westfield 9**—The All-Stars lost a tough game to a strong Westfield team. Ryan Driscoll singled, tripled, and scored two runs. Conor O'Brien and Anthony Petriello each scored once. Kevin Siedenburt pitched well striking out eight batters.

**SP10-E. Brunswick 0**—South Plainfield shut out their arch-rival East Brunswick in this four inning, 10 run-rule, game.

Ryan Driscoll, Michael Hanley and Conor O'Brien each scored twice. Keith Dezmin, John Holt, Kevin Siedenburt and Robbie Strani each added one run. Keith Dezmin pitched all four innings striking out seven batters and allowed only 2 hits.

**SP 14-N. Elizabeth 7**—Michael Hanley's bases-loaded triple in the second inning started a seven run rally. Hanley had two hits and scored four times. John Holt had three hits and scored three runs. Conor O'Brien and Tommy Whalen each scored twice. Keith Dezmin, Ryan Driscoll Justin Huffsmith and Anthony Petriello each scored once. Ryan Taylor pitched a strong game striking out nine batters.

**SP 10-Westfield 8**—The South Plainfield All Stars faced Westfield again in the semifinal game. Keith Dezmin and Michael Hanley each scored two runs. Tommy Deschaine, Ryan Driscoll, John Holt, Kevin Siedenburt and Robbie Strani each added one run. Keith Dezmin pitched six innings striking out 4 batters. With this win, the team advanced to the championship game.

**SP 3-Middlesex 12**—South Plainfield lost to Middlesex in the championship game, taking the second place trophy. Justin Huffsmith walked and then scored. Keith Dezmin and Michael Hanley both singled and scored. Ryan Taylor and Michael Hanley pitched three innings each, striking out five batters each.

### South Plainfield Tournament

**SP 7-Warren 17**—In the first inning, Michael Hanley hit his first career home run sending the ball over the right field fence. Keith Dezmin, Ryan Driscoll, and John Holt each scored on singles by Justin Huffsmith and Anthony Petriello. Kevin Siedenburt and Robbie Strani added two runs in the third inning.

**SP 12-Garwood 3**—Ryan Driscoll tripled and scored three runs. Conor O'Brien had two hits and scored twice. Justin Huffsmith hit a triple, a double and scored twice. Michael Hanley had three hits and scored twice. Tommy Deschaine had two hits and scored once. Kevin Siedenburt doubled and scored once. Kevin Siedenburt pitched four innings, striking out seven batters and allowing only one hit. Tommy Deschaine pitched two innings, striking out four batters.

**SP10-Bayonne 12**—Kevin Siedenburt had three hits and scored three times. Tommy Deschaine singled and scored two runs. Keith Dezmin, Michael Hanley, John Holt, Justin Huffsmith and Conor O'Brien each scored once. Although down 11-4 early in the game, the team rallied back scoring six runs late in the game to close the gap. With this loss, South Plainfield was eliminated from the tournament.

### Fords Tournament

**SP 9-Shrewsbury 11**—Michael Hanley hit a two-run home run over the centerfield fence in the first inning. Kevin Siedenburt hit his first tournament home run in the third inning. Kevin bounced a sky-high shot off of a light tower on the other field! Tommy Deschaine, Ryan Driscoll, John Holt, Robbie Strani, Ryan Taylor, and Tommy Whalen each added one run.

**SP 16-Fords 1**  
Michael Hanley and Justin Huffsmith each scored three runs. Keith Dezmin, Ryan Driscoll, Conor O'Brien and Kevin Siedenburt each scored twice. Tommy Deschaine and Anthony Petriello added one run each. Michael Hanley pitched four innings striking out five batters and allowing only two hits.

**SP 19-Midtown Edison 3**  
Conor O'Brien had two hits  
*Continued on page 12*

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# 10-year-Old All-Stars Results

Continued from page 11

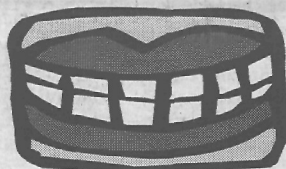
and scored four runs. John Holt scored three times. Kevin Sieden- burg had a single, a double and a triple and scored twice. Keith Dezmin tripled and scored twice. Justin Huffsmith singled, doubled and scored twice. Robbie Strani singled twice and scored twice. Ryan Taylor singled and scored once. Tommy Whalen scored twice. Keith Dezmin and Tommy Deschaine each pitched two in- nings. They combined for nine strike-outs and allowed no hits.

**SP 5-Kearny 4**—Keith Dez- min and Ryan Driscoll scored two runs each, and Michael Hanley scored once. Hanley and Dezmin shared pitching duties, combin- ing for eight strike-outs. Kearny led 4-1 early in the game scoring two runs in the first and third in- nings. South Plainfield battled back in the fifth inning when Jus- tin Huffsmith hit a double, scor- ing two runs. John Holt singled in the bottom of the sixth inning, scoring Ryan Driscoll to tie the game and force extra innings. In

the bottom of the eighth inning, Ryan Driscoll reached first base on a fielder's choice. He advanced to third on a steal and a throwing er- ror. With two outs and two strikes on the batter, Driscoll stole home to score the winning run.

**SP 3-N. Elizabeth 4**—Robbie Strani, Keith Dezmin, and Tommy Deschaine each scored one run. Keith Dezmin, Michael Hanley and Kev- in Siedenburgh all pitched well, combining to strike-out nine batters. With this loss, South Plainfield was eliminated from the tournament.

