

South Plainfield Observer

SEP 10 1999

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SEPTEMBER 10, 1998

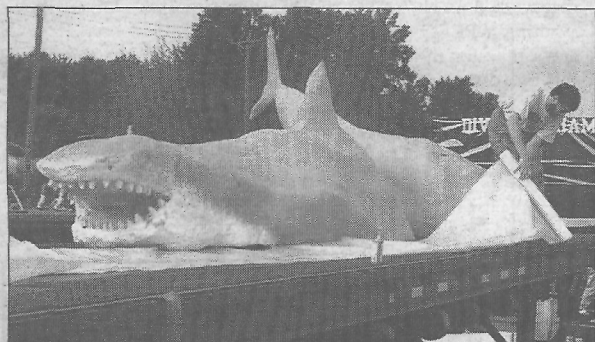
Weathermen Wrong Again Dennis Doesn't Menace Labor Day Festivities



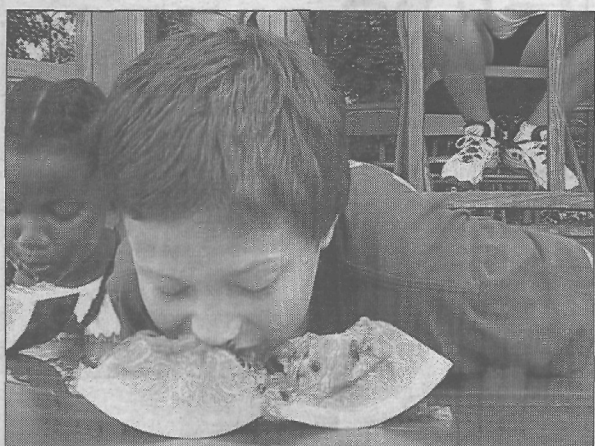
Girl Scouts and Brownies "March to the Millennium."



William Beagle with 5K race winners, Stephen Lewicki and Jillian Stein.



Tiger Sharks decorate their float on Saturday at Hall's Trucking.



Justin Kaneps gives his all at the watermelon contest.

When weatherman predicted that Hurricane Dennis would reach South Plainfield on Labor Day causing heavy rain, the parade committee called an emergency meeting on what to do if the storm hit. The committee decided to go ahead and pray for the best. Their prayers were answered as Monday turned out to be a beautiful day. Even though it was a hot and humid, everyone was relieved that the weather predictions were wrong and it did not rain on our parade.

Hall's Trucking was a beehive of activity on Saturday morning. Groups from the Summer Drama Workshop, Junior Baseball and Girls Softball, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Tiger Sharks were in Hall's parking lot decorating their floats. A great deal of work and planning went into the design and construction of these floats. The work was all done by kids, their advisors and parents. When completed the floats were stored indoors at Hall's until the parade. Even the Friends of the Woods float, which was made at home, was stored there. Hall's donated the use of their flatbed trucks and the volunteers who drove the trucks in the parade.

The parade committee started the day at 6:30 a.m. and by 8:30 Veterans' Park was the hub of activity with booths being set up and food preparations underway. Dr. Patrick Aiello, a chiropractor, was on hand to help the runners and walkers loosen up and stretch before the race.

The parade route was packed with spectators and no one went home disappointed. Grand Marshal Eleanor Haines led the parade, fol-



Honorary Parade Grand Marshal Eleanor Haines

lowed by a trolley car carrying some of South Plainfield's past mayors, their wives and honored guests including (former mayors and their wives): Harry and Sandy Gaynor, Bill and Rose Prendergast, Richard and Doris Kennedy, Mike and Sue English, Mike and Kathleen Woskey, as well as the present mayor and his wife, Dan and Marion Gallagher. Also on the trolley car were longtime South

Plainfield residents Walter Malick and Esther Armstead.

At the end of the parade Veterans' Park became the scene of contests and games. One contest, the grease pole had \$50 bill on top, but it still took almost a half an hour for the prize to be claimed. According to Mike English, four boys finally figured it out and stood on each other's shoulder. They split the prize money. Watermelon- and pie-eating contests, and a water balloon toss were big hits. The band "Back Splash" entertained throughout the afternoon. Many went on the nature walk with the Friends of the Woods.

The evening festivities started off with a concert at Spring Lake Park by "Class-The Girls Next Door", followed by "Sound Investment", who played right up until the fireworks started. The fireworks display at dusk ended the Labor Day celebration.

This issue includes many photos of the day (see pages 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12). We hope you enjoy the scenes from the Labor Day Parade.



Pie eating contest winner Andy Falaco with trophy and empty pie tin.

THE PUBLIC CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE

The following people working behind the scenes made this year's parade a success. They deserve our thanks for all of their time and effort. Everyone on the committee were volunteers and every member spent many hours, especially on Labor Day. We think they deserve a salute and thank you from all of us!

Joe Scrudato, Co-chairperson
Debra Krawiec, Co-Chairperson
Darlene Pinto, Concessions/Park
Marion Gallagher, Concessions/Park
Pat Vargo, Concessions/Park
Jan La Jeunesse, Participation
Addie Levine, Hospitality, Judging and Trophies
Ray Petronko, Bands and Paid Performers/Council Liaison
Don Alexa, Bands and Paid Performers
Vinnie Buttiglieri, Publicity
John Sorrentino, Parade Marshals
Mike English, Recreation Department Activities
Linda Zushma, Concessions/Park
Mike Zushma, Public Safety Coordinator

Working hard on the parade were South Plainfield Police Department, Rescue Squad, Fire Department, Public Works employees, Emergency Management, Recreation and the R.A.C.E. radio operators.

In My Opinion

Letters

Dear Sir,

I am writing regarding an article in your August 27 issue, regarding Middle School teacher Mr. Wood.

From what I understand, he is getting off with no jail sentence after molesting six teenage girls. There is not a bargain imaginable for anyone who is convicted of such a crime.

I have two small children, one boy entering the second grade this year and a daughter, four, who will be entering kindergarten next September. I should not have to be worried about sending my children off to get an education.

But when something like this happens how can a parent not be concerned?

My heart goes out to the parents of these six girls who will carry this trauma around with them for the rest of their lives.

I pray something more will be done to Mr. Wood.

SINCERELY,
MRS. CHRISTINE ROSEMAN

To the Editor,

The recent article about the concentrated effort of our current political leaders to support and encourage the redevelopment of our downtown business is misleading. Unfortunately, actions don't support their words.

The most recent action was installing the banner flags "Welcome to Downtown South Plainfield." Although an admirable action, the town fathers did not purchase them locally, but rather from The American Flag Company in Union, NJ, instead of supporting South Plainfield merchants who could also have supplied this merchandise.

This action is in direct contradiction to the words expressed by our politicians who encouraged people to support local businesses. They don't practice what they preach.

Businesses are told to be positive. How can local businesses be positive when there is no support from our town? The practice is hypocritical!!

How politically correct and expedient that the banners are installed just before the Labor Day parade!!

IRATE SOUTH PLAINFIELD
SMALL BUSINESS OWNER

Dear Editor:

I am writing to complain about the accumulation of garbage in Putnam Park. Users of the park have complied and placed their trash in the garbage basket.

However, the trash has not been picked up since July and continues to accumulate.

I personally complained to Mike English in early August and then again to the recreation department in late August. The recreation department told us to call the commercial trash hauler who is responsible for trash removal in the park which we did. That was over two weeks ago and the trash continues to accumulate.

When is it going to be picked up?

