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# South Plainfield Observer

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AUG 20 1999

VOL. 2, NO. 41

50 CENTS

AUGUST 20, 1999

## Borough Notes

### COUNCIL

■ A lien of \$614.58 has been placed on the 2004 Greenwich St. property for costs incurred by the borough to bring the property in compliance with health and property maintenance code standards. The property owners were cited by the health department and failed to correct the violations in a timely fashion.

■ 130,000 leaf bags will be purchased at a cost of \$27,820. The purchase is being made through a cooperative purchasing agreement. Piscataway solicited the bids for all members of the cooperative group and obtained volume discounts which would not have been available to individual municipalities.

■ Cerulean Technologies, Inc. will be paid \$7,300 for the 1999 maintenance contract for the police department mobile data terminals.

■ The following properties had tax liens place against them for health violations. They are 314 Oak Tree Road for \$359.57, 1125 Sherman Ave. for \$359.57, 528 Franklin Ave. for \$328.40 and 1800 Plainfield Ave. for \$424.28.

■ The Clean Communities Program will purchase eight litter cans at the cost of \$385 each for a total cost \$3,080. The low bid was received from Vail Hardware.

■ A contract in the amount of \$3,500 was awarded to J&L Plumbing for remodeling of a bathroom at Borough Garage.

■ T. O'Brien has been removed from the Land Management Advisory Board for lack of attendance at meetings and T. Morgan has been moved from Alternate I to Full Member.

■ Nancy and Raymond Komoski have been hired as part time drivers for Meals on Wheel.

■ Lisa Revolinski was hired as a lifeguard for the community pool.

### BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

■ Bradford Green of Oxford Ave. has been granted approval to construct a two-story addition to his house.

■ Fischer Contracting, Inc. on Hamilton Blvd. was granted a use variance to permit a printing business in one of the bays with certain conditions.

### PLANNING BOARD

■ The Storybook House was granted preliminary site plan approval with conditions for a child and learning center on Front Street.

■ Multiplex, Inc. was granted permission to construct a concrete pad for a nitrogen tank at their Corporate Blvd. location.



Children in Recreation's Summer Fun Program spend their final reading session for the 1999 session in the shade of a Franklin School tree. Afterwards, the children enjoyed a party. See the centerfold for related story and photos.

Photo by Pattie Abbott

## Parade Grand Marshal Takes Pride in Helping Others

Eleanor Haines has been named Honorary Grand Marshal of the 42 Annual South Plainfield Labor Day Parade. The theme is "South Plainfield is Marching Into the Millennium".

Many generations of South Plainfield residents know Eleanor from her years at the library or from her volunteer work with John F. Kennedy School or the VFW. Children who once were greeted by her as they entered the library now bring their children and find the same friendly greeting and warm smile.

Millie Condon has been with the library for 15 years, but she remembers Eleanor from years before, when Millie would bring her own children to the library. She offered this description of Eleanor Haines. "She is a true lady. She would give you the shirt off her back, or turn inside out to help you. She has incredible stamina. We used to tease her about her busy schedule. She would juggle so many activities!"

Rudy Poczak of the VFW Post 6763 has known Eleanor for years as well. He remembers her volunteer work as a "Cootie" helping at Lyons Hospital. He noted she has been a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of VFW Post 6763 for many years. She was instrumental in having Borough Park renamed Veterans' Park. She frequently helped with the monthly dinners sponsored by the post, and helped to organize children's Christmas parties as well as other

Continued on page 8



Eleanor Haines

## The Voice of South Plainfield

By Patricia Abbott

Even if you don't know Bill Cochran, you may recognize his familiar voice as the announcer for South Plainfield at high school football games, basketball games and wrestling matches for nearly 20 years. Bill has also served as the Master of Ceremonies for the Labor Day Parade for 18 years as well. Last year he was named Honorary Grand Marshal.

A simple sign with the words "apply inside" enticed Bill Cochran into the police station in 1970. For a man with a young family which included two small children, the job was ideal. It offered security and the ability to work in his hometown. He joined

the police department on August 31, 1970, the same day as Captain Wayne Bowden who recently retired on July 23. Cochran's final day as a South Plainfield Police Officer is August 20, after nearly three decades of civil service.

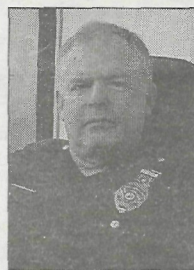
Bill is a man who likes to get involved. Although he could have retired after 25 years on the force, he had just begun to head up the Communications Division, and the Emergency 9-1-1 number was finally becoming a reality in South Plainfield. He was given a chance to provide input

on setting up the division. It was a challenge he wanted to see through to completion. He has headed the division for five years and overseen 13 dispatchers who field the 9-1-1 calls.

Bill has been a resident of South Plainfield since 1968. His young family is now grown. He has four children, Brian, 33; Bill Jr. 30; and twins Michelle and Christopher, 26. He also has three grandchildren.

His son, Christopher, has taken the civil service test for the police department and Bill has hopes that he will be eligible. He has been a partner with Georgeann DiGrazia in Mohn's Flowers and Fancy Foods for nearly ten years. He has an interest in mili-

Continued on page 9



William Cochran

## Ferdinand Thiel, Former Council President, Dies

Ferdinand "Ferd" A. Thiel, 69, died last Sunday at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Mr. Thiel was extremely active in South Plainfield and was honored for his accomplishments and dedication by being named the Grand Marshal of the South Plainfield Annual Labor Day Parade in 1992.

An active member of the Republican Party, he served as councilman from 1983-1986 and was voted council president in 1985. He also was a member of the South Plainfield Board of Health, the Planning Board and Board of

Adjustment and had served as chairman of both. He received the Bob McCann Community Service Award in 1981 for outstanding service to the community of South Plainfield.

Thiel was a member of the South Plainfield Lion's Club, where he held numerous positions for the organization including president 1987-1988 and Deputy District Governor of District 16D. He was also a member of the American Legion Chaumont Post #243.

(See page 10 for his complete obituary.)

The South Plainfield Labor Day Parade  
Committee would like to invite all former  
Labor Day Parade Grand Marshals to  
attend the 42nd Annual Labor Day Parade  
as their honorary guests.

