

South Plainfield Observer

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MAY 21 1999

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50 CENTS

MAY 21, 1999

Mario Abbruzzese Honored as "Fireman of the Year" by VFW



Mario Abbruzzese

VFW Memorial Post 6763 and the Ladies Auxiliary will hold its 53rd installation of officers on Friday, May 21, at the Post home on Front St.

Phil Cortese will be installed as

VFW Post 6763 Commander.

After their installation of officers the VFW will present the "Fireman of the Year" award to Mario Abbruzzese in recognition of his devotion and dedication to the people of South Plainfield.

In addition to his selection by VFW Post 6763, Mr. Abbruzzese was also honored at the district level and placed second at the State level.

Abbruzzese has been a volunteer fireman for 30 years. He has served as a lieutenant for five years, captain for four years and deputy chief for six years.

The public is invited to attend both of these ceremonies. Admission is free. There will be refreshments, music and dancing after the ceremonies. For more information call (908) 668-9751.

Parade Committee Seeks Grand Marshal

The South Plainfield Public Celebrations Committee is asking residents to send in their nominations for the 42nd Annual Labor Day Parade Honorary Grand Marshal, which will take place on Monday, September 6.

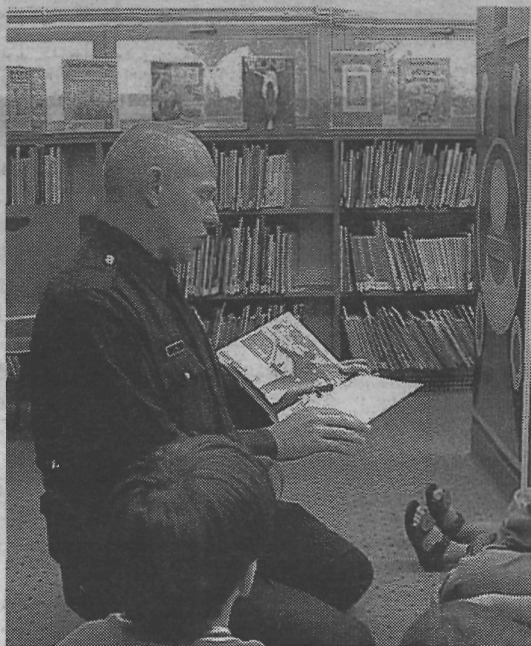
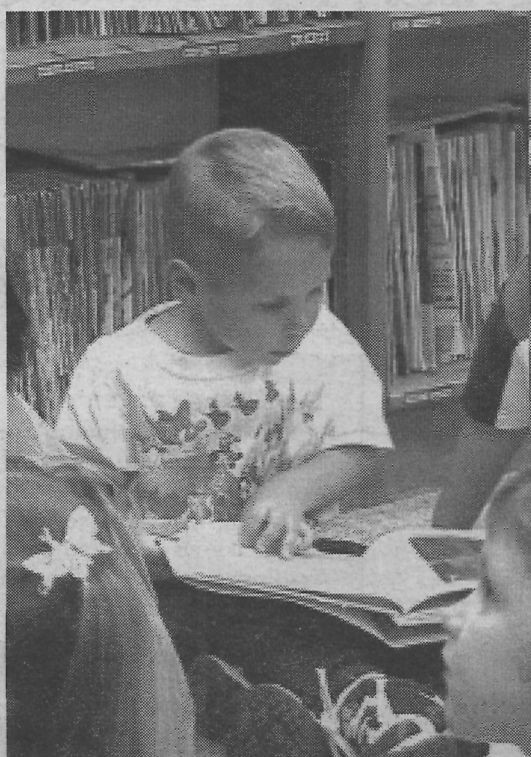
This year's parade theme is "South Plainfield Marches into the Millennium." In celebration of South Plainfield's incorporation in 1926, the committee is also asking long-time South Plainfield residents to lead the annual parade.

If readers know of any individuals who they feel have contributed outstanding service to the community, send a letter to the Celebrations Committee describing why you think this per-

son should be considered for Grand Marshal. Include candidate's name, address, telephone number and list of accomplishments. Send nominations to: The Public Celebrations Committee, c/o Joe Scudato, 535 Elsie Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or email: jascudato@ms.att.com.

If residents know of anyone who has lived in South Plainfield for an notably extended time, please contact the parade committee at the address or email above.

If any non-profit organization wishes to have a concession stand in Veterans' Park during the parade festivities, contact Ms. Darlene Pinto, Concessions, at 214 Hopkinson St., South Plainfield, NJ.



Police Officer Joe Papa reads to children during storytime at South Plainfield Public Library in celebration of National Police Week.

Boys High School Baseball Tigers Advance in State Tourney

By Brian Cochrane

This past Monday the sixth seeded South Plainfield boys baseball team began play in the Group II State Tournament by defeating Raritan 6-4. As has been a regular occurrence for the Tigers this year, more records were either broken or tied in this first round match-up.

In the first inning Chris Atcachunas laced an RBI double and Pat Sarullo added an RBI single that opened up an early 3-0 lead. In the second inning with two men on base, Mike Kapsch added to his home run record by belting number seven of the year, giving the Tigers a six run lead. That homer also broke the single season hits record (38) previously held by Phil Aiello. Steve Buccignano made those six runs hold up as he tied yet another school record with his 23rd career victory. Next up in the state

tourney will be a visit to No. 3 seed, JFK Iselin.

Playing a first round Greater Middlesex Conference game on Tuesday, the Tigers faced the 11-7 Chiefs from Piscataway. Things started out well for the Tigers as Mike Kapsch doubled down the left field line, advanced to third on a wild pitch then scored on a Steve Buccignano ground out. Later in the inning Pat Sarullo also knocked in a run with an RBI single to give South Plainfield an early 2-0 lead.

Chiefs' shortstop, Cory Smith, a one man wrecking crew, hit the first of his two homeruns on the day, a two run shot that put the Chiefs ahead 3-2. In the bottom of the inning Ryan Flannery scored on a wild pitch to tie it up at 3-3. Mike Vito relieved starter Chris Atcachunas in the fourth and proceeded to get out of a two on no-out jam. Cory Smith led

off the top of the fifth with a solo shot to left center to give Piscataway a 5-4 lead.

The Tigers answered back in the sixth as Steve Buccignano was hit by Chiefs' ace pitcher, Cory Smith, to lead off the inning. Then Pat Sarullo singled to put two on with none out.

"Bucc" stole third and Eric Johanson laid down a perfect squeeze bunt to score the tying run. One out later Mike Delucca also laid down an RBI bunt scoring pinch runner Matt McKnight from third to go up 5-4. In the seventh inning, Piscataway scored three runs on only one hit to go up by two, 7-5. The Tigers didn't go down without a fight as they proceeded to load the bases and even push one across due to the wildness of Cory Smith, but that was all they could muster and Piscataway coked out the 7-6 win and ended the Tigers county tournament hopes.



South Plainfield Officer Carl Schuetz registers bicycles at the Annual Bicycle Rodeo last Saturday. See page 5 for story and photos.

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

The *South Plainfield Observer* and G & G Graphics will be relocating to an office in South Plainfield. Our new address is 11110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B. The exact date for the move has not yet been set. The building is being renovated and is not complete. We hope to move sometime in early June.

Moving into South Plainfield will mean our phone number, which G&G Graphics has had for over 20 years, will change. G&G Graphics, owned by Wayne and Nancy Grennier, publishes the *Observer*.

Our new phone number is 908-668-0010 and it may be used to contact us from now on, so be sure to jot it down. You can still reach us at our old number, 732-469-4380.

The Grenniers have been residents of South Plainfield for over 30 years. Their son, Mike, is a police officer in the Borough.

Important Borough Meeting Notes

Board of Education Meetings 1999/2000

The following dates have been scheduled for Committee of the Whole and Regular Meetings of the South Plainfield Board of Education. All meetings are to be held on Tuesdays at 8 p.m. in the Board Conference Room of the Administration Building, Cromwell Place, unless otherwise designated.

Committee of the Whole Meetings 1999

1999: June 8, August 17, September 14, October 12, November 9, December 14

2000: January 11, February 8, March 7, April 4

Regular Monthly Meetings

1999: June 15, June 29, August 24, September 21, October 19, November 16, December 21

2000: January 18, February 15, March 14, April 11, 2000

Zoning Board of Adjustment 1999 Meeting Dates

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

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

**ALL MEETINGS ARE
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Planning Board 1999 Meeting Dates

Second and fourth Tuesday of the month as follows:
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 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.

In My Opinion

Letters

Letter to the editor,

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all the parents, relatives, friends and Middle School staff members who sacrificed their time (and sleep) to help chaperone the recent eighth grade Washington/Baltimore Trip. It was because of their efforts that this trip was a success. We were proud of the children and are sure that they had a memorable experience, but it was the help of our chaperones that enabled the trip to run smoothly. We enjoyed spending the two days with them getting to know them better, and we appreciate their fine job.

**SINCERE THANKS,
JOANNE HAUS, JOHN
LIMYANSKY, MORRIS
SAMMONS, DONNA TIERNEY,
SPMS STUDENT COUNCIL
ADVISORS**

To the editor:

On behalf of the Junior Woman's Club of South Plainfield, I would like to acknowledge the following local businesses for their generous contributions toward prizes awarded to the winners of our Beautiful Baby Contest. Proceeds from this annual fund-raiser allow us to award a South Plainfield resident with the Maryanne Helfrich Memorial Nursing Scholarship.

Our thanks go to Carousel Hair Salon, Flanagan's, Holly Park Diner, Yogurt Express, Bagel Pantry, Munchie's, Burger King (Park Ave.), Mohn's Florist, Rita's Italian Ice, Dunkin' Donuts (Park Ave.), Here's The Scoop, Pilgrim Covenant Church Preschool & Learning Center, Twin City Pharmacy, Petland Discounts and Ciccio's. Also, a note of appreciation to A & P Food Store and Sherban's Diner for allowing us to set up the ballot boxes in their places of business.

**CAROL ULLOM
BEAUTIFUL BABY CONTEST**

Visit Sacred Heart Funstival '99 Through Sunday

Funstival '99 continues through Saturday on the school grounds at Sacred Heart.

Rides, games and classic favorites in the food booths will again be offered.