JOE SCALERA

From the Clean Communities Advisory Board

A friend of mine makes a seven-hour trip to upstate New York several times a year with her family. They own some property there, about 30 miles from the Canadian border. A half-hour walk brings them to the foot of a waterfall surrounded by pristine old forest. My friend tells me that on their last visit, she did a thing she had never done before: She picked up litter somebody else had left behind. Her husband gave her a hard time about it, she said, but she just couldn't see leaving an empty potato chip bag on the ground in the middle of all that clean

beauty.

How is it that one person sees nothing wrong with leaving a candy wrapper in the woods, while another finds that offensive? Some folks seem instinctively to respect the rights of other beings on the planet; others are oblivious.

Worse, some people seem to think they have a right to dispose of their wastes for free, anywhere they can. It is not clear where this attitude comes from. However, since a natural consideration for others is not a trait shared by all, the Borough has several ordinances prohibiting improper solid waste disposal.

Chapter 125 of the South Plainfield Borough Code, "Littering," prohibits all forms of littering and illegal dumping. Residents should take note that depositing waste in any location "not specifically designated for the purpose of solid waste storage or disposal" is illegal dumping. So is disposing of "residentially generated garbage in publicly owned litter receptacles or in privately owned...solid waste storage containers except with the written consent of the owner..."

This last provision targets people who are engaging in "theft of service." They cancel their home garbage pickup service to save \$20 a month, and they put their garbage in a public litter can. Or they take it to work and deposit it in their company's dumpster. Or, in the dumpster behind a local convenience store. That way, somebody else bears the cost of disposing of their trash.

They might get caught, though and that can be expensive. The penalty for illegal dumping, according to Section 125-10, is "...a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or imprisonment "in the county jail for a period not exceeding thirty (30) days, or both."

Actually (according to Keep America Beautiful), respect for the right of others to a litter-free environment is not instinctive; it has to be learned. The primary goal of the Borough's Clean Communities Program is to educate people about the proper way to handle solid waste. To this end, it supports a Clean Campus Program in the schools, a Clean Business Association in the commercial sector, and a series of annual public lands clean-ups. Enforcement of anti-littering ordinances is an important component of the program. The county Health Department, the Borough Code Enforcement Officer and the Police Department are all empowered to enforce these ordinances. Those convicted of violating them receive fines and community service sentences.

Anyone who can provide information leading to the identification of an illegal dumper should notify the South Plainfield Police Department at 755-0700 or the Code Enforcement Officer at 226-7718. And it wouldn't hurt occasionally to pick up an empty potato chip bag you see lying on the sidewalk and drop it in the nearest litter can.

Opinion

To the Editor:

On behalf of the South Plainfield Education Association, I would like to explain two matters which are of concern to the association's members (teachers, secretaries and aides), as well as the community.

The State Supreme Court recently refused to hear arguments brought by the South Plainfield Board of Education regarding money which your children's teachers should have received. The Court returned the case to the arbitrator, upholding the arbitrator's original decision and agreeing that the arbitrator's award in favor of these teachers was arrived at fairly. Your children's teachers should have received this money—a part of their wages—from the very beginning.

Five years ago, when this grievance was initiated by the SPEA, only a few teachers were involved. The board could have easily resolved the issue then for much less money than they now owe. But the board refused, and instead chose to litigate this matter for five years. Early on, after the association investigated further, we found that many more people were affected, which is why—five years later—the back pay amount owed the teachers is much greater.

From the very beginning the board had the money available but withheld it from the teachers. Then instead of saving the money in case they lost the arbitration, the board chose to spend it elsewhere. In addition, if the board had settled fairly five years ago, all the money paid to the attorneys for legal fees could have been saved. Since, despite our many requests, the board still refuses to give the public an exact accounting of the legal expenditures in this matter, which we are legally entitled to know, we are being forced to litigate this matter as well. The board continues to spend the community's money unnecessarily.

Now the board balks at paying these teachers and are using the arbitration award to alarm the public by threatening to cut programs. However, the board has had five years, since the start of this arbitration, to plan for paying the teachers their money. We are not asking for anything that your children's teachers are not rightfully and fairly entitled to have. It's not our fault if the board didn't act fairly or plan property.

I'd also like to explain to the community why the SPEA has declared an "impasse" in our contract negotiations. Our contract expired on June 30, and when we return to school on September 1, we will be working without a contract. We have met with the board's negotiations team nine times and have failed to make any progress. They have been unwilling to make any compromises, even on simple issues that don't involve money.

The board's negotiations team has also attempted to separate one of our groups—who happen to be the lowest paid members—by offering them no salary increases, while also expecting THEM to pay for their own training!—training which will directly benefit your children. These members are South Plainfield citizens. They work with your children and care about them. They deserve to be treated fairly and with respect.

It was at this point that the SPEA negotiations team realized that we had no choice but to declare an "impasse". We are now awaiting a PERC appointed mediator.

It's time for the citizens of South Plainfield to question why this board continues to prefer to force every matter into litigation instead of a fair settlement. The SPEA has made every effort to do otherwise.

YOURS TRULY,
LOUISE A. MRUZ
SPEA PRESIDENT

While we invite our readers to submit letters and opinions on subjects pertinent to South Plainfield these opinions do not necessarily reflect the position of the South Plainfield Observer.



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To get an article published in *South Plainfield Observer*:

1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
2. Mail, fax or drop it at: Editorial Department
South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or drop it in the box at Mohn's Flowers on Plainfield Ave. or Twice Is Nice, Front St. or fax us at (908) 668-8819 or e-mail us on the web page at [spobserver.com](http://www.spobserver.com). Include your name, address, telephone number.



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Raffle Winners Announced

The South Plainfield Historical Society is pleased to announce the winners of the Museum Fund raffle which was held on Labor Day.

Mrs. Nancy Fidecaro was the winner of two tickets for the Brunch-Cruise on the Cornucopia Princess. Mrs. Cheryl Wiley won the Pennsylvania-Dutch hand-sewn quilt. Both winners are residents of South Plainfield. The Historical Society would like to thank you all who supported the annual fundraiser.



Nancy Fidecaro

Volunteer Fire Department Wins "Battle of the Badges"

The South Plainfield Elks "Battle of the Badges" softball trophy was awarded to South Plainfield's Volunteer Fire Department for the second year in a row. An excellent game was played at Veteran's Park on Saturday night with the Firemen once again the victors. Proceeds

from these games go to the Elks' Handicapped Children's Committee.

We thank both teams for their dedicated duty to our town and for their citizenship in support of our work with disabled children.

The Observer will publish photos of this game in next week's issue.

From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Well, now that the kids are back in school and things are quiet for the moment, here's news from South Plainfield Library:

Tomorrow, we'll be returning to our regular Saturday hours of 9 a.m.-5 p.m. And just in time, too, since we've got two special events slated. First, the Friends of the Library will be holding a Dollar-a-Bag book sale from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., with books selling for (yes, you guessed it) \$1 per bag. Then, at 11 a.m. Dave Street will be performing his program, "The Habits that Save Habitats". While registration for this performance isn't required, it is requested, so please sign up at the main desk.

To the certain relief of both parents and kids, our children's Storytime programs will be starting up again next week. We'll follow our usual schedule, so programs will be held on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday at 1:15 p.m. They're for children ages three and over; you don't have to pre-register. If you'd like more information, check with Children's Librarian Linda Hansen.

The Library Board of Trustees will hold their next meeting on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. Members of the public are welcome to attend and find out the latest information on the Library's plans.

