

APR 22 1999

South Plainfield Observer

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50 CENTS

APRIL 23, 1999



Opening Day Ceremonies, Parade, Kick Off Junior Baseball/Ponytail Softball

Junior Baseball and Ponytail Softball officially kicked off the season last Saturday with a parade and openings ceremonies at the Baseball Complex and Pitt Street Park.

The Junior Baseball Club annual parade began at Borough Hall and proceeded to the Junior Baseball Complex. The South Plainfield High School Band led the parade, followed by the mayor and council and the Junior Baseball Club Executive Board.

Each team marched with a banner displaying the team's name as well as the names of the coaches and players. The banners were colorfully decorated with baseballs and team logos. They were later put on display and a contest was held to select the best one.

The B League field at the Junior Baseball Complex quickly filled with baseball players, coaches, parents and siblings. The kids waited patiently for the ceremonies to be completed so the first games could begin. Each marcher received a hot dog and soda after the ceremonies.

After the ceremonies the mayor and council, along with the parents of children in both leagues, proceeded to Pitt Street Park to attend the Ponytail Softball opening ceremonies.

When they arrived at park, they found that the rain from the night before had flooded some of the fields and most were too wet to allow play. Director Mike English, along with a group of parents, arrived the park at 7:30 a.m. and attempted to get the fields into playing condition for the open-

ing day games.

However, after hours of working on the fields, Mike English decided that the safety of the girls was more important than the playing of games on opening day. The official ceremonies were still held, but play was suspended un-

til Monday.

Councilwoman Darlene Pinto threw out the first pitch to Denise DeMeglio from the Ponytail A Polish Home Team.

The girls also received hot dogs and soda but they were forced to postpone play for a few days.



Hogan Resigns After 17 Years on Planning Board

Next Tuesday's Planning Board Meeting will be a significant one for Chairman John Hogan and the other members of the board. Hogan will be chairing his last board meeting. He is resigning after 17 years of service to the board, 15 of which he served as chairman. John is relocating out of South Plainfield.

Hogan has been a resident of South Plainfield his entire life. He was born and raised in a house just 50 feet from where he now lives. John and his wife of 48 years, Faye (whom he says is "the best thing that ever happened to him"), have raised three children here in South Plainfield: John J. Jr., Daniel and Patricia Dubossy. John Jr. lives in town on Hogan Street, named after his grandfather, the second police officer hired in South Plainfield. He carried badge #2.

Hogan said one thing he has learned during his years on the board is to always keep an open mind about cases coming before the board and listen to all testimony before coming to any conclusions.

During 17 years on the board, Hogan listened to many important cases, some which have impacted dramatically on the borough. He has always been fair in dealing with applicants before the board as well as residents who attend meetings to voice their opinions, always making sure everyone has the opportunity to discuss their concerns.

Mayor Dan Gallagher spoke of John Hogan's service to the town in glowing terms. John Hogan has served under three mayors over his 17 years: Dan Gallagher, Mike Woskey and Mike English.

"John Hogan has initiated tremendous positive changes on the board. He has done good things, all beneficial to the Borough of South Plainfield. I will miss him, his experience and his dedication

to the people of South Plainfield through his service as a board member," said Mayor Gallagher.

Councilwoman Darlene Pinto has worked with John Hogan on the Planning Board for two years. "His 15 years as chairman of the Planning Board says it all. No



John Hogan

matter what administration has been in office, Republican or Democrat, John has retained his appointed position as chairman. This speaks volumes of his fairness; for John it was never politics. He is a great guy and has been a great chairman. He is well respected and I will miss him tremendously," she said.

Janice Muccilli, board secretary who has worked with Hogan for the past six years, stated she will miss working with him. "He is a great person to work with, easy to talk to and respect," she said. She described his dedication to the planning board and noted that she could count on one hand the meetings he has missed since she has known him. "He is a fair-minded person. He goes to meetings open minded with no pre-judgements. He is patient and listens to what people have to say and still does what is fair and best for the town," said Janice.

Two Newcomers, One Incumbent Win Seats; Budget Passes

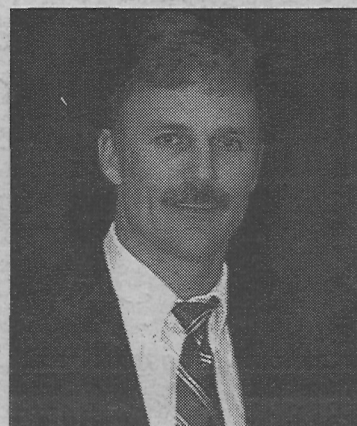
Newcomers Daniel M. Smith and Jeffrey A. Seider won seats on the Board of Education along with incumbent Ken LaFreniere. Daniel Smith received the most votes, 1,026; Jeffrey Seider received 1,000 and Ken LaFreniere, 714. All will serve a three-year term.

Incumbent Myra Stillman received 589 and Carol Byrne, a former board member who was defeated last year got 518.

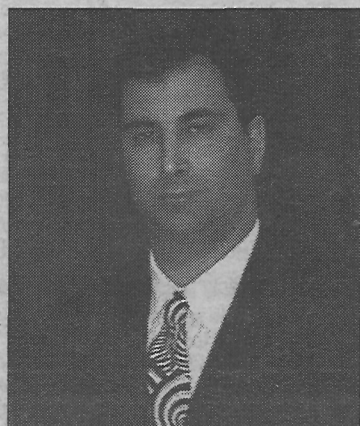
The school budget passed by a margin of 880-561. Homeowners will see three-cent school tax decrease in next years tax bills.



Frank LaFreniere



Dan Smith



Jeff Seider

In My Opinion

Letters

To the Editor,

Before I begin this letter, I hope the Editor will confirm this letter was dated and received prior to the South Plainfield Board of Education election results.

When I ran for the South Plainfield Board of Education, I said that I hoped by running and win-

ning others would realize if committed to public education and service to the community, they too could run. You see, I didn't have the long term residency of this community some had, but instead had an honest commitment to our public educational system for the sake of all children.

Seem kind of hokey? Well the truth is, as a parent I truly believe there is no person(s) more important to my children than educators. I believe that by being a part of the ongoing work it takes to have excellent educational standards I can truly help make a difference in the district my children attend. I believe by being a member of your Board of Education I can speak for the children and residents who feel unable to do so on their own behalf and possibly make a positive difference.

When Jeff Seider and Dan Smith told me they were interested in running for the South Plainfield Board of Education, I encouraged them, as I would have encouraged anyone who asked me. I do not believe there can ever be too many choices.

What I didn't realize was the extent some would go to discredit and discourage these gentlemen from their bid for your vote. Beginning with subtle references in letters to the editor that each had 'axes to grind' and 'private agendas' to making telephone calls to their employers and friends.

It is very sad indeed when some would go to such lengths to stop two fathers from running for an office in their community because they, as I do, care about the quality of education in South Plainfield.

I would remind those who partake in such extremes that these gentlemen have children in the community you claim you care about. I would ask you what exactly is your commitment to the children of South Plainfield and our schools if you would stop at nothing to get on the Board of Education.

I think it is time for our community to tell such people that this type of campaigning is not in the best interests of anyone and for future reference I personally would not vote for anyone who would stoop so low. Obviously there is something wrong with the character of such an individual and I would not like that type of person to represent me.

As for residents like Mr. Seider and Mr. Smith and others who like them have considered running for this office for the children, I sincerely hope that behavior like this does not discourage you but instead makes you angry enough to fight to represent our community. Lord knows we need people who only have the children and taxpayers needs before them and not their own ego driving them.

DAWN JEFFERYS

From Barry Fiddler..

This message was read by Barry Fiddler to the audience at last week's Board of Education meeting.

As many of you may know, this is my last meeting as a member of the Board of Education. To some, I am sure this is a moment of joy, to others a bittersweet farewell. Although I will no longer be seated at the dais, I will be in the audience as old habits die hard.

At the final budget adoption a few weeks ago I made a motion, that if it had passed, would have assured that the \$75,000 of a \$34.5 million dollar budget for elementary summer school would remain in the budget regardless of its passage or failure at the polls.

To some, because they opposed the motion and were looking for a way to explain to parents why they either voted NO or agreed with the defeat of the motion, and because they could not wiggle their way out of that with the general public, decided to call it an "illegal motion" at the candidates debate.

In addition, they went on to say that it would bind a future board as to how it must spend budgetary monies. First let me say it was not an illegal motion and in addition, when I asked the board president on Tuesday, she concurred. Needless to say, at the meeting nobody called it an illegal motion.

As to binding future boards, one must realize that boards of education do this all the time. In fact, I had said at the time I made the motion that I realized that it would bind the next board, but that it was some-

thing I felt had to be done because those elementary children need summer school to assure their future success in the educational process. If the referendum for a new school passes, it will bind boards for the next 20 to 30 years to pay that debt service. A very few years ago when the voting public turned down a bond issue for new school roofs, the board in its infinite wisdom decided on lease purchase to assure that the roofs be replaced. While I agree that it was the proper thing to do, it too bound many future boards for payment.

When budgets were unfortunately defeated, past South Plainfield boards had never even given thought to eliminating athletic programs such as football or music programs such as the marching band, nor should they have considered their elimination. However, five members of this board do not feel strongly enough about elementary summer school to ensure that it remains in the budget no matter what happens at the polls next Tuesday.

Ladies and gentlemen, believe me when I tell you that all I wanted to do was, as they say, ride off into the sunset. However, I feel so strongly about this issue that I cannot let it ride. That is why I am making this commentary tonight and I pray that the budget passes so that the elementary children who need the extra summer help will get that help.

