

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 2, NO. 25

50 CENTS

APRIL 30, 1999

Borough Notes

Council

■ The council passed the following three proclamations at the last weeks council meeting: National Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month, Peace Officer's Memorial Day on May 15 and Safe Drinking Water Week - May 2-8.

■ Pepito A. Baluyot has resigned from the Land Management Advisory Committee. Residents interested in serving on this committee should send in their resume to the mayor.

■ The Borough and Middlesex County have entered into an agreement replacing all of the presently-used incandescent light bulb fixtures in traffic signals with *Light Emitting Diodes (LED)* fixtures. The county will absorb the engineering and construction costs and the borough will continue to be responsible for electricity and maintenance. LED technology is more cost efficient than the incandescent light bulbs.

■ Ramanda, Ltd., which is proposing to construct a Madison Inn on Hamilton Blvd., has donated \$7,500 to the borough as part of a developer's agreement.

■ The newly-created South Plainfield Health Advisory Board will replace the Board of Health. Six members will be appointed.

■ Rulers Office Outlet of Piscataway was awarded the contract for office furniture for the Office of Emergency Management with a bid of \$7,226.

■ Absolute Fire Protection of South Plainfield was awarded a contract for the air bag set and master control package for the Fire Department with a bid of \$5,671.

■ A 1983 Chevy Van, which is no longer needed by the borough, will be auctioned off at the police department auction on May 8. A minimum bid of \$200 has been established.

■ The Borough has purchased property located at Block 311, Lot 24 to use as part of the Highland Park Environmental Preserve. The agreed price is \$5,000.

Planning Board

■ Degussa Corp. on South Clinton Ave. was granted approval a preliminary site plan to build a pipe bridge between buildings with conditions.

Board of Adjustment

■ Home Depot USA was granted an extension to their temporary use variance which was to end on June 20, with conditions.

■ James and Sharon Moore were granted approval to erect a new bi-level single family dwelling with conditions.



Retiring Planning Board Chairman John Hogan, center, receives a Certificate of Appreciation from Mayor Dan Gallagher and Councilwoman Darlene Pinto, Council President Jim Vokral and Councilman Vinnie Buttigliglieri, at his final meeting as a member of the board.

Mixed Views Dominate School Board Elections

Incumbents Look to Future; Ousted Members Cite Prejudicial Labor Involvement

By Patricia Abbott

Newly elected Board of Education member Dan Smith had positive thoughts about the election results. Dan said, "We were pleased with the increase in terms of participating voters compared to the past." Dan feels that more people voted than the estimate indicated.

When asked about the school budget he said, "Jeff and I feel that the public listened to our message that this district should be the recipient of a fair share of funding on a consistent basis. We'll demonstrate what we'll get done by the action we'll take."

Myra Stillman lost her seat on the board after serving two terms. She spoke of her running mates as a team. "We ran a clean campaign and we stuck to the issues." She felt that the election was unbalanced. "It was a union driven election orchestrated by the New Jersey AFL-CIO and the South Plainfield Teachers Association," she said.

Myra was thrilled that the budget was passed. "It is a reflection of the Board of Education working along with the superintendent of schools and business administrator which came up with a budget that reflects added state-aid and a three point decrease in taxes, as well as an increase in services for our children," she said. "The board had been working for a long time to get the State-aid that was due South Plainfield."

During her six years on the board, Myra was a part of many positive steps taken and goals reached. She is proud of the fact that the curriculum for the elementary schools is very consistent throughout the district. Another notable accomplishment was the attainment of the goal set for increased attendance and stricter high school attendance policies. Given recent events in Colorado, she feels that one of the most important accomplishments made was in the area of counseling services. Through the efforts of the Board of Education there are now increased counseling services at the elementary grade level and improved services at the middle and high schools. She

Continued on page 11

Little Shop of Horrors, May 6-8

By Patricia Abbott

Little Shop of Horrors, South Plainfield style—the high school's spring musical—packs a love story into a tale of villains, the average good guy, the standard requisite father-type and a beyond belief alien in the form of an innocent plant. Director Shayne Miller also manages to meld a few decades along the way. Watch for 50's skirts, mixed with the cool 60's "do's" and more.

The school spring musical is celebrating 25 years of performing arts on the South Plainfield stage. If the SPHS stage could speak, it would tell of many students, of tears and fears and triumphs. *Little Shop of Horrors* adds to the volumes of music and stories, the learning and love and laughter. Several cast members won't see shadows in the hallways nor find hidden memories, the reason.... because they attended a different SPHS. Their school days date back to attending school

High School Co-op Seniors Capture \$58,161 In Scholarship Program

The ongoing motto for the South Plainfield High School Co-operative Education Program should be "Don't Mess With Success!" Twelve years as a top rated participant in "Schools to Careers/Cooperative Education Program" in the state substantiates that!

This year is no exception. Ten seniors competed in the 26th Annual NJCIECA Scholarship Program held in March and walked away with \$58,161, bringing their 12 year total to \$959,100. Program Coordinators Dee Falato and John Lartaud are looking forward to seeing the Class of 2000 break the million dollar mark.

The regional and statewide competitions are held in cooperation with technical schools, colleges and private industry. "This program existed as a true partnership between education and industry before it was fashionable to do so," said Falato.

How does an elective course remain so competitive, popular and on-target for so long? Mr. Lartaud points to strong parental support in a community that teaches children positive work ethics and business successes. "We help each student with work-shadowing diverse careers and developing their aptitudes and abilities. It's hard not to be successful!"

"Couple this with specific career skill training such as practicing interviewing techniques, developing real resumes, working with mentors and being exposed to the real world of work through part-time paid jobs," said Ms. Falato, "and the whole picture gives each of our students tremendous confidence and knowledge. Success emanates from being proud to be a part of this CE program. It is too bad all students don't receive this training."

CE Scholarship winners with field of study, institution name and amount of grant are:

Joe Ronzo — Automotive technology, Lincoln Tech, \$15,000.

Peter Papa — Diesel technology, Engine City Tech, \$6,200.

Mike Coppola — Diesel technology, Engine City Tech, \$3,100.

Rich Mowroy — Help desk technology, Cititone Institute, \$15,500.

Brad Carlton - Telecommunications management or electronic engineering, DeVry Institute, \$9,100.

Carla Friday — Massage therapy, Somerset School of Massage Therapy, \$1,000.

Samantha McCullen — Programming networking and internet specialist, Brick Computer Science Institute, \$6,600.

Kristen Linczyk — Cosmetology, European Academy of Cosmetology, \$1,100.



in what is now the Middle School, often with split sessions separating the classes into AM and PM. The switch to the new school in the fall of 1974 brought years of performing arts directed by Peter Franks and Paul Nagle to a new high-tech stage.

One of the first works on the new stage was Neil Simon's *Plaza*

Suite, the Senior class play of 1975. The show was directed by drama teacher Frank Ragazzo, who also performed in the production. A talent show in early 1975 was just one of many presented on the SPHS stage. Add countless choral and band productions over the years, not to

Continued on page 11

In My Opinion

Letters

To the Editor,

The roller hockey rinks in the back of Borough Hall are open again for practice sessions and games. The surfaces are in clean and smooth condition. However, the areas around the benches are cluttered with soda and water bottles and cans. This makes the total area look dump.

It should go without saying that the people using the place should do their share to keep it neat and clean.

From May 20 until May 24, South Plainfield will be having visitors from out of town. They are coming for a reunion of shipmates from the U.S.S. Hayter, DE 212. A scene such as what is visible around the hockey rinks would make a very bad impression of the town.

WILLIAM TUTILL

Dear Editor,

I am a South Plainfield resident who reads your paper faithfully, and the only gripe that I have is that you really don't do any articles on our Sacred Heart School.

The school is very proud of their girls J.V. basketball team and their Varsity team. They also have a great softball team. Most of these kids take these games very seriously just like our public elementary, middle and our high schools. I feel that it is only fair to these kids if you mention their names once in a while and ask them how they feel after the hard work they put in.

The students at this school have lots of interesting events and don't get noticed for any of it. Hopefully in the near future the town and myself will see more on our Holy school.

**SINCERELY,
M.K.M. OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD**

Dear MKM,

We have covered many events at Sacred Heart. Just a few weeks ago we had an article about their cheerleading team. However, we need the help of the parents and teachers from the school of letting us know when events are happening and to send photos and stories. So I

encourage and challenge those at Sacred Heart to send us some stories and pictures. My motto has always been, "If you send it, we will print it."

To the Editor,

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the friends and neighbors who supported my candidacy for the Board of Education in South Plainfield. Our campaign was run cleanly, with a conscious effort to keep a positive note at all times. We fought a good fight, and I congratulate Ken LaFreniere on his re-election.

Although Myra and I lost our bid for seats on the Board, I pray that the newly constituted board continues our work towards keeping the citizens of South Plainfield fully informed through the board newsletter, *Community Contact*, which makes readily available to the public all aspects of the proposed building plan. The legislative effort to fairly fund our schools must go on, as well as the continuing battle to provide the best possible education in the most prudent fiscal manner. I hope to continue my volunteer work with the school district if I am allowed to.

Remember, our children are precious. The events of the past week have shown how quickly tragedy can strike with no warning. Our schools should be places not only of learning, but of comfort and safety.

**SINCERELY,
CAROL M. BYRNE**

Dear Friends,

Recently my cousin's son, Billy Knifel, was diagnosed with acute Lymphoma. "Bill-Man," as his family calls him, has had to leave the first grade to be hospitalized in Robert Wood Johnson for chemotherapy treatment.