Here's more about the program on Tuesday, September 21. At 7 p.m., the Friends of the Woods will present the newly published

local Nature Guide, Trail Map and Species List. They'll also be presenting a slide show focusing on the Highland Avenue Woods Environmental Education Reserve. Local dignitaries will be there and the public is welcome to attend and get more information about South Plainfield's remaining wooded area.

People seem to carry a lot of cards around. There's your driver's license, credit card, ID, ATM card, business cards, video rental cards...all sorts of cards. We suggest you add one more card: a library card. Library cards are among the more useful cards you can have. With one, you're free to borrow from our large collection of books, CD's, videos and tapes. Also, our library cards are accepted at the vast majority of other libraries in the area (though they may not be as accommodating as we are). A library card provides access to large areas of knowledge and entertainment. And it's easy to get one; just bring in valid proof of address (one of those aforementioned cards that says where you live) and fill out an application. New cards and card renewals are free; replacement cards cost \$2 each. For more details, ask at the main desk. So take advantage of National Library Card Sign-Up Month and pick up a card today. We're sure there's still room in your wallet for one more card.

That's all for now. We'll have more news next time. See you then.

Statement from Mayor Daniel Gallagher

Vote No on Billboard Ordinance

On Thursday, September 9, the council will be considering adoption of Ordinance #1520. The intent of this ordinance is to control the possible proliferation of billboards throughout the Borough.

No one favors billboards and, as the governing body, we want to limit them not encourage them. As a result of public input, it is clear to me that the proposed ordinance isn't the answer. There-

fore, I will ask the council to vote no on Thursday evening and reject the ordinance.

This Mayor and Council have always listened to the people. From adopting understandable agendas at council meetings, to starting the Taxpayers Advisory Group and holding the first in the nation Democracy Day, we have always felt that Democracy works best when the people participate in the process.

Even though this ordinance is not the answer, we can't ignore the problem. Both our Board of Adjustment attorney and Planning Board attorney stress that we must develop enforceable standards for billboards or the entire Borough is at risk. Therefore, as Mayor, I am creating a special committee to study billboards and

make recommendations to the council.

I am appointing Council President Jim Vokral as chairperson. Planning Board liaison Darlene Pinto and Public Safety and Zoning liaison Dennis Cerami will also serve on the committee. In addition, I am asking Environmental Commission chairperson Larry Randolph, Taxpayer Advisory Group chairperson Harry Kuhn and Businessperson Advisory Group chairperson Bob Longo to be members of the committee.

I am directing the Borough Attorney to prepare a Resolution for Thursday night creating the advisory committee. I am sure that working together, we can develop standards that will protect our Borough from unsightly

Calling All Candidates

The political season in South Plainfield officially begins with the Labor Day Parade. Candidates for Borough Council marched and were at Veterans' Park shaking hands.

We hope all residents will have the opportunity to get to know the four candidates and make informed opinions prior to election day.

We welcome letters and comments from the candidates and residents alike. We will try to publish any and all letters we receive from the candidates as well as letters from residents.

Our letter policy states that letters submissions must include a name and telephone for verification. Upon request, we will publish letters anonymously (as long as they comply with the above request).

ELKS TALE

The South Plainfield Elks Scholarship Committee takes great pleasure in announcing a \$500 scholarship for Jennifer Morretti of South Plainfield. Jennifer was one of two winners from the NJ Elks Central District which represents 15 Central New Jersey towns.

Recycling Center & Yard Waste Site

Fall schedule is now in effect. The hours for the recycling center are Tuesdays noon to 7 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

The Yard Waste Site hours are Tuesdays noon to 7 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

For updates, call the Recycling Hotline: (908) 226-7620.

MILESTONES

Wedding

Karla Galfetti and William Smith Wed

Karla Galfetti of Acton, Massachusetts, was married to William Smith, also of Acton, on May 22 at Hedding United Methodist Church in Barre, Vermont.

The bride is a graduate of the University of Vermont. She received an MA from Lesley College Graduate School. She is currently a manager of product marketing communications at Eastman Software, Inc. The groom is a graduate of South Plainfield High School, Rutgers University and Boston University. He is employed as a manager in software development at Object Design, Inc.

The couple was married in a double ring ceremony. The bride was attended by Attilia Sawyer of Anchorage, Alaska as maid of honor. Jeffrey Smith, brother of the



William and Karla Smith

groom, was best man. Ring bearers were Sean and Brian McGlynn.

After a honeymoon at the Greek Isles the couple will reside in Acton, Massachusetts.

Graduates

Ryan Benward Graduates Cum Laude

Ryan Benward of South Plainfield, has graduated cum laude from Kean University with Bachelor of Science degree in Graphic Communication Management.

The graphic communications program is offered jointly by the management science department and the department of technology

at Kean. It combines graphic communication courses with a management and marketing of graphics technology systems. As of his May commencement, it was the only program of its kind offered in New Jersey.

Ryan is a 1995 graduate of South Plainfield High School.

South Plainfield would like to thank the following volunteers who made the 42nd Annual Labor Day Parade a success!!

- Friehofer's (pies)
- Pinto Brothers
- B & C Deli
- Mercy 6 from MRCM
- Rescue Squads from Plainfield, Edison, Spotswood, South Amboy, Iselin, Milltown, Morgan, South River, Greenbrook and Kendall Park.
- Fire Departments from Metuchen, East Brunswick, Edison, Colonia, New Market, River Road and Watchung
- Woodbridge Police Dept.
- Piscataway Police Dept.
- North Brunswick Police Dept.
- Middlesex County Fire Marshal, Michael Gallagher
- Middlesex County Emergency Management
- Middlesex County Park Employees and Park Rangers
- Middlesex County EMS Coordinator, William Chapman

Light towers donated by:

TriCo on Ryan St. (2), Federated Fire (2), Conti Construction (9), South Plainfield OEM (2)

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AROUND TOWN

EVENTS

Historical Society Sets Meeting

The Historical Society will meet at the South Plainfield High School Library on Tuesday, Sept. 14 at 7:15 p.m.

Tourette Syndrome Support Group Meeting

The next meeting of the Tourette Syndrome Association Family Support Group of Middlesex County will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 14 from 7-9 p.m., at JFK Hospital, 65 James Street, Edison, in the Neuroscience Institute Department.

For more information, call Debbie, 732-283-1439 or www.tsanj.org.

Polish Home Sponsoring Trip to NY Yankees Game

The South Plainfield Polish National Home is planning a trip to see the NY Yankees play the Tampa Bay Devil Rays on Saturday, Sept. 25. The game starts at 4:30 p.m. The bus will leave the Polish Home parking lot at 2 p.m. sharp. The cost is \$30 per person and includes a bleacher seat ticket and transportation.

Tickets are available at the Polish Home bar. Please call (908) 668-9442 for more information.

SPHS Class of 1979 Planning Reunion

What a long strange trip it has been since graduation from South Plainfield High School in 1979. Join us at the twenty year reunion of the high school class of 1979 and tell us about what the past 20 years have been for you.

The reunion will be held on Saturday, Nov. 27, at the Pines Manor located on Route 27 in Edison, from 8-12 p.m.

The cost is \$45 per person and includes a buffet and a DJ. There will be a cash bar. Pass the word to other alumni. For more information log on to <http://idit.net/~abbortk/SPHS1979.HTML>.

GOP to Hold Annual Fashion Show

The South Plainfield Republican Organization will be hosting their Sixth Annual "Fall into Fashion" Fashion Show and Brunch on Sunday, Sept. 12, at the Metuchen Country Club in Metuchen.