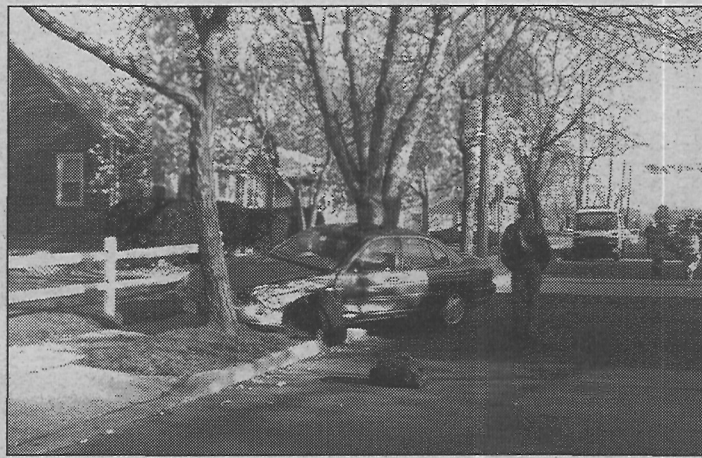
THANK YOU,
BARRY FIDDLER
BOD MEMBER

Accident Leaves Two Autos Demolished



An early morning accident this past Sunday on Hamilton Blvd. left two vehicles demolished. The occupants were not seriously injured, but rescue squad personnel took a man and young boy to the hospital to be checked out. Rescue squad, police and fire department workers were on the scene to assist.

Photos by Rich D'Urso



IMPORTANT BOROUGH MEETING DATES

Zoning Board of Adjustment 1999 Meeting Dates

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

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

Planning Board 1999 Meeting Dates

Second and fourth Tuesday of the month as Follows:

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
August 10, August 24	

Council Meetings

AGENDA MEETINGS	PUBLIC MEETINGS
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 for the latest meeting agenda.

South Plainfield Observer

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2. Mail or fax it to: Editorial Department
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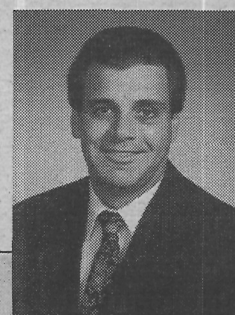
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Board of Education To Appeal Ruling

The South Plainfield Board of Education voted unanimously to appeal a recent court ruling which vacated a 4-year old ruling in the board's favor over a breach of contract issue. The board will appeal the case to the New Jersey Supreme Court.

The case concerns the level of pay given to new teachers from 1991-1992 to 1995-1996. The teachers union claimed the newly hired teachers' past experience was not considered in their pay scale.

The Board of Education went to court and won a ruling saying that didn't have to pay the extra

wages. That ruling was appealed by the union and the case was sent back to arbitration.

The BOD says the ruling could cost the district over \$750,000 in backpay, which could result in the elimination of several programs, including the student council and most of the high school sports program.

South Plainfield Education Association President Louise Mruz asked the board to sit down with the union and negotiate this matter. Guy Ferri said that the board originally had tried twice to settle with the union with no success.

Mayor Proclaims Volunteers Litter Cleanup Week April 24-30

At a recent council meeting Mayor Daniel Gallagher proclaimed the week of April 24-30 as "Volunteer Litter Cleanup Week," and asked all sectors of the borough to join in the annual spring cleanup sponsored by the Clean Communities Program and funded by a grant from the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection.

Volunteers are needed to help pick up litter in the parks, along roadsides and from streams. Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, Cub Scout packs and members of the S.P. Clean Business Association have already signed up to work at various locations. Individual residents have also volunteered to organize their neighborhoods, or to join in the big cleanup day on Saturday, April 24.

Participants will be invited to

come back to Borough Hall after the cleanup for the Pickup Picnic of free pizza and soda and environmentally-friendly door prizes.

Groups, business representatives and residents will meet at Borough Hall to collect gloves, bags and rakes before dispersing to the assigned cleanup locations at Cotton Street Park, New Market Ave., South Clinton Ave., the woods around Franklin School, Durham Ave., Hadley Road and Highland Ave. Woods nature reserve. Other locations will be cleaned on other dates; additional locations will be included if enough volunteers show up.

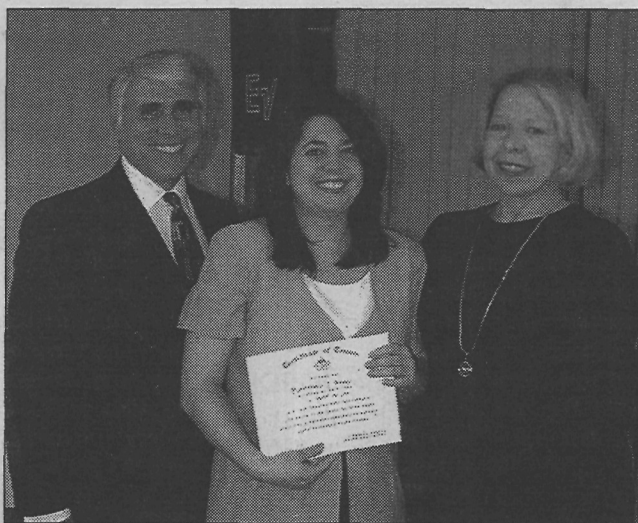
Equipment distribution will take place on Saturday, April 24, from 9-9:30 a.m., cleanup will be from 10 a.m. until noon and at noon the Pickup Picnic will be held.

Join Friends of the Woods for Spring Trail Maintenance Day

Friends of the Woods are seeking volunteers for the Spring Trail Maintenance Day at the Highland Ave. Woods Environmental Education Reserve on Saturday, May 1.

Help by sprucing up the trails for the season's Walks'N Talks programs. Mulch trails, clean the new streamside trail easement,

build steps. Gloves and refreshments will be provided. Please let us know if you can bring tools (rakes, shovels, wheelbarrows, pruners, a sledgehammer). Meet at Sylvania Place entrance at 9 a.m. Call (908) 226-7621 to register, or just show up. In case of heavy rain, we will postpone until May 8.



Margaretmary Mosley (center) with school principals Mario Barbieri and Nancy Erickson.



Nancy Flannery pictured with SPHS Assistant Principal Frank Vatalare.

Margaretmary Mosley and Nancy Flannery Receive Certificates of Tenure

Margaretmary Mosley, guidance counselor for both Roosevelt and Franklin schools and Nancy Flannery, secretary for the high school guidance department, both received certificates of tenure at last week's board of education meeting.

Roosevelt School Principal Mario Barbieri said that Mosley has been a great asset to the school by teaching students about getting along together and by helping students cope with family problems

and illnesses.

Franklin School Principal Nancy Erickson commended Mosley for her idea of using students as assistant counselors in elementary schools.

Mosley was also commended for initiating the pier mediation program which cut discipline problems in both schools by 80%.

High School Assistant Principal Frank Vatalare said that Nancy Flannery took the position as sec-

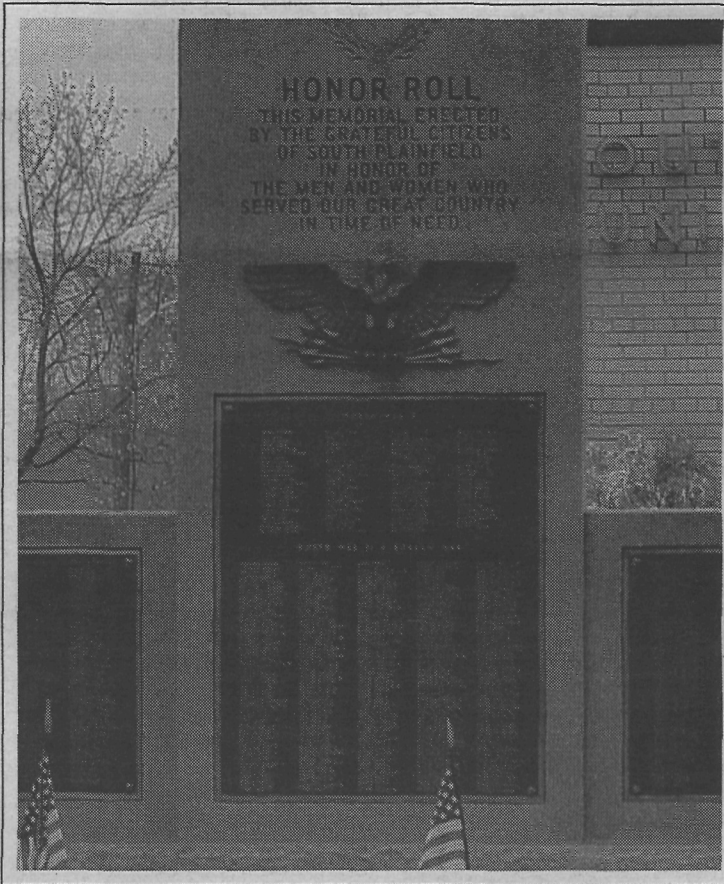
retary in the guidance department with little experience and has learned to do her job proficiently. She is responsible for maintaining student's high school records insuring they are accurate and up to date. She also schedules home study for ill students. Vatalare said when the scheduling process is drawn up during the summer, Flannery is responsible for ensuring its accuracy. Her attention to detail helps to avoid scheduling conflicts.

Borough Adds Veterans' Names to Memorial

By Patricia Abbott

If the polished grey stone of the Veterans Memorial outside of Borough Hall could speak, it would chronicle stories of life and death, defeat and glory, courage and dedication and of pride in the United States of America. A simple listing of over 1,000 names disguises the countless tales of South Plainfield residents who have served their country.

The time has come to add more names to the growing list. The requirements are simple. A veteran must show proof that he or she was a South Plainfield resident at the time of discharge. Family members can have the names of deceased veterans added as well. Veterans who were killed in action have a star next to their name. Residents who lived in older sections of town formerly known as Holly Park, Oaktree and New Market are eligible as well.



Veterans who would like to be added to the memorial must submit a DD214 form. Information should be sent to Marie Smith c/o Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or faxed to (908) 754-9091. Please include a contact number with all inquiries.

The memorial was established

in 1970. On it are the names of World War I and II Veterans, as well as those who served in the Korean and Vietnam wars. Currently there are no names from those who served in the Persian Gulf. The list of names waiting to be placed is now up to about 30. For more information, contact Marie Smith at (908) 226-7604.

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EVENTS

5th Annual Family Fun Fair/Flea Market

The South Plainfield Girl Scout Community Association is planning its Fifth Annual Family Fun Fair and Flea Market on April 24 (rain date May 1) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the grounds of the PAL Building on Maple Ave.

