

# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 2, NO. 18

50 CENTS

MARCH 12, 1999



## School Principal Turns Green for Kids

John F. Kennedy Principal Al Czech tries each year to motivate his children to read over 20,000 books.

Last year he promised to shave his head and the year before that he sat on the roof in a lawn chair. This year he said he would dye his hair green if they met the goal. The kids took the challenge seriously and again this year they read over 20,000 books.

Last Tuesday Al Czech made good on his promise. He not only dyed his hair green, but with the help of Police Officer Joe Papa, he had the initials "JFK" shaved into the back of his head.



Photos By Snapshot Greetings

Photos by Snapshot Greetings

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To subscribe to the Observer, see page 9.

## Two Police Officers Sworn In Borough Hires Its First Female Officer

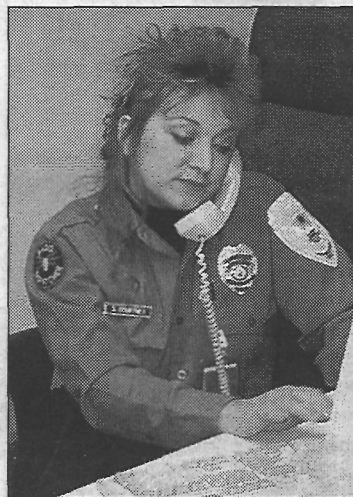
Two new police officers were sworn in during the March 11 council meeting.

Sherlyn Courtney and Mark Hollain will enter the Sea Girt Police Academy at the end of March and will graduate on July 9. Sherlyn will be making history in South Plainfield because she is the first woman police officer ever hired by the borough.

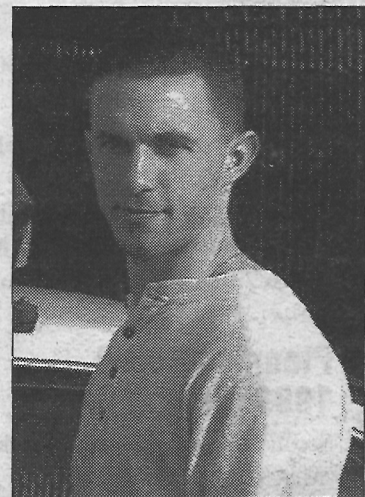
Both recruits grew up in South Plainfield and have gone through the South Plainfield school system. Both took the Civil Service Exam and were tied on the list for next in line for hiring.

Sherlyn Courtney comes from a family of police and fire fighters. Her father, Gerald, is a retired sergeant from Plainfield Detective Bureau and her brother, Jeff, is a lieutenant in the Plainfield Fire Department and was a volunteer firefighter for many years in South Plainfield. Her mother, Fran, is a controller for a company in Union. Sherlyn has been a 9-1-1 operator for the Borough since 1997. (For Sherlyn's story on why she wanted to become an officer, see page 12.)

Mark Hollain also lives in South Plainfield with his family. Mark is the son of Dieter and



Sherlyn Courtney



Mark Hollain

Gabriele (Gabby) Hollain. His mother, Gabby, has worked for 15 years in Borough Hall in the payroll department and his father owns Hollain Electric in town. Mark is currently working as an electrician with his father. He attended vocational school and received his Electrical State License.

Mark decided he wanted to get more involved in the community while he and his dad were doing electrical work at the fire department. When the next police officers exam took place, he decided to take the test.

When the results were released, his placement on the hiring list ended in a tie with Sherlyn Courtney. In the case of a tie, the choice is made alphabetically. Fortunately, this tie breaker didn't need to be made because two positions opened up in the police department and both were hired.

Mark and Sherlyn are looking forward to attending the 71 day course at Sea Girt Police Academy.

## Six Candidates Running For School Board Seats

Six candidates have filed to run in the upcoming school board elections. Three school board seats are up for grabs and each are for three-year terms.

The field includes two incumbents, Myra Stillman, now serving as school board vice president and Kenneth LaFreniere, a first term member. Also running are

Carol Byrne, former board president, Jeffrey Sieder and Daniel Smith, both running for the first time.

Barry Fielder, a 12-year-veteran of the board, has chosen not to run for re-election.

The school board election is slated to be held on April 20.

## Girls Basketball Season Ends in Rumson

By Brian Cochran

The South Plainfield girls basketball season came to an end last Thursday night in Rumson. The Tigers dropped their Central Jersey Group II game 56-27.

The girls basketball team had a tough time keeping up with a fast and furious Rumson team who

got the jump on South Plainfield from the first tip of the ball. Cheryl Cwiekolo, the Tigers leading scorer, was held to eight points which was also a team high for the game. Look for the Tigers to have another exciting team next year as many underclassmen will be returning to the court.

## Republicans Seeking Candidates

The South Plainfield Republican Organization is seeking residents interested in representing their organization in the June primary and the November election. The committee will screen two

candidates at their monthly meeting held on March 18.

Anyone interested should contact Linda Dashuta, Municipal Chairwoman at 756-6519, no later than Wednesday, March 17.

## Borough Notes

### Council News

■ An ordinance to establish the commercial facade improvement program for businesses located in the downtown business zone is scheduled to be passed at the March 11 meeting. This will establish a program to provide a 50/50 matching grant, up to a maximum of \$5,000 to business owners for use to upgrade their business facades. Funding is available through the use of a federal community development grant.

■ In a developer's agreement between the borough and Home Depot, Home Depot has agreed to contribute an amount of \$50,000 to be used for Hamilton Blvd. road improvements.

■ Phase II of the downtown redevelopment plans are ready to go out for bid. The area designated for improvements is area on Front St. around the railroad tracks.

■ Employees of the Recreation Department will be wearing t-shirts and name tags so they may be more easily recognized.



## In My Opinion

## Letters

Dear Publisher,

Thank you for helping the United Way of South Plainfield with our Valentine's Day singing quartet on Friday, Feb. 12. The front-page press was spectacular!

The United Way of South Plainfield is committed to investing in a strong and caring community, but we could not do this

without the help of caring people like yourself.

We truly appreciate your continued support of our efforts.

**SINCERELY,  
FRANK A. MIKORSKI AND  
JIM LENOX  
VICE PRESIDENTS OF  
CAMPAIGN**

## IMPORTANT MEETING DATES

Zoning Board of Adjustment  
1999 Meeting Dates

First, third and fifth Tuesday of the month as follows:

March 16, March 30  
April 6, April 20  
May 4, May 18  
June 1, June 15, June 29  
July 6, July 20  
August 3, August 17, August 30  
September 21  
October 5, October 19  
Nov. 4 (Thursday), November 16, November 30  
December 7, December 21

Site-Plan Sub-Committee Meeting Dates:  
Fourth Thursday of the month as follows:

March 25, April 22, May 27, June 24,  
July 22, August 26, September 23, October 28

Planning Board  
1999 Meeting Dates

**ALL MEETINGS ARE  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Second and fourth Tuesday of the month as follows:

March 23	August 10, August 24
April 13, April 27	September 14, September 28
May 11, May 25	October 26
June 8, June 22	November 9, November 23
July 13, July 27	December 14, December 28

## Council Meetings

AGENDA MEETINGS	PUBLIC MEETINGS
Monday, March 22	Thursday, March 25
Monday, Apr. 5	Thursday, Apr. 8
Monday, Apr. 19	Thursday, Apr. 22
Monday, May 10	Thursday, May 13
Monday, May 24	Thursday, May 27

All meetings of the Governing Body are held in accordance with New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act (NJSA 10:4-6 et seq) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, New Jersey.

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

South Plainfield  
Observer

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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. Black and white pictures are preferred.
3. 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.
4. 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.



D-League Raptors—left to right are as follows: Rob Hoffinan, Kevin Reviello, Christopher Lesniak, Jimmy Cox, Danny Espin, Jessica Adams, Blaire Houston and Steven Kelly. The coaches are Sharon Lesniak and Greg Hoffinan. Look for more basketball photographs in next week's issue.

To the Observer,

Enclosed is the team photo for South Plainfield Recreation Basketball's D league: Raptors.

Our team finished — undefeated — in first place this season. We believe this to be a "milestone." This is a great accomplishment for children in this age group. We appreciated and looked forward each week to your printing of the standings and high scorers. If you could print this picture, it would recognize and mean a lot to EACH child who achieved this goal.

Thank you for doing such a wonderful job. (You've actually gotten second and third graders to WANT to read a paper!!!!)

**SINCERELY,  
NANCY HOFFMAN**

*Editor's Note: The Observer is committed to our pledge to print all the news we receive about South Plainfield. Thanks to Nancy for submitting the letter and photograph.*

To the Editor:

I am a candidate for the South Plainfield Board of Education. I have served as vice-president of the board for the last two years. I have served six years as a member of the South Plainfield Board of Education. I have served as chairperson of the Buildings & Grounds Committee and currently serving as a chairperson of the Public Relations Committee. As chair of the Public Relations Committee, I was instrumental in implementing the quarterly publication to the residents of South Plainfield. I think it is the responsibility of the Board to keep citizens informed of the news of their board.

I have lived in South Plainfield for twenty years and have been involved with various community services for several years. I have served as secretary to the Friends of the Library and have worked with the homeless program for Middlesex and Union Counties. I've served as president of the J.E. Riley School Parent Teacher Organization and implemented the Junior Great Books program in the Middle School. I also served as president of the high school's music parents organization. I am an advocate of public education and consider it a privilege to be elected to the Board of Education.

The Board of Education has many challenges facing them in the

next few years. The Board needs to address the impending overcrowding at Roosevelt School. It is important to have experienced board members ready to address these challenges. I am very proud of our school district's accomplishments of our students' continued improvement with the State of New Jersey testing programs. Experience counts and makes the difference of the right choices to be made for the future of our students education.

Your support of me and my running mates, Carol Byrne and Kenneth LaFreniere, will be the experienced candidates that are needed for the future of South Plainfield Schools.

**SINCERELY YOURS,  
MYRA M. STILLMAN**

To the Editor:

My name is Carol Byrne and I have lived in South Plainfield since 1969. I have always been active in community affairs, working with the Junior Woman's Club, the PTA's in Grant, and as president at Franklin, the Middle and High Schools, the Elks Auxiliary, the Music and Athletic Booster Clubs and by membership on the Public Celebrations and Land Management Committees of the borough. I was presented with the Distinguished Service Award by the Jaycees. I served the board of education from 1978 through 1987 and was elected again to a three year term in 1995.

Our schools have been my special interest. They hold the key to so many futures and are an integral part of our community. Serving as president of the school board for two years (1996/97 and 1997/98) enabled me to contribute even more. I successfully instituted a Facilities Committee composed of

residents and staff to establish the foundation for the future of our schools. They presented their findings to the public and, from that point, the Board and administration went forward with planning for the future. That next step was the acceptance of the architect's report at last week's meeting and action will be taken at the regular board meeting on March 16th to begin the process of design and submission to the state.

Another of my goals realized was the community-wide newsletter, "Community Contact", which has been distributed to every household in South Plainfield for the last two years. Currently, I serve as the volunteer editor-in-chief and take great pleasure in producing articles to inform the public about our schools and the accomplishments of our children.

At my suggestion, our board has been in the forefront of the battle to remove property taxes as the primary source of school funding. They are actively and strongly pursuing our legislators as well as the Supreme Court to make changes in the law to accomplish this.

There is still much to be accomplished in South Plainfield. We need people on the Board of Education who are knowledgeable and experienced to continue the intricate and time consuming task of providing the necessary tools and infrastructure to our schools. Now is a time when stability is crucial.

I believe my work is not yet done and ask for your support to elect me and my running mates, Myra Stillman and Ken LaFreniere, to the South Plainfield Board of Education. The election is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20. The polls will be open from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.

**CAROL M. BYRNE**

## Lions Palm Sunday Breakfast

Sponsored by the South Plainfield Lions Club  
Helping the Visually & Hearing Impaired Since 1947....

When: **Palm Sunday, March 28, 1999**

Where: **South Plainfield High School Cafeteria**

Time: **8:00 am to 12:00 noon**

Ticket Price: **\$5.00**

Tickets may be purchased at the door or through a Lions member.  
For information, please call 755-2289.





## School Board News...

### Budget Introduced

The Board of Education introduced its 1999-2000 budget last week. The proposed budget total is \$34,083,464. The amount to be raised from taxes will be a little over \$26 million. A three cent reduction in the tax rate will be realized compared to last years' tax rate.

Additions planned include a nine staff position, provisions for Saturday detention at the Middle School, a full-time computer technician expanding the present part-time position.