Billy's mom, Gerry, needs help getting blood donors. I have offered to help recruit donors for Billy. This way she can remain with Billy in the hospital. Billy's chemotherapy started on April 21. Blood products are required 10-14 days after chemotherapy

starts, due to its effect on the bone marrow. Blood relatives CAN-NOT donate, in the event that a bone marrow transplant would be needed. They are welcome to donate for the Children's Institute as long as they are not the same blood type as Billy.

During the course of chemotherapy treatment Billy may require blood and platelet transfusions. Please give your name to me if you would like to be a blood or platelet donor for him. Blood and platelet donors must be A Positive or A Negative. However, if you are another blood type, we would encourage you to donate on Billy's behalf as a display of support for his family.

A few days before Billy needs a transfusion, potential donors will be contacted by the hospital. You might be called immediately, or not for a few weeks, depending upon his transfusion needs. It is best that you donate directly at the NBAH Blood Center in New Brunswick, so that the patient's transfusion needs can be met immediately and without additional expense.

If any religious, community or business organization offers to provide donors for Billy, it is very important that they speak with me before an initial appeal for donors is made.

On behalf of Billy's mother and father, Gerry and Merrill, and his big sister, Lilly, along with the entire family, thank you for your consideration.

**KEEP BILLY IN YOUR PRAYERS,
ANN MARIE FERRANTE-
SEYFFART, 908-756-7543**

To the Editor,

Thank you for printing the personal memories of some South Plainfield Education Association members' favorite books and reading experiences. Another group of faculty and staff have submitted additional anecdotes to me in response to your original request. I am in turn submitting them to you in hopes that you will be able to publish them as well. The SPEA also hopes that these anecdotes will spark thoughts among parents and grandparents about their favorite books, which they might share with their children and grandchildren. Likewise, children might be encouraged to relate their favorite books during family discussion time.

**YOURS TRULY,
BARBARA HARRIS
SPEA COMMUNICATIONS
CHAIRPERSON**

One of my earliest and fondest memories about reading was when I was at my grandmother's house. She introduced me to the Bobsey Twins' series. I remember snuggling on the couch and listening to my grandmother read about the antics of the twins and wondering what might happen next! Although I enjoyed listening to the words of the story, I think the atmosphere that was created was just as important. Even now I find myself in antique stores adding to my collection of the Bobsey Twins' series.—
Sherry Lawrence, Kennedy School

I remember reading and re-reading *Peter Pan* with my mom and always hoping that Peter would pick me for the next "Wendy." Although he did leave me doll clothes on occasion — and the odd quarter — I never did actually see him. I guess Cathy Rigby on Broadway will have to suffice, but it's just not the same! —
Donna Timko, SPHS

Editor's Note: Due to the tremendous response we have received on this subject, we will continue to publish these recommendations over the next few issues.

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Thank You Pattie!

I would like to personally thank Pattie Abbott for her dedication to *The Observer*.

Last Saturday morning Pattie's mom fell and broke her arm. Knowing that I was out of town and unable to cover several events that day, Pattie handled the emergency and covered the events.

Pattie drove her mother to the hospital. While waiting for X-rays and doctors, she literally shuttled back and forth from the hospital emergency room to cover Clean-up Day and Family Fun Fair events, taking the great pictures you see in this week's paper. Again, thanks Pattie!

Pattie's mom required surgery and is now out of the hospital and on the mend. We all wish her a speedy recovery.

Observer Moving to Town

The *Observer* will soon be moving to a new office on Hamilton Blvd. Many of our readers were aware of the move before the lease was signed. Word gets around! We will provide more information on the move in upcoming issues of the *Observer*.

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:

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

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.



**ALL MEETINGS ARE
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

South Plainfield Observer

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

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

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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. Include your name, address, telephone number.

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PAL Expansion Site Plans Completed

Residents, Business Owners Asked for Support

At last week's council meeting Recreation Director Mike English announced that preliminary site plans for the expansion of the Andrew A. Phillips PAL Building are complete. Joe DeAndrea showed the drawings and a model of the new PAL. He said that the engineering plans are near completion; a few more changes have to be made.

The Recreation Commission will be applying shortly to the appropriate board for permit approval to start the addition. The commission is also looking for Councilmatic approval on May 12 of the financial package needed to pay for the project.

The addition will include over 13,500 square feet of recreational space inside the PAL. It will provide the commission with the opportunity to accommodate the ever increasing youth wrestling program, the women's aerobic program, the youth basketball program and other yet to be

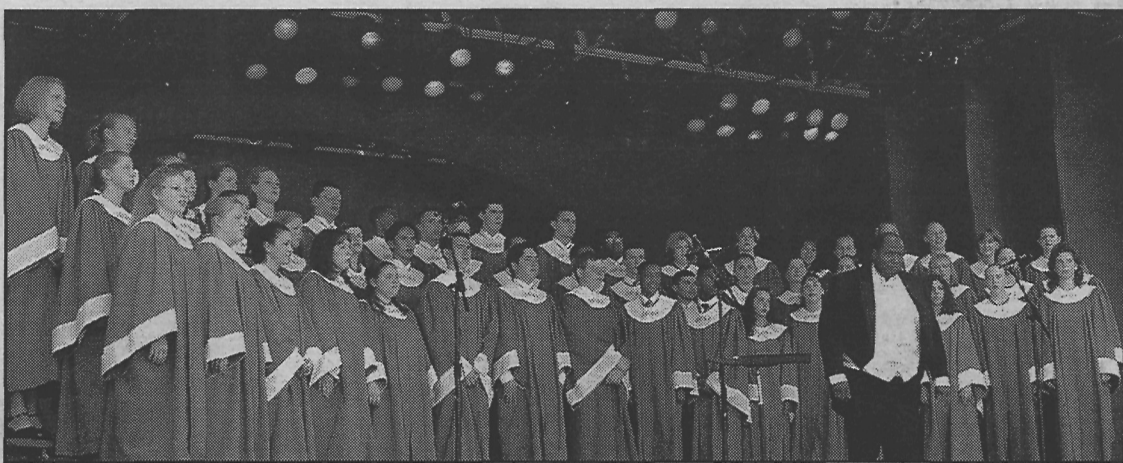
implemented activities.

The existing building was planned and constructed over forty years ago through the hard work of countless volunteers and donations from many of the local business concerns in town.

The Recreation Commission wants to extend the same type of voluntary contribution to the residents of South Plainfield. That is why they have begun the "Quality of Life Walkway" program.

Next week every commercial, industrial and residential owner will be mailed a brochure explaining more about the fundraiser. Anyone interested in purchasing a commemorative brick should simply fill out the form and return it with a check (for the appropriate amount) to the PAL building. Purchasers are allowed 12 characters on a maximum of three lines in the sone.

If you have questions, contact Mike English at 226-7714.



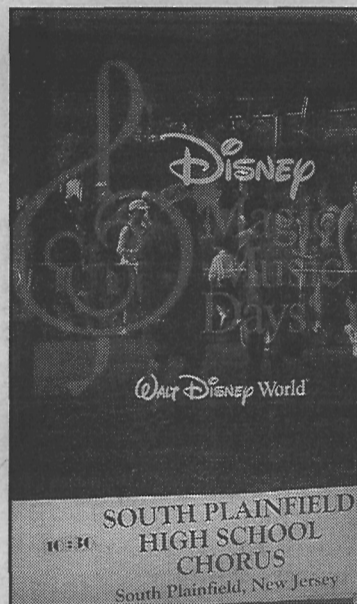
SPHS Chorus, under the direction of Tracy Murray, performs in Disney's Magic Music Days in Orlando.

SPHS Chorus Performs at Disney World; Crowned Class AA Chorus Champions

The South Plainfield High School Chorus, under the direction of Tracy Glenn Murray, vocal teacher, triumphantly returned home from a week of performances and competition in Orlando. Performing in Disney's Magic Music days and competing in MusicFest 99, fifty-five students and fourteen adults attended the trip. The students performed at a variety of sites and in three categories; Men's Choir (Jades), Women's Choir (Emeralds) and Concert Chorus. Their efforts resulted in two first place and one third place award.

The twelve young men performing as the SPHS Jades included: Steven and Eric Ambielli, Leo Campos, Andrew Falocco, Roscoe Hill, Jason Kollarik, Daniel LaSpata, Lam Nguyen, Joey Nicolay, John Schneyerderite, Mohammed Shiliwala and Roger Vroom. They performed "Wassil," "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" and "Turn Around Look at Me."

The Emeralds included Alison Buttrico, Cindy Carlson, Juliette Falocco, Emma Fulton, Becky Horn, Erin Mackey, Lisa Mocerino, Adrienne Nagy, Dina and Jessica Pasco, Thais Petrocelli, Kimberly and Kristin Pfeifer, Sandy Reedy, Carrie Reilly, Nicole Scavone and Lenora Zerbian. They sang "Hail Holy Queen" (Ala: The Sister Act), as well as "Cuando Corpus and Amen" from Peroglesi's "Stab at Matre."



The Concert Chorus included all of the aforementioned as well as Lindsey Aiello, Jessica Ardis, Kristyn Ciarlariello, Jaclyn Cox, Tamara Dombrowski, Tom Doyon, Eric Johnson, Mindy Kovacs, Amy Leso, Laura Mangieri, Lindsey Noonan, Mary Otlowski, Julie Palmer, Annette Papa, Heather Pederson, Kelly Pennisi, Lauren Perry, Michelle Provaire, Stephanie Prybella, Patty Reach, Richard Ringel, Christopher Sangster, Gary Shelhimer, Michael Tudor, and Jennifer Ward. They sang *Dariton*, *Jenny Rebecca* and *The Neighbors Choir*. The group was accompanied by Todd Bunce.