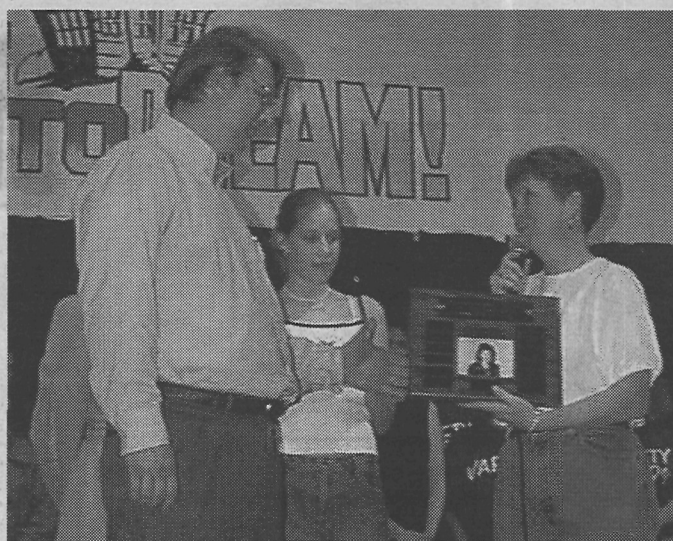
Shrimp boats are the new item featured in the Seafood Booth. Food is available for eat-in or take out.

Hours are Thursday, 6-10 p.m.; Friday 6-11 p.m. and Saturday 2-5 and 6 to 11 p.m.

As a special matinee feature on Saturday, bracelets can be purchased for \$12 and are good for unlimited rides.

The event will be capped by a large raffle drawing Saturday evening. Awarded will be the grand prize of a seven day cruise for two to the winner's choice of destination, including a \$700 airfare allowance.

Other prizes are a \$1,000 food certificate from the A & P and a 32-inch colored television valued at \$750.



A plaque is presented by Sandy Doyon to Greg and Laura Papp, in memory of former Kennedy School teacher Joyce Papp, who died of cancer last year. The plaque will hang in the school lobby. A portion of the proceeds from the variety show will support an annual \$500 college scholarship for a former Kennedy School student.

Hall's Warehouse Wins Glitter Award

Bruce, Dale and William Jayne recently accepted the South Plainfield Clean Business Association's Glitter Award from Joe Diegnan. CBA President Emil Leporino, chairman of the Clean Communities Advisory Board, was also on hand to honor the Jaynes for the care they took to safeguard and improve the visual environment when expanding their facilities at the end of Kentile Road.

Mr. Diegnan and Mr. Leporino made the presentation during Hall's Open House, held on May 7 to celebrate the completion of their latest expansion. The business, which began on Oak Tree Ave. as a small trucking company in 1948, has grown to employ 250 people full time and occupies over 775,000 sq. ft. of warehouse space. The newest building, at 601 Kentile Road, is entirely temperature controlled. Enormous rooms can be held at constant temperatures ranging from -20°F to +38°F. The virtually spotless interior can accommodate accounts ranging from pharmaceuticals to ice cream.

Both professional and in-house landscapers were used to design,

install and maintain the beautifully landscaped exteriors. Mr. Dale Jayne remarked that it is important to present a clean, sanitary appearance because of the kinds of accounts they seek. Not only do they maintain their own grounds litter-free, but they do regular cleanups along the length of Kentile Road to the intersection with Metuchen Road.

Mr. Jayne thanked the CBA for conferring the Glitter Award on Hall's, and said they would continue to do what they could to contribute to a more attractive atmosphere in the borough's industrial areas.

The Clean Business Association gives Glitter Awards to South Plainfield businesses that are unusually well-maintained or have recently improved their appearance through renovation or landscaping. Membership in the CBA is open to all businesses that share its goals of enhancing the appearance of commercial districts through property maintenance and litter control. For information, contact Alice Tempel at (908) 226-7621.



*Sick and tired of being
sick and tired?*

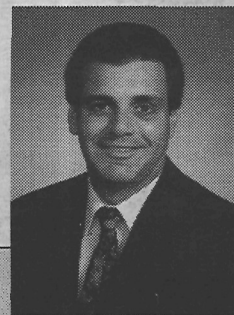
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South Plainfield Observer

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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*:

1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
2. Mail or fax it to: Editorial Department
South Plainfield Observer, 530 Union Ave., Suite 3, Middlesex, NJ 08846 or drop it in the box at Mohn's Flowers on Plainfield Ave. or Twice Is Nice, Front St. or fax us at (732) 805-0815 or e-mail us on the web page at spobserver.com. Include your name, address, telephone number.

Community Briefs

Changes in Eligibilities for Compactor Coupons

An ordinance was introduced at last week's council meeting which would change the requirements for residents applying for compactor coupons.

Presently, compactor coupons are only distributed to homeowners who reside in the property. Renters, as well as homeowners who don't occupy the property, have not been eligible to receive

the coupons.

The new ordinance was worded so that either owner/occupant or the tenant/occupant of a residential property is eligible for compactor coupons.

The final adoption of the ordinance will be held on June 6 after a public hearing. Compactor coupons can be picked up at Borough Hall in the clerk's office.

Community Pool Plans Open House

The South Plainfield Community Pool has set opening day for Saturday, June 5. The hours are 12-5 p.m. The building has a fresh coat of paint and the roof has been repaired. Leaks which have plagued the pool in the past have all been fixed. Two handicap parking spaces have also been added.

Mike English, recreation director, said the pool looks great. The

plans are just about complete for the children's programs and swimming lessons.

An open house, planned for Sunday, June 6, is open to all residents. The public is invited to come and spend the day at the pool and see what it has to offer.

Memberships are still available. Contact anyone at the PAL Building for more information.

Mayor Wants Summons Issued

Mayor Dan Gallagher said that the threat to the company that is dropping plastic bags in the driveways of South Plainfield homes has gone unheard. The plastic bags include notes requesting homeowners to fill them with clothes.

The mayor complained to the company a few months ago and told them to cease the practice. There is a borough ordinance

which prohibits this practice. The company is a for-profit business that resells the clothes for profit. The literature on the plastic bags insinuates the collection benefits refugees. This is not true.

The mayor asked Borough Administrator John Corica to issue a summons to the company and have them brought before Judge Murphy and fined.

Borough Notes

Council News

■ Seniors citizens will receive a 10% discount in the weight room at the PAL Building.

■ The trip to Philadelphia to see the Yankees play the Phillies has been cancelled.

■ The street sweeper has begun cleaning the streets in town. John Corica said it will follow the same schedule as the leaf pickup in town. It should take about a week for each district. The council has voted to clean the streets twice this year.

■ Dennis Cerami said that he is meeting with Chief Abbruzzese about the growing number of false fire alarms that have been reported.

■ An ordinance appropriating \$6,650 for a feasibility study for

the new proposed senior citizen recreation center. The plan is to build a new facility across from Borough Hall. Joe Zekas has been working with Ray Petronko on what should be included in the new building.

■ An ordinance appropriating \$15,000 to be used for improvements to Shadyside and Putnam Parks.

■ Another street, Merchants Ave., was added to the 16 roads which will be milled and re-surfaced.

■ Matthew Flannery, Jen Orlowski, Michael Cleary, Nicole Moretti and Chris Sylvester have been hired as lifeguards at the community pool. Also hired was Robin Bauer as assistant swim coach.

Vision 2001 Plans June 30 Golf Classic

South Plainfield Vision 2001 Education Foundation, Inc. is planning its annual Golf Classic on Wednesday, June 30, at Royce Brook Golf Club in Somerville.

Prizes include hole in one for a new car, hole in one for a vacation, hole in one for Antigua Golf clothes, hole in one for a radio and hole in one for Pot of Gold. Prizes are awarded for low gross, longest drive, closest to hole, closest to the line, corporate team net and corporate team gross. Scoring will be the Callo-way Scoring System.

The day will begin at 8 a.m. with registration and coffee, followed at 9 with the golf range/putting challenge and at 10 the shotgun start. Lunch will be at 12:30 at the turn, beer and wine hour is at 3 p.m. and the dinner/awards will be held at 4 p.m.

Vision 2001 objectives are financial support for incentive programs that encourage academic achievement and good citizenship for South Plainfield students. They award annual scholarships and assist internship and cooperative work opportunities. In the last four years they have been responsible for contributing \$32,000 (18) scholarships, \$22,250 in endowments, \$6,000 for curriculum programs, \$5,975 in academic incentive programs and \$9,575 for school equipment.

Registration is \$160 per person. If you register before June 15, the fee is \$150. Entry fee includes 18 holes of golf, green fees and cart, coffee/golf range, on course beverages, lunch at the turn, beer/wine hour and a buffet dinner. All gratuities are included. Rubber spikes only.

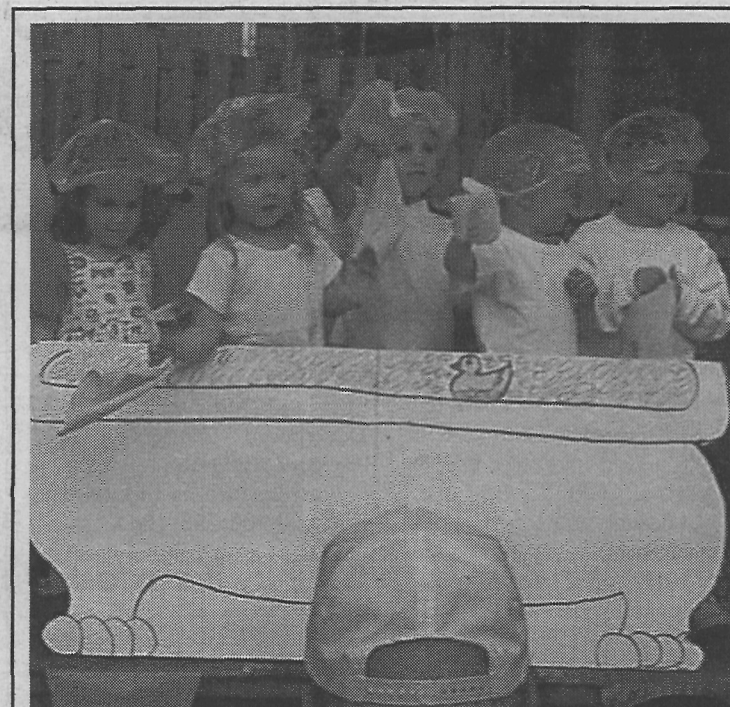
To register, make check payable to Vision 2001 and mail to PO Box 733, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or call Robert Hunter at 756-2800 or Emil Leporino at 908-756-8038.

Check out our website at www.spvision2001.org.