Also proposed is a plan to hire a purchasing agent, a transitional second grade class and the possibility of providing summer school this year.

The increase in staff, school programs and summer school are possible without an increase in the tax rate because of the \$2 million increase in state aid to the district this year. This is an increase of 63 percent over the state aid which the district received last year, according to board member Myra Stillman. Last year our district received 11 percent of the total state aid distributed.

### School Expansion Plans Introduced

Two school expansion plans were introduced to the Board of Education by Architect Scott Priso. The plans include building a new Roosevelt School on the south side of town and a 10-room addition to Grant School, which now houses the administration offices, the latch key program and the Future Stars Program.

The administration offices would be moved to the old Roosevelt School building. The expansion is needed to address the possibility of an increase of 800 students in future years.

The Board will study the two plans and hold hearings on them in the spring. In the fall the Board will approve a final plan and a referendum will be held. The projected cost of Plan A is approximately \$22 million and Plan B is \$18.5 million.

A new Roosevelt School could be realized as early as 2001 with the administration building completed in 2002.



Witty's co-owner Joe DiQuollo, left, presents P.B.A. State Delegate and South Plainfield Detective Paul Wylam with a check for \$750 to benefit local law enforcement.

## Wine Tasting Dinner Benefits Local P.B.A.

Last Thursday night Witty's Liquors sponsored their first wine tasting dinner of 1999. A portion of the proceeds from the evening were donated to the South Plainfield P.B.A.

The semi-formal gala was held at Giovanni's in Plainfield. Over

100 guests gathered for a six course meal with a wine introduced before each course.

Allied beverage wine manager Rodney Rosa was on hand to provide all the pertinent information on each selection of wine, such as the history, region, taste and

the surprisingly low prices.

The evening started with a sparkling wine and progressed into various soft whites, a pair of light dry reds followed and a nice deep port wine was the perfect end to the evening.

"I'm not a wine drinker ... I had no idea this quality wine was available in the ten to twenty dollar range," said local resident Maryann Calderone. Dinner coordinator and emcee John Hammock added, "I've got two or three more of these wine tasting events planned for this year. Not only do people walk away a bit more knowledgeable, but we are also able to donate something to our local organizations."

Representing our Local P.B.A. #100 were President Jimmy Foran, Capt. Wayne Bowden, Det. Kevin Murtaugh and Det. Paul Wylam.

Information and a mailing list to Witty's wine club, with 229 members to date, is available at the store located on Plainfield Ave.

## Recycling Center, Yard Waste Site Starts Spring Hours March 16

The South Plainfield Recycling Center and the Yard Waste Site on Kenneth Ave. will begin the Spring schedule on Tuesday, March 16. Both facilities will be open Tuesdays, noon to 7 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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

## MILESTONES Birthday



On Sunday, March 7, Joan Abbott was surprised with a party in honor of her 70th Birthday. The party, held at her daughter's home, was hosted daughter Patricia and oldest son, Kenneth. Joan has three children, Patricia, Kenneth and Alan and three grandchildren - Christopher, age 12, son of Patricia Abbott and Joanie 4, and Sarah, 3 months. Joan's birthday was February 21. She has resided in South Plainfield since 1954. Pictured in photo are Joan, Kenneth, Katherine, Joanie, Sarah, Patricia, Christopher and Alan.

## Little Miss Baseball Contest Underway

Cindy Eichler announced that the nominees for Little Miss Baseball 1999 are in! This year nine girls are competing for the title of Little Miss Baseball 1999. Boxes with each girl's name and photograph have been placed at B & C Deli, Quick Chek and Ciccio's Pizza.

The following girls have been nominated: Katie Baldasaare, Nicole Brooks, Dorothy Cameron, Vanessa Cassano, Ashley Ann Chosney, Kelly Downes, Allison Huffsmith, Chelsea Hunt and Amanda Hunterdon. The winner will be chosen using the "penny-a-vote" system, so please get out and support them.

The winner will receive a \$50 savings bond and the runner-ups will also receive a gift on opening day (April 17). The boxes will remain at these locations until March 29.

## Recycling Inc. Agrees to Curtail Processing

This past month officials from the Middlesex County Health Department (MCHD) have increased their inspections at Recycling Inc. The facility has been the center of complaints from South Plainfield and Edison residents whose homes border the plant.

Residents have been complaining about the odor problem for over two years. Some claimed to have become ill because of the perfume-like smell.

Last month during an inspection made due to complaints, the MCHD found a door was left broken for over a week and several roof vents were leaking. During last month's borough council meeting, the mayor asked MCHD to increase inspections at the facility.

The company recently installed a thermal oxidizer at the cost of \$1 million dollars with the assurance it would eliminate the odor problem.

Last week the MCHD took the company to court asking that they be shut down until they could eliminate the odor problems. In a compromise agreement Recycling president Jeffrey Bey agreed to reduce, by about 50% the shredding of steel containers, the main cause of the odor problems.

## OAK TREE FARMS

136 South Plainfield Ave.  
South Plainfield, NJ

Sale Starts Friday, March 12 Ends Thursday, March 19 (While Supplies Last)

### Store Hours:

Mon- Sat. 9-6  
Sunday 8-3

### We Accept

Food Stamps

(908) 755-3663

New Florida Red or Yukon <b>Potatoes</b> 3 lbs./99¢	Boar's Head American <b>Cheese</b> Yellow or White \$2.99 lb.	<b>2% Milk</b> \$2.49 gallon With coupon	<b>Italian Sausages</b> Sweet or Hot \$1.99 lb.
Florida Hard Ripe <b>Slicing Tomatoes</b> 69¢ lb.	<b>Turkey Breast</b> Kohler \$5.99 lb.	<b>Spring Water</b> 99¢ gallon	<b>Boneless London Broil</b> Top Round \$2.99 lb.
Texas <b>Green Cabbage</b> 19¢ lb.	<b>St. Patrick's Day Special</b> Mosey's Corn Beef Flat Cut \$2.49 lb		
<b>Washington State Apples</b> Red or Golden 49¢ lb	Kohler <b>Ham</b> \$5.49 lb.	New Jersey Extra Large <b>Eggs</b> 89¢ Doz.	<b>Chicken 1/4 Legs</b> 49¢ lb.
	Boars' Head <b>Bologna</b> \$2.99 lb.	Friendship <b>Sour Cream</b> 16 oz. \$1.29 ea.	<b>Boneless Pork Roast</b> Butt \$1.79 lb.

Have you recently become engaged, married, given birth, retired or been promoted?

Send us your good news, along with a photo (if available), to South Plainfield Observer, 530 Union Ave., Suite 3, Middlesex, NJ 08846 and we will publish it in Milestones.

Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you would like your photos returned.

## Custom Made Furniture



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FINE HANDMADE furniture

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# AROUND TOWN

## EVENTS

### Elks Host St. Patrick's Day Dinner

The South Plainfield Elks, 1254 New Market Road, will be hosting a St. Patrick's "Corned Beef and Cabbage" dinner on Saturday, March 13 from 4:30 to 8:00 p.m. It's an "all you can eat" for \$9.50 (adults)/\$5.00 (children) and includes beer (adults) and soda. Come on down and eat, drink and be Irish! Bring your appetite and friends too!

### Our Lady of Czestochowa Upcoming Events

#### Lenten Devotions

March 12 at 7 p.m. — CCD — Children's Stations of the Cross

March 19 at 7 p.m. — Mary's Way of the Cross — *Come and hear Mary tell her story and feelings.*

March 26 at 7 p.m. — Journey of Decision — *Come and hear live testimonies of people who took part at the original Stations of the Cross, Pilate, Barabbas, Herod, Mary (Mother of Jesus), Simon of Cyrene, Veronica, Caiaphas, Woman in the Crowd, Roman Centurion, Unrepentant Criminal, Good Thief, Mary Magdalene, Salome and Nicodemus.*

**Chicken Dinner Planned**—Our Lady of Czestochowa Rosary Society is holding a Chicken Dinner on Sunday, March 21 from 2 to 6 p.m. at the church hall on Hamilton Blvd.

The cost is adults-\$7, senior citizens \$6, children ages 5-12 \$3.50 and children under five are free. For additional information, please call Marie at (908) 755-7328 or Ann at (908) 757-4192.

**Special Polish Pastry Sale**—Kruschiki (Polish pastry) can be ordered for \$3.50 per tray. To place an order, call Ann at (908) 757-4192. Kruschiki orders will be available for pick-up on March 13, 14, 27, 28 after all weekend masses.

### Tourette Syndrome Meeting

The next meeting of the Tourette Syndrome Association Family Support Group will be held on Tuesday evening, May 11 from 7-9:00 p.m. at JFK Hospital, 65 James Street, Edison, in the Neuroscience Institute Department.

Meetings this year will be held on Sept. 14 and Nov. 9. For more information call Debbie, 732-283-1439 or [www.tsanj.org](http://www.tsanj.org).

### A/C Bus Trip to Caesars Casino

The South Plainfield High School Project Graduation Committee is sponsoring a bus trip to Caesars Casino in Atlantic City on Saturday, March 20. The cost is \$20 with \$16 coin return. For reservations or more information, call Pat Anderson at (908) 756-6512 or Ellen Melanson at (908) 756-3731.

### Talent Show Planned

South Plainfield High School Project Graduation Committee and Chorus are hosting a Talent Show on Friday, March 12 at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for students and senior citizens. Tickets are available at the high school main office, or can be purchased at the door the night of the Talent Show. Refreshments will be sold in the cafeteria.

Proceeds will benefit South Plainfield High School Chorus and Project Graduation, an alcohol and drug-free celebration held each year on graduation night for the SPHS senior class. For information, contact Mr. Tracy Murray, chorus director, at (908) 754-4620, ext. 278.

### Ladies Auxiliary's Western Dance

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad Ladies Auxiliary will sponsor a Western Night Dance on March 13 at the Polish Home located on New Market Ave. starting at 8 p.m.

Slim and Pam will be your instructors in various line dancing routines. Coffee and refreshments will be served.

Tickets are \$10 and may be obtained by calling (908) 561-2311.

Come out and have a good time, while helping to support our rescue squad.

### Come Light Up Your Life!

The Sisterhood of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Church is holding a candle and accessory sale. There will be a door prize drawing and free refreshments. Bring a friend. It will be held at the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Church Hall located on the corner of Delmore and Belmont Avenues on March 20 from 2-4 p.m. Come join

us and light up your life while getting some decorating ideas. Candle sale will benefit the church chan-delier fund.

For information, call Ronnie at (908) 561-9506.

### Annual Spring Egg Hunt!

All South Plainfield boys and girls nine and under are invited to the Annual Spring Egg Hunt to be held on Saturday, March 27 at 1 p.m. at the PAL field. Candy eggs, prizes, fun and laughter are the order of the day. Also "Hoppy" Bunny will be there to meet the kids. The rain date is April 3. Make sure you bring bags or baskets for your eggs.

This egg hunt is sponsored by South Plainfield Recreation Commission. For info, call 226-7713.

### St. Patrick's Day Celebration

The American Legion Chaumont Post will be holding its annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance on Saturday, March 13 at the Post home, 243 Oak Tree Avenue. The affair will start at 6 p.m. with a buffet dinner of corned beef, cabbage, potatoes and all the trimmings at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10. The proceeds will benefit Chaumont Post 243 Scholarship Fund. Music will be provided for your dancing pleasure.

For information call (908) 668-9414.

### PBA Local 100 to Sponsor Car Show

PBA Local 100 is sponsoring a car show on May 22, 1-7 p.m. on Cragwood Rd. Rain date is May 23, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Admission is free.

Enjoy good food, browse vendor booths, as well as arts and crafts. A live band and D.J. is scheduled.

Two 50/50 drawings and a raffle will benefit So. Plainfield D.A.R.E. For info, call (908) 756-4466.

### Sacred Heart Church Lenten Fish Dinner

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul of the Sacred Heart Church will sponsor Lenten Fish Dinners, March 12, 19 and 26 in the school cafeteria on So. Plainfield Ave., 5-7 p.m.

### Auction/Raffle Night at Franklin School



Pictured are Dawn Hutchison, Sharon Mandel, Linda Sticco, Shanna Woodel, Ann Simone, Ann Marie Seyffart and Mary Beth Gruber with some of the Auction/Raffle gift baskets.