Fashions will once again be provided by BJ's Dressing Room in Scotch Plains and The Answer, specializing in woman's sizes, in Menlo Park. Door prizes and the traditional gift basket raffle will highlight the show.

Tickets are \$35 and may be obtained by calling Kathy at

755-2068. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

Cup Pack 324 to Hold Car Wash

Cub Scout Pack 324 of Kennedy School will be sponsoring a car wash on Saturday, September 11 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The car wash will be held in the parking lot of South Plainfield Middle School located on Plainfield Avenue. The fee per car is \$5.

Please come out and support the Cub Scouts in this fundraising project.

New Jersey's 18th Annual "Let's Talk Adoption" Conference

The 18th Annual "Let's Talk Adoption" Conference will be held at Seton Hall University in South Orange on Saturday, Nov. 6 from 8 a.m.-4:45 p.m.

The conference is sponsored by Concerned Persons for Adoption. The scheduled keynote speaker is Dr. David Brodzinsky and the lunchtime speaker is Dr. Anne Brodzinsky.

Over 25 different workshops will be held throughout the day for prospective and current adoptive parents, adoption professionals and members of the adoption triad.

Workshops to be held include: Homestudy, International Opportunities, Adopting the Waiting Child, Searching, INS Update Subsidies, How to Finance an Adoption, Finding a Therapist, School Issues and Language Issues for the Internationally Adopted Child.

To register, call 908-273-5694 or email mcben216@aol.com to request a registration flyer.

Single Parents Group to Meet

A newly formed Single Parents of Central New Jersey group will meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month, 7:30-10:30 p.m. For information, call Sandra 732-283-1250 or e-mail snlprntnj@aol.com.

VFW Annual Picnic Will Celebrate 100th Anniversary

This year the VFW Annual Picnic will celebrate the year-long commemoration of the Veterans of Foreign Wars 100th Anniversary.

The picnic will be held on Sept. 11, rain or shine, from noon to 6 p.m. Tickets are available at the VFW Post or at the gate. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$6 for children 5 to 12. Children under five are free.

The fair will include the usual pig roast, as well as chicken, and plenty of hot dogs, hamburgers, salads, beer and soda. There will also be a D.J., door prizes, games, free pony rides and a moonwalk for the kiddies. For additional information, call 908-668-9751.

Come and bring your family and friends to eat, sing, dance

and have a few laughs. The winter season will be here all too soon!

The VFW Post will also be holding its monthly dinner on Sept. 24. A full dinner will be served for just \$6.

Seniors Plan Trip to "Mame" at Paper Mill Playhouse

The South Plainfield Recreation Department would like all seniors to join them in a trip to see "Mame" on Wednesday, Oct. 20, at the Paper Mill Playhouse.

Jerry Herman's legendary hit musical will feature stage and screen star Christine Ebersole as the larger-than-life Auntie Mame, who will "coax the blues right out of the horn" in this dazzling musical.

The cost for seniors is \$20 per person and transportation is included. Tickets can be purchased at the PAL Building on Maple Ave. For more information call 226-7713.

Mark Sonnenfeld Poetry Reading

Experimental poet Mark Sonnenfeld, former resident of South Plainfield, will be reading his poetry at 1 p.m. on Fridays along West Main Street in Somerville. He reads from his works to the rhythm of recorded jazz music.

Columbiettes Fall Events Announced

The South Plainfield Columbiettes are sponsoring several events this fall, including an auction, shopping trip, Country Western dinner-dance and a Christmas show. All events are open to the public.

The Chinese style auction will be held on Friday, Oct. 1, in the Sacred Heart School cafeteria. Doors open at 6 p.m. and drawings start at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$6 and includes a sheet of auction tickets and a door prize for all who attend.

Food will be available for purchase in the kitchen and complimentary coffee, tea and dessert will be served. Tickets are on sale and may be purchased by calling Mary Ann at (908) 226-1222.

If anyone has new items they wish to donate, bring them to the Parish Center weekdays or call Mary Ann to arrange pick-up.

On Saturday, Nov. 6, the Columbiettes will sponsor a shopping trip to Reading, Pa. The cost is \$18. Bus leaves from the Knights of Columbus Hall on 334 Hamilton Blvd. at 8 a.m. for five hours of shopping before stopping at the Cracker Barrel for an early dinner on your own. The return to South Plainfield is expected at 6:30 p.m. Last year's trip sold out early, so reserve as soon as possible by calling Mary Ann at the above number.

A Country Western dinner dance will be held on Saturday, Nov. 20, at Bobby & Mary's on William St. in Piscataway. Tickets will be \$20 and include a buffet dinner and soft drinks. Dance lessons will be by Boot Scootin Slim and Pam. For information, call Marien at (908) 251-8552.

The Columbiettes will also have a bus trip to "The Miracle of Christmas" at Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, Pa., on Saturday, Dec. 11. The cost is \$85 and includes the show, transportation and dinner. The bus will leave from the Knights of Columbus Hall at 9 a.m. and return at approximately 9 p.m.

Reservation deadline is Oct. 15. Call Mary Ann for info.

AARP Schedules Meetings

South Plainfield Chapter #4144, AARP, resumes monthly meetings on Sept. 17 at 12:30 p.m. at the PAL Building on Maple Ave. The guest speaker, Mr. John Mulkerin, President of First Savings Bank, will tell everyone how banks are preparing for Y2K, and how to protect yourself from the numerous "scams" that are being generated from fears of the changeovers.

They are accepting reservations for a bus trip to Three Little Bakers Dinner Theater (in Delaware) to see "The Unsinkable Molly Brown". Price of \$49 includes, dinner, show, transportation and gratuities. You do not have to be a member of AARP. Call Lee at (732) 968-6613 or Mary (732) 752-3764 for the September 23 performance.

Business Association Meetings

The South Plainfield Business Association did not meet during July and August.

The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, Sept. 16. A meeting notice, including the meeting topic of discussion and a guest speaker, will be sent to members.

Ladies' Auxiliary Plans Fashion Show

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad Ladies' Auxiliary is completing arrangements for their annual "Fashion Show" Brunch to be held on Sunday, Oct. 24, at the Polish National Home on New Market Ave. Doors open at 12 noon. Ticket are \$27 and may be purchased by calling 908-754-8275 or from any auxiliary member.

Women's and misses fashions will be presented by BJ's Dressing Room in Scotch Plains, the Answer Store in Menlo Park, and children's fashions will be coordinated by Fashion Bug.

The event will include the traditional Holiday Basket Raffle, plus many more exciting raffle prizes and door prizes.

Tickets will not be sold at the door. Proceeds from this annual fund raiser help the South Plainfield Rescue Squad defray numerous expenses.

Polish National Home Flea Market

Polish National Home is seeking vendors for a flea market to be held Sundays through Nov. at 312 New Market Ave. They are currently seeking vendors. Call 908-668-9442.

P.B.A. Eighth Annual Golf Tournament Set

The South Plainfield Police P.B.A. Local #100 will be holding the Eighth Annual Golf Tournament on Monday, Sept. 20. A shotgun start is planned for 11 a.m. at the Mattawang Golf Course on Township Road in Belle Mead. An awards banquet will follow at the clubhouse located at the course. A large turnout is expected this year as usual, so sign up as soon as possible.

There are still several sponsorships available:

- Playing sponsor at \$210—Your company will receive a commemorative pennant that is displayed on a green and a company representative may play for free!
- Donation of \$150—Sponsors a beverage cart on which your commemorative pennant will be displayed.