## Dear friends with teeth....



I just wanted to drop a quick note about one of your local pro- fessionals. First let me first tell you a little something about myself. I'm 42 years old and ever since I was old enough to reach the fau- cets I have hated the "dentist". A lot of my inhibitions have come from my early childhood experi- ences with the family dentist. I remember the dimly lit, paneled waiting room and the green vin- yl covered chairs grabbing the skin of my legs. As I looked around the room I saw reflections of my- self in every fellow child's face. Star- ing at the dots in the drop ceiling, swinging our legs over the black and white checkered floor. We squirmed, panicking that the solid door in front of us would squeak open revealing the stoned faced nurse dressed in a starched white dress. Like the gatekeeper to hell she would give us that false grin as she scanned the pit over her bifoc- als and than those horrifying words would roll from her lipstick crusted mouth, "OK Brian, you're next." I'd lay down my *Highlights Magazine* with all the hidden ob- jects already circled by some self serving kid that had traveled this road before me.

I'd find myself in the chair grip- ping the arms so tight that my hands would hurt for hours after- wards. The dentist would come in mumbling something to his assistant with a quick swing of the light I would feel my pupils shrinking and my stomach turn- ing. "Let's see what we've got," he'd say while he twisted my gums around like he was putting a tube on a bicycle tire. "Hmmm" was the only sound the monster would make from there on. His

cohort would than slip "Mr. Thirsty" into my mouth and retreat to her post at the desk just outside the door. Mr. Thirsty would go right to work like a steel straw sucking the last bit of courage out of my soul. I would than be instructed to raise my left arm if I need to "STOP", not that this would be welcome. Nurse Doom would then shuffle back in and hold my left arm down to avoid losing anytime on her precious schedule. To go on with this story would probably launch me into some Wednesday evening group therapy.

So let me get to the point, be- ing the father of two girls, my company offered a dental plan which I quickly signed up for. My wife has been taking them into her dentist for check ups ever since. I'm so proud of them. Daddy on the other hand has suc- cessfully avoided the dentist for over eight years.

For the past few months I've been passing a new office on Park Ave. in South Plainfield of a Dr. Kenneth R. Avery, D.M.D. (doc- tors like their middle initials). This is the former location of a soccer store that I frequented in the quest for spiked shoes for my little female Pel'es. As I passed each day I heard some grammar school assemple nurse telling us "Ignore your teeth and they will go away." My probing tongue confirmed this statement.

I checked my listing of partici- pating dentists, and lo and be- hold, he was listed. I quickly called and made an appointment before my anxiety could surface. The following Tuesday I found

myself walking through the front door like

a man. I was ready for this! What I wasn't ready for was the instant calming attitude and atmosphere I found inside. The bright rooms and the welcoming voice of Jean, the doctor's assistant, smiled and started on a conversation like an old classmate. The dentist greeted me very confidently and made me feel, well not at home, but very comfortable. I had fears of him looking into my mouth and yell- ing at me for my dental neglect. It never happened, he explained everything he saw and everything he could do. He answered all my questions in the most professional manner.

The next appointment I had my teeth cleaned and if you haven't done this in a while you're miss- ing out. What a great feeling and self-esteem builder. To end my long note I say, "Get to the den- tist, it's not like it used to be, at least not at Dr. Avery's place.

Forever Smiling,  
Brian Jenkins

P.S. I even got to pick two rings from the treasure chest for being a good patient.

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**TAKE-OUT & CATERING**

From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Summer marches on and we at the South Plainfield library are marching along with it. Here's what's happening.

We've just about reached the end of this year's summer reading pro- gram. Don't forget that the kids' booklets have to be complete and turned in by this Saturday. The clos- ing program is set for Wednesday, August 12 at 7:30 p.m. In addi- tion to awarding of certificates, there will prizes, rope tricks and western songs.

This program will be the last regular children's program at the Library until further notice. How- ever, keep your eyes open for the notice of a special children's pro- grams over the next few weeks. The first of those, for children ages 3-8, is scheduled for Tuesday, August 18 at 10:15 a.m. Call us at 754-7885 for more details.

There is no August meeting for Friends of the Library. Their next meeting will be in September.

The next meeting of the Library Board of Trustees, originally sched- uled for August 11, is now set for Tuesday, August 18 at 7:30 p.m. The public is welcome to attend what promises to be an important meeting involving, among other things, the redecorating of the Li- brary.

By all accounts, the financial lec- ture recently held at the Library turned out well. Our thanks to the respectable number of people who attended, and to Noble Cashflow Solutions, who organized the event.

As the new school year ap- proaches (sorry kids, but it is), there's been an increasing demand

for books from the various school reading lists and the ongoing "Battle of the Books." Unfortu- nately, we only have a limited num- ber of copies of these books. We appreciate your patience in this situ- ation. If the book you want is un- available, feel free to place a reserve on it, or check with the reference department about obtaining it via inter-library loan.

At the time of this writing, the Library has had an unexpected guest for the last several days. A child left a large teddy bear here recently. If you are missing one, please contact us. We're sure he'd like to get home as much as his fam- ily does.

The latest group of circuit vid- eos is on the shelf and available for borrowing until August 26. Get 'em while they're hot.