The Franklin School PTA will hold its Third Annual Auction/Raffle Night on Saturday, March 20 in the South Plainfield High School gym. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

Prizes include a TV, BBQ grill, VCR and a set of patio furniture, just to mention a few. You can also take a chance to win a night out at a restaurant and a theater or a family fun day at The Land of Make Believe, or a birthday party.

The grand prize is an all inclusive four night/three day trip to the "Sandals Resort."

Tickets are \$5, if purchased in advance and \$6 at the door, if still available. The admission price includes coffee, tea and light snacks. You can also bring your own snack or appetizers for you and your friends. No one under the age of 18 is allowed to attend.

For ticket information, call (908) 757-9432.

The menu will feature fillet of fish (fried, broiled parmigana) or pizza; fresh garden salad, french fries or macaroni and cheese, cole slaw, coffee, tea or cold drink, and dessert. Take out orders are also available. Admission is \$8, adults; \$7, seniors and \$4, children. Pay at the door. Stations of the Cross will be held in the Church at 7 p.m.

### Elks Ladies Auxiliary Plans Event

The Elks Ladies Auxiliary will hold "One Stop Shopping" on March 27, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the

Elks Lodge on New Market Ave. Vendors will include Avon, Pampered Chef, Tupperware, Party Lite and more. For information, call Barbara Shuleski 561-1663.

### 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 [snglprntnj@aol.com](mailto:snglprntnj@aol.com).

Submit your events to **Around Town**, at the South Plainfield Observer, 530 Union Ave. Suite 3, Middlesex, NJ 08846 or fax (732) 805-0815.

## Summer Fun Clubs Registration Set

The Plainfield Area YMCA has begun registration for The Summer Fun Club, which will begin on June 21 through August 20. Campers can report to the Y on 518 Watchung Ave. in Plainfield, Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. and be picked up at 5:30 p.m., promptly. Extended care fees will be charged after 5:30.

The Summer Fun Club is designed to give children ages 5-14 an opportunity to encounter new ex-

periences, gain self confidence and build new friendships, through a variety of activities. Members will be exposed to the world of science and technology, by participating in a number of hands on science and computer activities, in our science and technology center. They will also participate in the Rutgers Cooperative Extension 4H Summer Science Program. Our program is enriched by the use of our offsite location, "Sky Top Mountain," in

the Watchung Reservation. Through interacting with the environment, children are encouraged to grow mentally physically and socially.

Further information is available by phoning the YMCA at (908) 756-6060.

The Plainfield Area YMCA is chartered to serve youngsters and adults in Dunellen, Greenbrook, North Plainfield, Plainfield, Piscataway, South Plainfield, Warren and Watchung.

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## From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Let's get right to this week's column from South Plainfield Library:

We'll stick to our regular story-time schedule next week. The programs are for children ages three and over; they're held on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday at 1:15 p.m. No registration is needed for these programs. However, you do have to sign up for the children's craft program on Friday, March 19 at 4 p.m. This program is for children ages six and over. If you'd like more information, call us at 754-7885 and check with Linda Hansen.

In case you missed the last couple of columns, author Arlene Zatz will be at the library on Sunday, March 21, from 2-4 p.m. She'll be giving a talk and autographing copies of her works. Here's another item to

mark on your calendars: we're planning a library open house in April. We'll provide more details as soon as we can.

This month, we're featuring a couple of special displays. In our display cases, you can see a variety of items crafted by local tinsmith Henry Phelps. They'll be here until March 31. On our display wall we have a number of photographs provided by the Plainfield Camera Club, along with pamphlets about the group. This display can be seen here until March 29.

We'd like to request something of you, our patrons. (You're no doubt asking "What, again?") Many times you'll pull an item from our shelves, only to decide that you're not interested in borrowing it. When this happens, please don't take it upon yourself to put the item back. We appreciate your try at helping us, but our shelving arrangement can be a little tricky. Just leave the item on one of the tables; we'll see that it gets put back.

On the subject of shelving arrangements, we're in the middle of rearranging our juvenile audiocassettes. They'll now be arranged like our other A/V items, divided into fiction and non-fiction.

On the subject of A/V items, we've got a few appropriate selections for next Wednesday, St. Patrick's Day. Our adult video section has two Ireland travelogues, as well as the quintessential Irish movie, *The Quiet Man*, with John Wayne. Our juvenile section includes the Disney movie, *Darby O'Gill and the Little People*, featuring Sean Connery before he joined the Double-O section. Since our supply is limited, please be conscious of others in your borrowing. We hope these selections add to your enjoyment of the holiday. (No, we don't have *How Green was My Valley* for St. David's Day, but we're working on it.)

That just about wraps up today's column. Be sure to keep us informed of your comments and questions. See you next week.

## 1999 T-Ball/Teener Ball Registration

Registration for T-Ball/Teener is open to all South Plainfield boys and girls, kindergarten through second grade. T-Ball is open to children who were five as of Oct. 1, 1998 and Teener Ball for children who were six or seven as of Oct. 1, 1998. This program is sponsored by the South Plainfield Recreation Department.

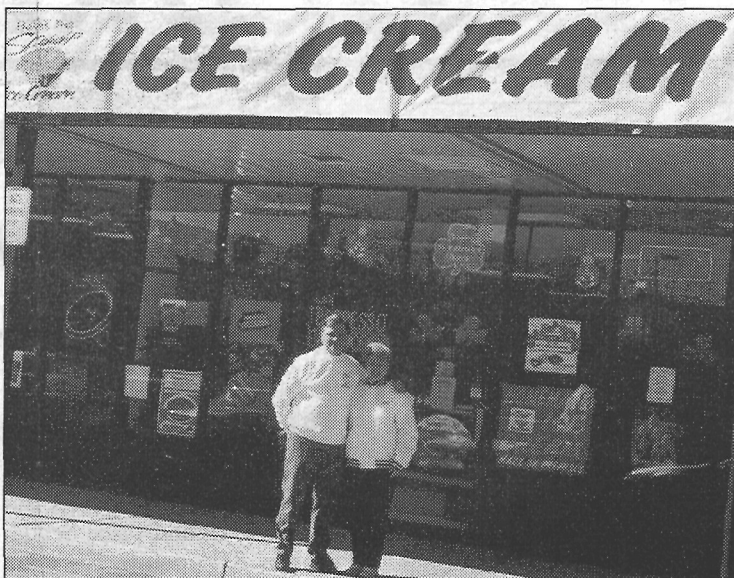
The fee is \$14 per participant if registered by April 5, and \$19 after that date. Teener Ball has two divisions, girls play softball and boys play baseball.

Register in the recreation office at the PAL Recreation Center on Maple Ave. Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Registrations will be accepted Feb. 22-April 5. The recreation office will be open from 6-8 p.m., Monday, March 1 and 15 and April 5.

A birth certificate is required for any registrants who are not yet on the Recreation Departments' computer database. For information, call the Recreation Office, 226-7713.

## WELCOMING NEW BUSINESSES IN TOWN...

## Here's The Scoop



Here's the Scoop is a family owned ice cream parlor that just opened in the Golden Acres Shopping Center located on Park Ave. and Oak Tree Rd.

Owners Charlie and Arlene Hassaelgren have been residents of South Plainfield for more than 25 years. When it came time for his retirement, both Charlie and his

wife decided they would like start their own business in South Plainfield and felt that the town could use an ice cream parlor.

The new ice cream store has seating for 28 people. They have a wide variety of homemade ice cream products, with 48 flavors, including "bubble-gum," all made on the premises. They carry an assortment

of ice cream cakes which can be made to order with a choice of flavors and trimmings. They also have the ability to copy any special artwork you might want on to your cake. They also have a variety of ready-to-go cakes on hand. They also sell dietetic ice cream.

A feature novelty item is the "Killer Diller," a banana-split, which consists of six scoops of ice cream, five toppings and all the trimmings—a family treat for \$5.95.

Along with all these great desserts, they also sell hot dogs, hot soup, hot jumbo pretzels and knishes and to wash it all down — "Green - Mountain" coffee, espresso and cappuccino, tea and sodas.

The store can host children's birthday parties — call for reservations. Store hours are Sunday through Thursday 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

The official grand opening will be held on March 27. Free soft ice cream will be served from 12 noon until 3 p.m.

For more information, call (908) 769-0016 or fax (908) 769-1038.

## We Care Provides Medical Supplies

We Care Medical Supplies recently relocated its business to 2325 Plainfield Ave., next to Mohn's Flowers. Last Saturday marked the grand opening.

The business, started by the late John Evans, was previously located on Rt. 22 in North Plainfield. The business is now run by Linda and Gina Evans and Angelo Paradiso. Todd Johnston is the sales representative.

The store is always stocked with oxygen equipment, convalescent room supplies, first aid and post surgical apparatus, etc. Most equipment can be either rented or purchased.

Store hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 8 a.m.-5:30 a.m.; Thursday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Sundays are



by appointment only.

The staff at We Care will be happy to assist you with any insurance reimbursement paper work. They also offer senior and professional discounts. The pub-

lic is invited to come in and meet the caring, knowledgeable and friendly staff.

If you have any questions, call (908) 757-7733 or fax at (908) 757-7561.

## Cooking Ideas for St. Patrick's Day

By Marie Markey

Consultant for Pampered Chef

Everyone can have a little luck of the Irish this St. Patrick's Day with a little imagination in the kitchen. Listed are some fun ideas that are offered this season at home show cooking classes by Marie Markey, Independent Kitchen Consultant for the Pampered Chef®.

- Add pistachio pudding mix to vanilla cake mix while preparing. Not only does it add a green tint to the cake, it tastes yummy too.

- Prepare a green drink mix for the kids or tint lemonade with food coloring.

- Make your own green beer, just add a few drops of green food coloring to your favorite brew.

- Take prepared bread dough or one you made yourself and divide it into four sections. Roll three of the dough sections into balls and one into a tube. Place on baking pan in the shape of a shamrock and bake following bread dough directions.

- Use a green pepper as garnish or in a recipe. When selecting a pepper, look for a pepper with only three bumps. Slice the pepper in thin slices to create rings. Each slice resembles a shamrock.

Instead of making traditional corned beef and cabbage, try some-

thing new this year with this yummy recipe from The Pampered Chef Limited.

## Reuben Twist Loaf

1 loaf (1 pound) frozen bread dough, thawed  
1 can (16 oz) sauerkraut, drained  
1½ cups shredded Swiss cheese  
4 ounces corned beef (luncheon meat), finely chopped  
½ cup Thousand Island dressing or mayonnaise  
1 tablespoon butter, melted  
1 teaspoon caraway seeds

Preheat oven to 375°. Roll and stretch bread dough in a long and narrow strip, 35" x 7". Combine

sauerkraut, Swiss cheese, corned beef and salad dressing in a bowl. Spread mixture lengthwise down center of strip. Pull long edges up around mixture. Pinch loosely in deep dish round stoneware baker, forming a spiral. Brush top with melted butter and sprinkle with caraway seeds. Cover with baking bowl lid and bake for 30 minutes. Remove lid and continue to bake for 15 to 20 minutes until golden brown. Cool 15 minutes before serving or refrigerate and serve cold. Yield 4-6 servings.

For additional cooking tips, or free cooking product information, call 908-755-3213 or email MMPMPR-CHF@AOL.COM.



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## HOMEMADE BAKERY ITEMS:

Big choc chip cookie ..... \$1.00  
Muffins (corn/blueberry/  
choc. chip/banana nut ..... \$1.00

## DRINKS:

Coffee, hot tea, hot choc.,  
hot apple cider (10oz.) ... \$ .75  
(16oz.) ... \$ .95  
Soda ..... (12oz.) ... \$ .75  
Snapple ..... (reg.) ... \$1.10  
(Whipper) ..... \$1.40  
Orange juice, milk,  
choc. milk ..... (pt.) ..... \$1.10  
Yoo-hoo ..... (16oz. bottle) \$1.20

## BAGELWICHES: (made to order)

Egg & cheese ..... \$1.50  
add bacon/ham/pork roll/sausage ..... \$2.25  
Grill chicken ..... \$2.99  
Turkey & cheese ..... \$3.59  
Deli ham & cheese ..... \$3.39  
Roast beef & cheese ..... \$3.79  
Salami & cheese ..... \$2.59  
Homemade chicken salad ..... \$3.39  
Homemade tuna salad ..... \$3.39  
Bagel dog (1/4 lb. beef frank) ..... \$1.49  
on hero roll or bagel stick

\*Lettuce/tomato/onion/radish/BBO sauce/  
ketchup/mustard/mayonnaise/swiss or  
american cheese

## SOUP OF THE DAY:

12oz. cup of soup  
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chili-bean/vegetable ..... \$1.99

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# SPORTS



The PAL Building was filled with parents and kids last Saturday for Junior Baseball tryouts.