- Non-playing sponsor at \$110—Your company name will be printed on a sign located on a tee.
- A donation of \$85 sponsors a golf cart with your company name printed on a sign fastened to a player's golf cart.
- Entry fee of \$85 for individual golfers includes green fees, cart, prizes, food and beverages.

Call Detective Kevin Murtagh at (908) 226-7661 for info.



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Labor Day 1999

SOUTH PLAINFIELD "MARCHES INTO THE MILLENNIUM"



42nd Annual Labor Day Parade TROPHY WINNERS

HONORARY GRAND MARSHAL TROPHY

Given by Honorary Grand Marshal to best overall entry in his/her opinion
Awarded to: Friends of the Woods

JUDGES' TROPHY

Best overall entry as determined by judges
Awarded to: Salaam Temple Oriental

GEORGE W. L. PAGE TROPHY

Given to the best civic entry
Awarded to: South Plainfield Rescue Squad

BEST YOUTH MUSICAL GROUP

Awarded by judges to the best youth (high school and under) musical performing group
Awarded to: South Plainfield High School Marching Band

BEST ADULT MUSICAL GROUP

Awarded by judges to the best adult musical performing group
Awarded to: Ragtimers

BEST APPEARING MARCHING BAND

Awarded to: Pipe & Drum of Atlantic Watch

BEST MUNICIPAL GROUP

Given to the best overall entry connected to the borough government
Awarded to: South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department

BEST NON-INSTRUMENTAL PERFORMING GROUP

Awarded to the best appearing drill team, twirling group, gymnastic group, etc.
Awarded to: South Plainfield High School Cheerleaders

BEST YOUTH GROUP

Awarded to the best appearing youth (high school and under) entry
Awarded to: South Plainfield Tiger Sharks

MOST OUTSTANDING VISITING ENTRY

Awarded to the best appearing entry from out of South Plainfield
Awarded to: Westfield Fife & Drum Corp.

BEST ANTIQUE VEHICLE

Awarded to the best appearing antique vehicle entry of any kind entered as a separate unit
Awarded to: 1926 Fire Engine

MARIE D. PAGE MUSICAL PERFORMANCE AWARD

Awarded to the best overall instrumental musical performance entry
Awarded to: Pipe & Drum of Atlantic Watch

MOST OUTSTANDING FLOAT

Awarded to: IBEW Local 94 U.S. Working Family

BEST YOUTH GROUP FLOAT

Awarded to: Cedarcroft Bible Chapel

MOST PATRIOTIC FLOAT

Awarded to: U.S.S. New Jersey Battleship

BEST CIVIC FLOAT: (relating to the community)

Awarded to: Boy Scouts

The Public Celebrations Committee would like to thank everyone for participating in this year's Labor Day festivities and look forward to seeing you all in 2000!

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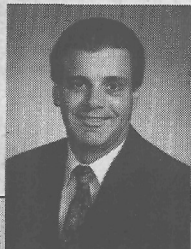
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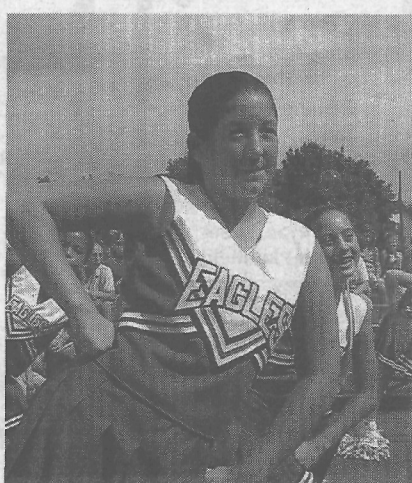
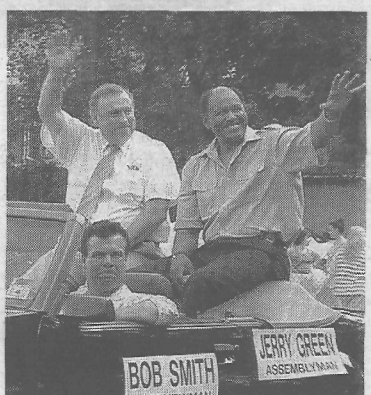
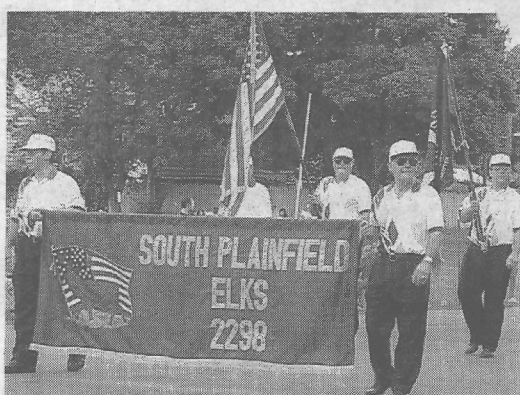
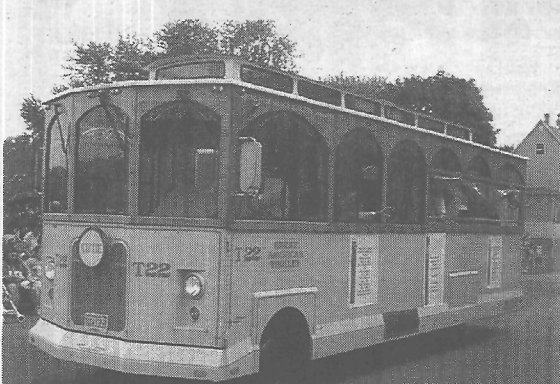
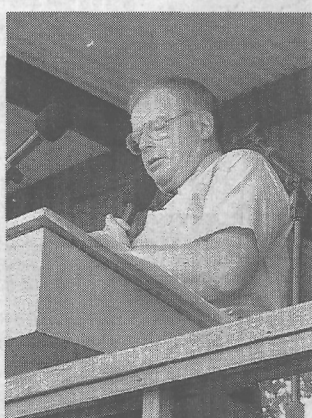
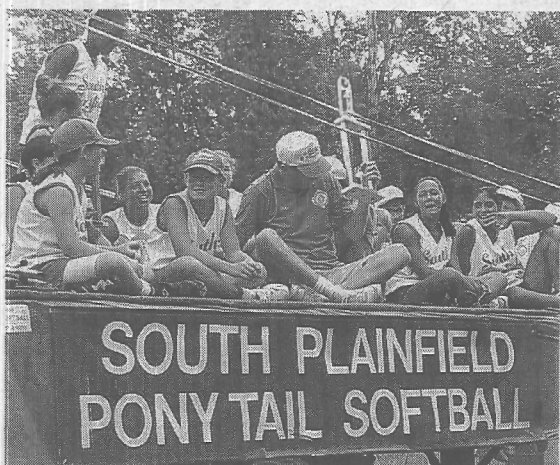
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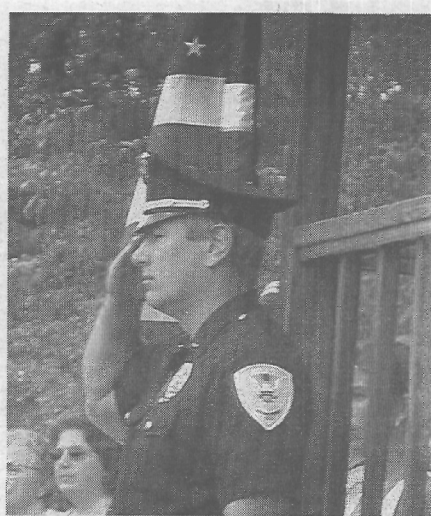
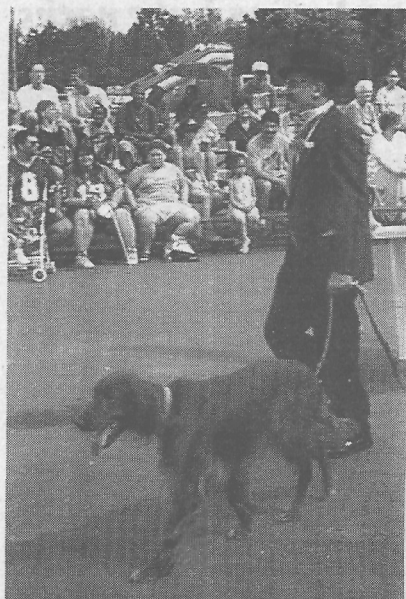
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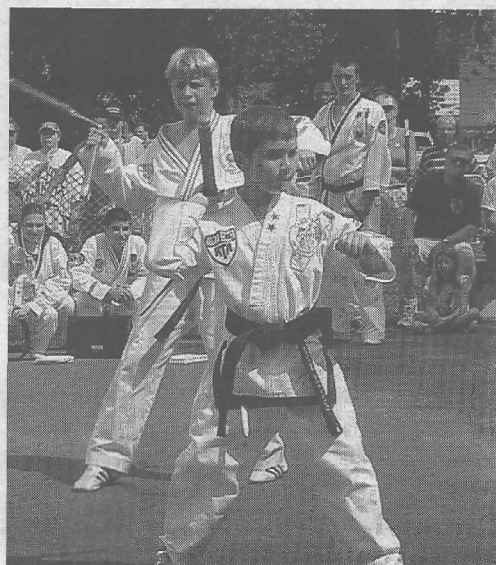
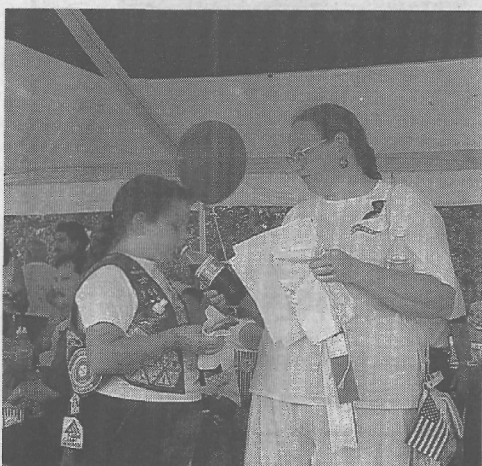
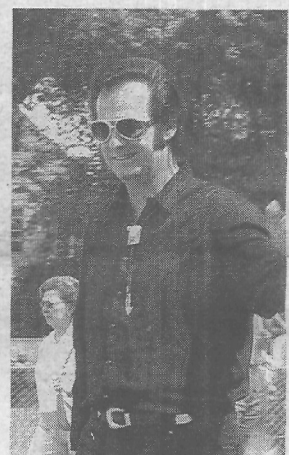
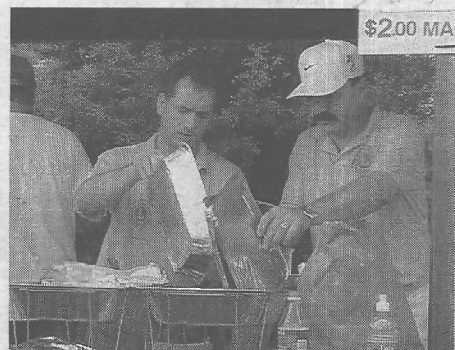
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**Labor Day
1999**