Summer Drama Selects Staff for "Music Man"

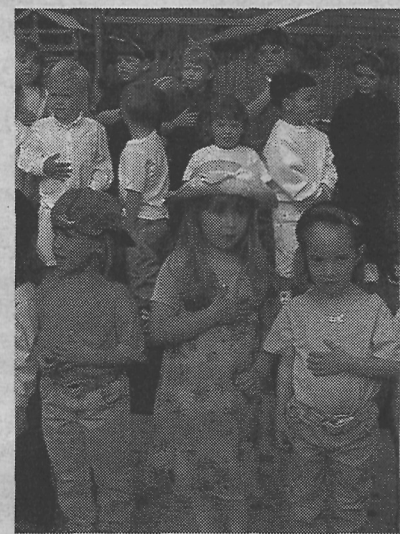
The South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop has selected its creative staff for this summer's production of Meredith Willson's American musical classic, "The Music Man."

Shayne Austin Miller, assisted



All Washed Up

Creative Kids Academy preschoolers entertain parents at Spring Fling, an annual concert held last Thursday.



Host Families Sought for Foreign Exchange Students

Host families are needed for a homestay program for French and Spanish students between 14 and 17 years of age. The students will be here from June 30 until July 28. Hosts will receive a \$200 stipend per student. Students may share a bedroom as long as they have a separate bed.

The students are coming to experience the American way of life. This is a wonderful opportunity for American families to discover a new way of looking at the

world, without leaving home.

The program is sponsored by Nacel Open Door, a non profit organization dedicated to promoting international understanding and language education for over 40 years through short term, summer, semester and academic year as well as abroad placements. Part-time positions are also available as local representatives for the Nacel programs. For further information, call Camille at 908-387-0001.

OAK TREE FARMS

136 South Plainfield Ave. South Plainfield, NJ
Sale Starts Friday, May 21 Ends Thursday, May 27 (While Supplies Last)

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Thuman's Bologna \$2.99 lb.	Florida Tomatoes 69¢ lb.	Extra Large Eggs 79¢ doz. With coupon	2% Milk \$2.49 gallon With coupon
Thuman's Liverwurst \$2.99 lb.	Diet or Regular, 2 liter CoCa-Cola, Sprite \$.99 each		Choice London Broil \$2.99 lb.
Boar's Head American Cheese \$2.99 lb. White or Yellow	Our Homemade Italian Sausage \$2.49 lb.	Pecorino or Romano Grated Cheese \$3.99 lb.	Boneless Chicken Breast as is \$2.49 lb.
Boar's Head Turkey \$5.99 lb.	Green Bell Peppers 59¢ lb.	King Size Iceberg Lettuce 89¢ hd.	Green Giant No.1 White Potatoes 5-lb. bag \$1.99 ea.
	Extra Fancy Red or Golden Washington Apples 49¢ lb.	California Broccoli Large head 89¢	

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AROUND TOWN

EVENTS

Spring Yard and Bake Sale

On Saturday, May 22, Wesley United Methodist Church will sponsor a yard and bake sale, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., 1500 Plainfield Ave.

The sale will include household goods, clothing, toys, books, home-baked pies, breads, cookies, cakes and much more!!!

The event is sponsored by the United Methodist Women. Space is available at \$10 (2 car space). Dealers are welcome.

For information, call Ellie at (908) 561-2982 after 6 p.m.

Franklin School Kindergarten Orientation

The Kindergarten Orientation Program for students entering Franklin School in September, 1999 will be held on May 27. Two sessions will be held, 12:15-1:25 and 1:35-2:45. For more information, call Suzanne Butrico at 561-8128.

Snoopy, the Musical Playing in June

Oak Tree Theatre Company Premier will be performing Snoopy!!! (the musical), based on the comic strip "PEANUTS" by Charles M. Schulz at the Edison Valley Playhouse, 2196 Oak Tree Rd., Edison, corner of Woodland Ave., one block from Park Ave.

Show dates are Friday and Sat-

urday, June 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 26 and 8 p.m. and Sunday, June 20, 3 p.m. Tickets are \$10, seniors and students; \$8. Father's Day special - Fathers free with one paid admission.

For reservations and information, call 908-755-4654.

Country Breakfast at VFW Post 6763

On June 6, a Country Breakfast will be held at the VFW Post, 155 Front St. from 8-11 a.m. Donation is \$4.

AARP Chapter 4144 Meeting

Chapter 4144 will meet on May 21 at the PAL Building on Maple Ave. at 12 noon. Guest speaker will be Ms. Jill Erhardt, director of volunteers for Easter Seals-New Jersey, which provides services improving the quality of life for children and adults with disabilities. This meeting is Volunteer Recognition meeting.

We are also planning an overnight trip to Atlantic City on June 22-23. Bus transportation hotel accommodations, complimentary breakfast, two casino trips, two coin returns and more are included. The cost is \$60 per person for a double room and \$80 for single. Deposit is required. Space is limited, so call early for reservations. Contact Lee at (732) 968-6613 or Mary at (732) 752-3764 for information or reservations.

Adult School Seniors Monthly Meeting

The Adult School Seniors will take a 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.

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. Purchase tickets at the PAL Building located on Maple Ave.

Historical Society Plans Harbor Cruise

This is the last opportunity to reserve tickets for the South Plainfield Historical Society-sponsored New York Harbor Cruise on May 30, aboard the *Cornucopia Princess*. Boarding will be at 11 a.m. from Smith Street Dock. 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. Free admission. For information, call (908) 756-4466.

Duprees to Perform at Festa Italiana 1999

Saturday, June 19, is the date for "Festa Italiana" at the PNC Bank Arts Center, formerly the Garden State Arts Center, in Holmdel. The time is from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Activities will include a Bocce game, soccer game, art show, food and drink vendors, a magnificent performance highlighted by the fabulous Duprees, presentation of

By Kenneth Morgan

Here it is, Friday again and time for another bunch of news from South Plainfield Library.

Our usual storytime schedule is in place for next week. The programs are held on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday at 1:15 p.m. They're for children ages three and over; no registration is needed. And there's still time to sign up for the children's craft program this afternoon at 4 p.m. It's for kids ages six and up. And while we're on the subject, a special thanks to Police Officers Papa and Lamonda, who spoke to the kids at last week's storytimes. If you'd like more information about our children's programs, call us at (908) 754-7885 and ask Linda Hansen.

We've got two displays up until May 28. On the display wall we have works by art students of South Plainfield resident Dorothy Miele. And, in our display cabinet, we're featuring fossils from the collection of her daughter, Sarah Miele. If you're interested in putting up a display of your own, call us and ask Mildred Condon for details.

Looks like you're going to have to update your maps of the Library again. Our collection of large print books, which used to be found next to our adult fiction books, has been moved. Now you can find it next to the large print circuit books, in the shelves under the windowsill in our main room. We hope this makes things more convenient for our large type patrons.

This month's group of Circuit videos is at the tail end of availability. Borrow tapes from this group until Sunday. Selections this month include "Lethal Weapon 4", "Seven Years in Tibet", "The Rugrats Movie", a tape in the "Teletubbies" series and, for Brit-com fans, three episodes of "Fawlty Towers." If you're

interested in these or any other Circuit videos, now's the time.

Here's an advisory: a number of our patrons, particularly young adults, have been using our Internet terminals to link into chat rooms and to send e-mail. South Plainfield Library doesn't, at present, prohibit patrons from doing this. But we must remind you that our terminals are public terminals. We cannot guarantee the confidentiality of your e-mail correspondence. And, as many recent events have shown, the person you're contacting in a chat room may not be what they seem. We ask you to use proper caution when using our terminals, for all our sakes. And, once again, please treat all of our equipment with respect and care. Thanks for your cooperation.

Before you start setting aside vacation time, here are a couple of items to mark on your calendar. Our next adult program, a health and fitness seminar, has been tentatively scheduled for June 15th. Meanwhile, our children's Summer Reading Program is coming soon. Keep an eye on future columns for more details.

And the first of those future columns will be coming up next week. Please be sure to check it out.

An "Edible Complex" at Nature Reserve

Nature lovers and whole foods enthusiasts will explore the Highland Ave. Woods Environmental Education Reserve for edible plants of the season, and learn which plants to avoid. Bobcat Saunders, wild forager par excellence, returns by popular demand to demonstrate the how's and why's of gathering foods from nature.

Come to the Sylvania Place Entrance (off South Clinton Ave.) on Saturday, May 22, 1 p.m.

SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING CALLED

A Special Meeting has been called by Mayor Gallagher for the entire Governing Body on Monday, May 24, 1999 at 8 p.m. in Borough Hall for the purpose of authorizing bond counsel to prepare the necessary documents to go to market.

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

Here's The **Scoop** Family Ice Cream Parlor

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"New Hours"

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Friday & Saturday
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Buy 1 Large Soft Ice Cream Sundae - Get a Regular Soft Ice Cream Sundae **FREE**

Expires 7/1/99

Congratulate Your Graduates!