## Junior Baseball Club Notes

"Back To Baseball Night" will be held at the Clubhouse on Monday, March 15 at 7:30 p.m. Players and parents are invited to meet the Executive Board, League Directors, Team Managers and Coaches.

Tryouts were held last Saturday at the PAL. The Club would like to thank all the players and parents who attended.

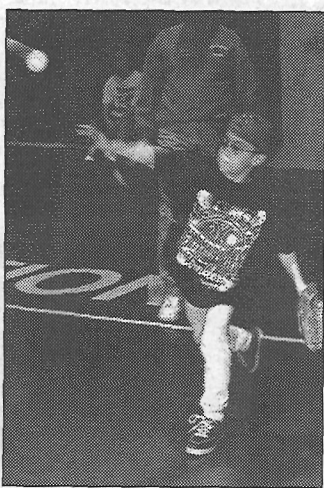
Draft nights were held during this past week. Players should expect to be contacted by their team manager within the next few days.

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

### Woman's Auxiliary

The Woman's Auxiliary will be selling "cash and carry" flowers at the complex on opening day. The flowers will consist of eight inch hanging baskets (geraniums, fuchsia, New Guinea impatiens, proven winners and verbena) and 2-3 gallon perennials.

The annual SPJBC Dance will be held on Saturday night, June 12th from 7 p.m. to midnight at the Polish National Home on New Market Ave. Admission includes an open bar, buffet, entertainment and tickets for great door prizes.



Groups may reserve tables. Tickets are \$35 per person and must be purchased by May 29th. A \$10 deposit is required and must be received by May 15. Contact any member of the Woman's Auxiliary or call, Cindy Eichler at 908-769-4047.

### Events at a Glance

**Back to Baseball Night** — Monday, March 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Clubhouse.

**Coaches Clinic** — Tuesday, March 16 at 7:30 at the clubhouse.

**Preseason Practice** starts Saturday, March 20th

**Booster Weekend** — Thursday, March 25 thru Saturday March 27.

**Opening Day** — Saturday, April 17.

**Trenton Thunder Trip** — Friday, May 14.

### High School Wrestling

## Tigers Capture 15th Consecutive District Title

By Bobby Hunter

For the 15th straight year, the Tigers were just too strong for the rest of the District 12 teams. It was a total team effort with the Tigers scoring 265½ points and outscoring second place Scotch Plains by 87½ points. Not only did the Tigers dominate the field they also reach a milestone in South Plainfield wrestling by sending all 14 wrestlers, to the Region 3 Tournament in Union. The Tigers captured six championships, five runner ups and had three third place finishers. The Tigers suffered two overtime losses, with Dave Stoeckel and Colin Hunter losing in double overtime.

Matt Anderson, the freshman 103 pounder, won his first district title by scoring a 9-2 decision over Lucas Francavilla of Scotch Plains. Roberto Ramos, last years 103 pound champion, won his second consecutive title by winning a 15-8 decision over Nick Griffith of North Plainfield. The biggest surprise of the tournament was at 152 pounds, when Frank Crincoli, in only his second year of varsity wrestling, claimed his first title defeating Dan Lizzi of Watchung by decision 8-5. Chris Francis who was the runner up at 171 a year ago, avenged that loss by defeating Aron Davis of Plainfield 7-6 to claim his first district title. Dan Kunst, the Junior 189 pounder, claimed his second consecutive title by scoring a major decision 16-5 over Gary Cousar of Scotch Plains. Chris Cioffi, the senior 215 pounder, claimed his first district title by pinning Scott Petterson of Scotch

Plains at the 1:42 mark

Second place finishers were, Billy Wilson at 119 pounds, losing a 3-1 decision to Brett Vanderveer, a state tournament placing winner last year. David Stoeckel wrestling at 125 pounds, lost a heart tweaking 2-0 overtime loss to Joe Cassera of Watchung Hills. At 130 pounds, senior Jon Blondet lost a 12-3 decision to two time champion Tony Melendez of Scotch Plains for a second place finish. In the 145 pound final, Dave Fiore dropped a 5-2 decision to Mike Vitollo of Watchung Hills for second place.

A rematch of last years heavy-

weight battle between Colin Hunter and Jim Feeley of Scotch Plains was decided again in double overtime, with Feeley winning on a referee criteria 2-1. In the first overtime period it appeared Hunter had escaped for the win but was ruled out of bounds. Then at the end of the second overtime period, Hunter used a Peterson and seemed to have control as the buzzer sounded.

Third place finishers were John Foscola 160 pounds, Matt Gatti 135 pounds and Scott Doerr at 140 pounds. Tiger head coach Bill Pavlak concluded that the team had a very good tournament and it was the first time South Plainfield sent all 14 wrestlers to the Regional Tournament.

## Four Tigers Advance to State Tournament

South Plainfield High School Wrestling team which sent all 14 wrestlers to the Region tournament came away with one Champion and two second place finishes and a third place winner.

Dan Kunst, the Tiger 189 pounder, won his final by pinning Todd Rosenthal of Millburn at 2:13 for the only Tiger championship of the day.

Matt Anderson 103 pounds, lost his bid for a title when he dropped a OT decision to Danny Appello of Roselle Park in the finals 4-2.

Roberto Ramos 112 pounds, dropped a 9-2 decision to Dan Shamsudin of Parsippany for a second place finish. Colin Hunter, the Tiger heavyweight, lost a close 3-2 decision in the semi final round but came back strong to defeat Roger Atthya of Bearley Ellard 3-2 to advance to the Super region.

Senior Billy Wilson 119 pounds, lost a close decision to Anthony Curcio of Parsippany and Senior 215 pounder, Chris Cioffi, lost his match to Ishmael Medley of Elizabeth.

### Recreation Wrestling

## Junior Tigers Win Central Jersey League Championship

The South Plainfield Recreation Wrestling Team finished the year as co-champions of the Central Jersey Midget Wrestling League with North Hunterdon and Middlesex. During this years league tournament, the best team would be decided.

South Plainfield needed some early wins in the first two rounds to knock off North Hunterdon, who finished with 50 points and Middlesex, who finished with 44 points. The Tigers sent eight wrestlers to the finals and came away with four champions and four runner ups and they went on to out score the field by 24 points and claim the championship.

In the 52 pound weight class, Robert Gentile won his first match 15-0. His second match by the score of 7-4. He then won his final in double overtime by referee criteria 3-2.

In the 55 pound class, Patrick Hunter had a tough job ahead, facing Eric Norgard of Middlesex in the quarters. Hunter went on to win a 7-2 decision. In the semis Hunter pinned Tony Fusco of North Hunterdon in 0:28. Fusco was the number one seed. In the finals Hunter dropped a 5-2 deci-

sion to Sean Kane of Keniworth for second place.

In the 62 pound class, Jimmy Conroy wasted little time scoring a fall in the quarters, a tech fall in the semi's and winning a major decision 12-0 over Anthony Boyle of North Hunterdon. Billy Ashnault, 65 pounds, pinned his way to the finals, then pinned Tony Dispenrre of Middlesex for the title. Peter DeAndrea, 79 pounds, won his first two matches by decision and then in the final lost a close 3-2 decision to Troy MacDermott of Roselle Park for second place.

Sam Martin, 82 pounds, won his first two matches, one by fall and the other by decision, before dropping a 4-2 decision to Rob Ellery of Middlesex for second place. Kyle Bostick, 97 pounds, pinned Matt Hinson of Voorhees at 2:40, then won his semifinal match by fall at 1:18. He then lost by decision in the finals for second place. Rob Maistick, 112 pounds pinned his opponents in the first two rounds and went on to defeat Roy Dragon of Bridge-water in the finals 4-2 for his championship. Billy Padula, 72 pounds, finished in third place

winning his consolation match with a 2-0 decision over Dennis Boyle of North Hunterdon. Kevin Crilley finished fourth in the 104 pound weight class.

Also wrestling for the varsity but not placing were Nick Vallone, Danny Bayak, Nick Dorey, Brad Martin and Frank Stefanelli.

### JV Wrestlers win Thirteen Medals

The JV wrestlers also had a big day winning 13 medals overall and in addition to five first place medals, three second place medals and three third place medals and two fourth place medals.

Winning titles were Bryan Hunt 65 pounds, Mike Jakubik 69 pounds, Mark Wagner 75 pounds, Danny Pompilio 82 pounds and Rocco Petriello at 112 pounds.

Second place finishers were Bissy Martin 55, Jeff Osley 75 and Billy Daly 104. Third place winners were John Wylam 52, Matt D'Alessandro 65 and Anthony Neimczyk 82. Fourth place medals went to Corey Hay 52, Vinnie Padula 59.

Also wrestling were Nick Pauls, Tim Gaughan, Mike Niemczyk, Pat Millard and Mike Wagner.

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## SOUTH PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL 1999 Spring

## SPORTS SCHEDULE

## VARSITY &amp; JUNIOR VARSITY BASEBALL

MARCH		
14	Livingston (scrimmage)	Home 1:00
16	Linden (scrimmage)	Home 3:45
18	East Brunswick (scrimmage)	Home 3:45
23	North Plainfield (scrimmage)	Home 3:45
24	Somerville (scrimmage)	Home 3:45
27	Hopatcong (scrimmage)	Home 3:45
29	Piscataway (scrimmage)	Away 3:45
30	Bound Brook (scrimmage)	Home 3:45

APRIL		
1	Somerville	Away 3:45
5	Perth Amboy	Home 11:00am
7	Monroe Township	Away 3:45
9	Colonia	Home 3:45
10	Watchung Hills	Away 11:00am
12	Edison	Home 3:45
13	Bishop Ahr	Away 3:45
15	South Brunswick	Home 3:45
16	Old Bridge	Away 3:45
17	Tournament	Away 4:30/4:45
19	Sayreville	Home 3:45
21	North Brunswick	Home 3:45
23	Perth Amboy	Away 3:45
27	Monroe Township	Home 3:45
29	Colonia	Away 3:45
30	J. F. Kennedy	Away 3:45

MAY		
3	Bishop Ahr	Home 3:45
5	South Brunswick	Away 3:45
7	Sayreville	Away 3:45
8	J. P. Stevens	Home 11:00am
10	Woodbridge	Away 3:45
11	North Brunswick	Away 3:45
	GMC Tournament	
	State Tournament	

## FRESHMEN BASEBALL 1999

MARCH		
29	Piscataway (scrimmage)	Home 3:45

APRIL		
5	Perth Amboy	Away 11:00am
7	Monroe Township	Home 3:45
9	Colonia	Away 3:45
12	Edison	Away 3:45
13	Bishop Ahr	Home 3:45
15	South Brunswick	Away 3:45
16	Old Bridge	Home 3:45
19	Sayreville	Away 3:45
21	North Brunswick	Away 3:45
23	Perth Amboy	Home 3:45
27	Monroe Township	Away 3:45
29	Colonia	Home 3:45
30	J. F. Kennedy	Home 3:45

MAY		
3	Bishop Ahr	Away 3:45
5	South Brunswick	Home 3:45
7	Sayreville	Home 3:45
8	J. P. Stevens	Away 11:00am
10	Woodbridge	Home 3:45
11	North Brunswick	Home 3:45

## GIRLS TRACK 1999

MARCH		
23	Bridgewater-Raritan (scrimmage)	Home 3:45

APRIL		
7	Colonia	Home 3:45
14	Perth Amboy	Away 3:45
21	Bishop Ahr	Home 3:45
27	GMC Relays	Away
28	GMC Relays	Away

## WE WANT YOUR NEWS!!

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

MAY		
5	Monroe Township	Home 3:45
12	J. F. Kennedy	Away 3:45
15	GMC Meet	Away
18	Sayreville	Home 3:45
20	North Brunswick	Home 3:45
21	Sectional Meet	Home
22	Sectional Meet	Home 9:00 am
28	Group Championships	Home 2:00
29	Group Championships	Home 10:00 am

JUNE		
2	State Championships	Home 4:00
	Blue Devil Classic	
	Holmdel Relays	
	Penn Relays	

## BOYS TRACK 1999

MARCH		
23	Bridgewater-Raritan (scrimmage)	Away 3:45

APRIL		
7	Colonia	Away 3:45
14	Perth Amboy	Home 3:45
21	Bishop Ahr	Away 3:45
27	GMC Relays	Away