Finally, here's a way to show that there's more to summer than lots of sun and mindless fun. The New Jersey Library Association is hold- ing a postcard campaign to show how libraries provide education opportunities for children, espe- cially in the summertime. When you stop in between now and La- bor Day, children can take a post- card we'll provide and write or draw what they saw or did at the library this summer. The completed cards will be delivered to Gov- ernor Whitman. And don't forget to sign your names; the NJLA will have a drawing among all postcards received by September 10, for tick- ets to a New Jersey Nets game. For more information stop by the main desk or the children's room.

That's about all for this issue, if you have any questions or com- ments, we're always willing to lis- ten. We'll have more next time.

## Library Holds Seminar

A financial seminar for small businesses and start up businesses was held on Tuesday, July 28 at the South Plainfield Library. Ap- proximately 25 people were in at- tendance. Speakers were, Louis Terrero, CPA, on how to survive

an IRS audit, Bob Recine, vice president of Summit Bank, ex- plained an insiders look at SBA and other government guaranteed loans and Mark Noble from Cash Flow Management explained Fac- toring in small business.

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## Obituaries

### Ralph T. Cassio, 63

Ralph T. Cassio died on Monday, August 3, in Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Kenilworth, he had resided in Summit before moving to South Plainfield in 1964.

Mr. Cassio was presently the co-owner and manager of the Twin City Pharmacy in South Plainfield for the past 26 years. He co-owned the pharmacy with brother, Thomas Cassio. He was also president of Guy-Cass Corp. in South Plainfield. A 1957 graduate of Seton Hall University, he had received his B.S. Degree in Business Administration and Accounting. He had held the position of Controller for the Research Cottrell Company of Bedminster for 12 years. He had also been employed by American Metal Mouldings Company of Edison for eight years as the company's Controller.

He was a former member of the South Plainfield Jaycees, where he was a member of the Board of Directors. Mr. Cassio had coached basketball for the South Plainfield Recreation department for five years. An avid children's sports enthusiast, he had attended many of the children sporting events in South Plainfield, including the little league baseball games, basketball games, wrestling matches and Pop Warner football games.

Mr. Cassio was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church.

Surviving are his wife, Norma A. (Mecadon) Cassio; three daughters, Sandra "Sandy" Severini, Susan Ashnauld, both of South Plainfield and Sabrina Cornacchio of Deerpark Long Island, NY; a

brother, Thomas J. Cassio of South Plainfield. Also surviving are six grandchildren, seven nephews and five nieces.

Funeral Services will be held on Thursday, August 6 at 9:15 a.m. in the McCrisky Home For Funerals on Plainfield Ave. followed by a Mass at 10:00 a.m. in Sacred Heart Church.

Memorial Contributions in his memory may be made to the South Plainfield Recreation Wrestling Club or the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club.

### Mary A. (Abbruzzese) Seider, 71

Mary A. (Abbruzzese) Seider of South Plainfield died on Thursday, July 16, at her home.

She was born in North Plainfield and resided there until moving to South Plainfield in 1947. Mrs. Seider was employed by Sacred Heart School as the school's secretary for ten years. She had also worked in the school cafeteria. Previously, she had been employed by the former Cornell Dubiller Co. of South Plainfield for four years.

She was an avid bowler and had bowled in the Wednesday Morning Early Birds bowling league at Strike 'N Spare Lanes in Greenbrook for many years. She was also an avid bingo player.

Mrs. Seider was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church, where she had also been a president of the School's PTA.

Her husband, Jacob Seider, died in 1977. She was also predeceased by her two brothers, Mario and Orlando Abbruzzese and by her sister Christina Abbruzzese.

Surviving are two daughters, Barbara A. Kaplan and Jaqueline King, both of South Plainfield and two sons, Alan D. of Copperopolis, CA and Jeffrey A. of South Plainfield.

She is also survived by one sister, Philomena "Fanny" Santa Cross of Somerville; two brothers, Guido Abbruzzese of South Plainfield and Julio Abbruzzese of Mohawk, NY. Also surviving are eight grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the McCrisky Home For Funerals.

Memorial contributions may be made to Center for Outreach & Services for the Autism Commission (COSAC), 1450 Parkside Ave., Suite 22, Edison, NJ 08638, or to the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, 260 Lincoln St., Englewood, NJ 07631.

### Evelyn K. (Niemczyk) Carney, 66

Evelyn K. (Niemczyk) Carney died on Sunday, July 19, at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Mrs. Carney was born in Plainfield and had resided most of her life in South Plainfield. She has resided in Piscataway for three years and in Edison for the past year.

She had been employed by

PSE&G Co. for over 25 years. Throughout her career with PSE&G, she had worked in various positions in the company's Plainfield and South Plainfield facilities. At the time of her retirement five years ago, she was an administrative secretary in the Newark office. She was a member of the Central Jersey Chapter of the Public Service Retired Employees Club.

A graduate of North Plainfield High School, Mrs. Carney was a Life Member of the South Plainfield Polish National Home, where she was a long time member of the Board of Directors, as well as the banquet manager for many years.

She was a communicant of Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, where she was a member and past president of the Rosary Altar Society. She was also a lector-reader and had managed the church hall and kitchen. She was an honorary alumnus of the Orchard Lake Seminary in Orchard Lake, Mich.