Class of 1999



Congratulations
John!
Love, Mom and Dad

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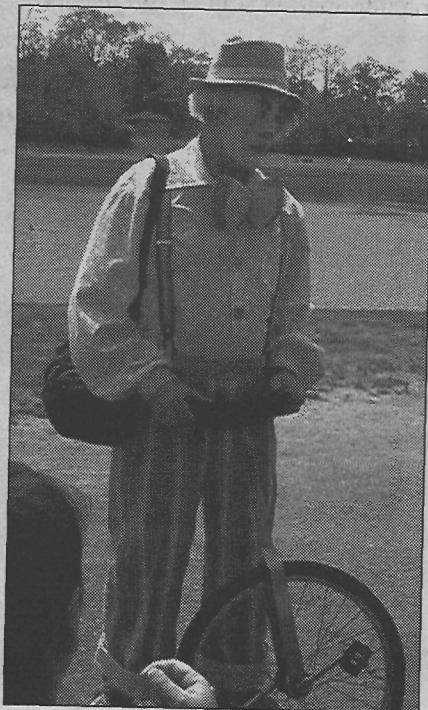
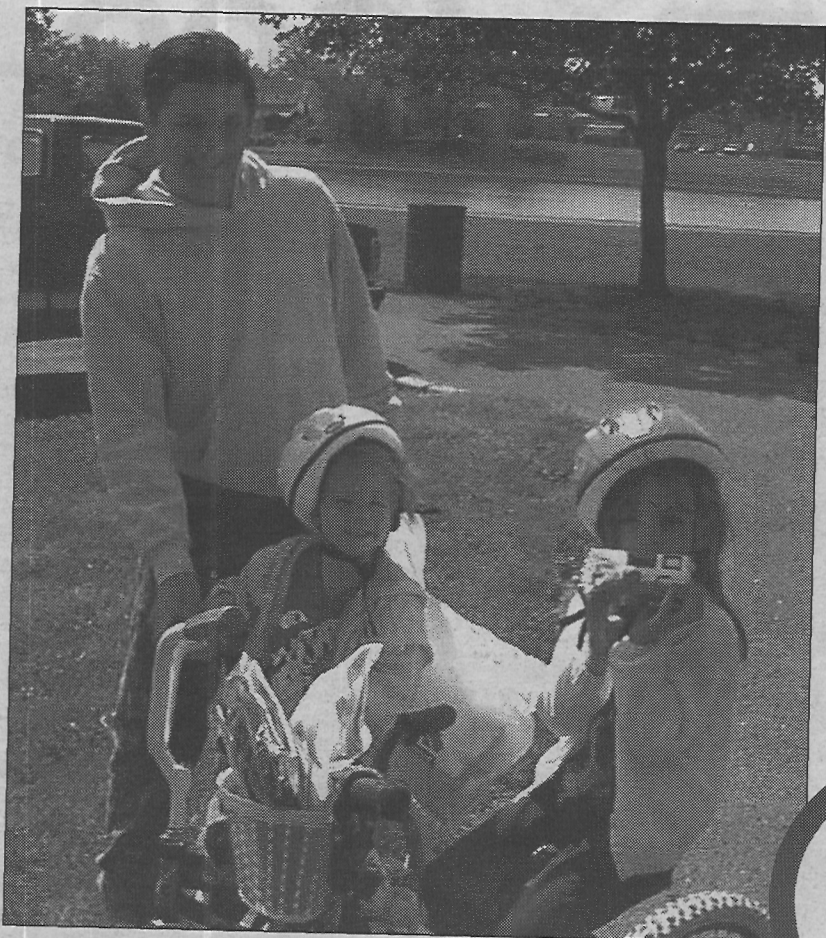
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Good Luck!!!!

Bike Rally Teaches Safety, Reduces Theft

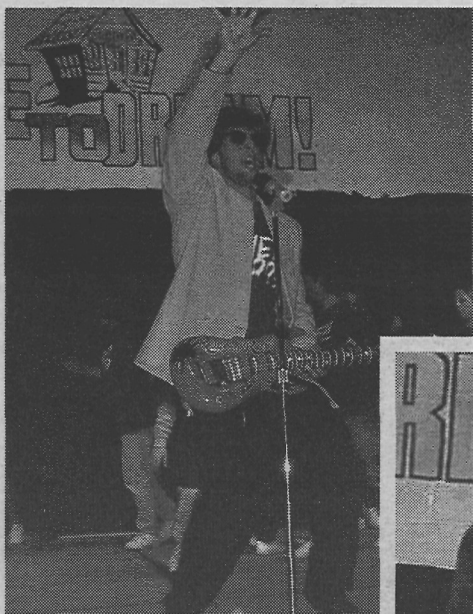


Last Saturday hundreds of kids turned out for the Bicycle Rodeo sponsored by the South Plainfield Police Department. Bike owners registered their bikes and joined the "Ban the Baron" club. "Baron Von Pedaloff" is the bicycle safety program designed by Officer William Frink of the Special Problems Unit to reduce bicycle theft.

Bike N Gear of Middlesex was on hand to inspect the bicycles. Most bikes just needed a few adjustments which were made on the spot. South Plainfield resident Steve Seigel, representing the Central New Jersey Bike Club, was on hand to give bikers safety tips and to ride along with kids on the bike skills course. He checked each child's helmet to make

sure they were properly fitted. To top off the fun, a clown riding a unicycle spent the day performing and making balloon animals for the kids.

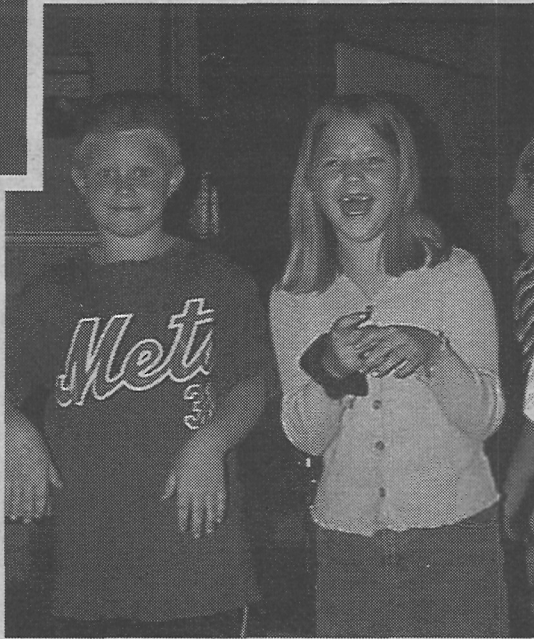
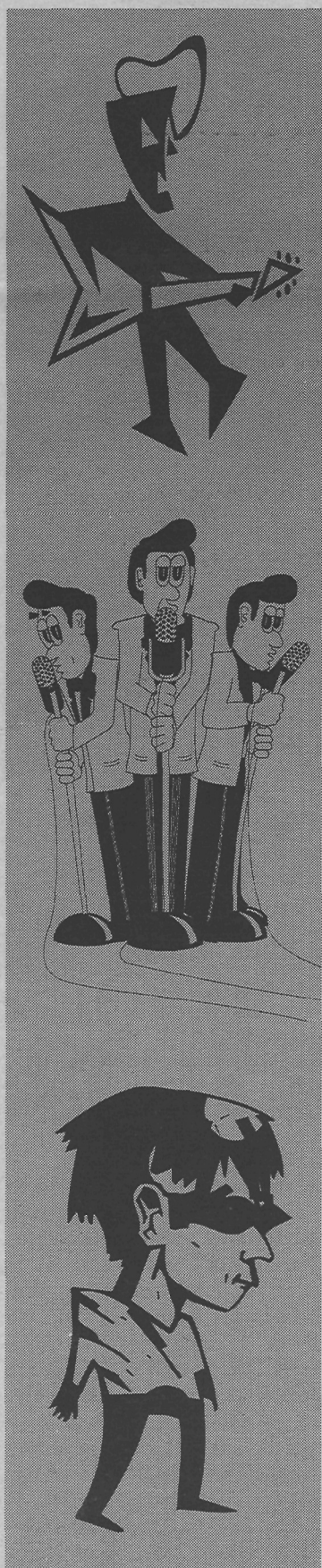
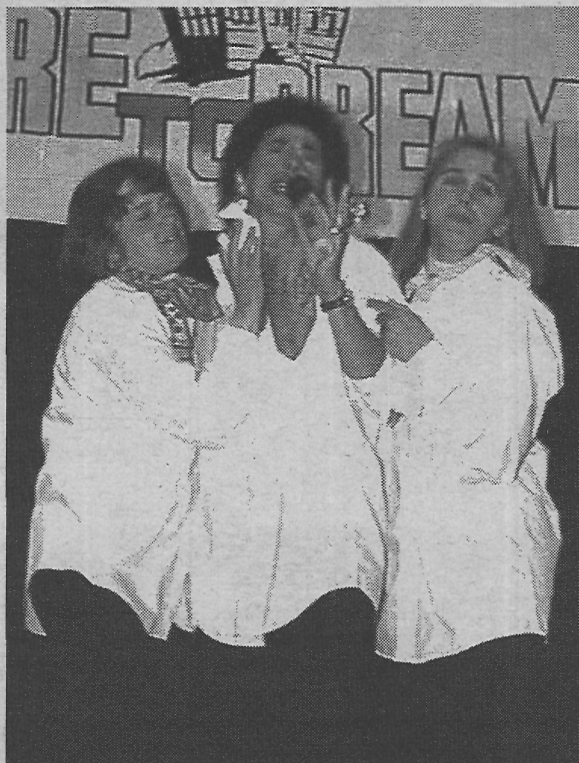
Each biker received a tee shirt or camera, donated by Halls Trucking, and a hot dog and soda. Häagen Dazs donated an ice cream for each biker. Sponsors for this year's Bike Rodeo were Classic Signs, Flanagan's Pub, Freihofer's Bakery, Edwards, Pathmark, NJ Division of Motor Vehicles, Flanagan's Breakfast Club, A&P, AKA Printing, Home Depot, Pepsi-Cola, Caldors, K-Mart, Danko, Hall's Refrigerated Warehouse, McCrisky Home For Funerals, Yogurt Express, Bike N Gear, Physical Therapy Center of Woodbridge and the South Plainfield PBA.



JF Kennedy School Presents

VARIETY 1999

Cast and crew of Variety 1999 are Rich Berkowitz, Carol Christatos, Al Czech, Debbie Czech, Jared Czech, Barbara Doerr, Sandy Doyon, Tom Doyon, Sherry Dvorak, Barry Fidler, Michele Fidler, Barbara Friedman, Bob Friedman, Barbara Habeeb, Al Hook, Eve Hook, Al Lind, Terry Luck, Kevin McCann, Albert Miller, Jim Miller, Maurene Miller, Tom Montemurro, Jill Sosnak, Angela Uffer, Elaine Viola, Jen Ward, Frankie Washington and Linda Woodruff.



IN OUR SCHOOLS

Seven Local Teachers Receive Governor's Recognition Award

Seven South Plainfield teachers were honored at a luncheon at the East Brunswick Chateau on May 20 as Governor's Teacher Recognition Award recipients. Andrea Lanfrit Allen from Roosevelt School, Gail Hasbrouck Merlo from Grant School, Annmarie Nelson from the Middle School, Tara A. Olvany from the high school, Rita Kane Stuewe from Franklin School, Janice Urciuoli from Kennedy School and John Yartz from Riley School were nominated by their colleagues for this honor.

Andrea Lanfrit Allen is currently a fifth grade teacher at Roosevelt, but has also taught grades three, four and six at Riley, Franklin, Middle School and Grant. She graduated from Immaculata College with a degree in History-Social Studies and Elementary Education and has been an educator in South Plainfield for 28 years. She has a strong commitment to her professional associations, including as NEA Convention delegate for eight years, as NJEA Delegate Assembly delegate ('97-'98 and as an alternate delegate in previous years, as MCEA representative and as SPEA chief building representative and membership chairperson. As a Roosevelt teacher Andrea has been a chaperone and instructor on the Stokes trip for the last 9 or 10 years. She has also been active in community service as a past member of Franklin Township Recreational Council, and as a basketball coach in high school and at Rutgers Prep and St. Mary's Mt. Virgin N.B.