There will be something for everyone including: pony rides, moon walk, photos with Tweet (the Yellow Bird), games, prizes, hands-on art projects, food, baked goods, flea market, craft fair, sponge toss and a community organization exposition.

For additional information contact Lisa at 769-9116 or Maria at 753-9610. All proceeds benefit the South Plainfield Girl Scout Community Association.

Police Bike/Property Auction May 8

The South Plainfield Police Department will be holding a bicycle and property auction on Saturday, May 8. The auction will be held at the South Plainfield Road Department, located on the corner of Spicer and Belmont avenues.

Property may be viewed at 9:30 a.m. Auction will begin at 10 a.m.

Along with bicycles, other properties available for auction consist of assorted motor vehicle stereo equipment (amps, speakers, cassettes and kicker box, etc.) unclaimed jewelry, knives, and other properties.

Also a 1983 Chevrolet modular van (ambulance/firearms vehicle) 37,521 miles will be up for auction.

Further information can be obtained by telephoning South Plainfield Police Records (908) 226-7670 Monday thru Friday 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Aiello Chiropractic Holding Workshop

Aiello Chiropractic Center PC and Carolyn McNulty will be holding an introductory workshop on the gentle art of Shiatsu on Tuesday, April 27, at 7 p.m. at Aiello Chiropractic Center. The Center is located at 2201 South Clinton Ave. (on the corner of New Market and South Clinton).

Shiatsu, an ancient healing art that uses gentle pressure, is designed to relieve stress, tension and muscle aches and pains. Basically, Shiatsu helps to promote self healing. In today's active lifestyles what could be better than having someone ease your stress and tension? Gentle manipulation and stretching increase range of motion and flexibility.

For more information or to RSVP, call Aiello Chiropractic at (908) 755-2289.

Trip to Radio City Christmas Show

The Recreation Department is planning a trip to the Radio City Christmas Show on Dec. 9. The tickets are \$50 per person. There are only 49 tickets available for this trip and will be sold out fast. You can purchase tickets at the PAL Building located on Maple Ave.

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

101st Airborne Division to Meet

Members of the 101st Airborne Division will hold a meeting on Friday, April 30 at the American Legion Hall located on Oak Tree Ave.

St. Vincent de Paul Sponsoring Blood Drive

The St. Vincent de Paul Society is sponsoring a blood drive at the Sacred Heart School cafeteria on Sunday, April 25 from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Anyone interested in donating should call the parish secretary at 908-756-0633.

First Baptist Spring Fashion Show

The Women's Evening Circle of the First Baptist Church of South Plainfield will be sponsoring a Spring Fashion Show on Saturday, May 1, at 2 p.m. Clothing and accessories complements of Dress Barn and Dress Barn Woman will be modeled by several of our members.

The cost is \$10 per ticket. This event, a fund-raiser for the Church general fund, will take place in Henderson Hall at 201 Hamilton Blvd. Tickets may be purchased at the door, but advance ticket information may be obtained from Midge, at 908-561-0482. Hope to see you there.

Yankees/Phillies Trip Planned

Recreation is planning a bus trip to Veterans Stadium in Philadelphia to see Phillies play the N.Y. Yankees on Wednesday, June 9. The tickets are only \$25 per person which includes the bus. There are only 49 tickets available. You can purchase your tickets at the PAL Building.

Book Sale at South Plainfield Library!

Donations Wanted

The South Plainfield Friends of the Library will be holding their annual and very popular Book and Bake Sale on Saturday, May 1. A wide variety of books will be available including children books, cookbooks, paperback romance and hard covers. A selection of videos and cassettes will also be on sale. People with a sweet tooth will be excited to see the range of cakes, cookies and baked goods for sale.

Donations of books, cassettes and videos are being accepted starting Monday, April 12 at the library lobby. Children's books, mysteries, science fiction as well as videos, are especially in demand. For additional information, call the library at 754-7885.

Project Graduation Auction/Raffle

The South Plainfield High School Auction/Raffle to benefit Project Graduation is on May 1. The doors open at 6 p.m.

Tickets are on sale now. Advance tickets are \$7 and at the door are \$10. Tickets are limited. If tickets are sold out in advance there will be no ticket sales at the door. Reserve your tickets today by calling Pat at 756-6512 or Ellen at 756-3731.

Over 35 businesses in our community have contributed prizes for this event and they keep coming in! Remember, the proceeds from this event support Project Graduation — so, please come out and support our high school seniors.

Connected Hearts Adoption Support Meets

Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support (CHATS) will meet 7:15-9:15 p.m. on Monday, April 26 at Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church located at 170 Watchung Ave. in North Plainfield.

Catherine Barrow, L.C.S.W., retired therapist and mother of four children, two of whom were adopted, will share her expertise and experiences. Open sharing of adoption-related stories and light refreshments will follow. Call Alyce at (732) 227-0607 for information.

PBA Local 100 to Sponsor Car Show

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

For information, call (908) 756-4466.

Killington, Vermont Trip Planned

Sacred Heart Church is sponsoring a trip to the Cortina Inn in Killington, Vermont. The bus trip, scheduled June 27 to July 1, will leave from the church parking lot.

The cost is \$589 per person, double occupancy, which includes transportation, baggage handling, four nights hotel, four buffet breakfasts, four dinners, sightseeing, tour guide and driver gratuities.

For reservations or additional information, call Mary Ann at (908) 226-1222.

U.N.I.C.O. Sponsors Golf Outing

Plainfields' Unico Chapter of South Plainfield invites you and/or your foursome to join them on Monday, May 17 at the Beaver

Brook Golf Club in Clinton. Registration is 12 noon with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. A buffet dinner will be served at 6 p.m. and awards and prizes will be at 7 p.m. There will be a \$10,000 putting contest, longest drive, closest to the pin on all par 3's, low net and low gross prizes. The Calloway system will be used for scoring. The cost for the day, including green fees, cart, buffet dinner, locker and storage, is \$110 per person.

Gold and Silver Corporate Sponsorship are still available. Dinner only is \$25. For information call Mike Cortese at (908) 561-1539 or Dick Grillo at (908) 754-1653.

Historical Society Plans Harbor Cruise

The South Plainfield Historical Society will be sponsoring a New York Harbor Cruise from Perth Amboy on Sunday, May 30, aboard the *Cornucopia Princess*. Boarding will be at 11 a.m. from the Smith Street Dock. The cruise begins at noon and returns at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$40. Price includes tax and gratuities.

Call Bill Tuthill at (908) 756-9654 or Mary Mazepa at 754-3503 for information. Send check or money order to South Plainfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 11, So. Plainfield, NJ 07080 by May 25.

Senior Trip to Atlantic City

Sign ups are being taken for the senior trip to the Tropicana and the Senior Festival on April 29. The cost is \$10 for a resident and \$15 for non-residents. The bus leaves at 7:45 a.m. and returns at approximately 8 p.m.

The first stop will be the Tropicana Casino where you receive \$10 in coins and a free brunch. The bus will depart at 3 p.m. and take the group to the new Atlantic City Convention Center and pick up there at 6 p.m. for the return trip.

Sign up at the PAL Building located on Maple Ave.

Business Association Golf Outing May 4

The Business Association will hold its Annual Golf Outing on Tuesday, May 4 at the Cranbury Golf Club in Cranbury. This popular annual event was a sellout last year. Prizes will be awarded for longest drive, closest to the pin, straightest drive, low net, low gross, most honest golfer and a hole in one. There

will also be many door prizes.

For information on becoming a sponsor or to register for the golf outing, call Paulette Giroux at (908) 754-8086 or Carolyn Allen at (908) 757-1055.

Tourette Syndrome Meeting

The next meeting Association Family Support Group will be held on Tuesday evening, May 11 from 7-9 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.

Car/Truck Show to Benefit Vision 2001

Northwest Jersey Camaro Club is sponsoring The All Car and Truck Show for the benefit of South Plainfield Vision 2001 Education Foundation, Inc. on Sunday, May 16 (raindate: May 30) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the high school parking lot on Lake Ave. The cost is a donation of \$2.

The show will include show car parking, blacktop midway, judging for sponsor's trophies, club participation, ladies' choice, longest distance and host choice trophies. The first 100 entries will receive dash plaques. Door prizes, a 50/50 drawing, food and beverages and activities for kids will also be available. Miss New Jersey will make an appearance along with Wacky Wayne the DJ.

Preregistration is \$12 or \$15 on the day of the show. Registration closes noon on the day of the show. The preregistration deadline is April 30. Non-food vendors fee is \$20 and the car corral is \$15.

Reserve your space early. All show cars must be in the parking area by noon. For information, call Tom at (908) 755-6276 or Dorothy at (973) 584-1542. No alcoholic beverages, pets, bikes or skateboards are allowed.

AARP Chapter 4144 Plans Trip

Myrtle Beach, SC is the destination of a trip planned from Apr. 25-May 1. The cost: all inclusive (except for lunch) double room, \$490; single, \$585. A complete itinerary is available upon request.

Call (732) 752-3764 or (732) 968-6613 for information.



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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Hello and welcome to the latest news from South Plainfield Public Library:

We've got our usual storytime schedule on tap for next week. The programs are for children ages three and up, and take place on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday at 1:15 p.m. No registration is needed; call us at (908) 754-7885 and ask Linda Hansen for more information. Also, at this writing, there's still space available for the children's craft program this afternoon at 4 p.m. It's for children age 6 and over; please register in advance for this program.

While we're on the subject of programs, here's some advance word about one. South Plainfield chiropractor Dr. Patrick M. Aiello will be conducting a seminar, "Raising a Healthy, Drug-Free Family," on Tuesday, May 18, at 7 p.m. at the library. We're also trying to put together a "Health and Fitness Seminar" for June. We'll give you more details as they become available.

A number of you have come in recently asking for a computer service that we don't provide: word processing. As a result, we've directed those patrons to other libraries that do offer it. But, that soon won't be the case. We're presently working on adding word processing capability to our public terminals. We hope to have it in place and running in the very near future. We'll let you

know how things are going.