Her husband, Thomas R. Carney, died in 1994. She was also predeceased by five brothers, Leon, Stanley, Ignatius, Joseph and Michael Niemczyk.

Surviving are her five sons, Thomas J. of San Diego, CA, James P. of Washington, NJ, Gregg H. and Kevin R., both of South Plainfield and Bryan E. of Piscataway. She is also survived by two sisters, Lee Allerton of Manteca, CA and Lillian Bradford of Edison; two brothers George and Edward Niemczyk of South Plainfield. Also surviving are eight grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCrisky Home For Funerals.

### Martha E. (Kastel) Melick

Martha E. (Kastel) Melick of Bridgewater died on Monday, July 20, at Bridgewater Care Center in Bridgewater.

She was born in Martinsville and was a former 25-year resident of Bayville and a former 50-year resident of North Plainfield before moving to Bridgewater six years ago.

Her husband, Lambert H. Melick, died in 1975.

She is survived by two daughters, Jean Coleman Hussey of Parkton, Md., Faye Rogan of South Plainfield; five grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren.

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

### Ralph L. Johnston, 71

Ralph L. Johnston of South Plainfield died on Wednesday, July 22, at St. Peters Medical Center in New Brunswick.

He was born in Minneapolis and was a former resident of Irvington before moving to South Plainfield 44 years ago.

Mr. Johnston was a 1957 graduate of Newark College of Engineering where he received his B.S. in Engineering. He was an

engineer for Bell Labs in Murray Hill for 36 years before retiring in 1987. He was credited with the development and the patent of the Impart Diode, a communication component. He was also a member of the Pioneers of America.

His wife, Lucy E. Kessel Johnston, died in 1994.

He is survived by four sons, Dennis Johnston of Smallwood, NY, Michael Johnston of Green Brook, Tim Johnston of North Brunswick and Brian Johnston of Plainsboro; two brothers, Claude Johnston of Minneapolis; Glenn Johnston of Oakdale, Calif.; two sisters, Gladys Burns of Minneapolis and Dorothy Manogue of Cincinnati, Ohio. He is also survived by three grandchildren.

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

Memorial donations in his memory may be made to the Deborah Hospital Foundation, PO Box 820, Browns Mills, NJ, 08015.

### Thomas P. Kelly, 73

Thomas P. Kelly of Jupiter, Fla., died on Tuesday, July 21, at Good Samaritan Hospital in West Palm Beach, Fla.

Born in Elizabeth, Mr. Kelly had resided in Elizabeth and Clark prior to settling in North Brunswick for many years, before moving to Florida nine years ago.

He had been employed by Ogden Allied Corporation of New York City for over 20 years as Vice President of Government Operations before his retirement nine years ago. Prior to Ogden, he had been employed by A. T. Kearney Consulting Company of New York City for ten years as a consulting engineer.

Mr. Kelly received a Bachelors of Science Degree from New York University in Mechanical Engineering. He continued his studies at NYU, where he later earned a Masters Degree in Industrial Engineering. He is a veteran of the United States Navy serving during WW II.

He is predeceased by his sister, Gloria Colaiacovo.

Surviving are his wife, Helen (Yoleda) Kelly; three daughters, Barbara Montemurno of Edison, Susan Huntley of Ocean Township and Annette Drake of Colonia; a son, Thomas Kelly, M.D. of Greensboro, NC and his brother, Richard P. Kelly of South Plainfield. Also surviving are eight grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCrisky Home For Funerals.

Donations in his memory may be made to the American Heart Association, 2550 Route #1, North Brunswick, NJ 08902.

### Louis J. Leach, 69

Louis J. Leach died on Saturday, July 25, at his home.

Mr. Leach was born in South Plainfield and was a lifelong resident.

He had been employed for 45 years by Howell Electric Co. in Plainfield as an electric motor technician. He retired in 1990.

He was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church.

He was predeceased by his brothers, John Leach and Peter Leach.

Surviving are his wife, Helen Millovich Leach; his daughter, Carol Leach of Plainfield; three brothers, Frank Colonia, Stanley Leach of Bound Brook and Paul Leach of Califon and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at McCrisky Home For Funerals.

## Do You Remember?

By William Tuthill

Some one once said, "When you get old all you have left is memories." That may be so. The thing to do is to try to store pleasant memories.

How many times has it come up in a conversation, when some one says, "Do you remember...?"

To which I will add.....

Do you remember the A&P on Plainfield Avenue? Did you know there used to be a "milk-machine" outside the store, where you could get a quart of milk for a quarter? You would have to be there before 9 p.m. or the machine would be sold out. The store closed at 6 p.m. After a while, either due to vandalism or people kicking the machine out of frustration at it being empty, it was removed.

How about "Lenny's Chicken Farm" on Sampton Avenue? That's where the Quick-Check strip-mall is now.

"The Dutch-Hut"? That was where you could get "fish and chips." It was the A-frame building where the 7-11 is now located on Plainfield Ave.

Also in the same block was Delano's Market, with the single gas-pump island out front. Mr. Porky is there now. The gas pump was removed long ago.

The development of the Geary Farm into a housing project in 1950-51 was the beginning of many of these changes. Other projects soon followed.

What are some of your memories of "The Old Days" in South Plainfield?

## Rescue Squad June Calls

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad answered 133 calls in June, included 104 emergencies, 23 motor vehicle accidents, three transportations and three community service requests.