For further information,  
contact Debbie Krawiec at 757-9432.



## In My Opinion

## Letters

Dear Editor,

I am sure that you are aware of the pending retirement of long-time Police Officer William Cochran who has served our community for the past 30 years. Having known Bill personally for 22 years, I thought that I was more than familiar with his commitment to our community. I have found that I was quite mistaken as I reviewed a list of his accomplishments and memberships. Unfortunately, one accolade was overlooked that I would like to see corrected.

Bill was an instrumental figure in the consolidation and construc-

tion of the existing 9-1-1 dispatch center. Needless to say, change is always a difficult task and this project was more than a challenge for all concerned. Bill worked closely with the officers and members of the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department to ensure that all our communication needs and concerns were addressed properly and with a high degree of professionalism. We truly appreciate his dedication and commitment to the ever-changing needs of the fire department as well as the foundation that he helped established between the

emergency services.

Although we are sorry to see him leave, we understand that change is inevitable. We will remember the truly committed individual that has served above and beyond what any community has the right to expect. Thanks Bill, and congratulations on your retirement and best wishes for health and happiness in your "new career"!

**FRATERNALLY,  
J.A. ABRUZZESE  
CHIEF-SPVFD AND THE  
MEMBERS OF THE SPVFD**

Dear Mayor Gallagher &amp; Borough Council:

On behalf of all the residents involved with the Grant Avenue block party on July 10, we would like to thank you for the opportunity to have the advantage of everyone in the neighborhood meeting each other and having many laughs. Several families had introduced themselves for the very first time. The children really enjoyed riding their bikes and playing games without traffic. We all look forward to planning our second annual block party next year.

**SINCERELY,  
DIANE ZEKAS, NANCY HOFFMAN  
GRANT AVENUE**

### Vision 2001 Makes Donations to SP Board of Education

Vision 2001 recently sent a check to the Board of Education for \$190 from donations received from staff payroll deductions to be used towards: athletics-\$70, computer technology-\$100 and industrial arts-\$20. They also announced that the following donations will be forwarded to the PTA/PTSO's as follows:

- Elementary Schools PTA/PTSO's for Stokes Forest Trips -\$250. each from Vision 2001 50/50 Raffle.
- Middle School PTA-\$350. for the Tiger Gold Program; - Payroll Deduction-\$100. - Vision 2001 50/50 Raffle-\$250.
- Special Education PTA \$380. for their Parent/Staff Workshops; - Payroll Deduction \$130. - Vision-2001 Raffle \$250.
- High School PTA \$1,314 for Project Graduation; - Vision 50/50 Raffle-\$250. - Car Show-\$325. - A&P Donation-\$500. - Diploma Dollars-\$239.

### 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: September 14, October 12, November 9, December 14  
2000: January 11, February 8, March 7, April 4

#### Regular Monthly Meetings

1999: 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:  
August 31, 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:

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:

August 24, September 14, November 9, November 23  
September 28, October 26, December 14, December 28

#### Council Meetings

##### AGENDA MEETINGS ..... PUBLIC MEETINGS

Tuesday, Sept. 7 ..... Thursday, Sept. 9  
Monday, Sept. 20 ..... Thursday, Sept. 23  
Tuesday, Oct. 12 ..... Thursday, Oct. 14  
Monday, Oct. 25 ..... Thursday, Oct. 28  
Monday, Nov. 8 ..... \*Monday, Nov. 22  
Monday, Dec. 6 ..... Thursday, Dec. 9

\* Date has been changed from Monday, Nov. 15

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

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

### South Plainfield Observer

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Publisher/Editor  
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Associate Publisher  
SUSAN KANEPS  
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#### SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

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

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



The Sampton Ave. gargoyle is adorned in the hopes of much-needed rain. The residents of the home periodically decorate the familiar creature to coincide with current events.

## Vision 2001 Elects 1999/2000 Officers, Awards Scholarships

The South Plainfield Vision 2001 Education Foundation completed its fifth academic year on June 30. They also reorganized for the 1999/2000 academic year. Emil R. Leporino was elected president; Eric Radell, business vice president; Dr. Lillian DeSimon, education vice president; and Richard Regan, secretary/treasurer.

Vision 2001 is a not-for-profit tax exempt organization which was created to raise funds for student programs in the South Plainfield School District. These funds are used to encourage good citizenship as well as academic achievement. The foundation also establishes endowments for scholarships, internships and cooperative work opportunities and encourages inventive business/school partnerships.

This year Vision 2001 awarded two \$4,000 scholarships at \$1,000 annually to Matthew and Daniel LaSparta, and four \$1,000 scholarships each to Melinda Lawson, Kaminee Sewdat, Sandra Reedy and Thais Petrocelli. Vision 2001 was also responsible for the selection of scholarship recipients for the Drew Forgasch Memorial Scholarship, the Robustelli Family Foundation, the Robert Cresby Memorial Scholarship, the Kevin Reitz Memorial Scholarship, the Historical Society Scholarship and the Giakas Family Scholarships. In addition, through its national

affiliation, The Citizens Scholarship Foundation of America, Erin and Patricia Walter each received a \$500 grant.

Since its founding on October 4, 1994, the Foundation has been responsible for the following:

- Award of 38 scholarships with a value of \$64,500.
- Award of \$62,500 in scholarship endowments.
- Donations in the amount of \$26,000 for student curriculum programs
- Disbursement of \$19,350 for academic incentive programs, which include the high school Gold Card, Middle School Tiger Gold Card, Project Graduation, Middle School Parents' Handbook for EWT Programs, fifth grade environmental education trip and Special Education Parent/Teacher Workshops.

This academic year's achievements also included the qualification of 275 students in the high school Gold Card Program, the 3rd Annual Barbecue, the 2nd Annual Business/Education Forum, the 4th Annual Art Auction and the 4th Annual Golf Classic.

#### CORRECTION



Last week, we incorrectly identified Arlene Anthony, the woman in the above photo with Bill Tuthill of the South Plainfield Historical Society. We apologize for the error.

To purchase tickets for the society's Labor Day quilt raffle, contact any Historical Society member or call Mary Mazepa at 754-3503 or Bill Tuthill at 756-9654. The quilt is currently on display in the library.