MAY		
5	Monroe Township	Home 3:45
12	J. F. Kennedy	Home
15	GMC Meet	
18	Sayreville	Away 3:45
20	North Brunswick	Away 3:45
21	Sectional meet	Home
22	Sectional Meet	Home 9:00 am
28	Group Championships	Home 2:00
29	Group Championships	Home 10:00 am

JUNE		
2	State Championships	Home 4:00
	Holmdel Relays	
	Penn Relays	
	Millburn Relays	
	Matawan Relays	
	Monmouth Invitational	

## VARSITY &amp; JUNIOR VARSITY SOFTBALL

MARCH		
16	Middlesex (scrimmage)	Home 3:45
18	Hunterdon Central (scrimmage)	Home 3:45
20	Notre Dame (scrimmage)	Home 2:00
22	Immaculata (scrimmage)	Home 3:45
24	South Brunswick (scrimmage)	Home 3:45
27	Edison (scrimmage)	Home 11:00am
29	Bound Brook (scrimmage)	Home 4:00
31	Bridgewater-Raritan (scrimmage)	Away 3:45

APRIL		
3	Metuchen	Home 11:00am
5	Perth Amboy	Away 11:00am
7	J. F. Kennedy	Home 3:45
9	Colonia	Away 3:45
10	Watchung Hills	Away 11:00
13	Bishop Ahr	Home 3:45
14	Carteret	Away 3:45
17	Bridgewater/Piscataway/Glen Rock	Home 11:00/1:00
19	Sayreville	Away 3:45
21	North Brunswick	Away 3:45
23	Perth Amboy	Home 3:45
24	Union/Bishop Eustace	Home 11:00/1:00
27	J. F. Kennedy	Away 3:45
29	Colonia	Home 3:45
30	Cranford	Away 4:00

MAY		
3	Bishop Ahr	Away 3:45
7	Sayreville	Home 3:45
8	Piscataway	Home 11:00am
11	North Brunswick	Home 3:45
13	J. P. Stevens	Home 3:45
17	Old Bridge	Home 3:45
19	GMC Tournament	
	State Tournament	

## FRESHMEN SOFTBALL

March		
24	South Brunswick (scrimmage)	Home 3:45
27	Edison (scrimmage)	Away 11:00am
31	Bridgewater-Raritan (scrimmage)	Home 3:45

APRIL		
5	Perth Amboy	Home 11:00am
7	J. F. Kennedy	Away 3:45
9	Colonia	Home 3:45
10	Watchung Hills	Home 11:00am
12	Middlesex	Home 3:45
13	Bishop Ahr	Away 3:45
14	Carteret	Home 3:45
19	Carteret	Away 3:45
21	North Brunswick	Home 3:45
23	Perth Amboy	Away 3:45
27	J. F. Kennedy	Home 3:45
29	Colonia	Away 3:45
30	Cranford	Home 3:45

MAY		
3	Bishop Ahr	Home 3:45
4	Middlesex	Away 3:45
8	Piscataway	Away 11:00am
11	North Brunswick	Away 3:45
13	J. P. Stevens	Away 3:45
17	Old Bridge	Away 3:45

## GOLF 1999

APRIL		
12	Watchung Hills	Away 3:30
13	Monroe Township	Away 3:30
14	Colonia	Home 3:30
15	Union	Away 3:30
16	Sayreville	Away 3:30
19	South Brunswick	Away 3:30
20	Bishop Ahr	Away 3:30
21	North Brunswick	Away 3:30
23	Wardlaw-Hartridge	Home 3:30
26	Roselle Catholic	Away 3:30
27	Monroe Township	Home 3:30
28	A. L. Johnson	Away 3:30
29	South Brunswick	Home 3:30

MAY		
3	Old Bridge	Away 3:30
4	Bishop Ahr	Home 3:30
7	North Brunswick	Home 3:30
10	State Sectionals	Away
11	Colonia	Away 3:30
12	Perth Amboy	Home 3:30
13	Saverville	Home 3:30
14	Union	Home 3:30
17	State Groups	Away
18	Old Bridge	Home 3:30
19	Watchung Hills	Home 3:30
20	GMC Preliminaries	Away
25	GMC Tournament	Away

## BOYS TENNIS 1999

MARCH		
19	Bound Brook (scrimmage)	Home 3:45
29	Bound Brook (scrimmage)	Home 3:45
31	Hillsborough (scrimmage)	Home 3:45

APRIL		
12	Spotswood	Home 3:45
14	St. Peter's	Away 3:45
19	South River	Away 3:45
21	Metuchen	Away 3:45
22	Middlesex	Away 3:45
23	GMC Tournament	Away
24	GMC Tournament	Away
26	St. Mary	Home 3:45
28	Highland Park	Home 3:45

MAY		
3	St. Mary's	Away 3:45
5	Middlesex	Home 3:45
7	Spotswood	Away 3:45
10	St. Peter's	Home 3:45
14	South River	Home 3:45
17	Metuchen	Home 3:45
19	Highland Park	Away 3:45
21	Dunellen	Away 3:45
27	Dunellen	Home 3:45
	State Tournament	

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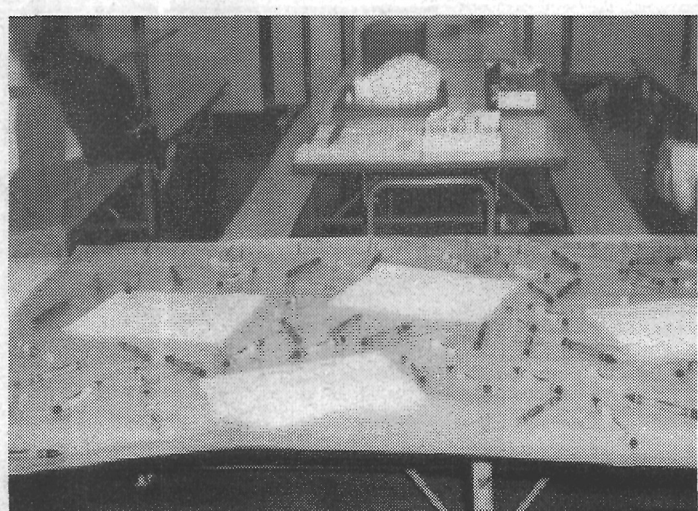


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# IN OUR SCHOOLS



## Offering A Brighter Education...

Franklin School Student Council, under the supervision of Miss Louise Mruz and Mrs. Marilyn Winston, held a "100th day of school" celebration on Thursday, Feb. 25. The Multi-purpose Room was the setting for this event. Some classes displayed a project completed by the whole group. In other classes individual students submitted projects involving 100 things.

## A Celebration of Music

### The South Plainfield All-District Music Festival

By Erin Mackey & Carrie Reilly  
Co-Photography Editor and  
Co-Copy Editors

As the anxious ticket buyers file into the auditorium, sounds of tuning instruments and murmurs of vocal warm-ups will not be heard together. This year's South Plainfield All-District Music Festival will be taking place over two days, separating the vocal and instrumental performances.

The concerts will also be held in the high school auditorium, instead of in the gymnasium, on Friday, March 19. The reason for the change in environment is safety.

"In case of an emergency, with an event this large, it would be an extreme fire hazard to have the festival in the gymnasium," stated South Plainfield Fire Chief Abbruzzese. "Eighty-five percent of people, in an emergency situation, will tend to exit the way they came in, leading to panic and trampling. Not to mention, the anticipated crowds exceed the maximum holding capacity in the gymnasium."

Holding the event in the auditorium will provide a more accurate

count of how many people will be viewing the concert, leading to better prepared officials to supervise in the event of an emergency.

"It also provides a more comfortable and professional environment for the students who are participating in the event," said Superintendent of Schools Mr. Guy Ferri.

The dates, originally set for March 18 and 19, have been changed to March 19, due to SAT testing on Saturday, March 20. It has been decided, though, that tickets will be sold in advance, up until a week before the festival. The cost of tickets will be \$3.

The first night will be choral performances which will include songs from the elementary, middle, and high school. Also, performing for the first time will be the select vocal groups from the Middle School and high school, the Gems, Emeralds and Jades.

The instrumental performances will consist of the band and orchestra groups from all the schools in the district, as well as the jazz bands from both the middle and high school. Each group will have a 10-15 minute

## Summer Drama Workshop Seeks Staff for The Music Man

The South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop has selected Meredith Willson's American musical classic *The Music Man* as their 1999 production and they are seeking a production staff for their 28th season.

Auditions will be held in early June, with rehearsals starting at the end of June. Performance dates are August 5-8.

Resumes are being sought for the positions of Director, Musical Director, Choreographer, Vocal Director, Technical Coordinator, Production Stage Manager, Assistant Musical Director and Rehearsal Pianist. The staff will be responsible

*Continued on page 11*

## Congratulations to High School Honor Roll

2nd Marking Period

### 9th Grade

Puja Amin, Brielle K. Anderson, Lindsay C. Ardis, Matthew W. Bizup, Jennifer E. Bodyl, Cassie M. Bosse, Michael D. Brooks, Jennifer Butrico, Christopher Catalfamo, Pamela L. Cianfrocca, Kamel Conde, Jaclyn Cox.

Shannon Dabrio, Jenevieve Delosantos, Brian D. Devito, Joseph J. Dezmin, Jr., Rafael L. Diaz, Luis W. Dimacjie, Scott C. Doerr, Tamara Dombrowski, Edward E. Donnelly III, Meghan M. Elsmann, Jonathan Fredericks, Andrew J. Fyffe, Rodney Gateau, Justin T. Gaynor, Ryan L. Gianneschi, Allan D. Graziano, Michael J. Hamm, Cheryl A. Hoh, William G. Humber, Violet Huynh, Jessida A. Irber.

Elliot J. Kaplan, Anushree Karnik, Antonia P. Katsantonis, Janelle L. Kenny, Daniel M. Lahey, Danielle W. Lytwyn, Jeffrey M. McKnight, Robert K. Merkler, Jr., Gregory L. Moore, Timothy I. Morgan, Jr., James D. Nguyen, Ngoc T. Nguyen, Matthew R. Noll, William Olson, Michelle E. Oppelt, Mary E. Otlowksi, Michelle A. Paterek, Matthew J. Peloquin, Kevin T. Petrocelli, Kimberly A. Pfeifer, Allison Provaire.

Billy Sarullo, Danielle M. Schweers, Martin G. Seiz, Sally A. Serago, Laura Sharbash, Joseph A. Sierzega, Jr., Joseph Smela, Thomas Sniscak, Nakia Tate, Thomas Troia, Matthew D. Vance, Stephanie Veerasammy, Felicia D. Vidal, Jacqueline S. Wong.

### 10th Grade

Nicole Adorna, Lindsey M. Aiello, Stephen Allara, Kristin Anderson, David Aquino, Jessica L. Arndt, Jason Bataille, Kimberly N. Benson, Shannon Bishop, Kyan Bowman, Rosemarie Brizak, Alison Butrico, Kristyn Ciarlariello, David Cupo, Michelle Dietzold, Mark W. Dimacjie.

Michael Edgecomb, Joshua P. English, Lisa M. Evans, Rachel Feller, John Foscolo, James A. Foster, Robert J. Freeman, Emma Fulton, Angelique Ganiaris, Richard Gebauer, Antonio Gigante, Alissa N. Gittens, Scott Gundersen, Melissa N. Jamieson, Maria Antonell Leonardis, Nicole C. Luthman, Erin Mackey, Robert Matos, Matthew McKnight, Joanne Michalski, Sabina Montanaro, Rachel E. Moore, Cesar Moreno, Kathryn G. Moyers.

Adrienne Nagy, Joseph Nappe, Armi Navasca, Cathy Nguyen, Huy Nguyen, Huyen Thi Nguyen, Lam D. Nguyen, Daniel Novajosky, Gregory Ognowski, Sara Oppelt, Julie Palmer, Annette Papa, Jessica Pasco, Mille Patel, Heather Pedersen, David Penyak, Steven A. Popp, Stephanie Prybella, Matthew J. Pulomena.

Jennifer Reynolds, Lauren A. Richardson, Pamela A. Russo, Christopher Sangster, Martin J. Schreck, Karl Schuetz, Evan J. Sims, Julyn C. Stay, Alison Tietjen, Andrea Tolentino, Anh L. Trinh, Kristin A. Turner, Justin Woo, Eman Younes, Veronica Zappi, Qui Ping Zhang.