The squad's volunteers spent nearly 240 crew hours answering the June calls.

## Attention Historical Society

The South Plainfield Historical Society recently mailed its newsletter to members along with renewal form. Any member who did not receive their copy should call Bill Tuthill at 756-9654 or Mary Mazepa at 754-3503.

## 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.

Because We Care



### THE FIRST YEAR

It is no wonder that traditional mourning rituals usually last for one year. The first year after the death of a loved one is filled with "firsts" without that person, such as the first birthday, anniversary, holiday or the anniversary of the death itself. While there is no timetable for getting over a loss, there are phases of grief that each person should attend to in his or her own time. Only by going through the entire grieving process can we expect to overcome loss. In Samuel Johnson's words, "While grief is fresh, every attempt to divert only irritates. You must wait till it be digested and then amusement will dissipate the remains of it." "If the internal griefs of every man could be read, written on his forehead, how many who now excite envy, would appear to be objects of pity?"

—Metastasio

Perhaps the most important milestone in accepting the death of a loved one, is attending the memorial service and burial or cremation ceremony. Having the support of family and friends helps the bereaved to acknowledge and bear their loss. The JAMES W. CONROY FUNERAL HOME, serving area families in their time of grief, invites members of all beliefs and financial ability to call 756-2800 to schedule a consultation. Our facilities are located at 2456 Plainfield Avenue in South Plainfield. Pre-planning arrangements available.



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# Annual Meeting of Garden Club Of NJ

"A Celebration of Garden Clubs" was the theme of the 73rd Annual meeting of The Garden Club of New Jersey, held at the Somerset Marriott on June 11.

Officers and Directors were installed by President Roberta McNally of Oakland. Mrs. McNally is a very active president, researching and publishing gardening hints in newsletters and periodicals as advice to the public. She has appeared on radio talk shows and is happy to show her lovely gardens.

The medal of the Garden Club of New Jersey was awarded by President McNally to Dr. Emile DeVito of South Plainfield for his environmental concern and efforts in land acquisition in the Garden State. As Director of Conservation Biology for the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, he has saved thousands of acres of land for open space.

Dr. Bruce Hamilton, associate professor, Ornamental Horticulture and Landscaping at Cook College, Rutgers University, was awarded an Honorary Life Membership in GGNJ for his dedication in preserving the gardens surrounding Holly House and for his guidance and work with Friends of Rutgers Gardens.

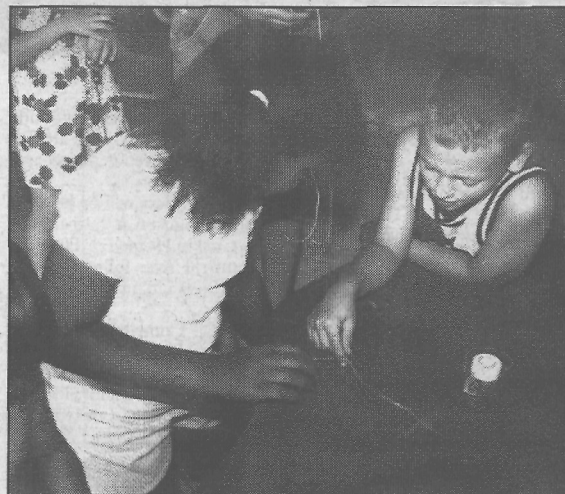
Trophy and Certificate Awards were presented by Awards Chairman Maryann Finch to member garden clubs and individuals for their accomplishments in the fields of horticulture, garden therapy at nursing homes and hospitals, civic beautification, educational flower shows and garden centers and environmental education.

Chairman Nancy Ghatan of Chester and her committee did an outstanding job of coordinating the day-long events. The Garden Club of Chester supplied the lovely table centerpieces of pansy plants which were a gift to each attendee.

Scholarship recipients met at breakfast with chairman Regina Coscarelli of Basking Ridge and stayed for the day's events. Mrs. Coscarelli presented scholarships to Judith S. Ahrens of Warren, Marc A. Martoccia of Watchung, Ellen E. Hostetter of Colonia, Marlene B. Clark of Highland Park, Vanessa Lynn Funk of Watchung and Jacob N. Mesenior of Washington, NJ. All scholarship winners earned high grade point average, in addition to being very active in their chosen fields of Landscape Architecture, Horticulture, Forestry Management and Environmental Science.

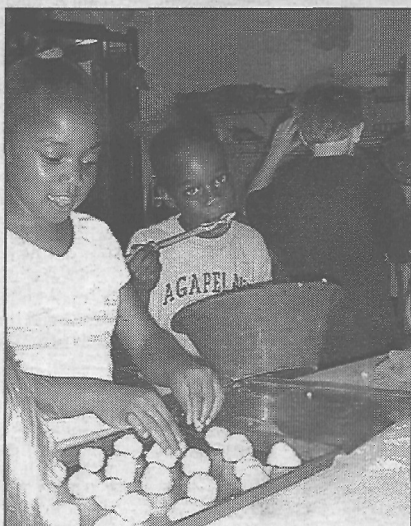
The afternoon program, "A Joyful Tribute to the late Bob Thomas," founder of the guild, was presented by American Guild of Flower Arrangers Unit #1. Unusual and innovative designs originated by Bob were recreated by individuals of the group, who then offered them in a raffle to attendees.