The group warmed up for their Disney performance with an early morning Gospel Breakfast at the world famous House of Blues. While the students enjoyed the opportunity to perform on a professional stage, their biggest thrill came when music teachers Tracy Murray and Bruce Mikolon took the stage to perform their own rendition of "Soul Man." Then it was on to Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom to perform on the big stage at Disney's Galaxy Theater. The student performance was part of the annual Disney Music Days, where students from

around the country are invited to perform for the guests of Disney World as part of the park's entertainment. The SPHS students were welcomed by park guests, which also included more than two dozen area locals who had traveled to Florida to watch them perform.

MusicFest 99 featured thousands of students from fourteen states competing for two days in both vocal and instrumental competition. The festivities came to a close with a rousing awards ceremony at the Disney/MGM Studio's "Theater of the Stars" as over two thousand participants sang, danced, cheered and reveled to the announcements of the award winners.

The Jades captured First Place for Men's Choir while the Emeralds garnered a Third Place award in the Women's Chorus. But the highlight of night and the trip was the Crowning of the South Plainfield High School Chorus as Champions in the Class AA Concert Chorus.

Attending the trip as adult chaperones were Patty Ambielli, Nancy Carlson, Melanie Dombrowski, Tom Falocco, Cathy Horn, Debbie Martin, Debbie Nagy, Maria Perry, Creighton and Mary Pfeifer and Jim Schneyerderite.

— Submitted by Tom Falocco

Walks 'N Talks Schedule Set

The 1999 Walks 'N Talks Program, sponsored by the South Plainfield Environment, schedule is as follows:

- Saturday, May 1, 9 a.m.
Spring Trail Maintenance
Highland Avenue Woods
- Saturday, May 15, 9 a.m.
Wings & Petals
Highland Avenue Woods
- Saturday, May 22, 1 p.m.
An Edible Complex
Highland Avenue Woods
- Saturday, June 19, 7:30 p.m.
Summer Solstice Celebration
Highland Avenue Woods
- Monday, September 6, 1 p.m.

- Labor Day Celebration*
Veterans Park Nature Trail
- Sunday, September 19, 9 a.m.
Fall Trail Maintenance
Highland Avenue Woods
- Saturday, September 25, 1 p.m.
History Walk, To Be Announced
- Saturday, October 16, 10 a.m.
Fall Festival
Highland Avenue Woods

Note: Look for our new trail guide, available May 1. For information on any event, call 908-226-7621.

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.

Rescue Squad Answers 147 March Calls

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad logged 147 calls in March, including 110 medical assistance requests, 17 motor vehicle accidents, five fire calls, two hazardous materials calls, five community service requests, four mutual aid re-

quests and four maintenance runs. The squad's volunteers spent 419 crew hours answering the March calls.

In the first three months of 1999, the squad responded to 393 calls.

We Want Your News. Period.

The South Plainfield Observer would like to promote your non-profit organization, school, club, etc., but you've got to notify us (in advance) and we will cover it. Or, send us your news, along with photos, if applicable, and **WE WILL PUBLISH IT!**

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Boar's Head American Cheese \$2.99 lb. White or Yellow	Large California Broccoli 89¢ bunch	Large California Celery 59¢ stalk	Boneless Chicken Breast as is \$2.49 lb.
Boar's Head Turkey Breast \$5.99 lb.	Red or Golden Delicious Apples 59¢ lb.	80/20 - 3 lbs. or more Chop Meat \$1.59 lb.	Choice Rib-Eye Bone In Steak \$4.99 lb.
	New Jersey Asparagus 99¢ lb.		

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AROUND TOWN

EVENTS

Craft Show and Sale at Riley School

Riley School fourth graders, along with parents and teachers, are hosting a craft show and sale to benefit their Stokes Fundraiser on Friday, May 7 from 5 to 9:30 p.m. at Riley School located on Morris Ave. For vendor information, call 668-8252. Come and shop for Mom!

Franklin School Kindergarten Orientation

The Kindergarten Orientation Program for students entering Franklin School in September, 1999 will be held on May 13, May 20 and May 27. Two sessions will be held, 12:15-1:25 and 1:35-2:45. Registration for this program will be held on Thursday, May 6 from 2:30-3:30 in the school lobby. For more information, call Suzanne Butrico at 561-8128.

Adult School Seniors Monthly Meeting

The Adult School Seniors will hold their monthly meeting on May 7 at 10 a.m. in the Administration Building on Cromwell Place. Terri Manes from the Middlesex County Health Dept. will speak on arthritis. Transportation is available. Coffee and cake will be served. Call 754-1047 for further information.

After the general meeting sign ups will be taken for the trip to Paper Mill Playhouse to see *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. The trip is planned for June 30 to see the 2 p.m. Matinee. Tickets are available to seniors at the PAL building for \$20 per person, transportation included. Only 47 tickets are available and will be sold on the first come first served basis.

Scoop Dinner at Kennedy School

The fourth grade class at Kennedy school is holding a Scoop Dinner

Friday, April 30. The doors open at 4:30 for senior citizens and 5 to 7 p.m. for the general public.

There will be Poki Man, Crazy Bones, Beanie Baby and 50-50 raffles. Everyone is invited to come.

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.

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.

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.

V.F.W. Breakfast to Benefit Veterans

A country breakfast will be held at the V.F.W. Post at 122 Front Street on May 2 from 8 a.m.-11 a.m. Donation is \$4. Proceeds to benefit the hospitalized veterans at Lyons Hospital.

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.

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.

Killington, Vermont Trip Planned

Sacred Heart Church is sponsoring a bus trip to the Cortina Inn in Killington, Vermont, June 27-July 1. For reservations or additional information, call Mary Ann at (908) 226-1222.

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. Tickets are tax deductible.

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.

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. Raindate is May 23, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Admission is free.

For information, call (908) 756-4466.

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/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.

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.

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

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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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

That's one month almost gone and another on the horizon. Before flipping the calendar page, let's have some news from South Plainfield Library:

The Friends of the Library have scheduled their next meeting for Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend and refreshments will be served. And don't forget about their Book and Bake Sale tomorrow from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., rain or shine. Stop by and take advantage of the bargain prices.

If you still want to contribute used eyeglasses to the collection box in the Library, don't wait. This will be the last weekend you can donate to Boy Scout Christopher Lamberti's Eagle Scout project. The glasses will be distributed by New Eyes for the Needy.

We're staying with our regular storytime 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. Call us at (908) 754-7885 for more information; ask for Linda Hansen.

We're between groups on the video circuit today. The new tapes will be available in a couple of days.

We've got a reminder for our patrons this week. We realize that it can be very tough to find a parking space in the South Plainfield Municipal Complex, especially on Wednesday, which is court day. We do ask, though, that you refrain from parking in spaces reserved for library personnel. Un-

authorized parking there causes unnecessary headaches for our staff, and could result in your getting a ticket. We'd appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Next Wednesday, May 5, marks a pretty important anniversary. It's the date when, in 1961, Alan B. Shepherd became the first American to be launched into space. In our collection, we have a large number of books about our space program. Some of the titles include Tom Wolfe's acclaimed book *The Right Stuff*, *Lost Moon* by Jim Lovell and Jeffrey Kluger (later the basis for the film "Apollo 13") and *Moon Shot* by Shepherd and fellow astronaut Deke Slayton. Our most recent addition on this subject is *Genesis: the Story of Apollo 8* by Robert Zimmerman. It tells the story of both the first manned spacecraft to orbit the moon and the historical backdrop of the mission. It's a detailed, interesting account of this dangerous and triumphant mission, as well as the crew that flew it. All of these books are in our collection and available to you. And, for a visual experience, our video collection features a number of tapes on the space program, including many from NASA. (This involves real space flight, by the way; those expecting "Star Trek" will be disappointed.)

With that, we'll close out today's column. Thanks for reading; now let's go look for those May Flowers that those April Showers are supposed to bring.

As for the Pilgrims that May Flowers bring, we don't celebrate that till November.

Over 225 Prizes Available at High School Benefit Auction/Raffle

The final preparations have been made for the S.P.H.S. Second Annual Auction/Raffle to be held on Saturday, May 1 at South Plainfield High School. The committee has been working hard for months under the leadership of Ellen Melanson and Pat Anderson. Because of their efforts, over 225 prizes can be won at the auction.

Some of the things you can go home with are a 25" TV, VCR, microwave, 1.7 cu. ft. refrigerator, gas grill, two days in Atlantic City, off the beach ensemble, N.Y. Yankee tickets, show tickets, dinner certificates, a day at the races, theme baskets and much much more.

Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets can be purchased in advance by calling Ellen at 756-3731 or Pat



at 756-6512. Tickets are \$7 in advance and \$10 at the door.

Admission price includes 25 free tickets to the potpourri section.

Proceeds from this auction/raffle will benefit the Class of 1999's Project Graduation. Please come out and support our students.

D.A.R. Sets July 4 to Dedicate New Headstones

The Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) announced July 4 as the date they will commemorate the newly placed grave markers of Revolutionary War veterans who are buried in South Plainfield. Dignitaries from all over the state will be attending the ceremonies and they expect to have coverage by both newspapers and television. The public is invited to attend.

In the February 5 issue of *The Observer*, a report on Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) efforts to establish markers for Revolutionary War veterans was published along with list of local Revolutionary War veterans. Residents who were related to those veterans were asked to respond.

Ruth Janizak, who fielded the calls, reported that several people responded and more than five of the veterans were linked to current South Plainfield residents. Among the names responding were: Blackford, Coriell, Randolph and Tingley. Janizak noted she heard a number of interesting stories while taking information.