### 11th Grade

Melinda Agostino, David Alles, Johanna Alzate, Jessica Ardis, Alison

Barrett, Amanda Bechtle, Justin R. Benford, James Borgese, Jr., Roseanne Bottone, Raymond Brandes, Krissy Brook, Christine Buteas, Laura Butrico, Cindy Carlson, Shannon Cassidy, Patricia Cofer, Laura Colicchio, Sheryl Cwekalo.

Nicole Ann DeBiase, Michael Dematos, Margaret DeRosa, Dina Diaz, Kelly Doerr, Brian Donnelly, Jedidiah M. Donnelly, Patrick J. Draper, Brian Dziomba, Pamela Eng, Courtney L. English, Beth Gold, Jessica Graisser, Krista Gundersen, Lynda Hepburn, Rebecca Horn, Maria A. Hudak, Jennifer Infante, Paul Israel, Eric Jackson, David Johnston, Michelle King.

Theresa M. Lamastro, Douglas Lauckhardt, Michael Loenser, Stefani MacDougall, Sandra M. Marin, Brenda Mendez, Ruben S. Mera, Marco Migliaro, Jane Nguyen, Roohee Patel, Tejal Patel, Dominique Pender, Jr., Rebecca Perez, Lauren A. Perry, Shanee D. Person, Peter Vu Pham.

Brian Raiti, Jennifer Rayho, Tracy Regan, Ashley Rettberg, Jessica Rodrigues, Heather Roth, Joseph Scotto, Carol Ann Serago, Katherine Skoba, Samantha Staats, Robin Stayvas, David Stoekel, Jillian Stokes, Steven Terjek, Bradford Tierney, Eric Toth, Theresa Vitelli, Laura Walter, Nichole Wrublewski, Rania Younes, Danielle Zacek.

### 12th Grade

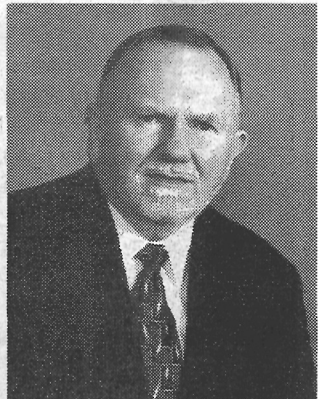
Fatima (Bibi) Ahmad, Amel A. Akef, Michele Allen, Tanya Altomare, Steven Ambielli, Brian Anlas, Ryan Bodner, Sabrina Bogusz, Leyna Bollwage, David Bosse, Steven P. Bucchignano, Courtney Burke, Bradley Carlton, Melanie Carmon, Jill Catarino, Lisa Christensen, Erinn Crane, Dana Curcio.

Heather DeBiase, Salvatore Degennaro, Rachel K. Denno, Alex Diaz, Rochelle Dimacjie, Chiemeka Ejiochi, Frederick Elliott, Juliette Falocco, Ryan Flannery, Dana Marie Fore, Jarel Foster, Christina Freeman, Charles Frick, Michael Gage, Jaime Lynn Galya, Christopher Gati, Brendan Gaynor, Amy Glowacki, Victoria Gray, Meagan Harth, Jillian Hoppe, Krishnan Iyengar.

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Dina Pasco, Dimple Patel, Danielle Persa, Thais Petrocelli, Kristin Pfeifer, Michael L. Picciottoli, Kevin Pitt, Prachi Rastogi, Sandra Lynne Reedy, Candace Romascindo, Joseph Ronzo, Andrew J. Santos, Patrick Sarullo, John Schnyderite, Kelly Ann Schnyderite, Lisa Sepkowski, Elizabeth Serago, Kaminee Sewdat, Mohamed Shiliwala.

Glenn Edward Thimons, Jr., Roger Vroom, III, Jason R. Walden, Erin M. Walter, Patricia Walter, Judy Wang, Jennifer Ward, William Wilson, Matthew Wojcik, Jason Ross Yniguez, Riza C. Ysla, Sara Ziobro.



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# IN OUR SCHOOLS

## Girl Scout Council Holds Mock Trial

By Patricia Abbott

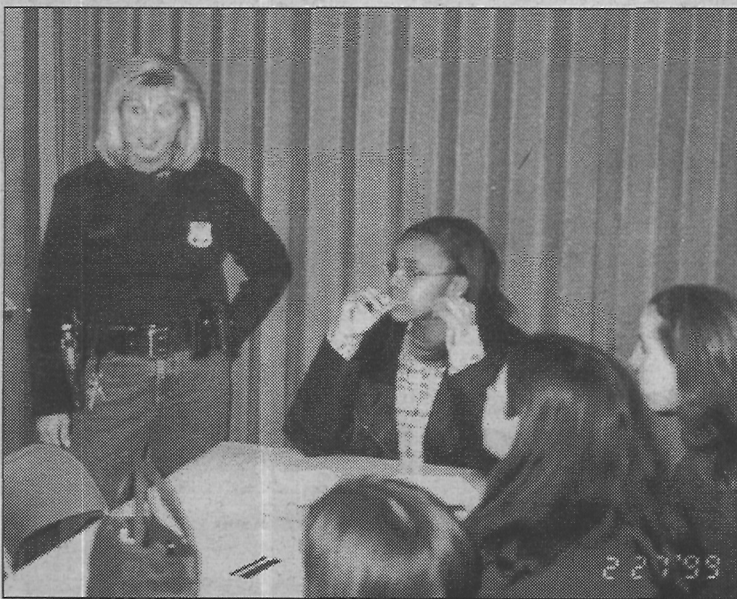
Instead of shopping they learned about shoplifting. Instead of visiting the food court in a mall they participated in a mock court trial. Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts devoted Feb. 27 to learning more about the law and the judicial system that upholds the law. Nineteen girls attended a law and order workshop sponsored by the South Plainfield Girl Scout Community Association of Washington Rock Girl Scout Council. The girls were

minors. They learned the details of being suspected of a crime such as shoplifting and the consequences if convicted of the charge.

Detective David Carmen talked about the Explorer program. The program allows youths ages 14-17 the opportunity to experience what police work is all about. Two Explorers, girls aged 14, accompanied Detective Carmen. The girls explained what they had learned through the program, their travels in the police cars with

debated current topics such as teenage curfews, police locker searches in schools and the boundaries of parental responsibility for damage and crimes committed by children. The girls concluded that state curfews should be set for those 16 and under. Locker searches were seen as a positive step towards curbing illegal substances. They felt that holding the parents responsible for children's crimes should depend on a number of circumstances.

After a lunch break the girls were ready for the second half of the workshop. A mock court trial. The trial and its preparation were under the direction of Judge Joan Robinson Gross, who presided over all the municipal courts in Union County and Officer Chosney. Julie Palmer played the defendant charged with the theft of a motor vehicle, possession of alcohol as a minor and disorderly conduct. Erin Mackey portrayed the prosecuting attorney, Jaclyn Noonan was the arresting officer. Witnesses for the prosecutor were Laura Painton, Amanda George and Kelly Harty. Alison Tietjen was the defense council, witness for the defense was Danielle Larisch. Judge for the trial was Jody Chepulis, Andrea Doell acted as the Court Bailiff. The jury consisted of Jessica Graisser, Kristen Herzog, Sabina Montanaro, Jacquie Herzog, Lauren Perry, Melissa Anderson, Shante Edelen, Christina, DeMatos, and Quien Bowe. The jury returned a not guilty verdict on all three counts. The girls left the 'courtroom' with a greater knowledge of the workings of the court system.

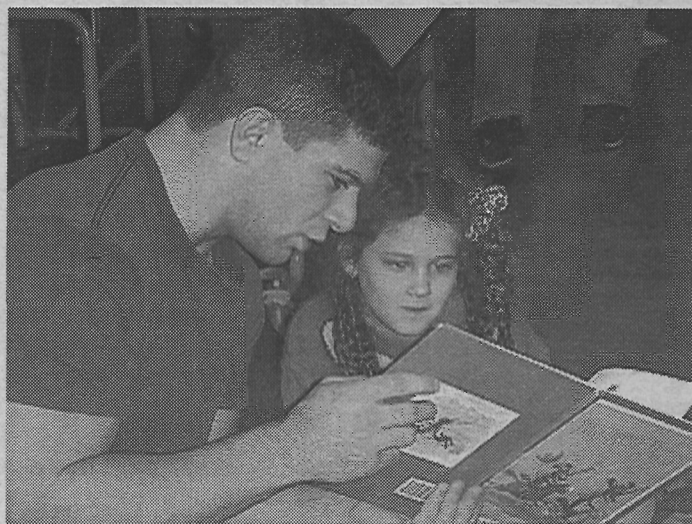


working towards their Law and Order Patch. The program was held at Wesley Methodist Church.

Plainfield Police Officer Mary Chosney and Detective David A. Carmen, also of Plainfield, were on hand to talk to the girls about a variety of subjects. They covered shoplifting and illegal possession of drugs or alcohol, vandalism, privacy laws and their rights as

the officers, and the clerical duties for the Plainfield Police Department and much more. Community service work is also a big part of being an Explorer. The Plainfield Explorers are open to South Plainfield youths and surrounding towns.

Discussion groups were also part of the morning session of the Law and Order Workshop. They



Anthony Cardinde and Ashley Cardinde spend time reading at Franklin School.

## Child Safety Program Starts at Pilgrim Covenant

The South Plainfield Police Department will be visiting Pilgrim Covenant School next Wednesday in conjunction with the PIN Emergency Response System. Children at the nursery school will be tagged and identification information will be taken.

PIN, which stands for the Police Identification Network, offers an extremely unique child safety program called Secure-Your-Child. Pilgrim Covenant School will be the first school in town to offer this program. The police department would like to see each nursery and grade school participate in the future.

The PIN Program is a computer based comprehensive program for immediate identification and dissemination of information, including a picture, biographic, parental/guardian contacts, medical alert and emergency contacts etc.

It provides the police department with an invaluable tool for immediate response to a child's emergency. For example, identification of an injured or unconscious child can be made by removing the right shoe which contains a PINTag. The PINTag is located inside the shoe and contains the Child's PIN number and the police departments' phone number. The child can then be identified via the PIN database. The parents can be called or emergency contacts to locate the child's parents can be made. Medical alert information contained on a child can be provided to the hospital/EMS.

Police can search the PIN database for information such as hair and eye color, age, height and weight to identify a child. The database will automatically match up details and pictures with all the children in the database who have those features. So if a child is either too young, or unconscious, police can still identify them.

Another important aspect of the PIN system is that it has no geographic limit. Families who are away on vacation can call the local police, using the number located on their PINCard. Within several minutes, police can transmit the information and a picture to any location having a fax machine. Panic, time and lack

of information can severely hamper child recovery efforts. The PINCard held by parents provides concise emergency instructions. It contains all relevant information (picture, age, height, weight, hair and eye color) needed by the police or security personnel.

The PIN Program is a voluntary program which will be offered through schools and day care centers. Parents will receive enrollment forms distributed by way of the schools. Completed enrollment forms must be returned prior to the scheduled photography date. Parents will receive, in a sealed envelope, a parental receipt and verification to verify the accuracy of the information, PINCards and PINTag shoe labels. The encrypted PIN database inclusive of the embedded image is then installed at the police department.

The police database contains very strong security features to insure that information is only accessible by authorized police users. A hardware blocking device using an advanced chip containing unique electronic algorithm, must be present on the computer in order for the PIN software to function. Both the PIN database and picture is encrypted and can not be accessed over the internet. Password protection allows only authorized users to access the PIN system which tracks and databases the events that take place. To protect the integrity of the information contained within database, the PIN software will not allow any field to be changed, except for one memo field which allows the police to enter up to the minute information for the missing or injured person. The software will shut down if left unattended for a specified period of inactivity.

The PIN program does not replace the fingerprint program. The major difference is that PIN is used the moment there is a child emergency to either generate immediate missing child sheets or locate the parent should a child be injured. Fingerprint identification is normally used when visual identification cannot be used.

The first twenty minutes is extremely important in locating

*Continued on page 11*

## What's Going On? Find out in the Observer.

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## Obituaries

### Marie (Gassler) Kane, 83

Marie (Gassler) Kane of Point Pleasant, formerly of South Plainfield, died on Saturday, March 6, at Claremount Care Center in Point Pleasant.

She was born in Allentown, Pa. and was a former lifelong resident of South Plainfield before moving to Point Pleasant three years ago.

Mrs. Kane was a secretary for L.A. Dreyfuss in Edison before retiring in 1971. Prior to that she was a secretary for Mulford Real Estate Company in Plainfield.