Members of the unit are Pauline Berry of New Vernon, Julia Clevert of Watchung, Doris Galione of Warren, Pat Grossi of West Milford, Carole Iuso of Bridgewater, Marilyn Litvak of New Providence, Roberta McNally of Oakland, Sara Rhodes of Par Troy and Louise Thorpe, Bernardsville.

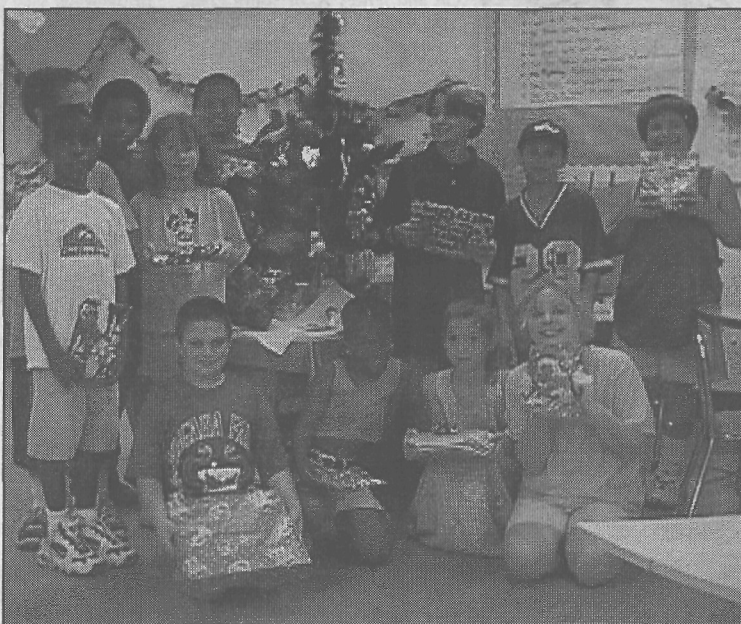


## Summer Fun at Riley and Franklin Schools

Kids from John E. Riley School and Franklin School enjoy the Summer Fun Program. The Summer Fun Program is ongoing at Riley, Roosevelt and Franklin Schools daily from 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-3:30, rain or shine until August 14. Supervised activities include games, crafts and contests.



*Tiger Day Campers celebrate Christmas in July*



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## Sacred Heart Church

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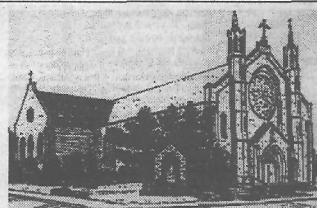
Very Rev. Michael A.  
McGuire, Pastor

### Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:45 p.m.  
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





## POLICE REPORT

• A resident on Zwolak Ct. complained someone tore apart the top part of his mailbox and left it around the corner.

• An AM/FM cassette radio was stolen from a parked car at Squire Corrugated on Somogy Ct. The car was not locked.

• A lottery cash register was taken from the Corner Deli located on Hamilton Blvd. The complainant said he was inside his apartment above the Corner Deli and heard a loud noise. When he went to investigate he found the front door open and the lottery cash register was missing. No cash was in the register but it did contain several lottery tickets. Police said the door had apparently been opened by using bodily force.

• A sprinkle, four hose connectors and a water timer were stolen from a garden at the home of a resident on Wadsworth Ave. Also a screen leading to the basement showed damage. However no entry could be made be-

cause the window had bars.

• Fragrance & Accessories, Inc. reported an E-Z Way trailer they rented was missing from a Secacus location. The next day Tingly Rubber in South Plainfield found the truck in their lot. The back door of the truck had been entered by using bolt cutters. Most of the merchandise was stolen or broken. The value of the merchandise is still being determined.

• Middlesex Water Co. located on Park Ave. reported someone spray painted graffiti on three sides of their building at well #18. Each wall was almost entirely covered with graffiti. Police are investigating.

• Caldor issued a complaint against Keith Moore of Piscataway for shoplifting \$294.580 worth of clothing from their store.

• William Benz, of Lake Alfred, FL was arrested for Driving While Under the Influence (DWI) after a motor vehicle acci-

dent on New Market and Hamilton Blvd.

• A patient at Cedar Oaks Nursing Home was apparently struck in the face and head by a nurses aide. The complaint was made by the patients granddaughter. Cedar Oaks stated it will be conducting its own investigation and will have to report the incident to the State Authorities.

• United National Bank called police to its branch after a forged check for \$1099.99 was cashed. Police have the video tape of the incident.

• Cosmetics and medication valued at \$461.65 were shoplifted from K-Mart at the Middlesex Mall.

• Caldors reported that some stole \$193 worth of merchandise from their store. Security had been watching the shoplifters and they were stopped outside the store. They struck the guard and drove off in a 1987 Ford Thunderbird with NY plates. The surveillance tape was taken as evidence.



Members of Troop 759 pose outside the Miller Cory House in Westfield. From left to right, Lark Stagnitto, Kaleigh White, Caitlin Herriott, Gina Curcio and Keri Gould. The troop visited the museum in Westfield for a tour and to see fiber dyeing and open hearth cooking demonstrations. The costumed staff described the house, life during the 1700's, and explained how various items in the house were used. The girls learned how very different a girl's life in that time was from their own, and asked several questions.



Troop 759 recently toured Yogurt Express and learned how they make their soft ice cream and yogurt. After the tour members of the troop enjoyed a sundae.