The positive response proves the genealogy is not dead, Ruth stated. She feels that when people see their family name and realize their connection to the veterans, it rekindles an interest in researching their family background. Ruth states, "There is a closeness you feel when you discover your ancestors. You develop an appreciation of what people did in past." Youths in particular need to understand the difficulties that the early settlers had to deal with on a daily basis. History books often relate tales of unknown face-

less people to students.

D.A.R. continues to seek individuals related to the veterans currently being researched. If you have information or think you

may be related to a Revolutionary War Veteran, call 753-1824. A lineage workshop is in the planning stages for those interested in learning how to trace ancestors.

Father Skwara 40th Anniversary Celebrated at Dinner Dance

On Sunday, May 23, Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish will hold a "40th" Ordination Anniversary Celebration Dinner-Dance in honor of the Pastor, Rev. John M. Skwara. This dinner-dance will follow the 11:00 a.m. Special Anniversary Mass. Music is by Frank Sendzik and The Happy Tones.

Tickets are on a first come basis and must be paid by May 8. The cost is \$25 per person. For reservations, call Marie at (908) 755-7328 or Carolyn at (908)

755-2516.

Rev. Gerry Chylko and Mr. Joseph Aniunas will also be honored at this affair. Father Gerry is celebrating twenty-five years as a Redemptorist and twenty years as a priest. Mr. Joseph Aniunas is celebrating his "55" year as Trustee for OLC.



Father John Skwara

Cultural Arts Spring Concert Draws Large Audience



Rick McElhiney and Florence Lazzeri perform at last Sunday's "Hello Spring" concert sponsored by the Cultural Arts Commission.

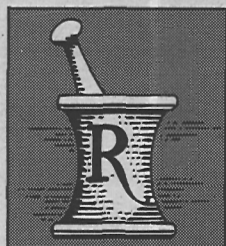
Last Sunday the "Hello Spring" concert, sponsored by the South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission, was attended by one of the largest audiences ever.

Performing were Carol-Ann Mochernuk and Paul Kueter, pianists, Florence Lazzeri, soprano and Rick McElhiney, baritone. Also entertaining was Ars Musica Antiqua.

The afternoon concert, held at Wesley United Methodist Church, included songs containing a

Spring theme, including "April in Paris" and "Younger than Springtime."

As a piano duo, Mochernuk and Kueter have been giving four-hand piano recitals in the area for the past five seasons. Florence Lazzeri has a diversified professional career which combines operatic and non-classical music. Rick McElhiney has performed on Broadway as well as in several productions at Plays in the Park in Edison.



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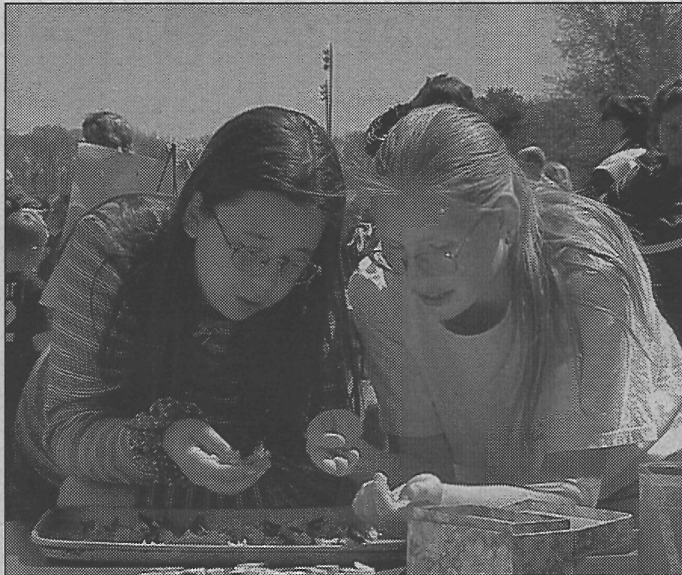
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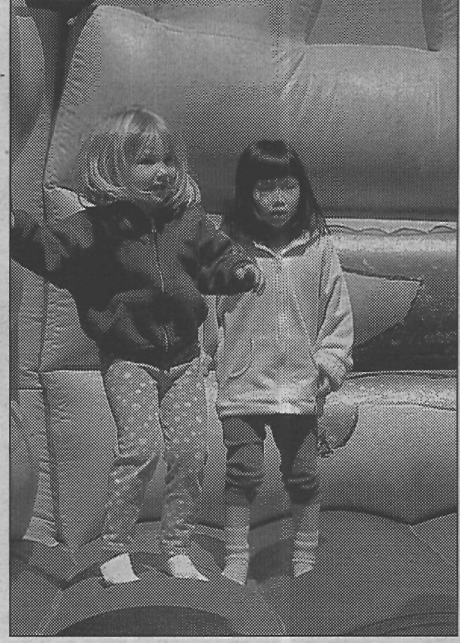
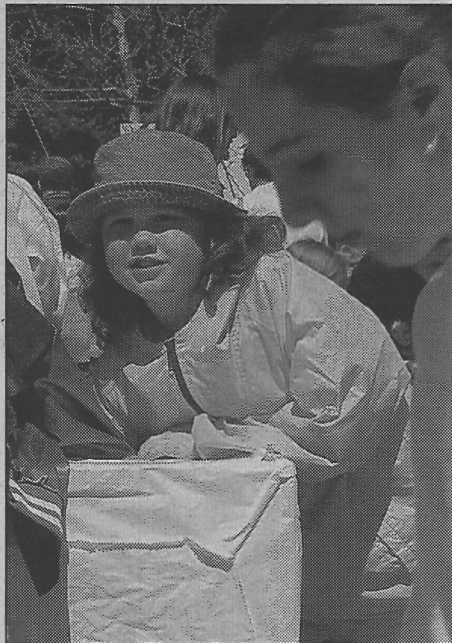
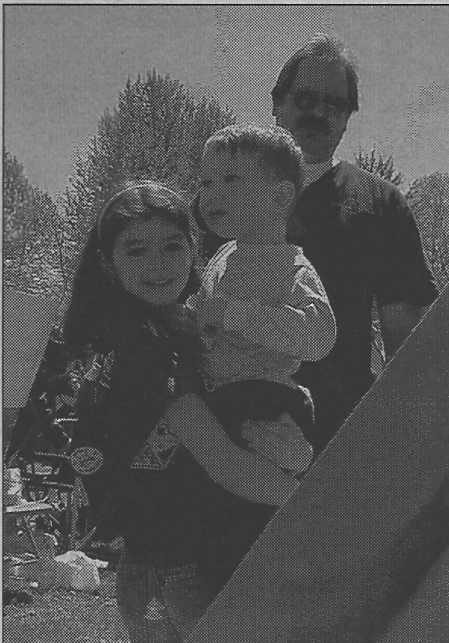
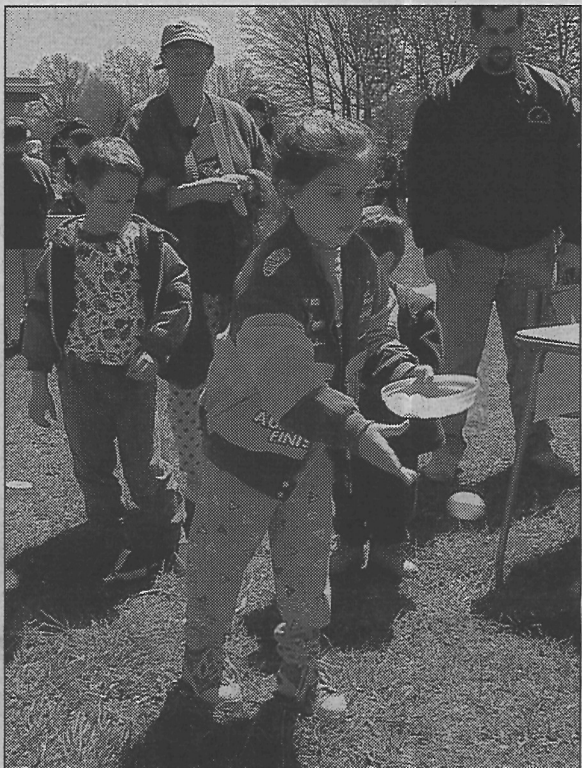
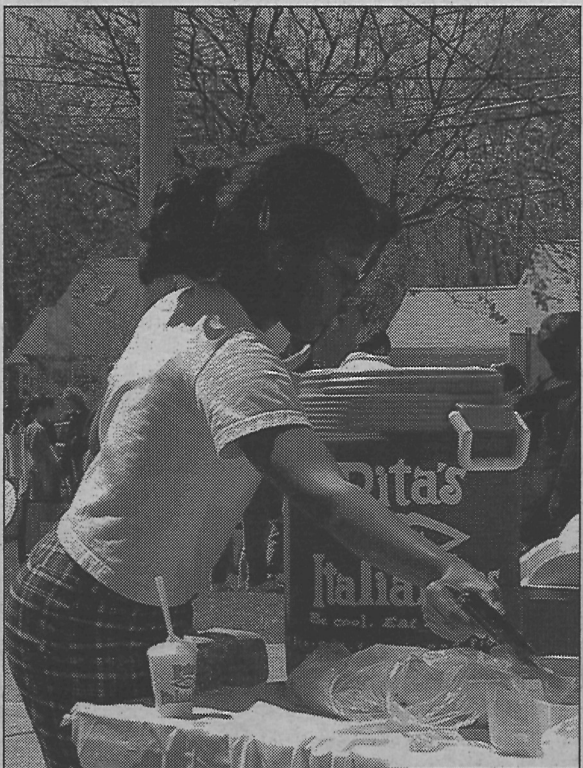
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Over 2,000 people attended the 5th Annual Family Fun Fair & Flea Market sponsored by the area Girl Scout community. Participating were over 55 troops, 31 vendors and 36 game tables.