She was a member of Sacred Heart Church and a 40 year member of the Suburban Woman's Club and a member of the Girls Club with her dear friends for the last 50 years, both of South Plainfield.

She was predeceased by her husband, the former South Plainfield Councilman John Kane, Jr., who died in 1990 and her sister, Theresa Mipe, who died in 1990.

She is survived by two daughters, Maureen Thompson of Point Pleasant and Roberta Eizenberg of Berkeley Heights; two sisters, Frieda Walker of South Plainfield and Erna Hartpence of Plainfield; four grandsons, Michael, Todd and Timothy Thompson and Kevin Manara.

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

### Jack L. Smith, 79

Jack L. Smith died on Monday, March 1, at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Coventry England, Mr. Smith came to the United States in 1924. He resided in Toledo, Ohio and in Plainfield before settling in South Plainfield 43 years ago.

He had been employed as a professional singer before entering the U.S. Army in March of 1943. He served in the European Theater during the Normandy Invasion where he was awarded several citations for his services,

including the European-African-Middle Eastern Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal and a Purple Heart.

Mr. Smith was employed as an assistant warehouse manager for Mitsubishi of South Plainfield for 15 years before his retirement in 1974. Prior to Mitsubishi, he was employed as a production manager for Howard Polymer in Berkeley Heights.

He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Post #6763 of South Plainfield.

He is predeceased by his wife, Dorothy (Ashton) Smith, who died in Oct. of 1995 and his brother, Sidney Smith.

Surviving are his two sons, Stuart J. Smith of Arvada, Colorado and Dirk H. Smith of South Plainfield. He is also survived by four grandchildren, Scott, D.J., Christi and Sandi Smith and a great grandson, Tristian.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### Edna M. (Biebel) Smith, 90

Edna M. (Biebel) Smith died on Monday, March 1, in Raritan Bay Medical Center, Old Bridge.

Born in Newark, she had resided in Irvington for 35 years before moving to Hazlet in 1968. Mrs. Smith moved to Brick in 1998.

Mrs. Smith had been a homemaker.

Her husband, E. Russell Smith, died in April, 1967.

Surviving are a daughter, Nancy L. Smith of Brick; two sons, Russell J. Smith of Manahawkin and Robert L. Smith of Cranford. Also surviving are six grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### Linda L. Oehler, 74

Linda L. Oehler of Red Bank died on Saturday, Feb. 27 at her home.

She was born in Newark and was a former resident of South Plainfield, Boston, Mass. and Long Branch before moving to Red Bank two months ago.

Miss Oehler was a 1971 graduate of Middlesex County College and received her BA in philosophy from Boston State College in 1975 and her MBA from Boston University in 1978.

Miss Oehler was a computer analyst for Broad & Waverly Staffing Co. in Red Bank for the last four years.

She is survived by her parents, Marie (Wierdo) and William H. Oehler of Toms River; two sisters, Karen Lavigne of South Plainfield and Joanne Alfieri of Toms River; a brother, William L. Oehler of South Plainfield and many nieces and nephews.

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

### Josephine (Coccorese) Virno, 76

Josephine (Coccorese) Virno of South Plainfield died on Tuesday, March 2, at the Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

She was born in New York City and was a former 27 year resident of Naples, Italy before moving to South Plainfield 10 years ago.

Mrs. Virno was a secretary for the U.S. Navy in Naples, Italy for 27 years before retiring in 1988.

She was a member of Sacred Heart Church and a member of the parish Alter Rosary Society and the Sacred Heart Senior Citizens.

She was predeceased by her husband, Pasquale Virno, who died in 1988.

She is survived by a sister, Anna DeFillipo of South Plainfield; a brother, Ernst Coccorese of East Meadows, Long Island and many nieces and nephews.

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

### Michael A. Masella, 85

Michael A. Masella died on Tuesday, March 2, at the Warminster General Hospital in Warminster, Pa.

Mr. Masella was born in New York City and resided in Brooklyn before moving to Warminster 35 years ago.

He had received his bachelors degree in engineering from Pratt University.

Mr. Masella was employed for over 20 years by the Budd Co. of Philadelphia as a processing engineer before retiring in 1981.

He was a member of the Knight of Columbus of Warrington, Pa. and the Nativity of Our Lord RC Church in Warminster, Pa.

He had a large network of family and friends in the South Plainfield area.

His son, James Masella, died in 1986.

Surviving are his wife, Mafalda DeSepio Masella, who is originally from South Plainfield; a daughter, Adrienne M. Schneider of W. Palm Beach, Fla.; a sister, Gloria Varallo of Staten Island, NY and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

## INTERACTIVE COMPUTER CORNER

Yowser! Ever have a computer problem that topped the list of

**By Briggs Longbothum**

castpc.com. Again, mention my name and this column for better service!

[Actually, email is the best way to proceed because you can tell her the best time and number to call you! Waiting on hold is a real waste of time and their automated phone tree is not the best!]

While the cable modems are the fastest right now, new communications technology is sustaining the competition from the phone company on your existing phone lines. DSL and ASDSL are terms you'll hear more about soon. Digital Subscriber Line and Asynchronous DSL will also offer very high speed internet connections. But in every case, buyer beware! The high bandwidth that gives these fast connections is dependent on factors you may not be aware of, and you may not always have this high speed. If you must have a high speed connection all the time, you will need to negotiate a "Service Level Agreement" or SLA with your provider to ensure that you always get the bandwidth you need. Ask your provider, they'll know what you're asking for.

**TIP:** Check out [www.tipsfor-free.com](http://www.tipsfor-free.com) for some casino gaming instruction. Here you can learn new ways to lose your hard earned money. You can even download games for practice before you hit the tables in Atlantic City. **Secondary Tip:** Don't try this at work!

Here's something to try out that worked super well for me. Logitech, among others, has a new mouse on the market. It's part of their "Trackball" series, and it's called the Trackman Marble FX. I like it because with four programmable buttons, it makes navigating and functions very quick and easy. Since you don't have to move it around on a mousepad, you save a fair amount of table top real estate too! Also, you never have to pick it up to re-center the cursor which always seems to end up at the edge of the pad. It's a keeper!

I'm also hoping many of you are jumping on to the cable-modem bandwagon. If you want more information about this hot new service, request Elaine Meise at Comcastpc (1-888-793-0800 x7818). Mention my name and this column and she'll take good care of you, and see to it that you get set up asap! You can also reach her by email: [emeise@comcastpc.com](mailto:emeise@comcastpc.com).

## Aerobics and Body Toning Classes Offered

Shape up beautifully with exercises and dance routines choreographed by popular music. Aerobics is designed to condition the heart and lungs. Body Toning will trim and firm the body, as well as

promote flexibility. Step combines the two for a total workout.

Aerobics and Body Toning are ongoing programs. Each session is made up of 20 classes and meet Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9-10 a.m. for Aerobics and 10-11 a.m. for Step. Classes are limited to 50 participants. The instructor will be Maureen Noil, Certified Aerobics Instructor.

Session seven started March 5 and ends April 28; session eight starts April 30 and ends June 16.

Registration is taken in the Recreation Office at the PAL Building located on Maple Ave. Fees must be paid at the time of registration and are accepted on a first come first service basis. Babysitting is available for a fee. For more information, call 226-7713.

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## PIN Program

Continued from page 9

missing children. National statistics show that fatalities usually happen within the first three hours. ID cards or child passports will not help in transmitting immediate information on a mass scale. The PIN Program is designed to provide the police with complete information, a picture and up to the minute details within minutes from the computer system. This digital information can be transmitted to all surrounding towns or sent to law enforcement agencies any place, within seconds. This can be done with or without your PINCard. The PINTag program is in place to help police respond to injured or lost children.

The PIN Program will be offered each year and periodically throughout the year. Parents will be notified of the scheduled enrollment dates. Parents who have enrolled their children in the PIN system should review their child's current biographical information and compare it with that contained on their PINCard. The PINCard information is in the police database. If the

information and picture have changed significantly, you may want to update them at the next scheduled program date.

The cost of the PIN Program is \$12 per child. This price includes the enrollment of the child's data and picture into the police system, one PINCard and thirty PINTag shoe labels. Parents can order additional PINCards for \$2 each. The update price for subsequent years

is \$10.

PIN Emergency Response System also offers a second program called the Secure-Our-Seniors ("SOS") program which assist the police in helping and identifying, incoherent people suffering from Alzheimer's, memory loss, dementia and medical alert information.

For more information on the PIN Program call Officer Joe Papa or Allen LaMonda.

## Business Association Meets

In February, the South Plainfield Business Association held their meeting at the earlier time of 8 a.m. This was a change from their usual 9 a.m. start. Members who attended the meeting agreed to meet again at 8 a.m. at the next meeting to be held on March 18.

The February meeting saw the largest turnouts in quite a while. Items discussed were the public meeting for the Helen Street Extension project. Everyone was invited to express their opinions.

Attending the meeting were Police Sgt. Michael Grennier and Pat Vargo, who spoke about South

Plainfield Borough's web site and advised business members how they could advertise on it for only \$25 a year or \$50 for non-members. Over 5,000 hits were made on the site last month, mostly people getting information on activities, meeting times and membership fees for the pool. Pat Vargo said many hits are from people out of state, some former "natives" who still wanted to keep in touch.

Plans are now underway for the Annual Gold Outing to be held on May 4. All businesses are invited to attend the monthly meetings held at Sherbans Diner on third Thursday of the month.

## Weekly Horoscope

By Cyrus N. Moon

**ARIES** — Do you have any investments or real estate deals going down? Well, Mercury is retrograding in your second house (finances). If you can, hold off on decisions until next month.

**TAURUS** — Your friends at work will take on an added importance to you at this time. Any after work get togethers at a watering hole or club can help you drum up support for a pot project.

**GEMINI** — It's a "Gemini Moon" so take a deep breath and be ready to roll. Your dual personality has professional people as well as friends finding it hard to say no — key word "personality."

**CANCER** — This write up is for you professionals as well students. Take time to make improvements and changes on contracts and or research papers. One word — beneficial.

**LEO** — You need to feel a balance now. Don't let nervousness or stress tip the scales. Yoga or simple exercise on a daily basis can help you gain that even flow and don't forget about nutrition.

**VIRGO** — It's a new moon for you on the 17th. Romantic pursuits are on the horizon. I recommend an intellectually stimulating course of action here. You will see romance in a light you never thought of before.

**LIBRA** — Now is not the time to be telling little white lies. You may find yourself speaking before you think — OOPS!! Also, its not becoming of you to be jealous. Possessiveness will drive those you love away. **LIGHTEN UP.**

**SCORPIO** — Nobody could use ST. PATTY'S day more than you. A new moon is on your side, to energize a relationship that may have gone stale.

**SAGITTARIUS** — Around the 18th, Venus and Saturn enter your solar sixth house (service and health). You may find work piling up and others putting more in the in-box than the out-box. Don't get upset. Key word "OVERREACTING."

**CAPRICORN** — Lend yourself out. Taking a leadership role in activities around town will help you gain a reputation as a person of character and also it

makes you feel good.

**AQUARIUS** — Are you a part time juggler? With you waiting on that IRS check to come in, you seem to be doing a nice job with money between family, home and entertainment. Hang in there — Uncle Sam isn't that big of a tightwad.

**PISCES** — A question! When was the last time you dated a Pisces? I myself being of fish mind couldn't answer. Makes you think. Love will fare for us around the 17th under the new full moon.

**INFO — FATE vs FREE WILL.** Is our destiny planned or do we have a free will — or is the answer a mixture of both? This is a controversy nearly as old as the quest to foretell the future and it's one I doubt will ever be resolved, at least by the mortals on this planet. Perhaps we'll know the truth when we pass over into a spirit. I don't believe we can ever know it, as quoted by Maria Kay Simms.

My quote for all: *Open your heart, opens your arms, opens your hands, to open doors.* —Cyrus N Moon

## POLICE REPORT

• Police responded to a burglar alarm at Nutro Labs, Hadley Rd. The front door of the building was found unlocked, a search of the interior found nothing disturbed. When the manager arrived to reset the alarm, he noted that it appeared someone had attempted to gain access through the rear door.

• The window to the office of the boys locker room at the Middle School was smashed. There are no suspects at present and entry to the building was not gained.

• Douglas M. Scheuerer of Cedar Grove was arrested and charged with criminal mischief and trespassing after being observed on the roof of the bakery he had once owned at Golden Acres Shopping Center. Scott Steele, an agent for Skyline Management Corp. filed a complaint. Scheuerer was processed and released on a Complaint Summons.