## Carousel Hair Salon

The Family Place

**307 Oak Tree Avenue,  
South Plainfield, NJ**

Tues • Wed • Thurs • Fri  
8am-4pm  
Saturdays • 6:45 am-3 pm  
Closed Sunday & Monday

**908-668-8397**



# Community BRIEFS

## Keith Lewis Sues to Get Cadillac

Keith Lewis, who thought he won a Cadillac last May at the South Plainfield Business Association's Golf Outing, has filed a suit to get his Cadillac.



Lewis made a hole in-one on the seventh hole and the celebrations began. He was congratulated by his foursome and play stopped along the golf course while he was awarded the keys. The celebration and ceremony were pictured in *The Observer*. He later found out that the paperwork indicated the winning hole was actually the fifth.

For the next few weeks every-

one was pointing fingers at everyone else, but Lewis still did not receive the car. Finally, word came down from the insurance com-

pany and the promoter that the paperwork said that the Cadillac winner had to have a hole-in-one on the fifth hole.

Lewis has now filed suit against the South Plainfield Business Association, Golf Event Services, Summit Bank, the Cranbury Golf Course, Kemper Pontiac Cadillac, and Art Muglia, a member of the Business Association. Lewis is asking for \$40,000 for the Cadillac and \$275,000 for punitive damages.

## Lt. John Brembt Refuses Plea Bargain

Lt. John F. Brembt turned down a plea agreement with the Hunterdon County Prosecutors office which would have given him probation and required him to resign from the South Plainfield Police Department.

Brembt is accused of firing his gun during an argument in a restaurant parking lot in Reading-

ton. As a result of the altercation he was charged with aggravated assault, official misconduct, hindering apprehension and obstruction of justice. He also left the scene without reporting the incident to the police.

Brembt has remained suspended from the police department since the charges were filed in February.

## Community Police Survey Results Released

The South Plainfield Police Department 1999 Community Survey results have been released. Only 23 residents took the time this year to fill out the survey. With only a handful of replies, the results of the survey may not represent the community, but the police department will use the results to decide on what changes may be needed.

The results showed a satisfaction in the response time for a call, the professionalism and attitude of the police officers and how complaints are handled by the officers.

Getting mixed reviews was the manner in which a complaint is handled and competence of the communications operators. A dispatcher is usually the first person

contacted when a problem arises. Residents said they have no interaction with the community and need more visibility.

Residents also gave a mixed answer when asked how safe and secure they felt in the borough and their neighborhood. The overall performance of the police department was judged as good.

Suggestions as to what issues the police should address in the future were: to increase the number of police officers; to concentrate more on juvenile drug/alcohol abuse and to crack down on disorderly juveniles, speeders and traffic volume. Other suggestions included: use speed bumps, increase community interaction, street lights, "No Parking" signs and "Children at Play Signs."

## Fire Department Wins Glitter Award

Ed Silhanek, president of the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Co., pictured right with Jon Dean, chairman of the Grounds Committee and Andy Juttner, captain of the Volunteer Fire Dept., accepted South Plainfield Clean Business Association's Glitter Award from Joe Diegnan, president of the Clean Business Association (CBA). Emil Leporino (also pictured), chairman of the Clean Communities Advisory Board, was also on hand to honor the fire department for the pride they take in maintaining their firehouse.



The fire company, which was formed in 1907, has had only nine chiefs in its ninety-two year history. The present building at the corner of Maple and Lakeview avenues was built in 1967. Jon Dean explained that the original shrubbery along the Maple Ave. frontage was beginning to look ragged and the Grounds Committee decided to renovate the landscaping. Dean, who owns A-Tech Landscape Design, served as landscape architect and Mr. Juttner of Visions Water-scapes Ltd. designed the pond. They donated the materials and all

the work was done by company members.

Ed Silhanek noted that it's not always easy to find the time to do maintenance work, since the 56 active members handle as many as ten calls every day. Although the company's equipment is provided by the borough, the members are not paid for their services. However, their strong commitment and pride lead them to take on projects to improve the facility. Last year, they renovated the back yard, adding a picnic table, grill, playground and horseshoe pitching court.

The fire company building houses five entities, the Volunteer Fire Department, the Volunteer Fire Company, the Exempt Association, the Relief Association and the Bureau of Fire Prevention. Except for the Exempt Association which includes those who have served at least seven years, all members belong to all divisions. The Exempt Association owns the fire company building. The company is responsible for fundraising and grounds maintenance. (The fire department does the firefighting.)

The new landscaping and pond, especially attractive in this dry summer, are enjoyed by Canada Geese as well as humans. Silhanek pointed out that the pond and waterfall do not use 'running' water. An underground pump circulates the water.

The CBA gives Glitter Awards to South Plainfield businesses and organizations 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 more information, contact Alice Tempel at (908) 226-7621.

## Police Ask for Help in Fatal Motorcycle Accident

The South Plainfield Police Department is asking that anyone who witnessed the fatal motorcycle accident on Hamilton Blvd. and Amboy Ave. last Monday evening to contact them.

Stephen Gray, 21, a Plainfield resident, was killed when a truck driven by Rolland Rhames from Shirley, NY attempted to make a left hand turn from Hamilton Blvd. into the Cigo station. Gray, who was traveling south on Hamilton Blvd., struck by the

truck and thrown from his motorcycle. The South Plainfield Rescue Squad and Mercy 6 Emergency were called to the accident scene. Mr. Gray was pronounced dead at Robert Wood's University Hospital in New Brunswick a short time later. Rhames has been charged with failure to yield and having no insurance.

If you have any information regarding this accident, call Officers Campagna or Schuetz at (908) 226-7678.



Under Construction: The DARE/Community Policing Unit has undergone a lot of work during the past few weeks. Despite the heat wave, Officers Alan LaMonda and Joe Papa have been very busy working towards a fall opening of the office.

## OAK TREE FARMS

136 South Plainfield Ave. South Plainfield, NJ

Sale Starts Friday, August 20 Ends Thursday, August 26 (While Supplies Last)

Store Hours:  
Mon-Sat. 9-6  
Sunday 8-3

We Accept  
Food Stamps  
(908) 755-3663

Boar's Head Deluxe  
**Ham**  
\$5.99 lb.

Land 'O Lakes White/Yellow  
**American  
Cheese** \$3.49 lb.