## Missing Children

*Continued from page 2*

play out front on our dead end street unless there were other children or I was present to watch. He did not go into a neighbor's yard or home without consulting me first.

He loves walking to school. We live three and a half blocks from his grade school. In first and second grade he wanted to walk but, I did not breathe easily until I could see him through the back door and knew there were other children around and he was not alone. Now that he is in junior high school I grant him more freedom and even this is unwillingly. As some dangers diminish, others increase.

I worry when takes he a different route home or goes to the store for a snack after school. His bike is another worry. The main rule is simple, I must know where he is going. Some areas are off limits, such as empty school yards and parking lots. He must wear his helmet and be home before dark. The list goes on. I work at keeping my son safe.

Yet, every day I see children just waiting to become tomorrow's headlines. They roam stores by themselves, are unattended in yards and even ride bikes well after dark. Lately, I have witnessed things that make my blood run cold. In a large department store

a toddler runs back and forth near the exit; no parent in sight. Two youngsters, perhaps six and three wander into the next aisle as their mother has her mind on a special sale. I watch in horror as they disappear from sight and their mom doesn't even notice.

How about the family in the mall that allows the little one to walk freely behind them. He stops to study a spot on the floor, falling far behind the family, then races to catch up. I saw a lost child crying, she allowed a stranger to lead her away. The stranger was a friend of mine, an employee returning from lunch but I was still appalled that the child had not been taught any safety rules.

More horrifying are the infants left alone. I passed by a cart with a newborn in a portable carrier. The infant was asleep and no one was in sight. I paused nearby and as one minute passed, then two. I continued on, searching down each aisle until I saw 'mom' trying on shoes. I wanted to speak out, but I bit my tongue to keep the words in. I turned back once and saw the infant still alone as other shoppers passed within inches of the cart. How easily that baby could have been taken. In seconds anyone could have picked up the handle and been out the door.

On my way home, a toddler sat

by a curb playing with a toy. It was a busy road and the child was alone. A stop at a drug store yields still another instance. A woman exits her van and hurries into the store. In the van are two children, grade school age perhaps, alone. Later, I spot a new mother carrying her infant back to the car, she kisses and cuddles the baby as she walks. As she reaches her car and opens the door, I see another child, pre school age, left alone in an unlocked car.

Who are these foolish parents? Where is their common sense? If any one of these children had been abducted we would truly feel awful, but much of the blame can be put on parents who put these children at risk. When we bring a child into this world, we are entrusted with their lives, from the early days of helplessness through innocent adolescence to the independent teen years and on as they grow up. Does a parent ever stop worrying? To turn your back for even a second, or not teach your child to be as safe as possible, is breaking that trust. Incidents like these happen all over the country on a daily basis. But all of these incidents described have happened right here in South Plainfield. Does that frighten you? It should.

## Classified

### HELP WANTED

**RECYCLING CENTER GROUNDS-KEEPER** South Plainfield Yard Waste Site operations & maintenance; 10-14 hrs/week, some Saturdays. Call Recycling Coord. (908) 226-7621.

**SOUTH PLAINFIELD ADULT SCHOOL** has openings for a PT secretary and teachers for the following fall classes: G.E.D., English as a Second Language; Computers: Internet. Interested applicants should call (908) 754-4620 ext. 214.

### FOR SALE

**1988 HONDA ACCORD LX-142K. NEW CLUTCH.** \$2800. 732-545-3132.

**ENLARGER** Vessler 23C 756-4929

**KEYLESS LOCK** - never used. 908-757-6682

**HANDMADE ROSARIES-ALL OCCASION.** 908-769-7735

### REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

**SO. PLD: 2-FAMILY,** 3 Bedroom and 2 Bedroom, 2 car garage. \$169,000. Call 732-248-0952.

**EDISON: HUGE CAPE** 100 x 200 ft lot, 2 car garage. \$239,900. Weichert Realtors 732-906-8200. Ask for Rick McElhiney

### REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

**EDISON: ONE BEDROOM CONDO** w/ attached oversize garage, close to major transportation. Weichert Realtors. 732-906-8200. Ask for Wayne Grennier

### SERVICES

**CUSTOM HANDMADE FURNITURE,** furniture repair. 732-545-3132.

**PHOTOGRAPHY** - Weddings, special occasions. Tuthill Photos (908) 756-9654

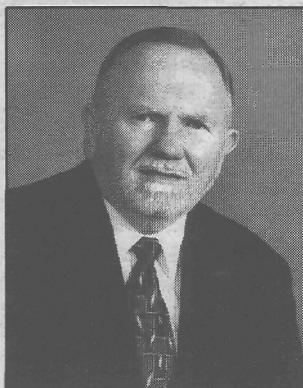
**ATTENTION BABYSITTERS....**Are you looking for sitting jobs? Would you like to be in a babysitting pool? Advertise in the classified section of the Observer at no charge. Call 732-469-4380 or fax your ad to 732-805-0815.

### WANTED

**CHILDREN'S CLOTHES FOR CONSIGNMENT.** Clothes must be clean, pressed and on hangars. call 561-6151.

**HISTORIC PHOTOS** of South Plainfield buildings, landmarks and/or businesses. 732-469-4381.

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**Classified Ad Deadline**  
**for AUGUST 20 ISSUE IS AUGUST 13.**



## Swim and Diving Team

*Continued from page 11*

Charlie Rowe, second in both the 200 Meter Individual Medley and 200 Meter Freestyle and third in the 100 Meter Backstroke.