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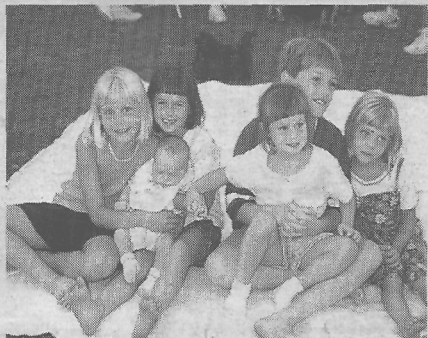
Contestants Hard at Work



Pie and watermelon eating contests were some of the fun games the kids participated in after the parade. There was also a water balloon toss contest and spin art. Andy Falaco won the pie eating contest and then Andy and Mrs. Kapaci won the balloon toss contest. The watermelon contest winner was Valarie MacIntosh.



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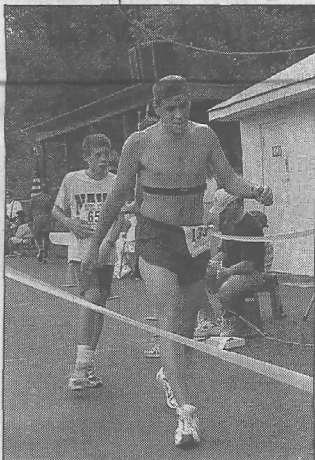


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RICOCHET/S.P.A.S.A. 9TH ANNUAL 5k Labor Day Run Winners

| PLACE | TIME | AGE | NAME | CITY |
|------------------------------------|---------|-----|------------------|-------------------|
| MALE | | | | |
| 1st | 16:35.3 | 36 | Stephen Lewicki | South Amboy |
| 2nd | 17:05.3 | 32 | Jonathan Hersch | Edison |
| 3rd | 17:06.5 | 33 | Peter Buccino | Dunellen |
| FEMALE | | | | |
| 1st | 19:51.3 | 17 | Julian Stein | Monmouth Junction |
| 2nd | 20:30.4 | 25 | Monika Lehman | South Plainfield |
| 3rd | 21:49.8 | 35 | Kathleen Higgins | Scotch Plains |
| Oldest and Youngest Runners | | | | |
| MALE | | | | |
| Oldest | 29:32.9 | 67 | John Wall Sr. | Piscataway |
| Youngest | 26:33.7 | 11 | Robert Didario | South Plainfield |
| FEMALE | | | | |
| Oldest | 25:30.9 | 50 | Pauline Powell | South Plainfield |
| Youngest | 26:27.6 | 8 | Nina Santiago | Rockaway |



AWARDS:

- \$100 cash, one month free membership to RICOCHET HEALTH and RACQUET CLUB and trophies to overall winners, male and female.
- \$50 Gift Certificates donated by HOME DEPOT
- NIKE running shoes donated by SPORTWORD to second place finishers.

Proceeds go toward supporting the substance awareness activities of the South Plainfield Alliance for Substance Awareness (SPASA).

SPORTS



Predators Receive Medals

The South Plainfield Predators received their New Jersey AAU gold medals for winning the 12 Year Old AAU State Championship. Pictured left to right are: back row, Dariny Gonzalez, Vincent Velez, Jermaine Clark, Chris Clarediello, Nick Smith, Brian Dzuro and Jack Ford; front row, Keven Markussen, Nick Cesare, Justin Hughs, David Deredita, Ryan Kenny and Chris Bakazan. The Predators final combined record, was 37 wins and 18 losses. The Predators were introduced on the field at the beginning of the Sept. 7 Somerset Patriots game.



South Plainfield Golf League captains Michael Cortese and Jerry Minlonica congratulate each other on a successful first competition. Plans are under way to make the competition an annual event.