NJ Extra Large  
**Eggs** 89¢ doz.

**2% Milk**  
\$2.49 gallon  
With coupon

Thumann's  
**Liverwurst**  
\$2.99 lb.

80/20  
**Chop Meat**  
3 lbs. or more \$1.59 lb.

Choice Top Round  
**London Broil**  
\$2.99 lb.

Large SugarCalifornia  
**Cantalopes** 79¢ ea.

Boar's Head Oven Gold  
**Turkey Breast**  
\$5.99 lb.

**Try Our Meat Dept.**  
**VEAL CUTLETS** \$5.99 lb.

As Is  
**Chicken  
Cutlets** \$2.49 lb.

**Red  
Peppers** 99¢ lb.

Boar's Head  
**Bologna**  
\$2.99 lb.

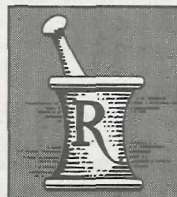
1/4 Legs  
**Chicken** 49¢ lb.

**New Jersey Plum  
Tomatoes** 59¢ lb.

**Green  
Peppers** 59¢ lb.

**New Jersey  
Tomatoes** 89¢ lb.

Red or Golden  
**Washington  
APPLES** 59¢ lb.



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**Happy Summer  
to all our customers!**

**Come and See for Yourself!**



# AROUND TOWN

## EVENTS

### VFW Annual Picnic Will Celebrate 100th Anniversary

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

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

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

Come and bring your family and friends to eat, sing, dance and have a few laughs. The winter season will be here all too soon!

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

### Recycling Comm. Reschedules Meeting

The South Plainfield Recycling Commission will not be meeting on Thursday, August 26, as was previously scheduled. The next meeting will take place on September 23.

### Seniors Plan Trip to "Mame" at Paper Mill Playhouse

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

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

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

### Columbiettes Fall Events Announced

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

open to the public.

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

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

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

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

A Country Western dinner dance will be held on Saturday, Nov. 20, at Bobby & Mary's on William St. in Piscataway. Tickets will be \$20 and include a buffet dinner and soft drinks. Dance lessons will be by Boot Scootin Slim and Pam. For information, call Helen at (908) 757-8332.

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

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

### AARP Schedules Meetings

South Plainfield Chapter #4144, AARP, resumes monthly meetings on September 17 at 12:30 p.m. at the PAL Building, 1250 Maple Ave. The guest speaker, Mr. John Mulkerin, President of First Savings Bank, will tell everyone how banks are preparing for Y2K, and how to protect yourself from the numerous "scams" that are being generated from fears of the changeovers.

They are accepting reservations for a bus trip to Three Little Bakers Dinner Theater (in Delaware) to see "The Unsinkable Molly Brown". Price of \$49 includes, dinner, show, transportation and gratuities.

You do not have to be a member of AARP. Call Lee at (732) 968-6613 or Mary (732) 752-3764 for the September 23 performance.

### Connected Hearts Meeting

Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support (CHATS) will meet 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 23, at Watchung Ave. Presbyterian Church, 170 Watchung Ave., North Plainfield. Viewing and discussion of a video in which a well-known birthmother made an adoption plan for her daughter 30+ years ago. The adoptive parents share their experiences and feelings. The participants make clear the ongoing "work" involved in dealing with adoption issues. Open sharing of adoption-related stories and light refreshments. Call Alyce at (732) 227-0607 for information.

### Business Association Cancels Meetings

The South Plainfield Business Association will not be meeting during July and August.

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

### Polish National Home Flea Market

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

### Ladies' Auxiliary Plans Fashion Show

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad Ladies' Auxiliary is completing arrangements for their annual "Fashion Show" Brunch to be held on Sunday, October 24, at the Polish National Home on New Market Ave. Doors open at 12 noon. Women's and misses fashions will be presented by BJ's Dressing Room in Scotch Plains, the Answer Store in Menlo Park, and children's fashions will be coordinated by Fashion Bug.

The event will include the traditional Holiday Basket Raffle, plus many more exciting raffle prizes and door prizes. Ticket are \$27 and may be purchased by calling 908-754-8275 or from any auxiliary member.

Tickets will not be sold at the door. Proceeds from this annual fund raiser help the S.P. Rescue Squad defray the numerous expenses involved in their dedication to the people of South Plainfield.

## From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Robert Helmbrecht

We only have one announcement for this week at the South Plainfield Public Library, but it is an important one. We want to remind you that there is no storytime for the next two weeks. Miss Linda and Miss Cheryl need some time to recover from the hard work they put in on the Summer Reading Program, and other activities, and prepare for the school year. Regular storytime hours will resume on Tuesday, September 7.

Since it is a slow news week for the library, we thought we would let you know more about our library's user survey. If you have not already done so, please come in and fill out one of our surveys. The response has been very good so far, but we would like to have more. Some people have asked what we will be doing with the surveys. They will not be just filed and forgotten. Your responses will influence library policy and decision-making.

For example, a number of respondents have been critical of our Science Fiction and Fantasy collections. We are now updating our collection with purchases of new releases by authors such as Stephen R. Donaldson, Mercedes Lackey, Orson Scott Card, Neal Stephenson, James Hogan, Anne McCaffrey, Sean McMullen, Ben Bova, Robert J. Sawyer, and others, as well as several new anthologies. We also have a number of books set in the *Star Trek* and *Star Wars* universes. If you enjoy reading books in these genres, come check them out, and show us that there is a demand for them.

The survey also lets us know if we need to publicize certain services. We have found that few people are aware that while new magazines must be read in the library, back issues can be checked out and taken home. Ken should be pleased to see that many people say they read his columns in the newspaper, and hopefully even more people will be aware of them after reading that question in the survey. We have also found that not everyone knows that video rentals are free.

We plan on distributing our surveys into the Fall, in order to reach as many people as possible. Even after this survey is finished, though, we will still value your input. We have a suggestion box, located by our photocopy machine, and we are always willing to talk to you about the library. Our purpose is to serve the public, and if we are not, then we need to know about it. We will, of course, take time to listen to compliments as well.

"Affect not as some do that bookish ambition to be stored with books and have well-furnished libraries, yet keep their heads empty of knowledge; to desire to have many books, and never to use them, is like a child that will have a candle burning by him all the while he is sleeping." Henry Peacham, *The Compleat Gentleman*, 1622.