Gail Hasbrouck Merlo is a pre-school teacher at Grant School and has taught in South Plainfield for five years. She previously taught jewelry design and has been in education for a total of nine years. She received her un-

dergraduate degree in Fine Arts Education K-12 from Kean University and is pre-school certified. She has also received graduate credits in theater. She is a Sunday school teacher, a former cub scout leader and a member of the PTA. Her other interests include gardening, travel and art-related activities.

Annmarie Nelson teaches sixth grade science, but has also taught grades four, five, seven and eight. Although currently a member of the Middle School faculty, she has taught at Roosevelt as well. Annmarie graduated from Jersey City State College with an Elementary Education (K-8) degree and has been a teacher for 26 years, 18 of them in South Plainfield.

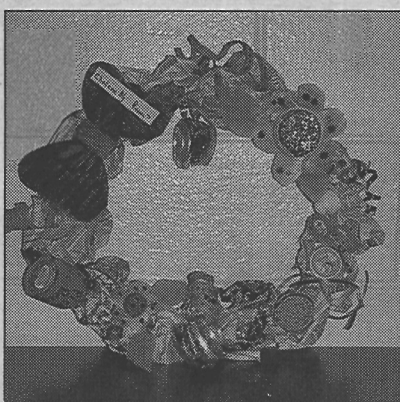
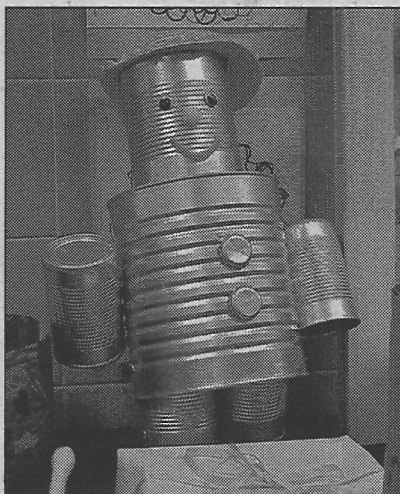
She is a member of NEA, NJEA and New Jersey Science Teachers Association (NJSTA). At the Middle School she has been part of the Cultural Diversity Committee and the Battle of the Classes. Outside of the classroom Annmarie enjoys playing the piano, doing crafts and reading.

Tara A. Olvany has been an educator for 11½ years, five-and-a-half of them in the South Plainfield High School Social Studies Department. She previously taught in Prince William County, Virginia. She now teaches ninth grade World History, tenth grade US History I and eleventh grade US History II, although she has also taught ninth grade Global studies.

She is a graduate of Mt. St. Mary's College with a BA in History Concentration Secondary Education. She received her Masters in Education in Administration and Supervision from Lehigh University. Tara contributes many hours of volunteer work and community service and has been recognized as a "Bob Franks 1998 Volunteer." Her volunteer work includes NY Cares Day, NY Cares Thanksgiving Day, Special Olympics, VOICES (Community Service Club), United Way and March of Dimes Representative. Since 1997 Tara has also been Director of North Plainfield Summer Playgrounds Program. At SPHS she has been student council advisor and freshman basketball coach.

In her "spare time" she enjoys

Continued on page 10



Franklin School Celebrates Earth Month

April brought more than "April showers" to Franklin School. Through the efforts of students and art teacher Mrs. Mary Ellen Kopf, the lobby was transformed into a rain forest. The school celebrated Earth Month in a big way. Early in April the hallways of Franklin School held dozens of clever inventions and eye-catching creations made by the students using recycled materials. A

study of the rainforests brought a new awareness and concern about our environment to the students. A number of fifth grade students helped teacher Mr. Orfan build bird feeders out of recycled plastic milk bottles. The feeders are located outside of each classroom so that the students can observe the birds.

The students were treated to a performance of South Plainfield

resident Dave Street's, "The Habits That Save Habitats." The theater program is a one-man show that covers everything from recycling and the effects on the environment to the extinction of animals. With audience participation, the show combines comedy and a slide presentation along with Dave's special brand of humor and songs, music, laughter and a variety of simple props. The students learn that one person can make a difference in saving our environment and preserving the habitat of the animals that live amongst us.

The show was a special treat for Dave Street as well. Dave is a graduate of Franklin School. The environmental educator/entertainer said, "I am living my dream!" A former substitute teacher at Plainfield High School as well as an entertainer, Dave has spent the last ten years bringing the message "save the environment" to students of all ages. *Habits That Save Habitats* is just one of many shows created by Street. Each show can be tailored to the grade level of his audience.



Here's the Scoop...

Treat your family to a cool dessert and support Roosevelt School at the same time!

Join us for our family ice cream night fundraiser on Thursday, June 3, from 3-9 p.m. at Petrucci's Ice Cream Company, 474 Washington Avenue, Piscataway, NJ.

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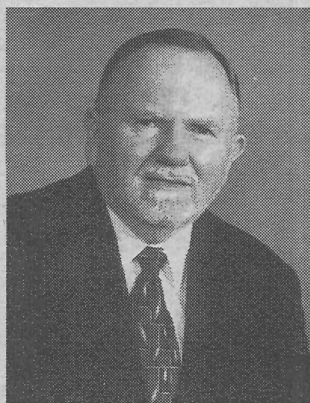
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- Carousel Hair Salon, Oak Tree Rd.
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- Details, So. Clinton Ave.
- Distinctive Landscaping, Oak Tree Rd.
- Heavenly Country Store, Oak Tree Rd.
- Here's the Scoop, Oak Tree & Park Ave.
- Holly Park Video, Park Ave.
- K Foods, Park Ave.
- Krauser's Food Store, Oak Tree Rd.

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Detroit Tigers
Brandon Ullom hits a
triple and a grand slam
home run.**

SPORTS

**Soccer: South
Plainfield Blast Finish
With Winning Season**

Junior Baseball Club Notes

By Frank Hanley

"Bad News Bees" visit the complex

On Sunday afternoon a swarm of bees passed through the baseball complex. The swarm caused a brief interruption of play on fields two, three and four. Coaches, players and spectators cleared the fields to allow the swarm to pass. Thanks to the quick actions of the coaches and the snack stand staff no one was injured.

Traveling All-Stars Parent's meetings were held during the past week. Try outs are currently being held. All try-out announcements are posted at the snack stand and in the dugouts. Contact the All-Star team manager for more information.

Annual dance tickets are still available for the annual SPJBC Dance to be held on Saturday, June 12 from 7 p.m. to midnight at the Polish National Home on New Market Ave. Tickets are \$35 per person and must be purchased by May 29. Admission includes an open bar, buffet, entertainment and tickets for great door prizes. 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

All-Star Team Try-Outs - Ongoing - Contact team managers
Memorial Day Weekend - May 29, 30, 31 - no games
All-Star Day - Sunday, June 6
SPJBC Dance - Saturday, June 12 - no late games
SPJBC Invitational Tournament begins Saturday, July 3

Small Fry C League Highlights

Mariners v. Cardinals—Fine effort by the Mariners' Rick Walton and Brian Pullen. Nathanael Udell tripled and Andrew Oriska pitched well.

Mets v. White Sox—Danny Phillips doubled and Robbie Hoffman pitched four strike outs

Giants v. A's—Brad Martin had a double and pitched two scoreless innings. Chris Spayder hit an RBI single.

Devil Rays v. Yankees—Curtis Wilchek made a big play at third base while Peter Adorna led the Devil Rays with a two RBI hit. Matthew Moates tagged out a runner at home and Omar Rodriguez had an unassisted put-out at second.

Giants v. Tigers—Matt Hoppe singled and Joel Mastrian had two hits for the Giants. Matt Seider hit two singles and a double. Brandon Ullom had two singles for the Tigers.

Braves v. Mets—Brendan O'Shea and Grey Coppi had two hits each. Vinnie Padula had three hits and Corey Bensen had two hits.

Dodgers v. Tigers—Tim Oppelt and Jonathan Marcoux each had two hits. Danny Pompilio had a triple. Brandon Ullom hit a triple and a grand slam home run. Mike Brainard doubled.

White Sox v. Mariners—Dominic Papa had four hits and Chris DeOliveira went five for five. Andrew Gray went three for three and Nick Giakas had two hits.

Yankees v. Mets—Taylor Curtis had three hits and scored four runs. Kyle Buck ended the game by turning a double play. Nick Levendusky hit his first home run.

Braves v. Cardinals—Brian Hanley hit a three run triple.

Devil Rays v. Diamond Backs—Brian Wieckowski and Anthony Simone each pitched six strikeouts. Keith Heckel turned a double play and Zack Olim showed some outstanding fielding.

A's v. Cardinals—Mark Wagner pitched two strong innings for the Cardinals. Rocco Petriello tagged a runner out at home.

Small Fry A League Highlights

Home runs for the week were: *Devils Rays*, Peter DeDanrea, and Allan Mazurek; *Braves*, Chris Moore.

If you would like to see your team featured in this column, contact Frank Hanley.

Junior Baseball Small Fry B Standings

American League		
Team	Win	Loss
Athletics	4	2
Devil Rays	4	2
Yankees	4	3
Tigers	3	2
White Sox	2	4
Mariners	2	5

National League Team		
Team	Win	Loss
Braves	4	1
Cardinals	5	2
Giants	2	2
Diamond Backs	3	4
Mets	0	6

Small Fry A Standings

Team	Win	Loss
Yankees	5	1
Devil Rays	5	3
Diamond Backs	5	3
Mariners	3	5
Braves	2	4
Cardinals	2	6

Pony A Standings

Team	Win	Loss
Mets	5	1
White Sox	5	1
Yankees	2	2
Devil Rays	2	3
Diamond Backs	2	3
Mariners	1	2
Cardinals	0	5

Pony B Standings

Team	Win	Loss
Devil Rays	6	2
Diamond Backs	5	2
Cardinals	4	3
Mets	3	5
Yankees	1	7

HS Girls Drop Two Straight Enroute to Tournaments

By Brian Cochran

The South Plainfield Softball Team began their quest for yet another GMC Tournament title with a little less momentum than they would have liked by dropping two straight games to end the regular season. Before that happened the Tigers traveled to Colonia and once again won a pitchers duel 2-0. Earlier in the year Colonia ace Caren Uchirin limited the Tigers to four hits and one run but that lone run was enough to win it 1-0. This time around Uchirin yielded only three hits but South Plainfield was able to push across two early runs as Alison Barrett pitched another gem, striking out four and surrendering only two hits to earn the 2-0 victory.