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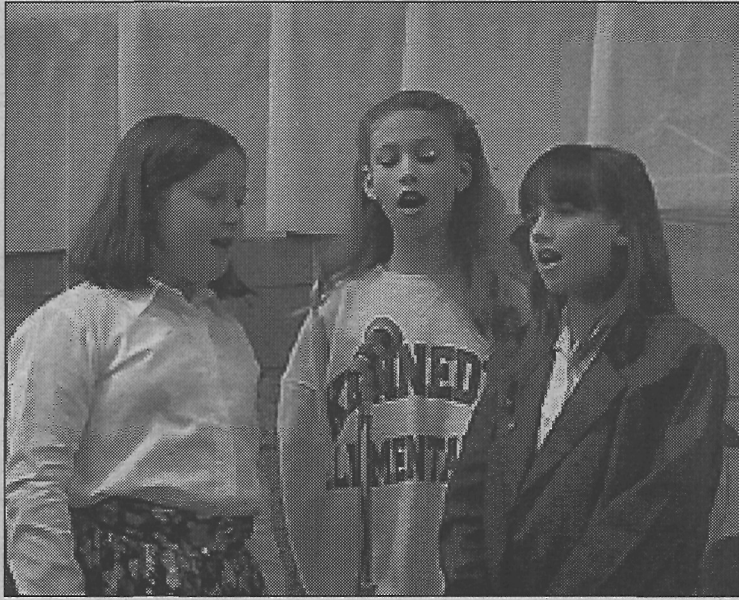


It's A Small World at Kennedy School

Story and Photos by Patricia Abbott

The John F. Kennedy Drama Club proved that it is indeed a small world with their presentation of *It's A Small World*. Youths from grades three-five gave two performances on April 14, one for the student body and an evening performance for family and friends.

The show took students to all corners of the globe. The national costumes and colorful sets brightened up the stage. Many musical numbers highlighted the show. Students displayed their diversity by singing in French, belting out a Beatles tune or two, performing a Mexican hat dance, an Irish Jig and many other dances including the Macarena. Through their "travels" the young thespians took the audience to England for a look at the Beatles and an English "bobby" complete with cap and badge to the outback of Aus-

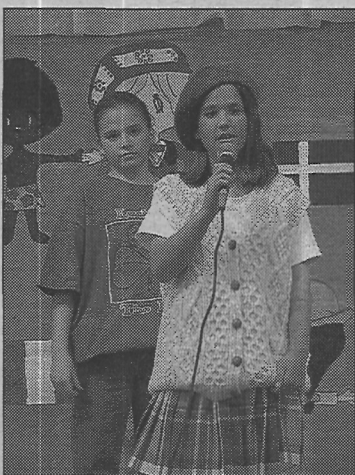


tralia, from a Mexican cantina to the alps, and from a view from a hot air balloon to the jungles of Africa. The show ended right where it had begun, in the USA.

Uncle Sam and the Statue of Liberty added an extra special touch to the close of the show. The children truly proved that "It's a small world after all."

The stage crew must be commended for their efficiency. The many necessary props were supplied instantly and quietly. The school has no formal stage, yet all set changes were prompt and maintained the flow of the show.

The show was directed by Mrs. Doyan. She was assisted by Mrs. Habeeb and Mrs. Hook. The students have been working hard on the production since December. In addition to learning their lines and songs, they studied the different countries and learned the many cultures. They made flags of the many nations depicted and read stories about the countries. Travel posters filled the hallways and the gym. Assistant Superintendent of School Dr. Lillian DeSimon was on hand to enjoy the afternoon performance.



Recycle Household Batteries at Recycling Center

The South Plainfield Recycling Center is now accepting household batteries (dry cell, nicad rechargeables and button batteries). The Public Library will also continue to accept used batteries.

The Recycling Commission urges all borough residents to take advantage of these drop-off locations. Keeping batteries out of the regular garbage helps keep mercury, nickel, cadmium and other toxic metals from polluting the environment.

For updates, call the Recycling Hotline: (908) 228-7820.

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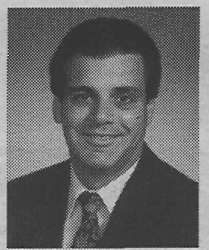
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The Alternative View

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



Dear Dr. DeCosta: Is it true that NutraSweet has been shown to cause brain tumors and other disorders? - J. T.

Dear J.T.:

NutraSweet, or aspartame, as it is chemically known, is a synthetic compound comprised of 50% phenylalanine, a chemical that when found in excess in the brain can cause mental retardation or death, 40% aspartic acid, a chemical which evokes a chain of events in brain chemistry resulting in over-stimulation of nerve cells to the point of cell death; and 10% methanol, or wood alcohol, which was the poison that most remember causing blindness and/or death in some "skid row" alcoholics. It is 180 times sweeter than sugar and is unstable under certain conditions including temperatures exceeding 86 degrees Fahrenheit — making the substance not only unsuitable for baking, but which also makes constant proper storage of soft drinks (at temperatures less than 74 degrees Fahrenheit) crucial.

Aspartame was first approved by the FDA in 1974, but the approval was revoked due to concerns about the incidence of brain tumors in lab animals during studies. After a change in administration in 1981, President Reagan appointed a new FDA director and the substance was approved as a food additive — despite objections from the FDA's own scientists and toxicologists. Shortly thereafter, the FDA director that approved the chemical took a job at the advertising firm representing the drug company that discovered aspartame. Nevertheless, in 1983 it was approved for use in soft drink formulas. This, too, was accompanied by much protest from within the FDA. Despite these frightening facts about instability in high heat, aspartame was approved as an ingredient in numerous food items that would always be heated to or above 86 degrees Fahrenheit in 1993. In 1985, over 400,000 tons of aspartame were used, averaging 5.8 pounds per user. It is an ingredient in over 9,000 items being consumed by more than 100 million people in the United States.

In a two-year study conducted by the manufacturer of aspartame, 12 of the 350 rats fed a normal diet and aspartame developed brain tumors while none of the control group developed tumors. An FDA toxicologist testified before the U.S. Congress that aspartame was capable of producing brain tumors; which made it illegal under the Delaney Amendment (which prevents cancer-causing substances from entering our food supply) for the FDA to set an allowable daily intake at any level. In the mid-1970's, it was discovered that the manufacturer of aspartame falsified studies concerning the safety of aspartame.

The American Diabetes Association (ADA) recommends aspartame as a sugar substitute for people of all ages with diabetes. Yet, according to research conducted by ADA member and diabetes specialist H.J. Roberts, aspartame: 1) leads to the precipitation of clinical diabetes; 2) causes poor diabetic control in diabetics on insulin or oral medication; 3) leads to the aggravation of diabetic complications such as retinopathy, cataracts, neuropathy and gastroparesis; and 4) causes convulsions. The chemical effects of aspartame are even more exaggerated in children, whose blood brain barriers are not fully developed. Roberts stated, "I regret the failure of other physicians and the American Diabetes Association to sound appropriate warnings to patients and consumers based on these repeated findings..."

Concerning convulsions and seizures, Massachusetts Institute of Technology surveyed 80 people who had seizures after ingesting aspartame. There is even a hotline for pilots who have suffered acute reactions to the chemical (including grand mal seizures in the cockpit of the aircraft!) which has fielded over 1,000 calls to date.

Aspartame has been shown to cause birth defects, brain tumors, seizures and to contribute to diabetes and emotional disorders. We encounter aspartame in so many food and beverage products — chewing gum, diet soft drinks, children's vitamins and many other drugs and supplements, yogurt and cereals. They've even added aspartame to Pedialyte, the electrolyte beverage some people give their infants when they have diarrhea.

My suggestion is, if the label says "SUGAR FREE" or "CONTAINS NUTRASWEET", — DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT USING IT!!!

Questions for *The Alternative View* should be addressed to: *The Alternative View*, c/o Dr. Anthony J. DeCosta, D.C., 129 South Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Visit *The Alternative View* on the web at www.usalternativemedicine.com.

The Observer would like to congratulate Dr. DeCosta on the one year anniversary of *The Alternative View*. We thank you for your informative health articles.

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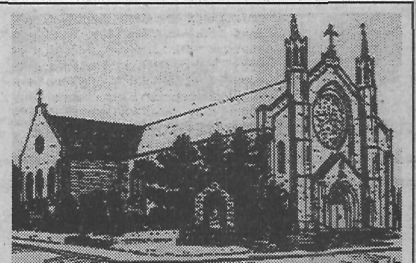
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**Small Fry C League
Athletics Kyle McMahon
hits grand slam home run**

SPORTS

Junior Baseball Club Notes

By Frank Hanley

The baseball season is now in full swing and the first week of games has been completed. Several games were canceled due to rain. These games will be rescheduled. Parents are reminded to check the work detail schedule for your team. Your help is needed in preparing the complex for weekend games. As always, any help you can give is greatly appreciated by the players.

Managers and coaches are reminded that during the regular season, Club meetings are held the first and third Mondays at 8:30 p.m. at the Clubhouse.

Woman's Auxiliary

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

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

Events at a glance

Monthly meeting on Monday May 3, Woman's Auxiliary meeting on Wednesday May 5, Trenton Thunder Trip on Friday May 14, Monthly meeting on Monday May 17 and the SPJBC Dance on Saturday June 12.