All of our recent talk about software and A/V items doesn't mean we've stopped offering books to our customers. In fact, we've added a number of new books to our collection. New items include the new Oprah's Book Club selection, *The Pilot's Wife* by Anita Shreve, the political tell-all *All Too Human* by George Stephanopoulos, *Billy Straight* by Jonathan Kellerman, and *Single and Single* by John LeCarré, among others. As can be expected, new books usually have some reserves placed on them, so be prepared to wait. We'll get them to you as soon as possible.

Tomorrow will be the last day of availability for the circuit videos. (It's a shorter than usual period this month due to a few procedural adjustments on our part.) The new group will be available in a few days.

We're still accepting donations of used eyeglasses for Christopher Lamberti's Eagle Scout Project. As noted previously, the glasses will be distributed by New Eyes For The Needy. We're also still accepting donations for the big Friends of the Library Book Sale. They're looking for books, audiotapes and videos in good condition. The sale is set for Saturday, May 1, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

That'll just about take care of things for this week. As always, we're interested in your comments and opinions. Please feel free to let us know what you think. See you next Friday.

New Voting Machines in Use in Middlesex County

By Patricia Abbott

If you are one of those who exercised their right-to-vote in this week's Board of Education elections, then you already know the new voting machines have arrived in South Plainfield. The new machines are convenient, compact and simple, technology that updates but doesn't confuse. Two hundred and seventeen new voting machines had a 'breaking-in' period at five Middlesex County towns during the last general election. The Election Board was pleased with the results. These new machines are now used throughout the county.

The new machines are considered virtually error free. The old machines required election clerks to read the results off the back of the machine. According to Richard Plantec of the Election Board there were two clerks reading while two others recorded the results. The new machines print out a tape of the tabulations which greatly reduces the chance for human error. The new machines are wheelchair friendly.

Tested out by candidate Carol Byrne, she said she brought a chair to simulate a wheelchair into the booth during a training session on the new machines and found that all levers were within reach. She noted that if someone could not reach a button the machine could be easily tilted forward to create more access.

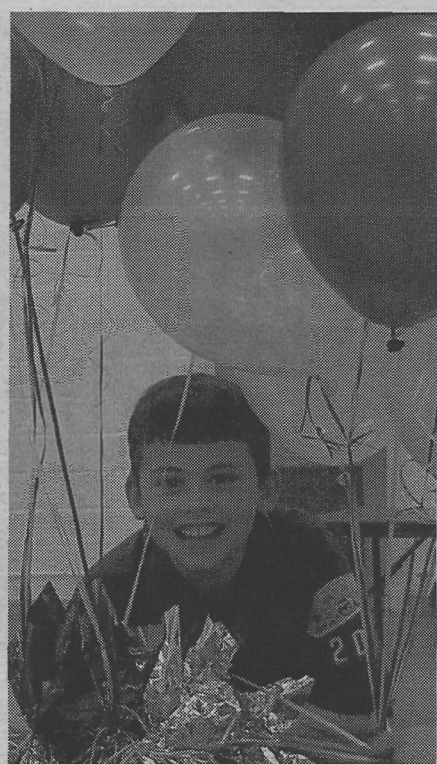
Plantec also noted that accessibility was one of the key factors

considered when researching new machines. He said that the write-in feature was located at the bottom of the panel instead of at the top as with the old machines. The old machines weighed 1250 pounds each; the new ones 250 pounds.

The old familiar voting machines throughout Middlesex County date back to 1940 and were the oldest machines in use in the state.



Franklin School Cub Scout Pack 207 held their annual Blue & Gold Dinner on Friday, April 16.



Culturally Speaking

Cultural Arts Commission Presents Tribute to Spring Concert

By Gordon Fladger

The South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission will present "Bel Musica" in a tribute to spring on Sunday, April 25 at 3 p.m. at the Wesley United Methodist Church located on Plainfield Ave. Entitled, "Hello Spring" the concert will feature soprano Florence Lazzeri, baritone Rick McElhiney, with Carole-Anne Mochernuk and Paul Kueter, piano duo.

Also performing is Walter Kanter and the ARS Musica Antiqua and their music of "Merry Olde England."

This promises to be an afternoon of exquisite artistry and one performance you shouldn't miss. For more information, call (908) 561-9557. Admission to this afternoon of music is free. Refreshments will be served during intermission.

High School Parents Invited to College Planning Q&A Meeting

In the short blink of an eye, your child will be a senior and the day you have looked forward to for so long will be here. To help overcome your fears, anxieties, concerns and questions, the SPSHS Guidance Department will hold a short, informative meeting to answer questions and help you on your way.

Senior year planning for post-secondary education, including a discussion on scholarships, scams,

and choosing the right college for your child will be discussed. A packet of information will be handed out to be taken home.

Please join members of the guidance department on Tuesday evening, May 4 at 7 p.m. in the high school cafeteria for an evening that will be both beneficial and informative.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call the high school guidance office.

Business Forum Volunteers Commended



At a recent Business Association luncheon members receive certificates of appreciation signifying their contribution to the Business and Community Forum held on March 22. The forum provides real business experience to seniors in the high school cooperative education program. Pictured above are (L to R): Emil Leporino, Art Muglia, Robert Longo and Frank Licato. Paul Grzenda, not pictured, also received a certificate.

Send Your CONGRATULATIONS!!

Show your appreciation, congratulate graduates, wish happy birthday or just send good wishes to friends, family, co-workers, etc.

April 23



Happy Birthday

Alyssa
Love, Mom and Dad

Happy Birthday

For \$20 the Observer will publish your message and photo recognizing the special occasions or accomplishments of your loved ones with a personalized ad.

Congratulations!

Send your check or money order with the name of person receiving congratulations, event celebrated (and date, if applicable) along with your name, address and phone to: South Plainfield Observer Congratulations, 530 Union Ave., Suite 3, Middlesex, NJ 08846. (If you would like photos returned, send self-addressed, stamped envelope.)

Happy Anniversary



Play Ball!!

Parade Kicks Off 1999 Junior Baseball Club Season

Jo our players, parents, managers, coaches, and friends: It's that time of year again, when the flowers and trees bloom, the grass gets green and our little league fields come alive for yet another year.

Welcome to the 1999 season, the 45th at the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club.

There have been a number of improvements at the complex again this year, including:

- New fencing on the backstops of fields one, two and four.
- New batting nets on fields one and two.
- Topsoil and grass seed have been spread on the Pony outfield.
- Three new electric scoreboards have been purchased and installed on fields two, three and four, (the first ever on the Pony Field, donated by the Women's Auxiliary).
- An infield clay additive (the same used on major league fields) has been added to all four fields.
- The infield on field six has been scrapped and redone as a dirt infield.
- The netting on all soft toss areas has been replaced.
- A new large capacity ice machine has been purchased for the snack stand.
- The money has been raised and reserved for a new Pony field house, which will house two new restrooms, a storage area and a satellite snack stand for the convenience of the Pony league players and parents. (The Women's Auxiliary donated significantly towards this project).

These improvements would not be possible without the hard work and efforts of many that have spent countless hours working during the off season. I would like to thank all of you, without you this complex would not exist! And again, THANK YOU to the Women's Auxiliary, the Baseball Club owes your organization all the thanks in

the world. We should all be proud of the beautiful, safe facility we are able to provide for our children. THANK YOU!

Now back to baseball. There have been several new rule changes instituted at the club this year:

- A new playoff structure featuring a double elimination tournament involving ALL TEAMS in ALL LEAGUES will take place after the regular season.
- The entire team roster will remain in the batting order the entire game (whether or not they are in the game defensively), eliminating the need for the EH (or extra hitter) rule.
- Our rulebook now allows us to substitute freely on defense; that is, a player can re-enter the game defensively several times during the course of a game.

We all hope these improvements will enable all of our children to enjoy their baseball experience at the club and make them baseball fans for life.

This is my favorite time of year and once again I'm looking forward to the new season. Let's make this year our best ever by maintaining our perspective and remember it's only a game, a game for our kids to LEARN, ENJOY and have FUN playing.

So today and throughout the season let's not lose sight of our objectives, to learn the meaning of good sportsmanship, the spirit of team competition, team camaraderie, honesty, courage and fair play. Help make this a time all of us will look back on with fond memories.

AND REMEMBER, IT'S OUR JOB AS PARENTS TO TEACH OUR KIDS HOW TO ENJOY THE GAME OF BASEBALL, THE GREATEST GAME OF ALL! KEEP THE GAME ALIVE!

*From Commissioner
Dennis Kazimir*



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Ponytail Softball Season Kicks Off Despite Wet Fields

This is the opening day speech given by Mike DiMeglio at the opening day ceremonies last Saturday.

On behalf of the South Plainfield Parents Ponytail Association, I would like to welcome you to the 1999 Recreation Season. I hope that you continue to come to the games and support the girls throughout the season.

I would like to welcome Mayor Gallagher and the members of the town council to our ceremony today. We appreciate their time and dedication to the youth of our town.

The Ponytail Association would also like to welcome Michael English and wish him the best of luck in his new position as Director of Recreation. It has been a pleasure working with Mike these past few weeks in preparing for the season.