Another pitchers duel against top ranked JP Stevens awaited the

Tigers last Thursday, but this time Stevens ace Krystal Petty were able to hold the Tigers to two hits and two runs as JP Stevens scored two runs in the top of the seventh to win 4-2. Christy Buteas and Laura Walter had the lone RBIs for the Tigers who fell to 16-4.

Rounding out the regular season at home was a match up with Old Bridge on Monday and once again the Tigers looked flat. Old Bridge was able to pound out 10 hits while scoring eight runs for the 8-1 win. The Tigers only run came in the first inning as Alison Barrett led off with a single, advanced to second, then to third, and was knocked in on a Kelly Ritchey RBI single.

Prior to going to print, the Tigers began the GMC Tournament...updates to come in next weeks issue.

High School Girls' Track Team Ready for Season

By Alison Butrico
SHPH Student

Spring is here and that means another season of girls' track has arrived. The track team is looking forward to another great season ahead of them.

"It's looking to be a successful season for both the running and throwing events. We have a former state champion working as a coach for discus and the runners look promising," said coach

Harry Morris.

These girls practice every day after school until 4:30. With their hard work and dedication, they are sure to have a terrific season.

Sophomore Erin Mackey said, "We did well at our first scrimmage and everyone seems to work well together. It should be a fun and successful season."

Sophomore Lindsey Aiello agrees that the track team will have a successful season saying, "We have been working hard and I think we will do pretty well this season."

The members of the girls' track team are seniors, Lindsey Aiello, Johanna Alzate, Lindsay Ardis, Cindy Carlson, Lyra-Akina Cummings, Sheryl Cwiekalo, Shannon Dabrio, Chiemeka Ejiochi, Lisa Evans, Jainie Graham, Kelly Koury, Amy Leso, Tamika Limerick, Erin Mackey, Sandra Marin, Gina Nobile, Lindsey Noonan, Gloria Osley, and Adylia Toppin.

Head coach is Harry Morris and the assistant coach is Bill Milone. The team manager is Sarah Oppelt.

South Plainfield Soccer

The Blast Rip Through Season Winning Seven

The South Plainfield Blast, South Plainfield's under 8 soccer team has compiled a 7-0-2 record in its first season in the tough mid-jersey soccer league. Through its nine games the Blast have outscored their opponents by a 41-13 margin. This past weekend they beat West Orange 4-1 and Montgomery 7-1. Their last league game is scheduled for this Saturday at 11 a.m. at Franklin School. The team is coached by Carlos Gonzalez, who has done a great job of getting the most out of his players. The team

roster consists of: Joseph Gonzalez, Chris Asencio, Mike Dezmin, Max Butler, James Seyffart, Chris Izzi, Kristian Barriento, Nick Pauls, Nick Jeglinski, Joey Lacerda, Kenny Breslay and Steven Kelly. Congratulations Blast on an outstanding first season.

Article submitted by Sam Pauls



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Ponytail B League
DiFrancesco Paving
Jessica Miller hits a
three-run homer.

SPORTS

Ponytail C League
Spotlight on Dance
Allison Huffsmith hits two
triples, a single and five RBIs.

ONYTAIL 'C' LEAGUE FLANAGAN'S BC

Coach Jose Lopez
Players Denise Lopez, Katie
Eder, Jessica Vasquez, Ni-
cole Cosma, Stephanie Sze-
liga, Hannah Levine, Carrie
Moore, Tiffany Roth, Kate
Hardy, Jessica Adams, Val-
erie Moreno, Melissa Fisher
and Katelyn Conrad.



ONYTAIL 'B' LEAGUE DiFRANCESCO PAVING

Coach Steve Senz
Players Jessica Senz, Jessica
Miller, Eva Humber, Nicole
Aiello, Cassandra D'Urso,
Jessica Ranger, Jessica Man-
ning, Lauren Haus, Danielle
Arndt, Becky Watts, Kait-
lynn Disch, Qiana Lightner
and Stefanie Miller.



ONYTAIL 'A' LEAGUE POLISH HOME

Coach Mike DiMeglio
Players Denise DiMeglio,
Johanna Hedler, Kelly Eus-
tice, Heather Loesner, Lind-
say Diller, Catherine Flann-
ery, Jody Chepulis, Mi-
chelle DeSantis, Tara Israel,
Brittany DeNitzio, Mariss
Judd, Jackie Kaufman,
Christine Volpe and Heath-
er Kaufman.



*Look for more photos
 next issue*

Ponytail Softball Highlights

A League

Transways 14-Quality Glass
11—Christina Lorange had two
key hits and Meridith Kalman
played an excellent first base for
Transways. Liz Saboski had two
three-run homers for Quality Glass.

Polish Home 17-Halls 8—
Kelly Eustice, Jody Chepulis,
Michelle DeSantis and Catherine
Flannery scored two runs each for
Polish Home. Meaghan Schweers
had three hits and Amanda
George scored three runs for
Halls.

Flanagans 24-Quality Glass
12—Dani Jo DiMaria, Eileen
Milcarek and Jessa Jones key hit-
ting led to a Flanagans team vic-
tory. Amanda Rastelli and Chiara
Tomei had key hits for Quality
Glass.

Flanagan's 4-Transways 3—
Sarah Green's hit at the bottom
of the seventh scored the winning
run for Flanagans. Hollie Gaster
also had a key double. Lisa
Sniscak, Christine Strani and
Robin Zushma turned in some
fine pitching.

Flanagans 11-Polish Home
8—Christine Strani had a grand

slam home and showed good
pitching. Jacquelyn Graisser and
Robin Zushma got some timely
hits for Flanagans. Tara Israel had
a three run triple to lead the Pol-
ish Home in scoring.

B League

DiFrancesco Paving 14-RT
Tech 1—Jessica Senz pitched four
shutout innings. Jessica Miller hit
a three run homer and Becky
Watts and Kaitlyn Disch provided
key hits for DiFrancesco Paving.

C League

Spotlight 14-Quick Chek
3—Kate Reighert had two hits,
two RBIs and scored three runs.
Kimberly Arki and Katie Zacek
made great fielding plays to stop
runs from scoring.

Spotlight 19-PBA 5—Allison
Huffsmith had two triples, a
single and five RBIs and Blaire
Houston pitched five good in-
nings for Spotlight.

Highlights were submitted by
Frank Iber, Mike DiMeglio, Tom
Sniscak, Steve Senz and John
Carrasca. If you would like to see
your teams highlights in the Ob-
server, contact Mike DiMeglio.

Ponytail Softball Traveling All-Star Teams Announced

The South Plainfield Parent's Ponytail Association has announced its 1999 Traveling All Star Teams.

All Stars 14 and Under are:
Kimberly Bishop, Michelle DeSan-
tis, Denise DiMeglio, Kelly Eustice,
Chrissy Furka, Marissa Judd, Jes-
sica Irber, Danielle Schweers,
Meaghan Schweers, Melissa Scotto
and Christine Strani. Coaches are
Mike DiMeglio, Bob Keck, Kevin
Schweers and Debbie Tomei.

All Stars 12 and Under are:
Ashley Bishop, Vicki Boley, Tarryn
Carlton, Mallory Cooper, Allison
DiMeglio, Caitlin English, Kim
Gaub, Jamie Gaughan, Jessa Jones,
Jessica Miller, Kathleen Morgan,
Amanda Rastelli, Jessica Seinz,
Morgan Walter and Lauren Darr.
Coaches are Tom Walter, Ken
Pastelli and Gnen Gaub.

All Stars 10 and Under are:
Darice Bishop, Julianne Bosse,
Kelly Downes, Courtney Eustice,

Donna Garcia, Blaire Houston,
Carlie Kazimir, Denise Lopez,
Tiffany Roth, Lacy Santone, Rachel
Senz, Melissa Szeliga, Stephanie
Szeliga, Stefanie Wiecekowski,
Becky Watts. Coaches are Steve Senz,
Gail Kazimir and Rich Szeliga.

SP Golf League

Week Three

Borman Communications 16
over Masters 4, HCMA 12-8 over
South Plainfield Police, Sport &
Social 11½-8½ over Pornovets,
Twin City Pharmacy 11-9 over
Whitty's Liquors and Dilex 10½-
9½ over Hummel Chemical.

Standings

American League	National League
HCMA 3-0-0	SP Plice 2-1-0
Borman. 2-1-0	Twin City 1-1-1
Arena Spts 2-1-1	VFW 1-1-1
Dilex 2-1-0	Hummel 1-2
Witty's 1-2-0	Masters 1-2
Sport/Social 1-2-0	Pornovets 0-3-0

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Obituaries

James Edward O'Melia, Jr., 65

James Edward O'Melia, Jr., died on Saturday, May 8, at his home.

Born in Jersey City, he had resided in South Plainfield for 31 years before moving to Spring Hill eight years ago.

He and his wife Betty, had also maintained a home in Beach Haven, NJ for many years prior to moving to Spring Hill.

He had been employed as an installer for Western Electric and AT&T before becoming an in-house engineer for New York Telephone of Nynex, NY after serving for 35 years. He retired in 1988.

Mr. O'Melia had served in the United States Army Signal Corps during the Korean Conflict. He was a former communicant of Sacred Heart R.C. Church where he was a founding member and coach of Sacred Heart School basketball team for 10 years, and had served as an usher for the church. He had also been a member of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Beach Haven and had served as an usher for the church. Mr. O'Melia presently was a member of St. Francis Cabrini R.C. Church in Spring Hill.

He was a charter member of the Knights of Columbus Council #6203 in South Plainfield, and is presently a member of the St. Jude's Council in Spring Hill.

Surviving are his wife: Betty (Carlucci) O'Melia; two daughters, Susan Holbrook of South Plainfield and Sharyn Munn of Hudson, Fla.

Also surviving are four grandchildren, Jennifer, Sara, Christopher and Jason.

Funeral services were held at McCrisky Home For Funerals.

Donations made be made to the Hernando-Pasco County Hospice, 12260 Cortez Blvd., Brooksville, FL 34613.

Benjamin James Allen, 63

Benjamin James Allen died on Thursday, May 6, in the Highlands Regional Medical Center in Florida.

Born in Elizabeth, he had resided in South Plainfield for many years before moving to the Sebring, Fla. in 1973.

He was the owner of B.J. Allen Construction Company in Sebring.

He was a member of the Loyal Order of Moose Lodge #2259,

and a former member of the Highlands County Builders Assoc. and had served in the United States Army.

Surviving are a daughter, Debra Chavis of Sebring, Fla. and a brother, Richard O'Melia of Shinglehouse, Pa.

Also surviving are five grandchildren.