Small Fry C League Highlights

White Sox v. Giants—Outstanding players were, Kyle Quale, Dominic Papa, Mike Maiorino and Scott Barton.

Dodgers v. Braves—Outstanding players were Jeffrey Pryor with two hits, Jimmy Cox, Frank Alfano and Brendan O'Shea.

Mets v. Diamond Backs—Outstanding players were Dan Phillips and Bob Harrington.

Mariners v. Giants—Outstanding players were David Alston with a home run and Ryan Shello with two hits.

Cardinals v. Tigers—Outstanding players Gina Curcio a single, Sean Coffey a single, Jeff Licato and John Mills.

Athletics v. Devil Rays—Outstanding players were Kyle McMahon with a grand slam home run.

Tigers v. Dodgers—Outstanding players were Matt Praul and Alan Kasmer, both with doubles.

Cardinals v. Braves—Outstanding players were Brian Hanley with a home run, Alex Knight went three for three, Grey Coppi and Chris Hartje.

The Observer welcomes teams highlights. To have your stats published, contact Frank Hanley.

Junior Baseball Women's Auxiliary Receives Special Thanks for Donations

Junior Baseball Commissioner Dennis Kazimir presented a Plaque of Appreciation to the Women's Auxiliary during Opening Day ceremonies for their contribution of a scoreboard and a new field house at the Pony field.

The Women's Auxiliary donated an electronic score board to the Pony Field, the first at the Pony field.

The women have also donated substantial funds towards the construction of a new Pony field house. It will have two restrooms, a storage area and a satellite snack stand. Up until now a portable snack cart was the only way refreshments were available for players and parents.

In order to thank the Women's Auxiliary, the New Pony Field House will be named after the Women's Auxiliary. A plaque was presented to the Women's Auxiliary which will be installed on the field house after construction.



Women's Auxiliary President Cindy Eichler and secretary Rita Doell accept a plaque from Dennis Kazimir which will be hung on the new Pony fieldhouse. The Women's Auxiliary helped to fund the proposed building.

Also during the opening ceremonies the Women's Auxiliary awarded \$30 gift certificates to the top sellers of the fundraising candy drive.

They were Rob Hoffman from A League, Keith Goddard from B League, Corey Benson from C League and Matthew Sinn from Pony League.

High School Sports

By Brian Cochrane

Tiger Girls Suffer First Setback

The South Plainfield Tiger girls softball team was defeated for the first time this year by splitting a double header to open the All-Jersey Softball Classic in South Plainfield. In the first game the Tigers faced Union and it was a pitcher's duel all the way as both girls brought shut outs into the eight inning. Shannon Bishop came around from second base after an errant Union throw to score the only run for the victory. In game two the Tigers faced a solid Bishop Eustace team and suffered their first loss of the year 2-0. Bishop Eustace

ace Lisa Veneziano held the Tigers to just one hit (K. Wilcox) to get the victory. The Tigers traveled to North Brunswick and once again came home with a shutout 6-0. Laura Walter had the hot bat getting a pair of hits and an RBI. Alison Barrett scattered 7 hits and also knocked in a run. Another game another shutout as Ridge came to town and were turned away 12-0. Alison limited Ridge to just three hits while fanning three as Carolyn Schweers was knocking in three runs on a pair of hits. Date to watch - May 3 at Bishop Ahr.

Boys Take Two More

The Tiger boys baseball team won a pair of games last week as

North Brunswick and Monroe came to town. In the first game Chris Atcachunas improved to 3-0 by pitching a three hit shutout and winning 3-0. Pat Sarullo wasted no time in ending this one with a pair of RBIs in the first inning on a clutch two out single. The Tigers ran their winning streak to six games by bringing back the firepower and crushing Monroe 11-3. Steve Buccignano notched his fourth win of the season as the Tigers wrapped out 11 hits with shortstop Mike Kapsch going 3-for-4 and knocking in three. The Tigers improve to 9-2 and go to Bishop Ahr on Monday.

South Plainfield Soccer Club News

By Chris Hubner

FIRE vs. N. Hunterdon: Tie (2-2)

Late in the first half North Hunterdon was caught on an infraction in the box and the FIRE was awarded a penalty kick. Matt Cesare was given the chance and cashed in with a great shot which hit the right side of the net. A costly mistake on a goal kick by the FIRE resulted in a goal by N. Hunterdon and the half ended at 1-1. Riley Hubner scored the FIRE's second goal, as his aggressiveness paid off. Outstanding defensive play was turned in by Riley Hubner and Matt Cesare, as Coach Hubner tried to hold on to the 2-1 edge. However, N. Hunterdon managed tie the score late in the game. The FIRE are looking forward to their next game against N. Plainfield. The first time these two met the score was 4-3 in favor of N. Plainfield.

FIRE vs. N. Plainfield: Win (1-0)

After a slow start, coach Hubner's FIRE finally earned their first win. The only goal of the game was on a direct kick just outside the penalty box by Matt Cesare. It came late in the first half, on a skillfully lifted shot, over the wall of defenders and into the right side of the net. This game was a very physical game for the FIRE and Hubner was proud his young team was up for the challenge. Excellent play was turned in by Jessica Ray at midfield and Chris Zwatacka at sweeper.

Under 10 Soccer Results

Last Sunday the South Plainfield United Boys Under 10 soccer traveled to Watchung Hills.

They played a tough game and came out victorious winning 4-0. Goals were scored by John Lopez, Kevin Bolivar and Vinnie Padula. Bill Hodge recorded a shutout in goal with a strong defensive support from Nick Baldassarre.

What's Going On In South Plainfield? Read the Observer.

To start home delivery, enclose your check or money order for \$25. for 52 issues (out of State-\$45) payable to: South Plainfield Observer. Mail to South Plainfield Observer, G&G Graphics, 530 Union Ave., Suite 3, Middlesex, NJ 08846.

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Schoenly Family Re-Adopts Hamilton Boulevard

Alfred Schoenly, a Montrose Ave. resident, has signed an agreement with the South Plainfield Clean Business Association to renew his family's adoption of Hamilton Blvd. between Montrose Ave. and Lafayette Place. They will continue to keep this block free of litter, to remove the snow during the winter and cut the grass along the right of way and the vacant lot during the summer.

Mr. Schoenly formally adopted this stretch of road in 1997, when he learned of the Adopt-A-Spot program, although he had been taking care of it for some time. His adoption is one of several

"spots" adopted along the Hamilton Blvd./Durham Ave. corridor.

The CBA has targeted Hamilton Blvd. and Durham Ave. for adoption because many visitors get their first impression of the borough from this heavily-traveled route. The Borough Council is currently undertaking a tree planting program here and the CBA is looking for businesses or individuals interested in adopting additional segments.

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

Sacred Heart Annual Chinese Auction

The Annual Chinese Auction held at Sacred Heart School Friday night saw many lucky winners. This year's Chairperson Carol Collins Ray and her committee chose a Mardi Gras theme. Seventh grade students helped present prizes to the winners. Sue Langenbach, Sacred Heart School seventh grade teacher, won the 50/50 and Lynda Goetz, Sacred Heart second grade teacher, won the overnight trip to Trump, with dinner for two. The top prize, a travel voucher worth \$750, was won by Genevieve Zip.



Picture This: The former Grant School (which now houses Keystone) Fifth Grade Class of 1955 were teacher Joe Panetti and students Vince Aiello, Barbara Attienza, Phil Campagna, Ann Cataldo, Allen Cesare, Marlene Cohen, Ralph Cotone, James Dooty, Rosemary Fallet, Jackie Falocco, Magnolia Ford, Russ Gratta, Amelia Holeva, Girard Iacuzzi, Roberta Joins, Joyce Kilmer, Roy Malpas, Theo Miller, Linda Niper, Rosemary Raio, Gerilaine Trivigno, Nina (or Nona) Schillaci, Frank Shilemi, Stuart Symington, Ed Simmons, Cindy, Ernie, Eveline and Sammy (last names not known).

Submitted by Ralph Cotone

Bicycle Rodeo Will Stress Safety Tips

On Saturday, May 15, the South Plainfield Police Department will be hosting a bicycle rodeo. The annual event, held in Spring Lake Park from 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., is intended to teach bike safety to children and adults. The rain date is May 22.

Featured this year will be a guided safety course for youngsters to ride, complete with traffic signs. Proper riding techniques and rules of the road will be emphasized during this phase of the program. There will also be an On Bike Skills Development

course set up. Helmet wearing cyclists will negotiate a moderately challenging course of cones to improve their riding abilities.

For cyclists 14 years of age and younger who do not have bicycle helmets, there will be a limited supply of donated helmets provided. Those participants wearing their own helmet to the rodeo and who register their bicycles with the South Plainfield Police Department will be entered into a drawing to win a new bicycle or a locking device for their bicycle.

Safety oriented literature supplied by AAA and the South Plainfield branch of the N.J. Division of Motor Vehicles, will be provided to all participants.

In conjunction with the bicycle safety program, a unique bicycle registration, theft prevention program will be available to the public. The "Baron Von Pedaloff" program designed by Officer William Frink of the Special Problems Unit, is specifically designed to reduce bicycle thefts. By encouraging bicycle owners to register their bicycle and taking anti-theft precautions, the amount of bicycle thefts

that occur in South Plainfield can be reduced. "Baron Von Pedaloff" literature, will be provided in an effort to remind all those in attendance not to give anyone the opportunity to "Pedal Off" with their bicycle. In 1998 alone, South Plainfield realized a 25% reduction in bicycle thefts with only three registered bicycles taken.

A unicycle riding clown and the crash test dummies will be on hand to make this a totally enjoyable day for everyone.