As you look around the fields today, I would like you to take special notice of the new player benches that were recently installed on all three playing fields. The benches were purchased by the Ponytail Association with monies raised through our tag day efforts as well as profits from the snack bar. We would like to thank you as parents for your support of these

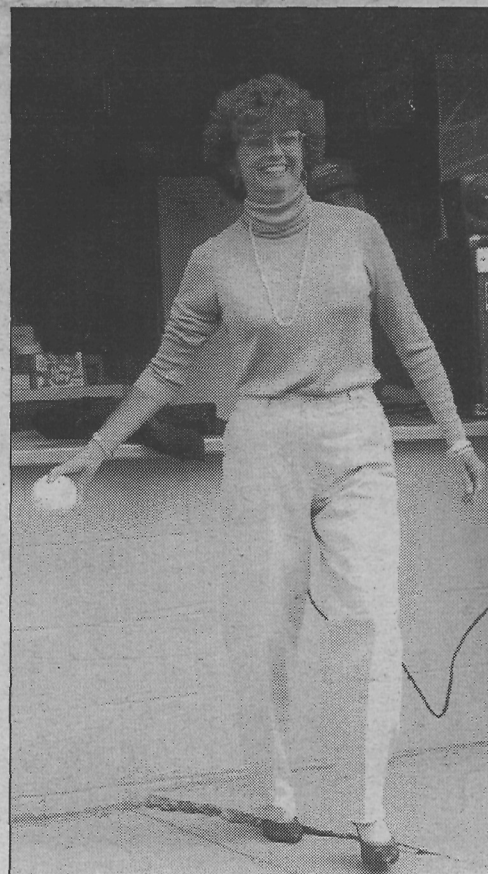
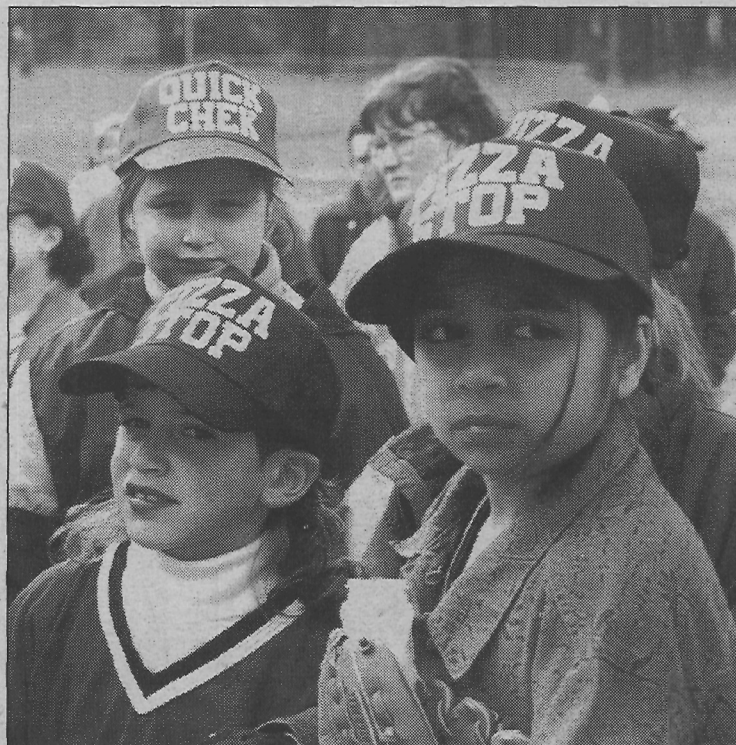
activities.

I have mentioned several times the "Ponytail Association," let me take a minute to tell you about this organization. The organization is comprised of parents of children who play recreation softball. All of you parents are welcome to join and come to our meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month. We meet during the season as well as throughout the rest of the year.

The purpose of the organization is to promote girls softball and to make the experience a fun and rewarding one for those who participate. We also sponsor traveling teams — one for each age group — that play through the month of July. Last year our 14-year-olds were league champions as well as winners of the Sayreville Tournament. The 10-year-olds won the Sayreville Tournament.

Once again, thank you for coming to our opening day ceremony, we look forward to seeing you at the games.

*From S.P.P.P.A. President
Mike DiMeglio*



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SPORTS

Junior Baseball Club Notes



Commissioner Dennis Kazimir presents a Lifetime Membership Award to John Celentano.

By Frank Hanley

Saturday April 17 was Opening Day the beginning of the club's 45th season. The day started with the annual parade with players marching from Borough Hall to the baseball complex. As in the past, Borough organizations pitched in to make the parade an "event" with the participation of the mayor and council, the SPHS Tigers Marching Band, fire department, rescue squad and police department. The club extends its thanks to all for helping make this a memorable day, especially the new players and their families.

A ceremony followed at the

complex, with former Commissioner Phil Aiello as Master of Ceremonies. John Celentano was honored by the club as this year's recipient of the Lifetime Membership Award. Flowers were presented to Kelly Downes, this year's Little Miss Baseball.

The ceremony closed as the first pitch was thrown out by SPHS Varsity Baseball Coach Ray Ciecwisz to David Eichler of the A League Cardinals. Ray was also honored with a plaque thanking him for his efforts organizing and running the Coaches Clinics held during the off-season.

Games filled the rest of the day, and will continue through June.



SPHS Baseball Coach Ray Ciecwisz received a plaque for his work at the coaches clinics.

Game results will be published beginning next week.

Managers and coaches are reminded that club meetings are held the first and third Mondays at 8:30 at the clubhouse.

Woman's Auxiliary

The Woman's Auxiliary held a bake sale and sold "cash and carry" flowers at the complex on Opening Day.

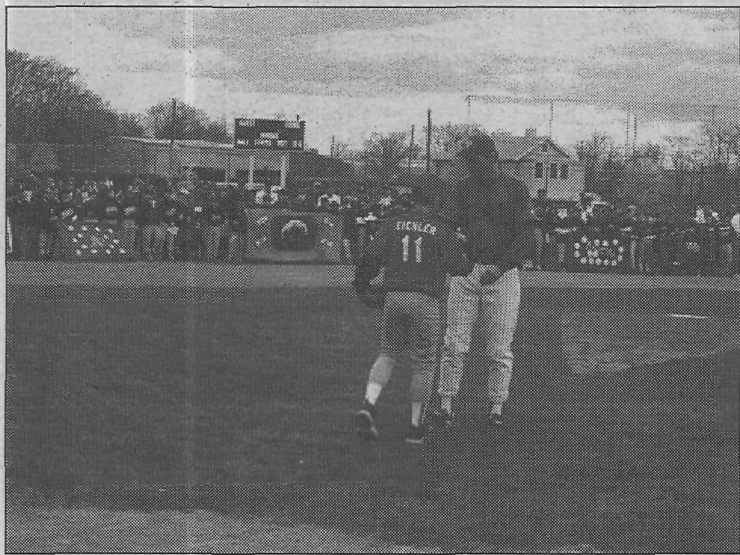
The Woman's Auxiliary wishes to extend a special THANK YOU to 1-800-FLOWERS of South Plainfield for donating all of the flowers presented to the Little Miss Baseball contestants.

The SPJBC Dance will be held on Saturday night, June 12 from 7 p.m. to midnight at the Polish National Home on New Market Avenue. Tickets are \$35 per person and must be purchased by May 29. A \$10 deposit is required and must be received by May 15. Admission includes an open bar, buffet, entertainment and tickets for great door prizes. Groups may reserve tables. Contact any member of the Woman's Auxiliary or call Cindy Eichler at 908-769-4047.

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

Events at a glance

Trenton Thunder Trip on May 14 and the SPJBC Dance on Saturday, June 12.



Ray Ciecwisz and David Eichler shake hands after the first pitch was tossed out.

Tiger Girls Keep On Rollin'

By Brian Cochran

What a week it was for the South Plainfield Tiger softball team. Four games and four impressive victories starting with their arch rivals the Trojans of Bishop Ahr on the 13th.

Alison Barrett continued her 1999 dominance pitching a five hitter to record her third shutout in four decisions in the 3-0 victory. All the offense came in the second inning as Laura Walter led off with a single, was sacrificed to second with a bunt, moved to third on Danielle Schweers line drive to left, then scored on the opposite field RBI single by Kim Wilcox. A wild throw enabled another Tiger runner to score and one batter later Kim also scored as a result of the erratic Ahr defense. Both teams began the day unbeaten and the Trojan game was the most anticipated date on the schedule. Once again South Plainfield's stellar defense, fundamental offensive run producing and Alison's grit secured the victory.

The Tigers then traveled to unbeaten Carteret and erased another donut off the standings of a divisional foe by winning 2-1. In somewhat of a sloppy game which was a 1-1 deadlock till the fifth, South

Plainfield was able to push across the winning run, thanks to a clutch RBI single by Kelly Ritchey. Alison Barrett went the distance while pitching the three hit victory.

Next up was an out of conference match up against Bridgewater last weekend and once again our stingy Tiger defense held an opponent scoreless in the 8-0 win.

Alison Tietjen, the Tigers sophomore DH, got her first taste of varsity ball and did not disappoint, knocking in two runs to go with her 2-for-4 day. Dana Curcio added three RBIs and Alison Barrett pitched the four hit - four strike out gem.

The Tigers wasted no time putting the hurt on division rival Sayreville on Tuesday by staking Alison to a five run lead in the top of the first inning and coasting to the win 13-1. Just another day at the office for Ms. Barrett as she consistently baffled Sayreville hitters striking out seven while walking no one. Alison also chipped in with three hits, three runs scored, and an RBI. Also having a big day was Danielle Schweers, getting four hits and an RBI.

As we go to press the Tigers have yet to give up more than a run in any game and have dished out four shutouts and stand at 7-0.

Boys Go To 7-2

By Brian Cochran

The South Plainfield Boys Baseball team also reached the mid-season point with a head of steam as they too rolled past Bishop Ahr 8-3 in Edison. Mike Vito and Ryan Flannery combined to go 4-for-7 with two RBIs each and Mike Kapsch went deep to provide the Tigers with their first home run of the year. Steve Bucchignano went the distance scattering six hits while fanning five.

South Brunswick came to town last Thursday and were sent home rather abruptly with a 2-1 defeat. After falling behind 2-0 late in the game, the Tigers proceeded to score one in the fifth, one in the sixth, and one in the seventh.

Mike Kapsch started the 7th with a double in the gap then a batter later stole third. Steve Bucchignano saw three pitches then executed a perfect suicide squeeze back to the box to score Mike from third and end the game.

Speaking of a day at the office...the Tigers had an appointment in what has been their office...Krausche Field in North

Plainfield. Going for their third straight Greater North Plainfield tournament title the Tigers brought all the ammo uptown, pounding out 13 hits to win going away 15-3. Mike Vito stayed unbeaten going five innings and fanning four to earn the victory. Pat Sarullo's three hits and five RBIs as well as Mike Kapsch's two doubles were only part of the Tigers offensive explosion. Everyone had a good day at the plate.