## MILESTONES

### Anniversary

### Simmons Celebrate Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary

James and Veronica Simmons of DeFillipo Drive will celebrate their 50th anniversary on August 20. Married at Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield in 1949, they have lived in South Plainfield for all of their 50 years together and have raised all of their children here. They have six children, Patty, Paul, Jackie, Alice, Debbie and Jim and 23 grandchildren—the newest just three weeks old and four great grandchildren. They will be celebrating their anniversary by renewing their wedding vows and having a reception afterwards on Aug. 21. Happy anniversary Jack and Ronnie, we congratulate you on



Mr. & Mrs. James Simmons

a great accomplishment of love and honor and wish you many more years of happiness!

Log on to the  
**Borough of South Plainfield's  
official web site at  
southplainfieldnj.com**

Visit your community web site for the latest local news on

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- Planning Board & Board of Adjustment Agendas
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- Recreation
- Youth Activities
- Senior Corner
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- and more

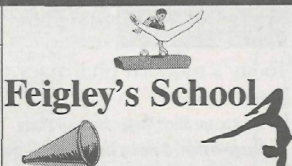
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## GYMNASTICS & CHEERLEADING

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## Ricochet/ SPASA Labor Day 5K Run

The 9th Annual Ricochet Health and Racquet Club/South Plainfield Alliance for Substance Awareness (S.P.A.S.A.) 5K Labor Day Run is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on September 6. The racers will run before 10,000 people gathering to watch the South Plainfield Labor Day Parade which begins at 10 a.m. The race will start and end at Veterans' Park and t-shirts will be given to the first 200 entrants. The entry fee is \$10 for pre-entry, if received by Aug. 28 and \$12 for race day registration. All proceeds go toward supporting the substance awareness activities of the South Plainfield Alliance.

Additionally, Ricochet and S.P.A.S.A. are sponsoring a 1.5 mile Family Fitness Walk. Walkers will start right after the runners at 9:30 a.m. They will walk the race route to Borough Hall and return to Veterans' Park. A \$5. registration fee includes a single walker or the whole family. T-shirts will be presented to the first 80 walkers.

The following community businesses have provided time donations and services to support the run and efforts of the South Plainfield Alliance: Ricochet Health and Racquet for membership/prizes/t-shirts; Home Depot for prizes; Joe Romer Trophy Shop for trophies; Poland Spring Water for refreshments; Sherban's Diner/Restaurant for race/walk numbers; Aiello Chiropractic Center for massages; Oak Tree Farms for oranges; Bagel Pantry for bagels; Sportworld for prizes.

The following are providing a donation/services: South Plainfield Liquor Store, Casablanca Is Hair, Mohn's Florist, Vails Hardware, Domino's Pizza, Carousel Beauty Salon, David's Stationary, James W. Conroy Funeral Home, Spring Lake Texaco Service Center, Buy Rite Auto Parts, Physiques in Motion, Giakas Cleaners, McCriscin Home for Funerals, Presto Printing Service, Middle School Graphic Arts Department, Flanagan's Restaurant, Twin City Pharmacy, K.C.'s Korner Restaurant/Bar, Rodolfo's Pizza, Ciccio's Pizza, South Plainfield P.A.L.

The race is organized by S.P.A.S.A. chairperson Bill Beegle. Prizes and age categories are listed on the application form. Call Bill Beegle for info, 908-754-4620 ext. 310(W) or 732-873-1019 (H). Applications are available at Ricochet or South Plainfield P.A.L. Building.

## Celebrate Labor Day!

## "Marching Into The Millennium"



# South Plainfield is the Place to be on Labor Day!

South Plainfield is shaping up as the place to be on Labor Day. Plan to come out to see the parade and then come down to Veterans' Park and join in all the family-oriented events. Young and old alike will find something to keep them occupied. Planners have been putting in countless hours of time to ensure South Plainfield has a day to remember. The *Observer* will be there all day to greet visitors and to get input on the paper from its readers. It's our second anniversary and we will have balloons for the kids and maybe a contest or two!

As we have been telling you, this year's parade theme is "South Plainfield is Marching into the Millennium." The committee has made selected Eleanor Haines as Grand Marshal. The next time you visit the library, extend your congratulations to her. See page for a related story.

Labor Day activities start early in the morning with a 5K run and a 1.5 mile Fitness Walk sponsored by the Alliance for Substance Awareness and the Ricochet Racquet Club.

The South Plainfield's Recreation Department is busy planning contests and games for every age right after the completion of the parade. Activities include an obstacle course, an izzy dizzy contest and sand art, just to name a few. A pie-eating contest, (using colorful blueberry pies), a huge success at last year's parade, will be repeated, as well as a watermelon-eating contest. Pony rides

will be available all afternoon. People Pleasers will have two attractions for kids. There will be a largest tomato and zucchini contest, so plan to bring your best specimen from the garden. An afternoon concert from 1-3 p.m. at Veterans' Park by the band "Back Splash" is another new added attraction.

The Environmental Commission will sponsor a walk on the Veterans' Park Nature Trail in the afternoon. The Historical Society plans to hold their annual quilt raffle. This year's raffle includes a second prize of two tickets for a cruise on the *Cornucopia Princess*.

The local group "CLASS—The Girls Next Door" will be entertaining by performing their 50's numbers, followed by the band 'Sound Investment' at Spring Lake Park starting at 6 p.m. A fireworks display synchronized to music starts at dusk.

If your organization or group wants to enter a float or march in the parade, contact Jan La Jeunesse at 561-4416 or Joe Scudato at 754-0869. Concession stands and booths at Veterans' Park during the afternoon are filling up, but there is still room for a few more. If interested, contact Ms. Darlene Pinto at 561-1517.

The latest information on the parade is always available by logging on to the Borough's webpage

at southplainfieldnj.com. You can find out where to call to get answers to your questions.

A parade of this size takes a lot of planning. Our Labor Day Parade committee members are all volunteers and literally give up part of their summer to make sure South Plainfield residents have a great day. Residents get together as a huge family and greet and get to know each other. Plan to come out for this once-a-year celebration and feel the pride that is exhibited by the hundreds of marchers and participants. Once you have experienced this feeling, you will never miss another Labor Day Parade.