First Inter-League Golf Competition

The first inner-league golf competition between the Italian American Golf League and the South Plainfield Golf League was held on Aug. 31 at the Plainfield West Nine Golf Club. Eleven two-men teams competed in a Rider Cup-type com-

petition. Italian American Golf League squeaked out 6-5 victory. Each golfer contributed an entrance fee which was used for food and refreshments served at Sal's Spirit Shop. Twenty five percent of the proceeds collected was donated to the Plainfields' Unico Chapter, specifically for the Holiday Party for the special children of South Plainfield and Keystone House.

Surprise Win in Golf Tournament

There was a surprise win at the golf tournament of the South Plainfield Men's Recreation League on Aug. 24 at the Plainfield West Nine Golf Club.

Older golfers combined with younger men in a four man team to win "Low Net Team" score.

Against a field of 11 teams, this group surprised the rest of the golfers with their "stunning score of five under par."

The winning golfers were: George Popik, Fred Kirchofer, Kevin Bickunas and Frank White.

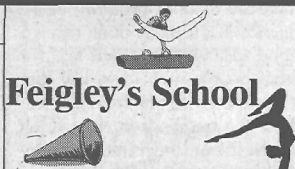
Women's Soccer League Forming

Any womens' soccer teams 18 and over that would like to play in a competitive league in the fall should please call The Garden State Soccer League at (daytime) 609-587-9107 or 609-394-6999, or Rich Braun (evening) at 732-229-4668. This is a non-profit organization.

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Junior Baseball Club Notes

Old Timers Game

The annual Old Timers game will be held on Friday night, Sept. 10 at 6 p.m. at the Pony Field. All club members are welcome to come down and play.

Annual Picnic

The annual SPJBC picnic will be held on Saturday, Sept. 11 at 12 p.m. at the complex. This year's events include a "dunk tank," players vs. coaches games, and trophy and award presentations. The trophy presentation will begin at 3 p.m. Coaches vs. players game schedule is as follows: 8 and 9 year old at 12:30 on field 3; 10 & 11 year old at 4 p.m. on field 1; 12 year old at 4 p.m. on field 3 and Pony at 4 p.m.

2000 Season Registration

Early registration for the 2000 season will be held in the evening on Thursday, Oct. 21, Friday, Oct. 22, and during the day on Saturday, Oct. 23 at the clubhouse. Stay tuned for more information.

Contact the SPJBC ... Clubhouse 908-754-2090 or email spjbc99@aol.com.

Events at a glance

Old Timers Game / Picnic Setup - Sept. 10, 6 p.m. at the complex.
Annual Picnic - Sept. 11 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the complex
Monthly Meeting - Sept. 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse
2000 Early Registration - Oct. 21, 22 and 23 at the clubhouse

By Cyrus n Moon

Weekly Horoscope 9/10-9/16

VIRGO 8/23-9/22 Mercury/Mars in cooperating aspect. Friday is a good day to be busy. Your energy flows, your confidence level is strong, and much work can be done—either physical or mental. You are unlikely to be daunted by obstacles, so this may be the right time to tackle that tough problem you've been meaning to solve.

Libra 9/23-10/22 Moon enters Libra. Anything in the artistic field will be greatly benefited. This will be especially true in work governing color and color balance. As Libra is also the sign of partnership and union, this transit is an auspicious time for forming partnerships, marriages, and agreements.

SCORPIO 10/23-11/21 Moon sextiles Pluto. This is a transit that signifies a desire to make changes in your personal and domestic sphere. These are usually short-term changes, such as cleaning, repairing and reorganizing things in your home. But be careful not to have a one-track mind keep yourself open.

SAGITTARIUS 11/22-12/21 Moon conjuncts Jupiter. You have the opportunity to deal with the public or with large groups of people during this transit and you should do very well. You can build such a strong rapport with a group that everyone knows you understand each other on a deep intuitive level.

CAPRICORN 12/22-1/19 Moon conjuncts Saturn. At this time you may feel a bit lonely. But this is an occurrence with this transit; things just look worse than they really are. This can be true on the home front as your spouse can activate a sense of guilt about some past event. You will get through it!

AQUARIUS 1/20-2/18 Moon squares Uranus. At this time you should be very careful not to be very hasty, jump to conclusions or react negatively to anything that is said to you! You will be inclined to do the opposite of what is said to you, simply because it was a suggestion. So wait a day and take in what was said.

PISCES 2/19-3/20 Neptune/Moon conjunction. Here you can be confused by your emotions. And in par-

ticularly in a love relationship in which you are romantically fascinated by someone who is completely inappropriate for you. It's a "spell" that lovers work upon each other, and then you can't see the world around you.

ARIES 3/21-4/19 Mars conjuncts Pluto. This is a transit you will need to take heed of, as you will be tempted to take over and run whatever is happening around you. Do not seek the ambition that will have you stepping on toes. Also be careful of severe ego conflicts. You do have the opportunity to get some hard work done.

TAURUS 4/20-5/20 Moon sextiles Venus. Go ahead and have a party this weekend. You cannot ask for a better time, to have friends come over to your home for entertainment. You are able to make them feel good, and they will appreciate it. Also love relationships are aided by this transit. Who knows with that party?

GEMINI 5/21-6/20 Mercury in challenging aspect to Uranus. At this time bright ideas will come to you in a flash. You're mentally quick, more clever than usual. Try a new approach. What is unorthodox could be the key to discovery. Just be careful about being quick or you can trip over your own tongue.

CANCER 6/21-7/22 Moon trines Mars. Physically, your energy is high, and you will want to do something that involves physical labor or exercise. So head out to the gym or play some sports. If you try a new sport you never did before you may find yourself hooked into playing again.

LEO 7/23-8/22 Sun trines Saturn. If you have any projects at work, this will be a good time for work that requires discipline and self-control. You will also be able to organize and make an overall plan for the way you would like to order your affairs and arrange them accordingly. This can have a lasting effect.

Quote:

*When you reach out and take with one hand,
On another day reach in and give with the other hand.*

Garden Club to Start New Season

The Terra Nova Garden Club (TNGC) begins the 1999-2000 season on Sept. 22. The "Welcome Back" meeting will be held at the usual meeting place, the North Edison Library on Grove Avenue at 7:30 p.m. Co-Chairmen of the Metuchen Country Fair booth, Susan Nuzzo and Pat Gelon will discuss final plans for the fair. Terra Nova has participated in the fair since it began. Members have been meeting throughout the summer, making interesting crafts and gathering plants for drying. Hostesses Kay McCormack and Eugenia Marinich will be assisting Hospitality Co-Chairmen Nancy Fuchs and Gertrude Bender with refreshments. Horticulture specimen report will be by Philomena DeFillipo and table design by Mary Mazepa.

TNGC is comprised of members from Edison, South Plainfield, Metuchen and surrounding towns. New members are always welcome. Contact Membership Chairman Helen Behrens, phone 732-494-6288.

Social and Community Welfare Dinner Dance Set

There will be a roast beef dinner dance on Oct. 16 at the South Plainfield Elks Lodge on New Market Avenue. The hours of the event are from seven to eleven in the evening. Tickets are \$25. per person (advance ticket sales only). DJ and open bar. For information, call 908-752-2973.

This event is a fundraiser to provide food baskets to the needy of our town for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter. Cash donations and canned food are sought for distribution.