Funeral services were held in Sebring, Fla.

James J. Warner, 68

James J. Warner died on Thursday, May 13, at his home.

Mr. Warner was born in Pennsylvania and has resided in South Plainfield since 1949.

He had been employed as a crane operator and a layout man by the Harris Steel Company of South Plainfield for 42 years before his retirement five years ago.

He was a member of the South Plainfield Local of the United Steel Workers Union.

He was pre-deceased by his daughter, Roxanne Warner.

Surviving are his wife, Virginia Barney Warner; two daughters, Romaune Villaneuva of Tampa, Fla. and Rosalane Witherall of Far Hills, Kentucky; a son, Rocco Warner of Springfield, two sisters, Betty Wargo of South Plainfield and Josephine Smulligan of Dunellen and four grandchildren, Raven Villaneuva, Mickey, Amanda and Jamie Witherall.

A memorial service was held in McCrisky Home For Funerals.

Memorial donations to the Hospice Program at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center would be appreciated.

Cecilia K. Kurilew, 76

Cecilia K. Kurilew of Millville, formerly of South Plainfield, died on Wednesday, May 12, at Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center in New Brunswick.

She was born in Poland and came to the United States in 1950 settling in Woonewood, Oklahoma.

She was a former 35 year resident of South Plainfield before moving to Millville 12 years ago.

Mrs. Kurilew was a seamstress for the Middlesex Dress Company in South Plainfield for 20 years before retiring in 1974.

Mrs. Kurilew was a member of the Polish National Home in South Plainfield and a former member of Our Lady Czestochowa Church in South Plainfield.

She is survived by her husband, Walter Kurilew Sr.; four sons, Victor, Walter Jr., Michael and Eugene Kurilew, all of South Plainfield; two daughters, Renenta Cervati of South Plainfield and Nina Pavao of Bridgewater and fourteen grandchildren.

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

PETER A. APPOLLONI 08/09/60 - 05/18/81

Taken from us that day in May
18 years ago, on the 18th day.
It doesn't matter how many years
Remembering always through the tears.
Our lives have such an empty space
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It's always a compliment for me, even a minor ego boost, when

someone tells me that they read my column, asks me about something I've said in it, or something I've written elsewhere. I don't get paid for any of this; I just do it. (Now maybe if I had an agent things would be different.) This column is something I do for grins, and it's a part of my contribution to South Plainfield. It keeps my typing skills out of the pooper too! I enjoy writing, because (evidently) some of you also enjoy reading. I did get a double boost this last week when: 1) a long time reader wrote asking for my advice on a new computer, and 2) a friend from long long ago found my name from this column from this newspaper as part of a search engine result. She lives in another part of the world far away and was as surprised to know of me as I was to hear from her from so long ago and far away. I guess the *Observer* and yours truly are actually "making it" as they say!

So much for fame and no fortune (and that's a hint there, boss!). But getting back to the advice on a new computer. This reader admitted that she was "not much on the auditory aspects of the Internet," but still she did want internet access in addition to word processing etc. We're going to disregard her comment here, because the Internet is absolutely about communication, and sound is way too important to ignore here.

I will even go so far as to say, that when you are buying a new computer after you have already experienced better and worse, pay

INTERACTIVE COMPUTER CORNER

By Briggs Longbothum

big attention to how you couple your senses to your communicating and computing vehicle/environment! By this I seriously mean: 1) get as high a quality monitor as you can afford, a damn good video card to feed it (your sense of sight), 2) get a good quality sound card to drive a good speaker set (your sense of sound), and 3) don't forget to shop for and obtain a decent keyboard for your sense of touch! Internet taste and smells aren't on the drawing boards (yet), so these we can ignore for now. The stock keyboards that ship with most off-the-shelf systems are only ok at best. The touch of a good keyboard is like the touch of a good... well, you get the picture.

After your sensory couplings are satisfied, the rest is simple! Buy what works for what you need it to do with room for future growth as your budget can allow. Your operating system will likely be Windows98 or maybe NT, but we're talking about consumer use here. A reliable and fast accessing hard drive of good size is essential, as is a high speed CD-ROM drive. Go for DVD if you can, and also go for a removable drive like a ZIP. This will enable easy backup.

There exists a world of options and choices for every buyer, and I won't try to go any further than to say to shop wisely, and to consider doing business with your local computer builder. Remember that

these computer things are modular in their design and assembly. It doesn't

matter whose name is on the box. What does matter is how much you pay for it, and who's going to help you when the going gets tough (read "you screwed the pooch" and it doesn't work anymore) and you can't fix it yourself. The modular components inside are critical, but bear no relationship to the name on the box. It's up to you to specify better performing components.

Depending on what your specific uses and needs might be you can pick a CPU (the main micro-processor chip), motherboard chipset, RAM etc. to do a better job for you. Unless you are knowledgeable of computers, good specific advice for your needs is hard to beat.

TIP: Buy a good fax/data/voice modem for your computer, but by all means, plan on accessing the Internet via a cable-modem if they're available in your neighborhood. High speed-high bandwidth Internet connections are truly the best way to go. Use the modem for dialing into your machine remotely or to send faxes from when you access your system remotely on the net.

If you have a specific buying question or advice you'd like, please write to me so I can reply here for all to share. These buying thoughts are of a general nature, and I will be helping this reader with her specific situation. All correspondence is confidential and no names other than mine are used in this column. See you all next time around.

Briggs Longbothum, Contributing Editor (Bruggo@home.com)

By Cyrus n Moon

Weekly Horoscope 5/21 to 5/27

GEMINI 5/21-6/20 Any disputes you have with family matters can easily be discussed or maybe you just need to have a good talk, but be flexible. You may not agree, though a compromise can be worked out. And write a letter this week to whoever. You have been putting it off !!! (Be sure to see tidbits)

CANCER 6/21-7/22 This is a good time to let someone you love know how you feel about a lifetime relationship. You know what you want and this is a good time to convey this with an aspect of (Moon sextiles Venus). Lighthearted talks with children will bring them closer to a parent's heart.

LEO 7/23-8/22 You will sense energies in people and circumstances around you more keenly than usual. Some will ask you for assistance but I don't think you will find this irksome. And you will feel well with the generosity you share. And one piece of mail will be a pleasant surprise.

VIRGO 8/23-9/22 Do you need to make an impression on anyone? Well, talk away but just don't let the conversing be one sided. Also you may be getting a ton of communication between letters, telephone calls and personal conversation. Sort them out so there will be no confusion later on.

LIBRA 9/23-10/22 Teamwork is high on the agenda this week. If any business partnerships are formed at this time they should work out quite well. A loved one seems like they are being ignored, conflicts may be more emotional, and jealousy is possible if a relationship isn't stable.

SCORPIO 10/23-11/21 Events that take

place now may allow you to learn about your real feelings. Also someone wants an answer to an important question. This may be the start of a partnership based on love and mutual understanding. Peach is your color. And key word.... ENCHANTING.

SAGITTARIUS 11/22-12/21 Pay attention to information, for if you do not, you may consequently jump to incorrect conclusions, which causes difficulties in solving your problems. And the fact of the matter is you lack the emotional stability. So investigate and get all the facts.

CAPRICORN 12/22-1/19 Your circle of friends is utmost in your mind this week. The mutual trust and understanding between you constantly enriches your life and theirs. So when asked for an opinion instead of shooting from the hip with an answer think it out. They will thank you for it.

AQUARIUS 1/20-2/18 You will be likely to crave emotional excitement. Something that departs from the routine of your daily life. A visit to NYC may just do the trick. If you have to deal with people on the work level you will have to advocate change and new policies. Assume the leadership role.

PISCES 2/19-3/20 Well off you go into your daydreaming world. You will be just plain lazy. So call in sick on Tuesday (who said that) and spend the day just reading, listening to music, or go to the park. This will refresh you for the rest of the week, so a lot more can be

accomplished.

ARIES 3/21-4/19 Mars sextile Saturn, what an excellent transit for carefully planning and executing projects that require great diligence and patience. Goals that you are working on now will aspire in the future; this transit is not for now. It's a payoff that has been worked for, later on.

TAURUS 4/20-5/20 Financial affairs are favorable this week. Especially those involving foreign investments, medicine or the law. Also any legal matters decided will work out to your benefit. How about getting together with some friends for an evening of lighthearted companionship.

TIDBITS: Happy birthday Gemini. People born under this sign are many sided, quick in thought and action, clever with words, skillful at handling others, brimful of new ideas. Your ruling planet MERCURY was the ancient messenger of the gods. Mercury in astrology rules communication travel. The symbol is the Twins: Associated with duality, humanism, versatility, and communication. Your birthstone is the Agate. This multicolored precious stone protects from deception and falsehood, and eloquence especially in declarations of love. A lovely city for you to visit would be San Francisco or London. Just be careful, as Gemini is prone towards accidents when traveling. You also arouse unexpected anger in others.

QUOTE: If a smile adds time to a life, Then I hope I spend it with you.

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Teachers Receive Governor's Award

Continued from page 6

playing golf, figure skating, reading and traveling.

Rita Kane Steuwe is a second grade teacher at Franklin and has also taught at Grant School. In her 38 years of teaching experience, 28 of them in South Plainfield, Rita has taught grades K-4. She received her undergraduate and graduate degrees in Elementary Education from Marywood University, and is a member of NEA, MCEA, SPEA, AND NCTA. Her community activities include Eucharist Minister to the home bound, CCD teacher, Elija's Promise (feeding the homeless) and other church-related projects. At school she has been on the Report Card Committee and Advisor to the Student Council. Rita's favorite "outside interests" are her "three wonderful children!"

Janice Urciuoli, Kennedy School, is another veteran teacher, with 25 years of experience—

all of them in South Plainfield. With the exception of two years as a supplemental instructor and one year teaching kindergarten, Jan has always taught fourth grade. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University and is a member of the Geography Alliance. At Kennedy she is the originator and advisor of American Girl Club, which emphasizes history and reading through dolls and crafts. She was also Safety Patrol advisor. Her outside interests include active membership at First Baptist Church of South Plainfield, working with crafts and gardening for relaxation.

John Yartz is currently the computer teacher at Riley School, but has also taught fourth and fifth grades. He has spent his entire career, 33 years, serving the children of South Plainfield. John graduated from East Stroudsburg University with a degree in Elementary Education, and is a member of SPEA, NJEA and NEA.

Why Save the Rainforest?