After a day off the Tigers were back home. Kapsch and Sarullo were at it again, going a collective 6-for-8 and leading the Tigers through another laughter 18-0 over Sayreville. After staking ace Steve Bucchignano to seven runs in the first three innings, coach Ciecwisz opted to go to the bullpen early, perhaps to save Steve for the upcoming revenge game in Perth Amboy tonight. Pat Sarullo and Gary LaFontaine came out of the pen and got the job done as neither gave up a hit in an inning each. Tigers average margin of victory this year is 8.5 runs and stand at 7-2.

ob•serve (v.t.): 1. to celebrate ceremonially // 2. to notice (something), to pay special attention to // 3. (a) to look at with attention // 4. to perceive, notice, come to know by seeing // 5. to comment, to note attentively

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IN OUR SCHOOLS

Franklin School Students Celebrate Cultural Diversity

Franklin School students in Mrs. Stemmi's and Mrs. D'Amico's fourth and fifth grade classes recently enjoyed a multi-cultural luncheon. Parents and students brought some of their favorite home-cooked ethnic dishes to

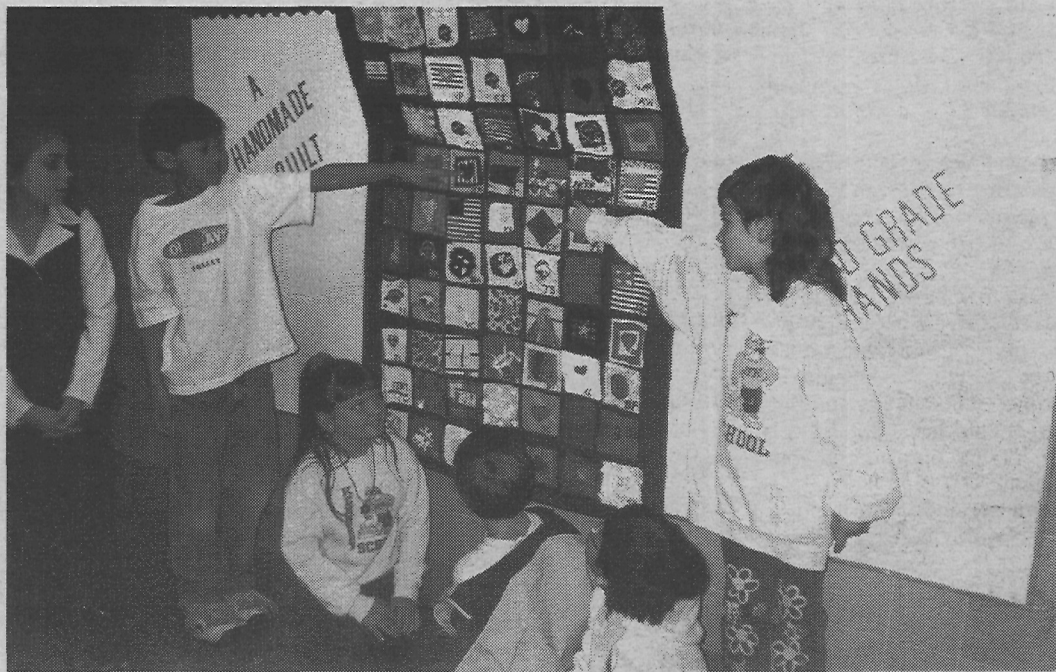
share. The recipes were then compiled into a cookbook.

Students in the class are Alex Bisnauth, Mario Camino, Eddie Cruz, Eric LaFontaine, Amos Ra'magado, Ruben Sanchez, and Felix Santiago.



Let's Go Fly a Kite....

Franklin School first grade classes, under the supervision of Mrs. Lara Kenney, Mrs. Patti Ratti, Mrs. Marilyn Mruz and Mrs. Marilyn Winston, recently celebrated a kite day at Franklin School. The children had lots of fun flying their kites on a windy March day.



It's Sew Easy...

After completing a history unit on the American Pioneers, the third grade Social Studies classes at John F. Kennedy School held a quilting bee. The children each brought in two or three scraps of material from clothing they had outgrown or something they had used. After cutting a four-inch pattern, they each designed an original patch which they sewed themselves. The patches were then arranged together. The children were proud to see their finished product hung in the school hallway. Pictured are third grade students Courtney Wilhelm, Jeff Pagonsolon, Jarne Okoszko, Robert McGregor, Raymond Lee and Caitlin Davies.

Sixth Grade Band News

Submitted by Paul A. Sturm

The sixth grade band participated in the thirtieth Annual Music Festival at South Plainfield High School in March. The students began with an exciting rendition of *Sax Attack* by Mark Williams. Mr. Sturm conducted the Williams' composition, which has elements of rock and swing in it. Afterwards, students performed *Greensleeves* (Tobie Baldwin, conductor), and *Sousa*, led by Joan Stasio.

The sixth grade wind ensemble (otherwise known as group L) is anxiously awaiting its first performance of the school year. Selections now being prepared are: *Jeopardy*, *Lean On Me*, *Penny Parade*, *Marche Romaine*, *Bach Chorale & March*, *Reverie* and *Lambada da Carnaval*.

The entire sixth grade band will be performing on Thursday, May 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the Middle School. Currently, there are approximately eighty-seven youngsters involved with sixth grade instrumental lessons. Hopefully, the vast majority will be participating in May.

The S.P.M.S. Jazz Band is having a sensational year under the dual leadership of Andy Veiss and Paul Sturm. Brian Murtagh performed with the band at this year's festival. Great low brass

section! They played *Round Midnight*, by Thelonius Monk (also solo by Jason Basile), and the infamous *25 or 6 to 4* (great pick by Andy)! Brian Publik's drum work will be remembered!

On behalf of the entire S.P.M.S

music faculty, Mrs. Younken, Mrs. Tedeschi, Mr. Sturm and Mr. Veiss, we would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a safe spring break and don't forget to encourage your kids to GET INVOLVED!

Chiemeka Ejiochi Named National Merit Achievement Program Finalist



SPHS Senior Chiemeka Ejiochi is congratulated by Principal Anthony Massaro upon reaching the status of National Merit Achievement Program Finalist. She has been selected as the winner of a \$2,000 National Achievement Scholarship. Chiemeka is the daughter of Gabriel and Mary Rose Ejiochi.

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Riley School Playground Gets Donation

John E. Riley parent Scott Mackenzie, owner of CKL Pest Control, has generously offered to donate 10% of all proceeds from pest control services in the month of May to Riley's playground committee. Parents can call 756-2268 to schedule an appointment. This offer is available to all South Plainfield residents.

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- Quick Foods, Park Ave.
- Sals Liquor Store, Park Ave.
- Service Plus, South Plainfield Ave.
- Sunrise Foods, Front & Maple
- Twice Is Nice, Front Street
- Yogurt Express, Maple Ave.

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Obituaries

John H. Powell, 60

John H. Powell of Piscataway died on Monday, April 12, at his home.

He was born in New Brunswick and was a former resident of South Plainfield before moving to Piscataway 39 years ago.

Mr. Powell was a material handler for the Ford Motor Company in Edison for 37 years before retiring in 1997.

Mr. Powell was a Navy Veteran, serving during the Korean War and was a member of the New Jersey American Legion Post 1000 in Trenton.

He was a member of Our Lady of Fatima R.C. Church in Piscataway.

He is survived by his wife, Louise Tiemeyer Powell; two daughters, April Miller of Piscataway and Lisa Chillemi of Dunellen; a sister, Doris Keister of Flemington and four grandchildren.

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

George W. Kliner, 82

George W. Kliner died on Thursday, April 15, at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Mr. Kliner was born in Plainfield and he had resided in South Plainfield for most of his life.

He had retired over 15 years ago from the former Lockheed Electronics Co. in North Plainfield, where he had worked in the maintenance department for 25 years.

He was an Army Veteran of WW II.

Mr. Kliner was a Life Member and past president of the South Plainfield Rescue Squad.

He was also a member of the First Baptist Church of South Plainfield.

His wife, Myra J. Kliner, died in 1987. He was also pre-deceased by his brother, Fred Kliner.

Surviving are two sons, Lee A. Kliner of Bridgewater and Gerald R. Kliner of Cape Coral, Fla.; a sister, Mary Sain of Conyers, Ga. and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Memorial donations may be made to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, 2506 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

Anthony F. Vaccaro, 81

Anthony F. Vaccaro died on Tuesday, April 13, at his home in Edison.

Born in New York City, Mr. Vaccaro had resided in Jersey City and in Lyndhurst for 10 years before settling in Edison 37 years ago.

He was a Veteran of World War II serving in the Asiatic Pacific Theater in the United States Army 172 Infantry. He received the American Defense Service Medal, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with Bronze Star and Three Bronze Service Stars.

Mr. Vaccaro was employed as an engineer for the former Mortell Company of Perth Amboy for 26 years before his retirement in June of 1983.

Mr. Vaccaro was a communicant

of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield. He was a member of the Edison Veterans of Foreign Wars, Oak Tree Memorial Post #9626, where he had been serving as their chaplain. Mr. Vaccaro is a long time member of the Edison Parade Committee and was honored in 1986 for his many years of service.

He was an avid New York Yankees fan and an avid gardener.

He is predeceased by his wife, Matilda D. "Mattie" (Pennacchio) Vaccaro, who died in January, 1997.

Surviving are his two sons, Michael A. Vaccaro of Edison and Louis M. Vaccaro of Belle Mead; a grandson, Jonathan Vaccaro and a step granddaughter, Charlene Schnepf; a sister, Angie LoMonte of Long Island; two brothers, Salvatore and Danny Vaccaro, both of Long Island.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Donations may be made to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Oak Tree Memorial Post # 9626, c/o 23 Hillsdale Road, Edison, NJ 08920.

Joseph Timothy Kenney, 79

Joseph Timothy Kenney died on Thursday, April 15, in Veterans Administration Medical Center in Lyons.

Born in Scranton, Pa., where he had lived for many years, Mr. Kenney moved to South Plainfield in 1951.

Mr. Kenney was employed by Sears & Roebuck Co. of Watchung as a carpet salesman for 11 years before retiring in 1979. He was formerly the co-owner of the Hamrah Rug Co. of Plainfield for 15 years.