Don't forget the date is May 15. Bring your bicycle, your helmet and be ready for a fun filled day. Any questions? Do not hesitate to contact the police department at 908-226-7693.

High School Basketball League Forming

The Recreation Department is forming a new high school basketball league playing in May and June at the PAL Building. Boys will play on Monday and Wednesday nights and girls will play Tuesday and Thursday nights.

The league is open to freshmen, sophomores and juniors who are residents of South Plainfield. There will be ten players per team and six teams per league. The fee is \$250 per team.

Sign up at the PAL Building.

Pool to Offer Children's Activities

Don't spend your summer chasing after every kid in the neighborhood! Keep your sanity and your children happy.

Buy a family membership to the Community Pool. Lay back and enjoy the sun! Let the dedicated members of the pool take care of your children. For three hours a day, five days a week, your children will be involved in organized recreational activities.

Call the PAL for information at 226-7714.

Vendors Sought

Vendors are being sought for a craft show at John E Riley school. The show is scheduled for Friday, May 7 from 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The cost for an 8x10 space is \$20. For more information and contracts, please call 908-668-8252.

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

Obituaries

Edward F. Yushko, 85

Edward F. Yushko died on Tuesday, April 20, at his home.

Born in Coaldale, Pa., he had resided in Tamaqua, Pa. for 45 years before moving to Edison. He had resided in Edison for 24 years before settling in Plainfield 13 years ago.

Mr. Yushko had been employed as a coal miner in Pennsylvania for many years prior to his moving to Edison. He was later employed as a truck body repairman for Eastern Express of Edison, before his retirement in 1975.

He was a member of the Mid-Jersey Trucking Industry and Teamsters Local #701 of North Brunswick.

He was a communicant of Our Lady of Czestochowa Church.

Mr. Yushko is predeceased by his wife, Mary (Gamble) Yushko, who died in 1982.

Surviving are a daughter, Ann Marie Eisenberg of Plainfield; a son, Edward J. Yushko of Fredericksburg, Va.; four grandchildren, Debra Magno of South Plainfield, Michael Eisenberg of Plainfield, Sharon Yushko and Kim Yushko, both of Fredericksburg, Va. Also surviving are three great grandchildren, Christopher and Ashley Magno and Amanda Eisenberg.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Louise (Garafalo) DeSiena, 76

Louise (Garafalo) DeSiena died on Saturday, April 24, at The Woodlands in Plainfield.

Born in Bernardsville, Mrs. DeSiena had been a life long resident of Plainfield.

Mrs. DeSiena was the owner and operator of Park Beauty Center in Scotch Plains for 15 years, before she retired in 1970.

She was an avid bingo player and was also instrumental in the arrangement of many Atlantic City bus trips.

Her husband, Arthur DeSiena, died in 1994. She is also predeceased by her sister, Susan Mandatta and her brother, Pete Garafalo, who died in 1998.

Surviving are a daughter, Linda Chemidlin of Hillsborough; a son, Donald McClellan of South Plainfield; three sisters, Jennie Pollack of Plainfield, Dolores Falarano of South Plainfield and Elizabeth Sarte of Plainfield.

Also surviving are three grandchildren, Christopher and Danielle Chemidlin and Patrick McClellan and a great grandson, Luke Monica.

Memorial services were at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Deborah Heart & Lung Center Plainfield Chapter c/o P.O. Box 820, Browns Mills, NJ 08015.

*Because
We
Care*



by Robert Hunter

IN PRAISE OF MOTHER

Children who have lost their mothers may feel as if the law of gravity no longer applies to them. The fact that their losses may render them so untethered is testimony to the important role that mothers play in their offsprings' lives. It begins with the miracle of birth and extends through the vast education process that is meant to suffuse each of us with a sense of love, meaning, and purpose in our lives. Mothers are, at once, great teachers, nurses, and High Priestesses all. In fact, there is an old Jewish proverb that holds: "God could not be everywhere, and therefore he made mothers." Is it any wonder that we feel so bereft upon losing a person of such magnitude in our lives?

At the JAMES W. CONROY FUNERAL HOME, we offer the finest in end-of-life services for members of all beliefs and financial ability. Our experienced, professional staff will assist you in creating the perfect tribute, down to the last detail, to that person who was all-important in your life. To schedule a consultation, please call 756-2800. Our facilities are located at 2456 Plainfield Avenue in South Plainfield.

"A man sees all that his mother has been to him till it's too late to let her know that he sees it."

—William Dean Howells

Puzzle for You?

1. Pick the number of days a week you would like to eat out. (Any number from 1-7)
2. Multiple this number by 2.
3. Add 5.
4. Multiple that number by 50.
5. If you have already had your birthday this year add 1,749. If you haven't, add 1,748.
6. Subtract the four digit year you were born.

You should now have a three digit number. The first digit of this was your original number (i.e. how many days a week you would like to eat out.) The second two digits are your age. This is the only year (1999) that this will work.

Submitted by Nancy Pauls

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POLICE REPORT

BOD Candidate Receives Harassing Phone Call

Board of Education candidate Carol Byrne summoned the police to her home on election night to report a harassing phone call.

Mrs. Byrne, who had just lost in that evening's election, stated that at approximately 11:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 20, she answered her phone and was greeted by someone using foul language in reference to her results in the election.

Upset with the call, she hung up and dialed *69, a feature that allows a person to retrieve the number of the last call or a missed call. Upon further investigation she found out that the number belonged to a member of the teachers' union who had supported her opponents in the election.

When the officer arrived to take the police report, he called and

spoke with the husband of the suspected caller. He claimed his wife was sleeping.

Mrs. Byrne has filed a complaint and awaits the court date.

- A Second Ave. resident reported damage to his mailbox. The box and post had been tipped over, the flag was broken off and the door bent. There were no witnesses or suspects.

- A Delmore Ave. resident reported the theft of a bike from the front of Quick Check on Sampton Ave. The bike had not been locked.

- A Highland Ave. resident was arrested for simple assault and domestic violence.

- Coralis Toro of Newark, was arrested for shoplifting \$135 worth of clothing from Sterns in the Middlesex Mall.

- Doreen Ann Mendez of Edison was arrested for shoplifting clothing at Bradlees.

- An Oak Manor Pkwy. resident

was apprehended after escaping from involuntary commitment at the Trenton Psychiatric Hospital.

- Margaret Carney of Hightstown reported the theft of her car from the parking lot of Innovative Packaging. She returned to the car in the afternoon and found glass on the ground where the car had been parked. A Movado watch and her state and federal income tax return checks had been in the car at the time of the theft.

- A break-in at Wonderwear Warehouse located on Oak Tree Road resulted in the theft of an unknown amount of clothing, possibly summer wear. Entry was gained by removing a wire grate and smashing the window. A man asking for directions to Halls Trucking may be a suspect in the theft.

- An Edison resident reported the theft of a cell phone from his unlocked car. The car was in the lot of MRP Incorporated.

By Cyrus n Moon

Weekly Horoscope 4/30-5/7

ARIES 3/21-4/20—Traveling is very important to you. You want to spread your wings, with a moon in Sagittarius, you have the need for adventure. Why are you waiting to buy that truck? If you need advice this week, go see mom. Nothing like good reliable chit chat. Your energies will flow with little resistance; your life will seem a little more simple. So enjoy this week. Yellow!

TARIUS 4/21-5/20—Any possible marriage plans being discussed at this time will lead to a very harmonious relationship. "Moon trines Sun" you can't ask for better. If friends are having problems, you will be able to offer them emotional support. Your favorable color this week is silver. Also some unexpected money may be coming your way or at least an increase in a sum.

GEMINI 5/21-6/20—Beware of a new higher up that just came on board at work. He or she has the broom out. Also at this time, if alone, you have a strong desire to have a relationship, or at least have interchange with another person of the opposite sex. Gemini, if you have a child reach out to him. It is you who must put time aside... not him... and have a heart to heart talk.

CANCER 6/21-7/22—Spend some quality time with a loved one and you may be able to put a spark back in a relationship that has gone a little cool. On the work front be ready to take the lead in the work place. Whatever goal you set for a job, others will follow and are willing to complete the job as a team. Open your door to a couple of school friends and reflect on times past.

LEO 7/23-8/22—Be careful of what you tell a friend at school. She may have passed out information you did not want to share with anyone else. This is a good time to think about problems in the work place. You will have the patience to think projects through. At this time you will also evaluate your significance to people, events and situations quickly. A brief flirtation is possible.

VIRGO 8/23-9/22—You are now

taking the lead role in money matters and you will have the confidence you gain from asserting yourself in money dealings. Around the fifth you may be thinking about making a large, purchase. But if you shop around instead of jumping at the first thing you see, you will significantly save some money. Other opportunities will also be presenting themselves.

LIBRA 9/23-10/22—Be careful when speaking to a friend or family member who is sensitive. Otherwise you may be regretting that conversation for awhile. Events that take place now may allow you to learn about your real feelings. Be careful that emotional feelings do not become a way for you or your partner to manipulate one another. Change will sneak up on you.

SCORPIO 10/23-11/21—Well how about it! To make a relationship work, you need to put forth some effort. Or do you want it to fizzle out? If that other person is a water sign as your own, you can have what many others do not have. A deep understanding of each other's feelings. It may work out better than you thought. A call from a relative you haven't heard from in a while.

SAGITTARIUS 11/22-12/21—You will be extremely sensitive to other people's moods. And this can work on two fronts. If negativity is prominent, these people will exhaust you and make you feel bad. But on the other hand it is good to be with friends whom you are devoted to. If you are interested in spiritual or mystical matters, your interest will be greatly enhanced at this time.