By Michael Madalone, 5th grade, Franklin School

The rainforests are very important to us. They are called the lungs of the Earth, because what they do best is give us oxygen. They are almost gone now even though they are home to many plants and animals, and they are still being chopped down today. Why? (for money)

People chop down the lungs of the Earth for money or for farming land that will only be used for three years then the soil will be completely washed away, and they will have to chop down more trees for their farms. That is why we should save the rainforests. That is why you could adopt an acre of land to protect it from destruction. You should not purchase products that are made from destroying rainforest trees. It is scary that Crayola, a very trusted company, does. That's why you should agree with me and many others in the saving of our lungs, the rainforest.

I hope you have learned how much the rainforest means to us, just like I learned. I hope you protect the lungs of the Earth and realize we are only killing ourselves.

POLICE REPORT

• A Burger King employee reported receiving harassing phone calls while at work. After the second call within 10 minutes, the manager called the police.

• A Kenyon Ave. resident reported the theft of his bike from his garage. He did not know the make or serial number but was able to give officers a description of the bike. The garage door had been left open.

• Colorful Story Books, Hollywood Ct., reported an attempted burglary. Two of three hinge pins had been removed and there were pry marks on the door. No entry was gained.

• A Plainfield resident reported the theft of her tractor while parked at Marinoware on Metuchen Rd.

• A Winfield Park resident, an employee of Clayton, turned onto Ryan St. and found two trucks bearing the name "Perfection" one white and one blue, blocking the roadway. When he blew his horn to alert them to move, the driver of the blue truck became abusive. The victim exited his truck to speak to the driver and the driver of the blue "Perfection" truck threatened him with a knife.

• A Melrose Ave. resident reported the theft of a cell phone from his car. The victim was uncertain whether or

not he had locked the vehicle. A van parked at the same location had also been entered, nothing was reported missing. Fingerprints were lifted from the first vehicle.

• Teresa Heiling of Piscataway, an employee of New Life Christian School, New Brunswick Ave., reported the theft of her pocketbook from the school. She stated that she had placed the bag behind a desk in a classroom and when she went to retrieve it, she discovered it missing. She noted that numerous parents drop the children off at the school. A check of the area for the purse was negative.

• A Nunnick Lane resident reported the theft of a lawn mower from this backyard. The machine had been chained to a pole. Both the lock and chain were gone as well.

• Odd Job, Helen St., reported an employee was seen stealing a Sony Walkman by security guards. The employee was terminated and a complaint signed. The merchandise was retained by Odd Job.

• Police responded to a call of cardiac arrest on Franklin Ave. Despite attempts at CPR by officers and the Mercy Six Unit from Muhlenberg Hospital, the man was pronounced dead.

Officers noticed a spoon and cigarette lighter near the bed. The victim was a known drug user. In addition, a syringe and glassine fold was found.

• A Watchung resident reported the side window of his car had been smashed and tools removed from inside while he was parked at home depot.

• A Central Ave. resident reported her car windshield had been smashed. The car had been parked on Hamilton Blvd.

• A Middle School student reported that a female classmate had made terroristic threats and had continually harassed the student throughout the year. The victim had been injured by the suspect in the past. The victim claims she had reported the incidents to the principal and was told the suspect was not serious and to go about her business. A complaint will be filed.

• A Foster Ave. resident reported theft of his bike from the high school. The make and serial number are unknown.

• Plainfield Ave. resident reported several rooms of his house ransacked after the front door had been kicked or pushed in. Jewelry and a VCR were stolen.

Classifieds

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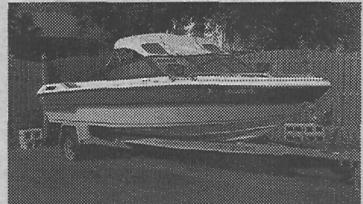
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Cultural Arts Musical Program Set for Sunday

The South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission will present its last musical program before summer recess at the Wesley United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall located on Plainfield Ave. on Sunday, May 2 at 3:00 p.m.

Performing on this occasion will be four talented artists: Mrs. Cynthia Archer, pianist; Mrs. Jane delta Peruti, soloist with the Grace Episcopal Church choir; Bill Weston, vocalist from Plainfield and Kevin Ng and Grace Lin, violinists from Westfield. A program of beautiful music has been selected by these artists, including works by such masters as Chopin, Schubert, Duke Ellington and others.

Those who attended the Commission's program last month were treated to an afternoon of beautiful music and this program promises no less. Admission is free and the South Plainfield community and general public are cordially invited to attend.

SPHS Students Commended at Writing Conference at MCC

By Krista M. Gunderson
SPHS Tiger Times

Once again, the students of South Plainfield High School have demonstrated their exceptional writing talents.

Five SPHS students took home awards from the Middlesex County High School Writing Conference held at Middlesex County College in March.

Approximately 50 students accompanied by English teachers Ms. Alissa Pecora, Ms. Gale Pastula and Mrs. Donna Timko attended the annual conference.

The conference began with continental breakfast and greetings from Elisabeth Altruda, director of the conference and Santi V. Buscemi, chairman of the English department.

All participants received a packet with an agenda and workshop descriptions. For next two hours each student selected two workshops on subjects such as "Magic Realism" and "Haiku, Can You?"

"Esteban is a god!" said junior Mike DeMatos, referring to a story in the Magic Realism workshop. "I enjoyed reading the stories by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. They were offbeat and interesting."

"I learned a lot from the professors that taught the workshops," said junior Eric Johnson. "They gave new perspectives on writing techniques."

After the workshops were over, a special presentation was given by Dr. Laura Winters, an English professor at the College of St. Elizabeth and Drew University. Her passion for poetry and lively reading of "Trouble in a Minnesota Town" by Neal Bowers was well-received by the audience.

After lunch, the writing test awards ceremony was held in the auditorium. The awards began with the journalism category. Students from South Plainfield High School swept all but one of the prizes. Chris Francis (*Natalie - Trainer and Friend*) and Mike DeMatos (*Jump, Five and Wail*) took home honorable mention while Justin Woo nabbed third place with his tribute to friend Kevin Reitz, who passed away last summer. Erin Mackey placed first with her article, *A Little Girl's Struggle*.

Woo also was awarded first place in the essay contest for another piece inspired by the loss of Reitz and sophomore Mary Brizak won third place for her short story, *Life With Mikey*.

All of the students enjoyed conference and were filled with pride for their fellow classmates' accomplishments.

"We cheered very loudly for every SPHS student who won," said senior Joe Monahan, "I think we scared the others schools."

As Woo put it, "Learning about new forms of writing communication was good, but winning contests made the day even better."

High School Will Miss Matticola

By Jennie Rayho
SPHS Tiger Times

Joe Matticola is retiring at the end of this school year after 39 years as a dedicated and hard-working physical education and drivers' education instructor.

All of the students who had Matticola for drivers' ed can testify to the fact that he greatly aided them in their preparation for the written test. Junior Diana Algoos said, "Thank God for Matticola! He helped make the written test a breeze."

Matticola is also the SADD (Students Against Drunk Driving) advisor. Senior Lenora Zerbian, the recording secretary of SADD remarked, "The club won't be the same without Matticola. Who will make sure that there is always a bake sale ready for Back to School Night, or make sure that the marquee outside of the middle school warns drivers of the dangers of drunk driving around the holidays?"

When asked how he felt about retiring, Matticola, who has been

teaching since 1960, said, "That's thirty-nine years. That's too long!"

Once he leaves Matticola will have more free time. This means that he can have more opportunities to relax and do more of the things that he enjoys, such as smoke a cigar in his driveway or drive around town in his famous green van or as it is often called "the Matticola Mobile."

Junior Krista Gunderson remembers, "When a student asked if an outlandish question would be on the written test, he would give one of two answers. He would say, 'Don't be ridiculous,' or 'they never asked that before, but they could!'"

Matticola will surely be missed. His catch phrases will no longer echo through the halls. Future SPHS students will never be asked, "Are you kids cutting again?" or be told that their classes better be cut short for the day because they are learning "too much knowledge."

Although he will be gone, Matticola will never be forgotten.

Whenever you get behind the wheel you will remember the rules of the road that he taught you. And whenever you feel that the pressures of life are too much to bear, think of what Matticola always says, "It don't make no difference."

But some things do make a difference, such as Matticola's departure from SPHS. The school may never be the same.

Rescue Squad Answer 152 calls in April

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad logged 152 calls in April, including 111 medical assistance requests, 20 motor vehicle accidents, six fires, four community service requests, four transportations, two mutual aid requests and five maintenance runs.

The squad's volunteers spent 362 crew hours answering the April calls.

In the first four months of 1999, the squad responded to 545 calls.

A Special THANK YOU

to Halls Trucking of South Plainfield from the producers, cast and crew of **LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS**. Halls provided transportation for the huge plant puppets and other set pieces for free. The page thanking HALLS was accidentally left out of the program. The drama club and all involved with Little Shop of Horrors wanted to be sure that Halls received recognition for their valuable assistance.

May 1999

Meetings & Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Copy Deadline Friday, 5 pm Advertising Deadline: Monday, 5 pm	Ekls Blood Drive 3-8:30 pm Land Management Comm 7:30 pm UNICO Golf Outing Beaver Brook CC	BOE Meeting 8 pm Sacred Heart Funstival 99 Starts Drug-Free Family Seminar at Library 7 pm Bd of Adjustment 8 pm	Sacred Heart Funfestival 99 Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	Sacred Heart Funfestival 99 Business Association Meeting at Sherbans 8 am	Sacred Heart Funfestival 99 AAPR Chapter #4144 Meeting 12 noon	Sacred Heart Funfestival 99 PBA Car Show 1-7 pm Cragwood Rd.
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Borough Council Agenda Meeting 8 pm	Planning Board Meeting 8 pm	Traffic Safety Advisory Comm. 7 pm Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	Recycling Commission 8 pm Borough Council Meeting 8 pm	Publication of So. Plfd. Observer	
30	31	JUNE 1	2	3	4	5
Historical Society Harbor Cruise starting in Perth Amboy		Board of Adjustment 8 pm	Business Advisory Group 5:30 pm Court 9:30 am	Taxpayers Advisory Group 7 pm	Publication of So. Plfd. Observer	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Recreation Comm. Meeting 7 pm PAL Borough Council Agenda Meeting 8 pm	Planning Board Meeting 8 pm	Environmental Comm. 8 pm Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	Borough Council Meeting 8 pm	Publication of So. Plfd. Observer	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		Board of Adjustment 8 pm	Court 9:30 am & 7 pm		Publication of So. Plfd. Observer	

Want to know what's going on in South Plainfield? Get home delivery of The Observer. Subscription form on page 7.