Rescue Squad 50/50 Raffle Winner Announced

Winner of the South Plainfield Rescue Squad's 50/50 was Mark Rutledge, who won \$1,441.00

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Keeping us with the times....
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INTERACTIVE COMPUTER CORNER

By Briggs Longbothum

The summer's over and it's back to school time again. For the driest summer on record, it sure didn't seem to go fast for me. I liked it! No tornado this year either, but the Labor Day Parade and the fireworks were at risk right up until Monday morning. But somebody had their fingers crossed and it all turned out well; the parade, the BBQs, and the fireworks, too.

I took part in an online survey last week that was run by one of the many electronic magazines (e-zines) that I subscribe to. After Microsoft's Hotmail security blunder where everyone's email was compromised, the survey showed that insecure email wasn't all that high on most people's list of privacy concerns. Interestingly, about 53% of the respondents feared government intrusion as their number one privacy concern, 21% had concerns with online buying issues and 12% feared buggy browsers and insecure email most. I'm curious what your biggest concerns are with respect to online privacy. Drop me a note and let me know, I really am curious!

I would guess though, that after disclosure of the government's desire to pass legislation enabling government agents to enter our homes unannounced and disable certain security features of our computer systems, people would fear such intrusion the most. Frankly, that idea is insidious and particularly reprehensible, simply in that there are those in positions of influence that actually think this is a good idea! I have a real fear for what people with ideas like that want to do with our country. Freedom is a tremendous right of all people in our land, but the responsibility to guard it is often overlooked. This is more so in an age of instant communications where a paradigm shift in power is away from groups and organizations to the individual.

So how is everyone doing with their Y2K homework? Last column's admonition was for everyone to take stock of their respective positions, but keeping priorities in context. This week, I want to know who's done what about it. Certainly, there is a ton of help from diagnostics to fixes available on the net, but is anyone doing anything about it. I have a simple 5-step compliance test (write and ask, I'll send it to you) that takes about five minutes to perform. There are some fixes for older machines and some cases that will be seriously out of luck no matter what. Better to find out now, while you have time, instead of later when you're up the creek without your paddle!

Let's keep in touch and help each other out as we move into the next millennium. If you have any good Y2K ideas or tips, drop a note, and share them with all of us.

See you next time! Briggs Longbothum, ed. (Bruggo@home.com).

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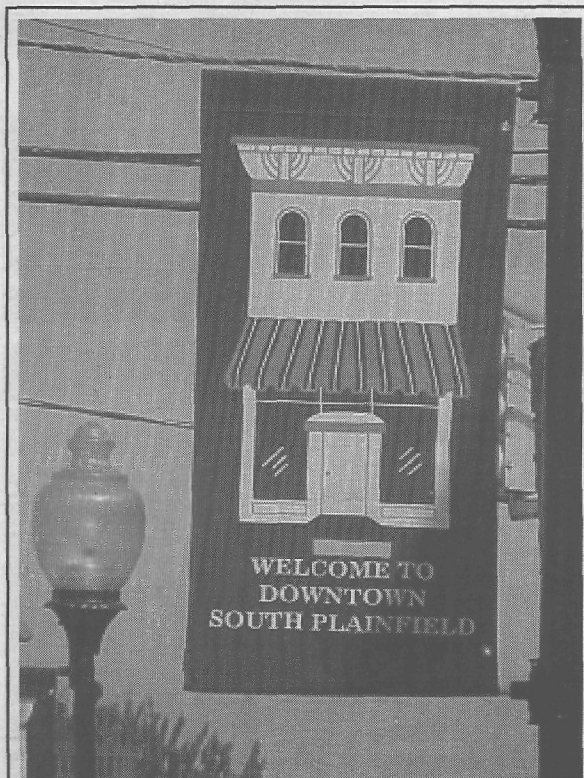
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The South Plainfield Business Association recently purchased flags for the the downtown district as part of the Downtown Revitalization project.

Cedarcroft Bible Chapel Will Hold Fall Festival

Cedarcroft Bible Chapel on Kenyon Ave., will hold its Fall Festival on Friday, September 17, from 7-9 p.m.

Interested South Plainfield residents and residents of surrounding communities are invited to learn about programs for children, young adults and adults.

The festival will include a hot dog cookout, puppet shows, crafts, a sing-a-long and interac-

tive displays. Also plan to visit the Cedarcroft Sunday School Dollar Store.

Register for the following: Sunday school classes for ages two through high school; Pioneer Clubs for kindergarten through fifth grade, Young Timers for sixth through eighth grades; Front Line Youth Group for ninth through 12 grades and adult bible studies for college aged and up.

POLICE REPORT

• Dynasty Dry Cleaners, Stelton Rd., reported the glass on the front door was smashed and cash was removed from the register. There is an alarm system but it was not set when the owner's wife left the store. About \$700 was stolen.

• Luis Palacio of Newark reported to police that his brother-in-law had assaulted him while at work at Eagle Plywood, Oak Tree Rd.

• A West Crescent Pkwy. resident reported the theft of a beeper and also notified police that someone had obtained the P.I.N. for her telephone calling card and made \$150 in calls.

• An Edison resident reported the theft of his cell phone from Pizzeria Uno. The phone had been left on a ledge in the eating area.

• An Edison resident reported the theft of his cell phone from KC's Korner. Twenty-four calls had been made totaling \$300. The victim has supplied a list of the calls.

• A Ritter Ave. resident reported his vehicle had been egged and the tires on the passenger side slashed. The suspect may have been driving a red pickup truck. Security cameras are being installed in the location of the incident.

• BP Gas Station reported the glass of the front door was smashed with a cinder block. The suspect removed cash from the register. The lottery machine was smashed and NJ lottery tickets removed. The burglary was captured on videotape by the security camera.

• A Kenwood Ave. resident reported the theft of a bike from her open garage.

South Plainfield Observer CLASSIFIEDS

Call 908-668-0010 or fax to 908-668-8819 to place an ad. Rates are 3 line minimum for \$10, \$1 per ea. additional line.

HELP WANTED

ATTENTION MOTHERS - Looking for P/T employment this Fall while your kids are in school? The Observer is seeking ADVERTISING SALESPERSONS. Set your own hours. Experience not necessary. 668-0010.

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PHOTOGRAPHY

COPIES OF OBSERVER PHOTOS for sale. See a photo in our paper: You can purchase a copy if we took it. For information, call Pattie Abbott at 756-8011 or the Observer at 908-668-0010.

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Have you been caught in front of the South Plainfield Observer's cameras lately?

If so, there's a good chance you can purchase a copy of your photo. Call 756-8011 (leave message) to make an appointment to drop by the office and select your photo from our book of photo proofs (starting September 17). There are many photos available, including those not published.

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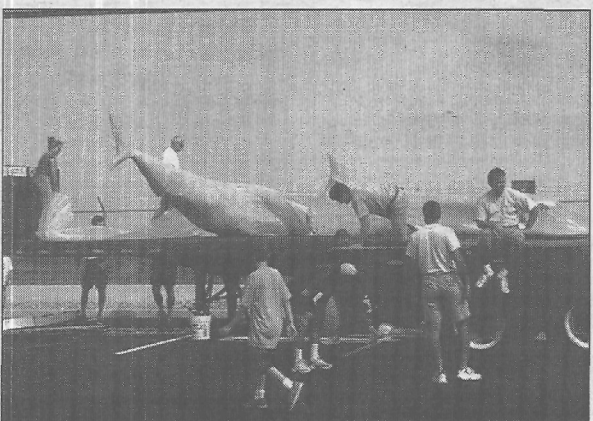
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South Plainfield Gears Up for the 42nd Annual Labor Day Parade

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