CAPRICORN 12/22-1/19—Do not be driven off a relationship that you have built time in. Rather than force an issue, you're better off playing a waiting game and see what happens. I say this because the moon is square to Jupiter and this transit promotes optimism and positive thoughts. One last thing, this transit can also give you a smug arrogance, so again do not force the issue.

AQUARIUS 1/20-2/18—I don't

know, but I might be hearing wedding bells in the air. Be careful when spring-cleaning or you just might throw something very dear to you away. Are you feeling gabby at all? It's no wonder with a Jupiter and Mercury transit working. In groups you will be the life of the party. Just pick where you want to go with all the offers you have.

PISCES 2/19-3/20—Moon trines Venus. This transit brings about pleasant feelings between you and everyone around you. Good food and drink will happen and before you know it. Uhum, what was that diet you were on for awhile? Be aware of a fellow worker with a secret personal agenda later in the week. Seek out an older person for advice this week and you will have more insight.

TIDBITS 2000—The new millennium — The conclusion. Preparing for the future can be very rewarding, but remember to live in the present moment, too. This year provides ample opportunities to discover how you deal with multiple levels of power and how you can launch your life into a truly promising future. Set your sights on an uplifting dream and hope and start the countdown into a strange new area that only a very few will ever experience in a lifetime. A brand new millennium — the key word here is "Optimism."

QUOTE: If not for the future, I would be living in the past.

Music Man Auditions

Auditions for South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop's production of *Music Man* will be held on June 14, 15, from 6-9 p.m. in the high school chorus room. South Plainfield residents entering 6th grade in the fall through age 19 are eligible to participate.

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South Plainfield Observer Advertisers are Listed in Bold Print

If you would like to sell the Observer, call (732) 469-4380.

Little Shop Of Horrors

Continued from page 1

mention the class plays and annual musicals and you begin to get a sense of twenty five years worth.

Little Shop of Horrors is a show that brings young and old(er) together to present a musical that will please the entire family.

Treat the family to a glimpse of an era gone by, to a taste of a 60's 'girl groups' with *Little Shop's* wonderful trio reminiscent of the Crystals or the Chiffons. They often set the scene, dealing with the neighborhood bully as easily as they do with Seymour.

Seymour, hero of the show, is an employee of Mushnick Flower Shop. He is little more than an ordinary run-of-the-mill loser who tries harder than usual to win his dream girl, the lovely Audrey, who possesses a heart of darn-near-gold. With her blonde flip hairdo and sincere, unassuming airs, you just know she will find trouble or vice versa. Trouble comes in the form of her dentist boyfriend, Orin, the king of pain. He is the epitome of evil, with his wicked ways and his addiction to one of the tools of his trade... laughing gas. Let's not forget the man whose shop is the main setting for this adventure to the past. Mushnick is an elderly man whose shop is ages old and the flowers often reflect it. But Seymour has been a faithful employee for years and Mushnick has no children, hence Seymour becomes the "son" in Mushnick and Son.

Picture the day that Seymour proudly brings the strange plant to the shop; it's cute, it's adorable, it's just another plant to water and feed. The plant won't grow, and despite Seymour's vocal begging for growth, the plant is still and appears destitute. Fast forward to the moment when Seymour cuts a finger and finds that one of his charges... the plant, seeks his blood.



"Let's do lunch" had a different meaning then... but enough secrets revealed!

Return to the doo-woop decade, take a shopping trip you won't soon forget. Visit Mushnick's and see for yourself the amazing plant that has brought the city to a frenzy; the Audrey and Audrey II plants.

Little Shop of Horrors will be presented Thursday through Saturday, May 6-8. Curtain is 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors. SPSHS Gold Card holders have free admission. Tickets are available at the door. For more information contact Producer, Tracy Murray at 908 754-4620, ext. 278.



School Board Elections

Continued from page 1

stressed that it was not individuals but a joint effort of Board of Education members working as a team for the ultimate goal of the improvement of services for our children.

Candidate Carol Byrne lost her bid for a seat on the board. She previously served four terms. Discussing the election, Carol echoed the sentiments of Myra Stillman. "We ran a clean campaign, above board and positive. However, we ran up against the teachers union who wanted anyone but myself and Myra on the board." She felt that a union endorsement of a candidate was not 100% ethical. Carol noted that, "Three people running a small campaign cannot possibly compete against the NJ, AFL-CIO and the teachers union."

Carol had a few accomplishment of her own to note. She edited *Community Contact*, the school board newsletter that was created to inform citizens about their school system. She feels the board negotiated a fair and equitable contract with the teachers union two years ago. Carol also began the campaign for the future building program by forming the facilities planning committee.

Reelected board member Ken LaFreniere is in his second term. Ken went right to the heart of the matter when he said, "The issue is not who won, but that those now on the board must work as team, concentrating on the referendum and the new buildings. We can't look back, only forward. We have to make what is good in our district better."

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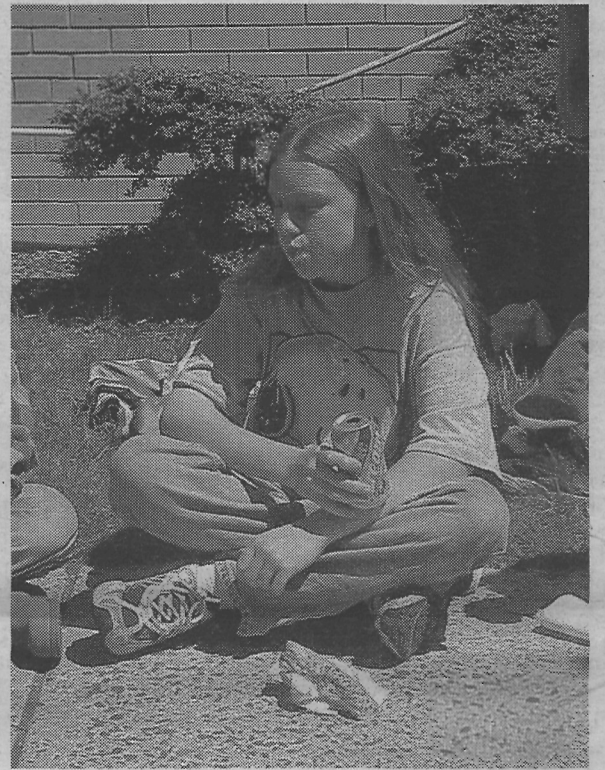
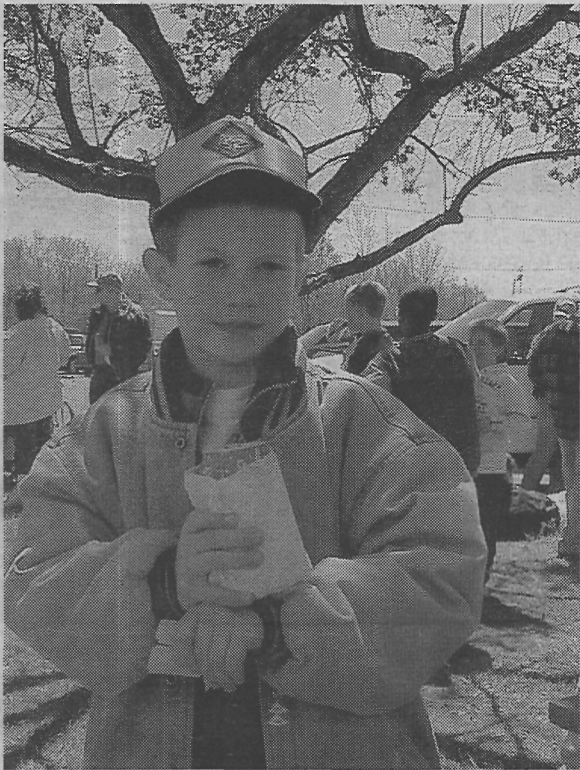
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Annual Spring Clean-up Held

The Annual Spring Clean-up was held last Saturday. Residents, along with area scout troops and members of the South Plainfield Clean Business Association could be seen around town, picking-up trash and litter from parks, along roadsides and streams. Afterward everyone gathered at Borough Hall for a Pickup Picnic with pizza, soda and environmentally-friendly door prizes.



April / May 1999

Meetings & Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Copy Deadline: Friday, 5 pm Advertising Deadline: Monday, 5 pm	26 Passport Services Borough Hall 10am-3pm	27 Planning Board 8 pm	28 Traffic Safety Advisory Comm. 7 pm Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	29 Senior Trip to Atlantic City and Senior Festival Bus leaves 7:45 am	30 Middle School Play: "Squad Room" 7:30 pm Publication of So. Plfd. Observer	MAY 1 Project Graduation Auction/Raffle at SPHS Fashion Show at First Baptist 2 pm Book Sale Library
2 VFW Country Breakfast 8-11 am	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 Little Shop of Horrors at SPHS Taxpayers Advisory Group 8 pm	7 Little Shop of Horrors at SPHS Craft Show Riley School 5-9:30 pm Publication of So. Plfd. Observer	8 Little Shop of Horrors at SPHS 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 So. Plfd. Observer	15
16 Vision 2001 Car/Truck Show SPHS 9-3 pm	17 UNICO Golf Outing Beaver Brook CC	18 Drug-Free Family Seminar at Library 7 pm Board of Adjustment 8 pm	19	20	21 Publication of So. Plfd. Observer	22 PBA Car Show 1-7 pm Cragwood Rd.
23	24 Borough Council Agenda Meeting 8 pm	25 Planning Board Meeting 8 pm	26 Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	27 Recycling Commission 8 pm Borough Council Meeting 8 pm	28 Publication of So. Plfd. Observer	29

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