Mr. Kenney had served in the United States Army during WW II, serving in the 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division. He held the rank of platoon sergeant and also had served as a jump master during the invasion of Normandy Beach. He was the recipient of two Purple Hearts as a result of the Normandy Beach Invasion. Mr. Kenney had also received a third Purple Heart as a result of a blast that occurred in Bastogne, Belgium.

He was a Life Member of the Disabled American Veterans Chapter #16 of Somerville. He was also a Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Post #6763 of South Plainfield, a Life Member of the Allied Airborne Association and the 101st Airborne Association.

Mr. Kenney was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church in and former communicant of St. Patrick's Church in Scranton, Pa.

Surviving are his wife, Alma (Cramer) Kenney; two daughters, Mary Keller of Flanders and Kathleen Kenney of Easton, Pa.; a son, Robert Kenney of Columbus, Ga. Also surviving are seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Memorial contributions may be made to Sacred Heart Church Renovation Fund, Sacred Heart Dr., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

Is everyone breathing a little easier now that Tax Day has

passed? What are you going to do with all that money(?) you're going to get back? A new gadget for the computer, some more RAM, a Zip drive maybe. Hopefully you'll have a decision to make here rather than having to work overtime to make up for the money you had to ante up! And for our sons and daughters who are getting back their SAT test scores right about now, I hope their returns are big too!

Time to give advice on e-mail jokes and other stuff most people just "reply" to and pass along. Don't do it that way! In case you ever wondered how your name ever got on those mile-long spam lists, chances are you earned it! Never mind how it happened, here's how to help avoid it in the future.

TIP: Next time you want to pass along a joke, message, or whatever, do it the better way. This takes only a moment, but it shows insight and respect on your part. First, no matter if it came to you as an attachment or part of the full message, separate what you want to pass along from the rest of the chaff, and save it as a new file on your desktop. This file should hold only what you want to send, and nothing else! No addresses or anything, just the message you want to send. Now

INTERACTIVE COMPUTER CORNER

By Briggs Longbothum

(second) open a new message, and address it first to yourself, then to all other recipients as "bcc" or blind carbon copies! Attach your saved message file and send away! You'll receive the first copy, which you can then delete, but each subsequent addressee gets his message individually sent to him from you, but with no other email addresses! Smart huh? And considerate too!

Has anyone seen Microsoft's new NetMeeting 3.0 (it's a beta release)? I really like it, since it will be a boon for me and several of my clients. In addition to the usual chat, a/v and whiteboarding, you can also take control over someone else's computer for demonstrating stuff, teaching, and even troubleshooting. You can even send and install applications, then show them how to use them. Of course they can take back control at anytime, but think of how useful this can be. Because it concurrently runs audio and video, it has somewhat of an advantage over programs like PC Anywhere. Keep in mind too that this can all be bandwidth intensive, so that on a dialup, you may not be working at lightspeed.

Speaking of lightspeed, have you had a chance to look at the cable

modems available in town now? This is the only way to go for online gam-

ers, and multi-media stuff. Remember to contact Elaine Meise (emeise@comcastpc.com) for sign up, and mention me too (bruggo@home.com) so she knows to take care of you as a reader of this column.

TIP: Check out www.briefcase.com and www.bookmarks.com. With these sites, you can keep your bookmarks, emails, files, and other selected stuff synchronized online, so you can access it from another Internet access point. It's all password protected, etc. so you can be secure in its use. It's cool to be able to access your stuff at the library, or somewhere else, and pick up where you left off at home or work. (So now you really are worthless when say you "left your homework at home," but that's a good thing. I mean being able to access your stuff at home when you need it.) The synchro works automatically depending on how you configure the program. I have mine synched several times a day. You don't have to leave your home computer on either, and that's the best part. I can call up my bookmarks or other files from anywhere and just go back to work. Got any cool apps or programs you'd like to share, write me (bruggo@home.com) and we'll review it here. See you next time.

By Cyrus n Moon

Weekly Horoscope 4/23-4/30

ARIES (3/21-4/20)—Avoid anything high risk, you have the capability of spending more money than you make. There is the possibility of love at first sight. This person can be utterly wrong for you, but their personality intrigues you. It will be an interesting and insightful relationship if you let it happen. It could be a Leo that I have in mind.

TAURUS (4/21-5/20)—Be alert for anyone trying to deceive you, but do not overreact. When you confront this person the embarrassment will be reward enough. Also at this time you do not want to follow rules (Mars squares Neptune) and this could mean speeding tickets. Are your finances up and down? You need steady work.

GEMINI (5/21-6/20)—Long distance chats are the rule here. Write family members or go on line with e-mail. Who knows while checking out the chat rooms, you may find some interesting people. Travel also rules here for long distance. And last but not least, avoid getting into arguments about politics and religion.

CANCER (6/21-7/22)—How about failing in love with love itself and what I mean is you don't need to put a definition to it. Enjoy the moment, without wondering what it all means. And let go of that past love you had in your life. Why carry around sad memories. Fitness classes can clear your head and get you into shape.

LEO (7/23-8/22)—Meetings at work or presentations for your projects will go wonderfully as you showcase the talents you have on a project. Recognition will come though, a little slow, but it will be there. Family matters

will need more of your time so get all the facts as control issues come into play. Dusty rose is your color.

VIRGO (8/22-9/22)—You are moving into the high tech field. If you did not own a computer yet, you may be ready to buy one. Gadgets may not have been your game but you can now see the potential of these time saving machines. How about setting some time aside for that special person in your life. All work and no play is not fair.

LIBRA (9/23-10/22)—How about a vacation? Stress and fears over finances and work will set trying times for you. At minimum a long weekend vacation. During the full moon, deep emotional bonds can be made with a loved one. Even intimate playfulness will show you how romantic you can really be. A child will cost money this week.

SCORPIO (10/23-11/21)—A platonic relationship looks like it can take on a new added dimension. And why not this relationship which started out as friends. Also colleagues will back you up at work on a tricky situation. If someone hurts your feelings speak up. If contemplating a gift for yourself make it electronic.

SAGITTARIUS (11/22-12/21)—Problems need a closer look by you. You need to play the detective so elimination of these on-going problems can be eliminated once and for all. And how about a little pampering for yourself. It can be a source of great pleasure to get you out of any doldrums you are in. New people in your life.

CAPRICORN (12/22-1/19)—A loved one is acting uncharacteristically romantic towards you. Why question

their motives. Their transits can be acting in your favor. Try to compromise on discussions and you may find out that the other person will listen to more of what you have to say. Do not make promises you cannot keep.

AQUARIUS (1/20-2/18)—Make a new priority list. You will find some of the projects you had worked themselves out on their own. If you are not happy at work you may need something that will be more challenging. Maybe a new job! New people will be entering your life—now be open minded. Some can become good friends.

PISCES (2/19-3/20)—A loved one may be driving you crazy. But let's face it, you wouldn't have it any other way. Do not back off on a financial dispute. You can walk off the winner of this one. Set aside time to clean up or at least organize your home. Make it more comfortable. And now is a good time to call a truce with a family member.

TIDBITS 2000 the continuation. The new millennium will also have an on-going battle with Saturn mid Uranus. This is a transiting square that is now happening with volatile revolutionary action happening. You only have to look at Yugoslavia, Religion and politics which will continue to intermingle and here may be confusion between higher truth and false, greedy ideologies. Hopefully, governments will be working hard in these areas. In the personal domain, individuals will be challenged to determine how self-worth and motivation will affect their own lives on all levels. To be continued and finished up in next week's **OBSERVER**.

QUOTE:

Look up at the stars and gaze.
There are secrets to be found.

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SPHS Hosts Second Project Graduation Auction/Raffle

On May 1 the South Plainfield High School Second Annual Auction/Raffle will take place. The proceeds of the Auction/Raffle will benefit Project Graduation. This is the eleventh year that the S.P.H.S. PTA has hosted this event.

Project Graduation is a celebration where high school seniors spend graduation night at the Ricochet Racquetball Club enjoying continuous food and entertainment. This tradition eliminates party-hopping on graduation night and provides a safe, drug and alcohol free environment, where the graduating seniors can celebrate with each other on one of the most important days of their lives.

The Auction/Raffle takes months

of planning and a lot of hard work. Over 45 businesses in town have donated prizes for this event and they keep coming in! Prizes include: two days at Bally's in Atlantic City, a 25" T.V., V.C.R., Microwave, Gas Grille, Yankee tickets, play tickets, dinner gift certificates, theme baskets galore and much more.

Doors open at 6:00 p.m. There will be food sold. Tickets in advance are \$7 and at the door \$10. Admission price includes 25 free tickets for the potpourri section. Call Pat at 756-6512 or Ellen at 756-3731. You can also purchase tickets at Yogurt Express located on Maple Ave. Tickets are limited, so call now.



A long line formed last Saturday at the borough garage as residents waited to have their dogs and cats inoculated at the free rabies clinic sponsored by the Middlesex County Health Department.

POLICE REPORT

• Thomas Ruperto of Bridgewater, owner of Rupcoe Plumbing on Hamilton Blvd., reported a theft from a company van. As he was leaving his business he noticed a light on in a company van. He found the door open and an individual inside. The male intruder was surprised and fled. Ruperto chased him on foot until the man turned around and faced Ruperto with a screwdriver and chased him. Police checked the area and found no suspects.

• Eileen Resnick, owner of Korman Tobacco, Park Ave., reported the theft of her Rolodex watch and a blue notebook that contained information important to the business. The items were missing after she fired an employee. The

employee had plans to open his own cigar shop and the information was important to him. He is suspected of the theft.

• A Foster Ave. resident left a bike behind Hunan Wok on West 7th St. He returned 10 minutes later to find the bike gone. The bike had been unlocked.

• A Jerome Ave. resident reported his bike was stolen from the Middle School. The bike had been locked when the resident left it.