## Friends of the Woods to Celebrate Labor Day

Come out and meet the Friends of the Woods as they join in South Plainfield's Labor Day festivities. To promote Highland Avenue Woods Environmental Education Reserve, they will be presenting a float in the parade featuring young birders among native trees and shrubs. Signs will feature plant, animal and bird species found in the preserve.

There will be a pavilion at Veterans' Park where residents may obtain informational handouts and register for the annual Labor Day nature walk through the trails of Veterans' Park.

The walk will start at 1 p.m. and is part of the 1999 "Walk'n Talks" Program sponsored by the South Plainfield Environmental Commission.

The Friends of the Woods hope many will take advantage of this excellent opportunity to learn more about the nature trails and educational opportunities that can be found right here in South Plainfield.

## MARCHERS NEEDED

*The VFW is looking for some good marchers for the upcoming Labor Day Parade.*

*If you are interested, please give the VFW Post a call at 908-668-9751.*

*Also needed are any Knights of Columbus members who would like march in the parade. Call Joe Scudato at 754-0869 to sign up.*

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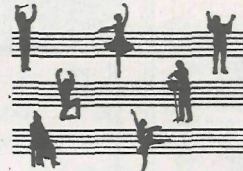
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## CONVERTIBLES NEEDED!

The Labor Day Parade Committee is asking any residents who could loan their convertibles for the parade to please call Mike English at 226-7713.

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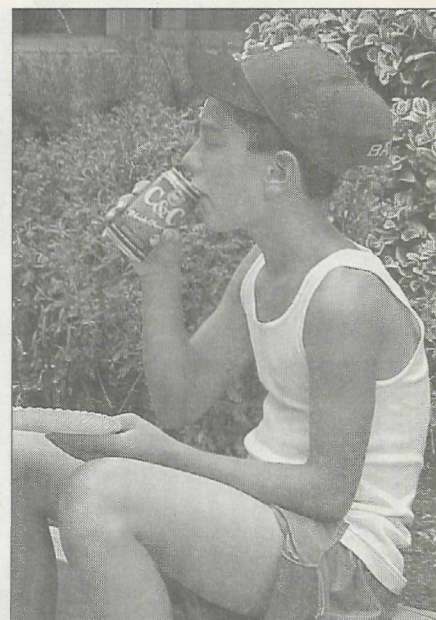
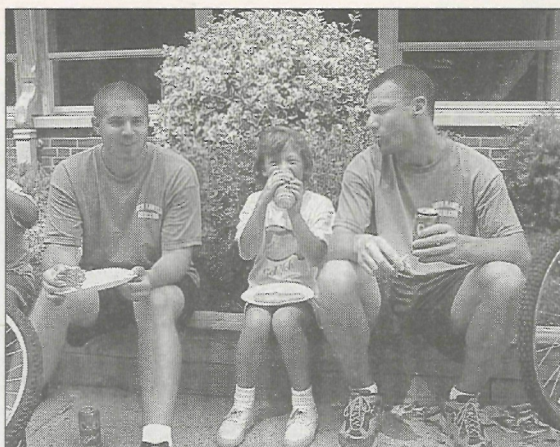
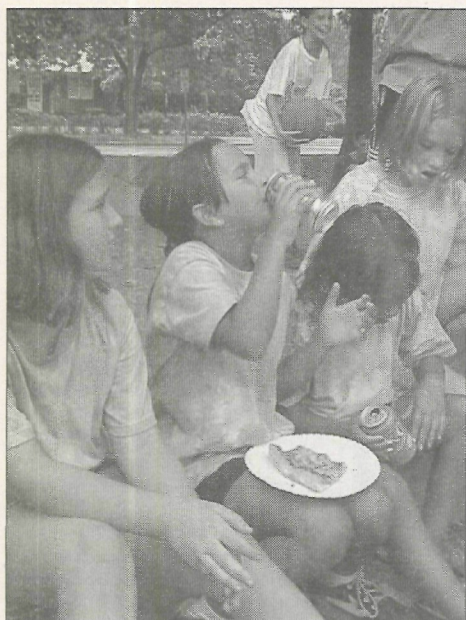
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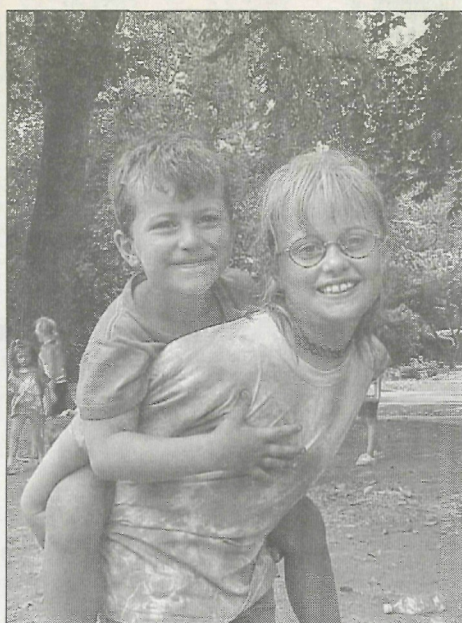




## Summer Rec Winds Down



Photos and Story By Pattie Abbott



Last Friday, participants from this summer's recreation programs gathered at Franklin School from 12:30-3:30 p.m. for an end of summer party. Pizza, soda and snacks ruled the afternoon. The party began with a line of hungry kids anxious to devour the pizza-filled Dominos' boxes stacked high amidst cases of soda.

The summer was not an idle one for the recreation participants, nor for their counselors. Each day was full of organized games and crafts as well as the fine childhood art of "hanging out with friends". Wednesdays brought a round of friendly competition between the four school recreation programs as they met for a mini-field day. Fridays meant a chance to swim at the community pool, where the kids joined the newest recreation group for pool members. Another addition to the recreation program was a reading program. The last 45 minutes of each morning session were devoted to reading. Everyone, including counselors, sat and enjoyed a favorite book. As the afternoon wore on children played hard, storing up memories that will last until school closes next June and Recreation 2000 begins.