Matt Moates, 8, third in the 25 Meter Freestyle and second the 25 Meter Breaststroke. Anthony Pazzollo, 17, third in the 100 Meter Breaststroke and fourth 100 Meter Butterfly. Sarah Blessing, 15, third in the 200 Meter Freestyle and fifth in 100 Meter Butterfly.

Jessica Manning, 10, fourth in both the 100 Meter Individual Medley and the 50 Meter Backstroke. Leah Konops, 9, sixth in the 100 Meter IM, third in the 100 Meter Freestyle and fifth in 50 Meter Butterfly. Nina Byard, 11, fifth in the 50 Meter Butterfly, fourth 100 Meter Freestyle.

Billy Moates, 11, fifth in the 00 Meter Individual Medley and the 100 Meter Freestyle and fourth in the 50 Meter Butterfly. Mary Otlowski, 14, fourth in the 100 Meter Butterfly. Tim Keller, 13, sixth in both the 100 Meter Freestyle the 100 Meter Backstroke. Nathalie Londono, 13, sixth in the 100 Meter Breaststroke and fifth in the 100 Meter Freestyle. Mike Tudor, 14, sixth in the 100 Meter Breaststroke.

Lauren Haus, 11, sixth in the 100 Meter Freestyle. Shawn Ferguson, 10, fourth in the 50 Meter Backstroke. Matt LeDet, 9,

fifth in the 50 Meter Backstroke. **Relay Events**

The girls aged 13-18, 200 Meter Medley Relay Team of Otlowski, Dabrio, Blessing and Reed had the only first place relay win.

The boys 9-12, 200 Meter Medley Relay Team of Ferguson, Reed, Gunasekara & Smiley took second. The boys 13-18, 200 Meter Medley Relay team of Rowe, Josh Dec, Keller & Pezzello took second. The girls 9-12, 200 Meter Medley Relay Team A of Manning, Byard, Haus and Katie Koury finished third.

The girls 8 and under 100 Meter free relay team A of Joanna Luzny, Danielle Dembia, Melissa Franzson and Camille Romano, finished fourth. The boys 8 and under Freestyle Relay team of Michael Boyle, Drew LeDet, Luke Russo and Matt Moates finished third. The girls 9-12, 200 Free Relay team A of Kaczka, Manning, Primavera, Haus finished second. The Boys 9-12, 100 Meter Freestyle relay team of Matt LeDet, Ferguson, Billy Moates and Gunasekara finished second. The girls aged 13-18, 200 meter freestyle relay team of Kiersten Merrow, Kelly Koury, Lisa Revolinski and Nathalie Londono finished fourth. The boys 13-18, 200 Meter Freestyle relay team of Tudor, Keller, Pezzallo, Dec finished 4th.



Nick Novicky and the Verstyles Polka Band



Matty and Viola Zangara polka as the band plays Sunday night.

## Spring Lake Park Hosts Music-in-the-Park Concerts

The Middlesex County Parks Commission has been sponsoring its Music-in-the-Park concerts Sunday nights during the summer months at Spring Lake Park in the Gazebo.

The Music-in-the-Park program offers Dixieland, big band sound, concert bands, ethnic groups and more. The concerts are held in four county parks, Johnson Park, Thompson Park, Warren Park and our own Spring Lake Park.

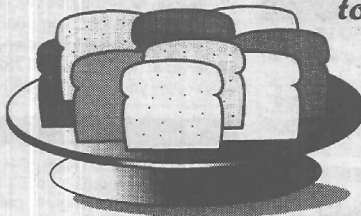
These concerts will continue until the end of August and are free to the public. Everyone is invited to bring their lawn chair and enjoy the music. The concerts run from 7-8:30 p.m.

### August Schedule

- Aug 16 George Krauss Memorial Concert Band, Barbara Santoro, Director
- Aug. 23 John Allen and Cruise Control
- Aug. 30 Live Sounds of Music — Contemporary, Richie Aiello.

# Once in a while, the tastiest things in life are free!

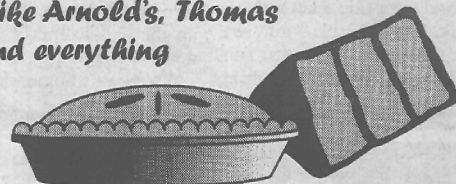
**G**ood bread and fun desserts really add to the quality of everyday life. We're happy to provide you with both - at savings that permit you to enjoy the best often!



And to thank you for your business, we invite you to make use of the coupons below with your next

purchase. Each entitles you to a free item from our shelves.

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**FREE DESSERT!**  
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Feast your eyes on all the goodies we carry from master-bakers at Freihofer's! Pick three, any kind whatsoever, and the lowest price box is your free. Only at Freihofer's Outlet in South Plainfield with this coupon. Limit two free boxes per customer per visit. While supplies last.



**FREE BREAD!**  
(Buy two, get one free)

We're giving away top-quality bread baked by Arnold and Freihofer's! Pick any three loaves, and the lowest price loaf is your free. Only at Freihofer's Outlet in So. Plainfield with this coupon. Limit one free loaf per customer per visit. While supplies last.



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