• Police responded to a call from the Holiday Inn. A 77-year-old Topeka, Kansas man reported difficulty breathing and heavy sweating. Upon arrival the victim was unconscious but breathing. He stopped breathing several minutes

later and the officer and hotel manager attempted CPR. South Plainfield Rescue Squad and Mercy 6 units responded but the victim failed to respond. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

• Arthur Slovinsky of North Brunswick reported the rear window of his car smashed while the car was parked at Leigh Utility.

• Two Peek Street residents and a Pomponio Ave. resident reported the flags broken off their mail boxes.

• A Plainfield resident employed at McDonalds reported his bike tires were slashed.

• Sodex Marriott services of Corporate Blvd. reported a car window smashed and \$40 in coins stolen.

• Yim Fun Chang of Edison reported her cell phone was stolen from her car. The unlocked car was parked in a lot of Park Ave.

• A Fredricks Ave. resident reported two money orders were stolen from her home by someone she had let in. Due to the extended time frame, no suspects could be singled out. One money order had been cashed and the company will be advising her by whom and when. The second had not been cashed and payment was stopped.

• The security vehicle for Gibraltar Management Co., Middlesex Mall, caught fire. Security employees tried unsuccessfully to extinguish the blaze. The fire department arrived to put out the fire.

• A 17-year-old Plainfield youth was arrested when an officer observed him attempting to cut a lock off a bike at the Middle School. The youth had bolt cutters with him. Two other suspects left the scene. The bolt cutters had been reported stolen from Iron Construction.

Classifieds

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SOUTH PLAINFIELD VOL. RESCUE SQUAD



Rescue Squad Cadet President Erica McGrath, Treasurer Eric Toth and Melissa Jamesen are pictured with the winner of the 50/50 held during the recent flower sale. The winners, Christopher Peplanni, his wife Linda and son Nicholas live on Kosciusko Ave. in South Plainfield.

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Vision 2001 Art Auction Raises Over \$6,000

Story and photos by Pattie Abbott

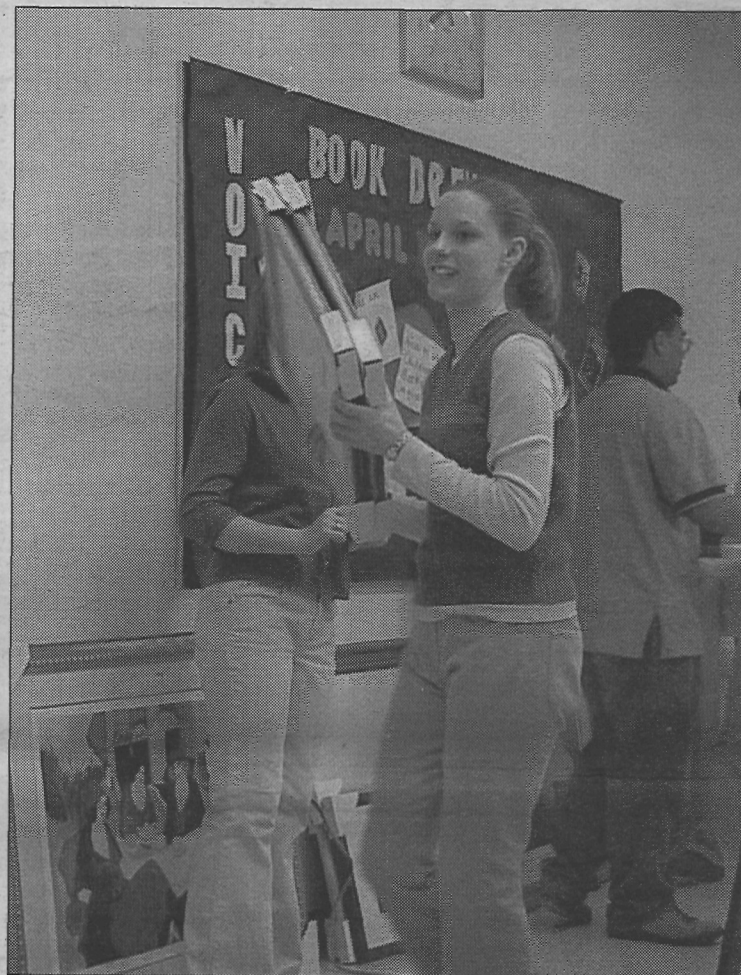
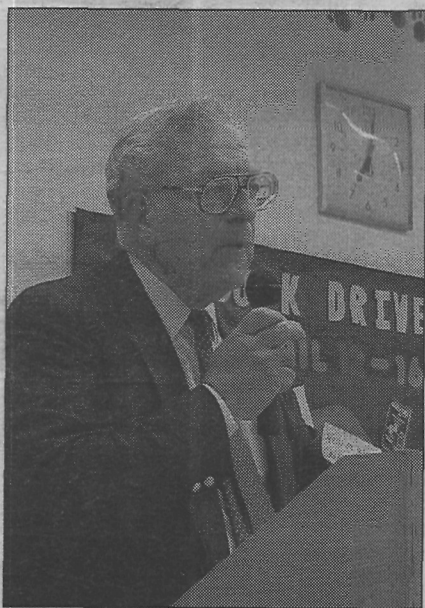
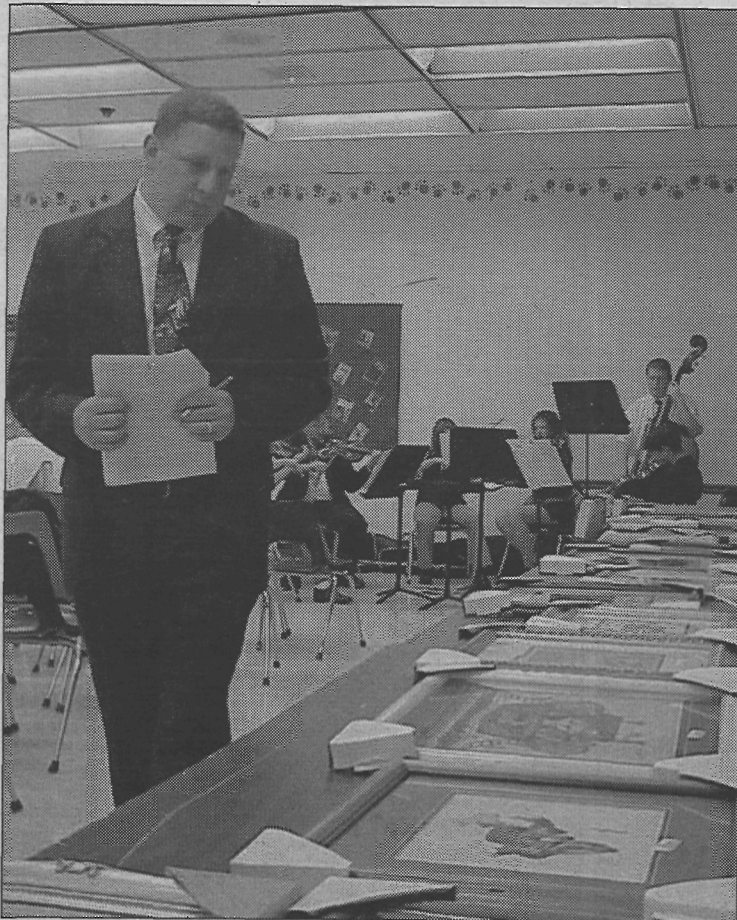
Despite heavy rains last Friday evening, the Vision 2001 Annual Art Auction and 50/50 raffle raised over \$6,000.

Those who came to support Vision 2001 took home lithographs, etchings, woodcuts, posters and silk screens by more than 100 artists.

After an hour of previewing and refreshments, Emil Leporino began the evening by presenting a plaque to Honorary Chairman Tom McCreesh Jr. for his dedication and service to the children of South Plainfield.

The winning 50/50 ticket was drawn by Honorary Chairman Tom McCreesh Jr. There were 740 tickets sold. Robert Bengivena was the winner of the 50/50 for the second year in a row.

Vision 2001 Education Fund supports endowment funds for scholarships, the high school Gold Card Program, Middle School Tiger Gold and co-operative work opportunities for high school students.



April / May 1999

Meetings & Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Copy Deadline Friday, 5 pm Advertising Deadline: Monday, 5 pm	Land Management Advisory Committee 7:30 pm Borough Council Agenda Meeting 8 pm	20 Board of Adjustment 8 pm	21 Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	22 Borough Council Meeting 8 pm Recycling Comm. 8 pm	23 Publication of <i>So. Plfd. Observer</i>	24 Family Fun Fair and Flea Market, PAL Building grounds
Blood Drive Sacred Heart 8:30-2 pm Cultural Arts Spring Concert Wesley Methodist 3 pm	25 Passport Services Borough Hall 10am-3pm	26 Planning Board 8 pm	27 Traffic Safety Advisory Comm. 7 pm Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	28 Senior Trip to Atlantic City and Senior Festival Bus leaves 7:45 am	29 Historical Society Harbor Cruise from Perth Amboy, noon Middle School Play: "Squad Room" 7:30 pm Publication of <i>So. Plfd. Observer</i>	30 Project Graduation Auction/Raffle at SPHS Fashion Show at First Baptist 2 pm Book Sale Library
2	3 Recreation Comm. Meeting 7 pm PAL	4 Business Association Golf Outing Cranbury Golf Club College Planning Night SPHS 7 pm Board of Adjustment 8 pm	5 Business Advisory Group 5:30 pm Court 9:30 am	6 Taxpayers Advisory Group 8 pm	7 Publication of <i>So. Plfd. Observer</i>	8 Police Bike/Property Auction 9:30 a.m. Road Department
9	10 Borough Council Agenda Meeting 8 pm	11 Library Board 7:30 pm Planning Board Meeting 8 pm	12 Environmental Comm. 8 pm Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	13 Borough Council Meeting 8 pm	14 Publication of <i>So. Plfd. Observer</i>	15
16 Vision 2001 Car/Truck Show SPHS 9-3 pm	17	18 Drug-Free Family Seminar at Library 7 pm Board of Adjustment 8 pm	19	20	21 Publication of <i>So. Plfd. Observer</i>	22 PBA Car Show 1-7 pm Craigwood Rd.

Want to know what's going on in South Plainfield? Get home delivery of The Observer. Subscription form on page 3.