Counselors for the 1999 Recreation Program were: Stacie Sesok, Jonathan Sylvester, Kim Wilcox, Joseph Nicolay, Victor Kurilew, Janis Peterscak, Tracey Wells, Chris DeCosta, Eric Johansen, Lam Nguyen, Jonathan Wolek, Michael Geremia, Stephen Cisz, Matthew Cleary, Kelly Hall, Erin Mackey, Kiley Jackson, Patricia Reach, Michael DeLucca and Michael Chirichillo.

### Mercy AIDS Ride

September 11, 1999

Sponsored by  
The Sisters Of Mercy

The bicycle ride will benefit the Robert Wood Johnson Pediatric AIDS Program and the Heart of Mercy House, Honduras.

#### About the Ride

It will begin and end at Georgian Court College, Lakewood. Fully Supported 25km, 50km, 100km routes. Scenic and flat.

#### Rider Information

Registration fee of \$35.00 will include a T-shirt, refreshments along the route and at the end. Riders are required to raise \$200.00.

The total amount raised will be distributed to the two organizations listed. No administrative costs will be taken from the money raised by the riders. Sponsors are being solicited for all services.

Registration fee is \$35.00 with \$200.00 in pledges. Day of Ride is \$100.00 with no pledges.

For more information or registration form call

1-800-Mercy Ride

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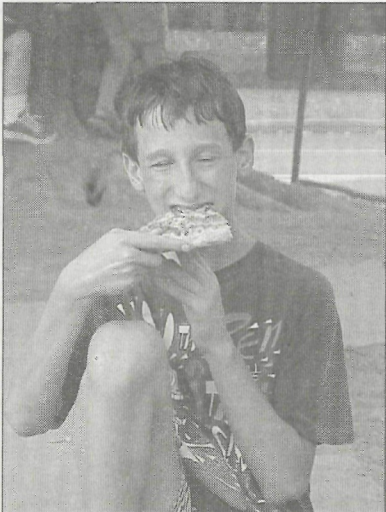
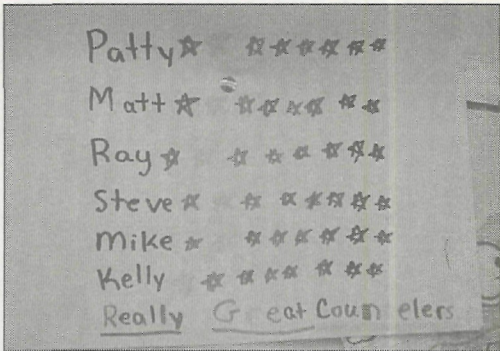
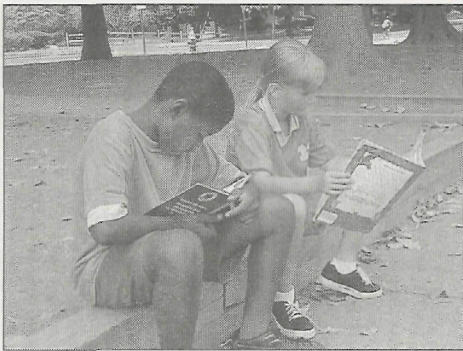
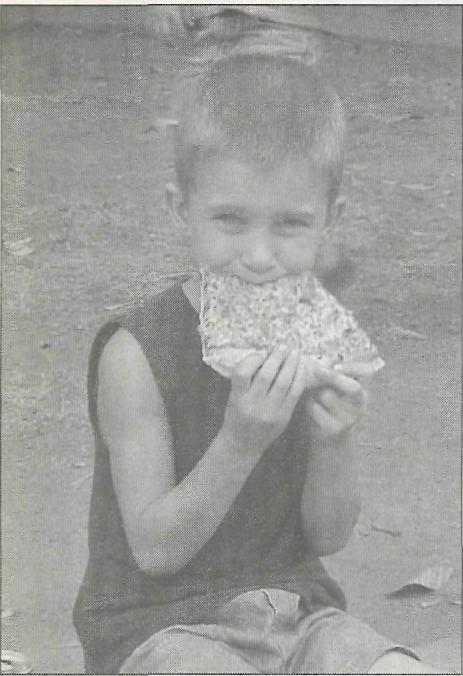
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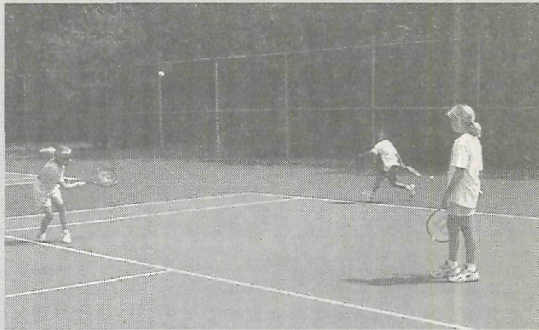
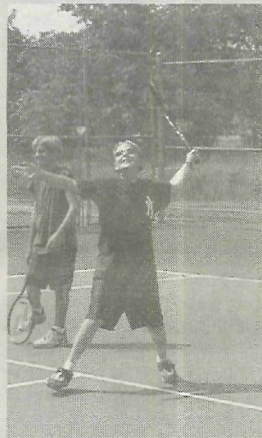
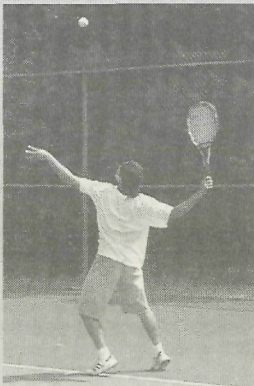
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### Tennis Anyone?



Tennis lessons took place each morning at Spring Lake Park during the summer. Over 50 kids participated in this recreation program.



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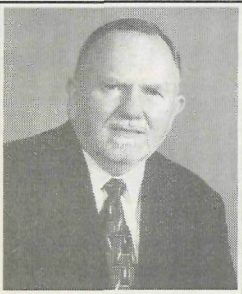
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Young businessman Jeff Cianfrocca (right) keeps busy selling sodas to passersby. Friend Jesse Woodruff keeps him company.

## Young Entrepreneur Takes Advantage of Hot Weather

By Patricia Abbott

The colorful sign says "Jeff's Cold Drinks," an arrow points the way. Who could resist such enticing advertising? The final destination is Sprague Ave. where Jeff Cianfrocca has a roadside stand that offers cold soda for the bargain price of just 50 cents.