• A Kaine Ave. resident was arrested following a motor vehicle accident. He was charged with driving while intoxicated and possession of a controlled dangerous substance.

• Janice Ferguson of North Plainfield was arrested at First Union National Bank after attempting to cash checks that had been reported stolen. Drug paraphernalia, additional checks and a stolen credit card were also found in her possession.

• Ronald Tillman of Plainfield was arrested for fraud after using the stolen Blue

Cross Blue Shield card of Jeffery Wade of Linden. Tillman used the card for medical services by Dr. David M. Richmand of Park Ave. Surgical Associates, Park Ave. When the bill for surgery was sent to Mr. Wade, he reported that his wallet had been stolen and was not being treated by the doctor. When Tillman returned to the doctor's office to have stitches removed, the police were notified. Tillman claimed that he bought the card from a friend in Plainfield.

• Lenore R. Laracuent of Edison reported that someone had attempted to enter her car while she shopped at A&P on Oak Tree Road. Fresh pry marks were found on the left rear door. No witnesses or suspects were located.

• Home Depot reported the theft of two power washers, valued at \$397 each. The washers had been chained to a fence in the receiving area of the store. The chains had been cut. There are no witnesses or suspects.

• Police responded to a report of theft at Sacred Heart Church. Laura Ortega, who cleans the church, found an empty candle money box on the floor. A woman known as Bonnie Crowley had been seen inside of the church the previous day, attempting to open poor boxes with keys and a coat hanger. The money was found missing a short time later. Ortega speaks little English and could not report the theft when it happened. Father McGuire said that Crowley had asked him for money earlier the same day and had been refused.

## LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

March 3, 1999

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the Zoning Board of Adjustment of the Borough of South Plainfield at its meeting held on March 2, 1999.

A. Case No. 61-98/I — Livingston Infusion Care — Block 420; Lot 11.01; 603 Montrose Ave. — Applicant's request for preliminary and final site plan approval, with waivers is hereby GRANTED.

B. Case #2-99 — Domenico Lettini — Block 190; Lot 1; 207 Cedarbrook Ave. — Applicant's request for a lot depth and lot area variances to construct a single family home is hereby GRANTED with conditions.

C. Case #51-98/E — Don Gural — Block 65; Lot 3.02 Park Ave. — Applicant's request for an extension of a temporary use permit is hereby GRANTED in part, to run from 3/21/99 and expire on 5/16/99.

Janice Muccilli  
Secretary Zoning Board  
\$21.00

1TMarch 12

## Summer Drama

Continued from page 8

for the creative, educational and production aspects of a large-scale musical production. All of these positions are paid a fee.

The deadline for applying for these positions is Wednesday, April 7. Resumes and related materials can be mailed to 210 Oakland Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or faxed to (908) 756-8790. They can also be dropped off at the South Plainfield Adult School offices on Cromwell Place in South Plainfield.

For more information, please call (908) 756-0539.

## Classifieds

### HELP WANTED

**PART-TIME RECEPTIONIST**—Local Architectural firm seeking part time receptionist for afternoon hours. Good telephone manners necessary. General office skills and knowledge of PC a plus. Benefit package available. Contact Candy at Cornerstone Architectural Group, 908-753-7004.

**P/T ADVERTISING SALESPERSON** for local newspaper. Great opportunity. Set own hours. 732-469-4380.

**PART-TIME CLERK** for local store. Call 908-755-3663.

### FOR SALE

**STANDARD OFFICE METAL DESK** w/formica top. 30 x 60. 5 drawers. \$80. 908-754-6856.

### FOR RENT

**SO. PLFD. RETAIL OR OFFICE space.** 400 sq. ft. w/parking 732-548-8595.

### INSTRUCTION

**The Total Body Workout!** Get in the best shape of your life with **TAE BOX AEROBICS!** The hottest craze in fitness. Only \$20 per month for group classes! Call Ken @ (908) 412-1777.

### WANTED

**DEAD OR ALIVE-ROTOTILLERS,** snowblowers, air conditioners, riding mowers. Cash paid. 732-463-3923.

### BABYSITTING POSITIONS WANTED

**13-YEAR-OLD EXPERIENCED** and certified babysitter to watch your kids after school and weekends. 908-668-8155.

**LOOKING FOR A BABYSITTER?** My name is Heather. I'm an 8th grader at SPMS. Very responsible. 908-668-7754. Wkday3:30-9:30pm, Wkend 11am-9:30pm.


## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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## Classified Advertising Works.

To place your ad, call  
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3 line minimum—\$10, \$1 per each additional line. To place a classified send your check to the Observer, c/o G & G Graphics, 530 Union Ave., Ste. 3, Middlesex, NJ 08846.

Deadline for next issue is Mon, Feb. 29.



Sherlyn Courtney...

# Why I Want to Be a Police Officer

Raised in a family of policemen and firefighters, I always wanted to hear how their day was and what happened to them. I always found it interesting, exciting, and in most cases it seemed to be rewarding.



My father, Gerald, is a retired sergeant from Plainfield Detective Bureau. I would hear the phone ringing at 5 a.m. and get up to see what happened.

My brother, Jeff, is a Plainfield fire lieutenant and was a volunteer in South Plainfield for many years before becoming a paid firefighter. He went through Union County Police Academy to become an officer in Plainfield and soon transferred to the fire department.

When I was 16 years old Jeff would drive me to work. One day he drove me to a structure fire instead and I sat in the truck for hours watching police, fire and rescue personnel doing their job, it was then I realized that when I was old enough, that was what I was going to do.

My mother, Fran, is my best friend and also my biggest supporter in whatever I chose to do. I know it is not her dream to have her daughter become a police officer. I'm sure she thought I would already be married and she would have grandbabies. However, she supports my decisions and has always been the "wind beneath my wings."

In 1992, I worked part-time as a manicurist at the Village Salon. I became a volunteer firefighter in South Plainfield for five years and a fire dispatcher from 1993-1997 and then transferred to the police department as a 9-1-1 operator.

I attended Middlesex County Fire Academy in 1993-1994 and receiving certification in: Firefighter I and II; Haz-met Level I Operations and Awareness; and Basic First Aid and CPR. In 1997, I went to school for Basic Telecommunication-Emergency Medical Dispatch and also attended Somerset County Police Academy to become a police matron.

From 1992 until 1999, I took the civil service exams for police and fire, but preferences are always given to veterans. In the past few years, Civil Service has changed their procedures and the lists are only good one year instead of three years, making it much harder for non-veterans to be hired.

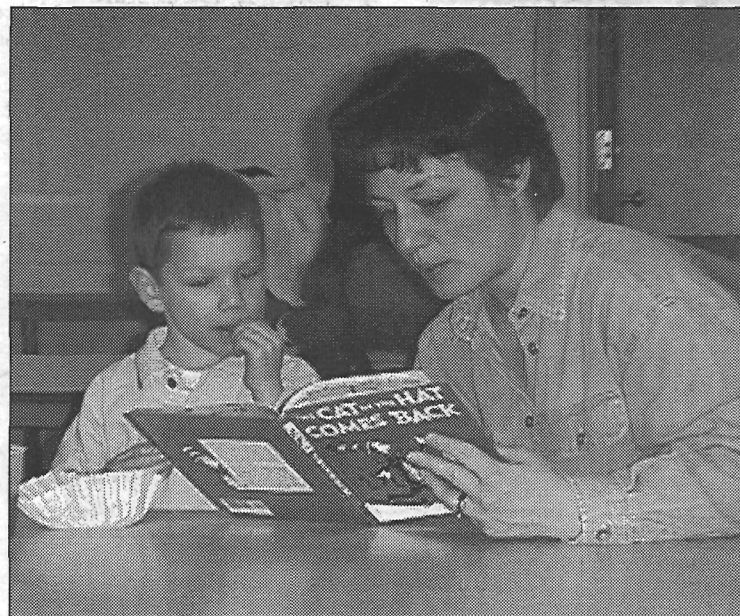
When I took the South Plainfield police test for the third time, I got a little discouraged, but year after year I kept trying. With the support of the police department and Chief Merkler, I signed up to take the test again January 1999, one more time.

During the two years I was on the list, two veterans declined the job, making it possible for Mark Hollain and myself to be hired.

I am looking forward to attending Sea Girt Police Academy in March (which is also where my father also graduated from) and then becoming a police officer in South Plainfield. I am proud and honored and I would like to thank everyone on the borough council and Chief Merkler for giving me this opportunity.

## Reading Dr. Suess at Franklin School

Maria Huber reads to three-year-old son, Nicholas, at Franklin School. Nicholas is in the Future Stars three year old program.



## Kindergarten Registration March 22-25

Registration of children for the September, 1999 kindergarten class will take place in the Board Room of the South Plainfield Board of Education Administration Building at 305 Cromwell Place during the week of March 22-25, 1999, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. To be enrolled in kindergarten this September, children must have been born on or before Oct. 1, 1994. There are no exceptions to this regulation.

Parents/guardians of prospective kindergartners are required to submit the following documents when registering their children:

1. *Application for Enrollment* — completed and signed by the parent or guardian.
2. *Original Birth Certificate* with raised seal from the Bureau of Vital Statistics OR a valid passport for the child. Photocopies of these documents are not acceptable.
3. *Child's Social Security Number*.
4. *Medical Record Form* with re-

quired immunization records — dated, stamped and signed by the child's doctor. Physical examinations must be completed after Jan. 1 of the year that the child enters kindergarten. If all immunizations cannot be completed prior to Kindergarten Registration Week, these should be completed and a physician's verification thereof submitted to the Registration Secretary in Room 21 of the Administration Building prior to Sept. 1, 1999. [NOTE: *THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE MEDICAL RECORD FORM IS THE ONE ISSUED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT*]

5. *Two Proofs of Residency* — e.g., utility bills (PSE&G, telephone, cable, water, etc.) with parent's name and address dated within the last two months OR a current tax bill from the South Plainfield Tax Office OR a legal contract showing purchase of home (deed) or rental of a residence (lease) in South Plainfield. A driver's license is not acceptable as a proof of resi-

dency.  
6. *If the child does not reside with both parents, official custody documents will be required.*

In order to expedite the registration process, parents are encouraged to assemble, complete and bring the above documents with them at the time of registration.

Parents/guardians may obtain blank enrollment forms prior to the Kindergarten Registration Week (March 22-25, 1999) in the office of any elementary school or in the human resources office (main office) in the Administration Building.

*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.

## March / April 1999

## Meetings & Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Copy Deadline: Friday, 5 pm Advertising Deadline: Monday, 5 pm	8 Blood Drive SPSHS 8:30-2 p.m. Borough Council Agenda Meeting 8 pm	9 Historical Society HS Library 7:30 pm Planning Board Meeting 8 pm	10 Environmental Comm. 8 pm Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	11 Borough Council Meeting 8 pm	12 Sacred Heart Fish Dinner 5-7pm Talent Show at SPSHS - 7 pm Publication of <i>So. Plfd.Observer</i>	13 St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance, American Legion Post, 6 pm Rescue Squad Western Dance Polish Home -8 pm
14	15 Land Management Advisory Committee 7:30 pm	16 Board of Education 8 p.m. Board of Adjustment 8 pm	17 Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	18	19 Sacred Heart Fish Dinner 5-7pm Publication of <i>So. Plfd.Observer</i>	20 Franklin PTA Auction/Raffle 6:30 Candle Sale Blessed Virgin Church 2-4 pm
21 Chicken Dinner Our Lady of Czestochowa 2-6 pm	22 Borough Council Agenda Meeting 8 pm	23 Recycling Comm. 8 pm Planning Board 8 pm	24 Traffic Safety Advisory Comm. 7 pm Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	25 Borough Council Meeting 8 pm	26 Sacred Heart Fish Dinner 5-7pm Publication of <i>So. Plfd.Observer</i>	27 Easter Egg Hunt PAL Building 1 pm Elk One-Stop-Shopping 10-4, Elks Lodge
Palm Sunday 28 Lions Breakfast at the High School 8 .m.-12 p.m	29	30 Board of Adjustment 8 pm	31	APRIL 1 First Day of Passover	2 Good Friday Publication of <i>So. Plfd.Observer</i>	3
Easter Sunday 4 First Day of Daylight Savings Time	5 Recreation Comm. Meeting 7 pm PAL	6 Board of Adjustment 8 pm	7 Business Advisory Group 5:30 pm Court 9:30 am	8 Taxpayers Advisory Group 8 pm	9 Publication of <i>So. Plfd.Observer</i>	10

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