Jeff and his grandfather built the stand when he was about five years old and Jeff painted it bright blue just this year. Large letters across the front of the wooden structure proudly proclaim the name of the operation. Jeff noted that the stand used to be yellow. The hours for the fledgling business vary according to the time of day and the weather. Lunch time and Saturdays are usually good times to find Jeff's Cold Drinks open for business.

Jeff's mother said he originally sold lemonade when they held garage sales. This year it evolved and became a soda booth. She said the booth has been used

many times over the years. This year's inspiration to set up the stand was to fulfill a desire to purchase *Pokemon cards*, a "must have" in this day and age for the Nintendo Game Boy fans of the hit game, *Pokemon*. So far this summer, Jeff has made about \$30.

On a recent sweltering Saturday, friend Jesse Woodruff kept him company while he waited for customers. His mother noted that on occasion Jeff will pay his brothers to help him. The enterprising businessman is entering fifth grade at Riley School.

Depending on your era, either a lemonade stand or a soda stand has been the favorite summer pastime of youths for decades. But regardless of your age, if you find yourself with a thirst around lunch time and you're in the neighborhood of Park Ave., Jeff has a treat for you. Just take a short drive down Sprague Ave. and stop in at Jeff's Cold Drinks, the service can't be beat!

## Poetry Submissions Sought

"A Welded Place," a newly-founded illustrated verse publication has begun searching for poetry submissions. Scheduled publication is set for April, 2000.

The upcoming book is the brainstorm of South Plainfield resident Pat Zebrowski. Pat, a teacher at Rutgers University has been writing poetry for about four years.

The idea sprang from several poetry readings she has attended throughout New Jersey. Pat plans to personally pay for the printing and will distribute the publication locally, charging a small fee per copy. "It's a means of publishing my own poetry as well as giving others the chance to have work published," she explained. Helping Pat create *A Welded Place* is resident Julie De Los Santos, who will be illustrating the publication.

Submissions of three to four pieces will be accepted through January. Subject matter should be for general audience. Put your name and address on each, 60 line maximum, SASE and send it to P.O. Box 255, South Plainfield, NJ 07080-0255.

## Parade Grand Marshal

Continued from page 1  
post activities.

She worked as a volunteer in Kennedy School library for several years. It was at there that she learned the Dewey Decimal System and how to catalog cards. She said, "One of the finest librarians taught me about the Dewey Decimal System. I have had many opportunities, and the only way I could repay all the kindnesses to the dear strangers who gave me a chance in life, is to keep volunteering. Eleanor said that the work she has done for youths and Veterans are her greatest pride. To make others happy is my greatest pleasure."

Eleanor told the *Observer*, "...the greatest honor in my life was to be chosen Honorary Grand Marshal of the South Plainfield Labor Day Parade. Thank you to all who have faith in me!"

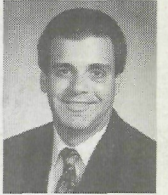
### We Want Your News!

If you have news about South Plainfield people or events, send us a note or give us a call (908) 668-0010. We would like to include your story in the paper.

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## The Alternative View

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



Dear Dr. DeCosta:

In our town, there seems to be an inordinate amount of drug stores popping up. With more people turning to alternative health care, why isn't this trend reversing?—C.S.

Dear C.S.:

One would think that with all the interest in alternative health care and healthy lifestyles, the use of prescription drugs and the money spent on them must be dropping like a rock ... *wrong!* Unfortunately, they seem to be rising faster and farther than NASA's best space launch!

The July 9, 1999 edition of Reuters reported on a study completed by Barents Group, LLC, on behalf of the National Institute for Health Care Management Research and Education Foundation, which indicated that spending on prescription drugs in the last five years increased by more than 84%. As an eye opener, for the period 1993-1998 in the United States, we spent \$42.7 billion on prescription drugs.

A whopping 30% of all drug spending can be traced to four drug categories: oral antihistamines (up 612%), antidepressants (up 240%), cholesterol-lowering agents (up 194%), and peptic ulcer-related products (up 71%). (By the way, these products are treatments, not cause correcting.)

If there is a little bell going off in your head that is accompanied by the thought—gee, aren't these the same drugs that are being promoted directly to consumers, then you win the big prize. The conclusion of the foundation's report is that the driver behind the increase is not clinical utility, it is *advertising!* The foundation president noted that in 1998, "for every dollar spent by the United States pharmaceutical industry on research and development, nearly 50 cents was spent on product promotion." Here is another little tidbit for you to think about—generic drugs represent 46% of the prescribed drugs in the United States, but they generate only 8% of drug revenue.

Let's consider another startling drug related issue... this one involving physician prescribing practices as a function of parental expectation or their expectation of the parent's expectation. This information comes to us from the journal *Pediatrics*, April 1999, volume 103, number 4, pages 711-718.

The easiest and most straightforward way to present this one is to quote the results section as published on page 711: "Based on multi variate analysis, physicians' perceptions of parental expectations for antimicrobials was the only significant predictor of prescribing antimicrobials for conditions of presumed viral etiology. (Note: *antibiotics have no effect on viruses*); when physicians thought a parent wanted an antimicrobial, they prescribed them 62% of the time versus 7% of the time when they did not think the parent wanted antimicrobials... In addition, when physicians thought the parent wanted an antimicrobial, they were also significantly more likely to give a bacterial diagnosis (70% of the time versus 30% of the time.)"

And now the clincher—"Failure to meet parental expectations regarding communication events was the only significant predictor of parental dissatisfaction. Failure to provide antimicrobials did not affect satisfaction."

Can you grasp the significance of this? When a pediatrician THINKS a parent wants the child to have an antibiotic, the physician is nine times more likely to prescribe it and 2.3 times more likely to call the problem what they THINK the parent wants to hear and none of it has any bearing on the parent's happiness with the health care encounter on behalf of their child.

Let's dissect this one a little more—isn't prescribing things when they aren't needed called fraud; isn't giving people medication they don't need called malpractice; isn't calling a condition something it isn't at least misrepresentation; and isn't all this being done under the SCIENCE of medicine?

It's high time for people to question and THINK for themselves. Don't buy into all the drug advertising. The drug companies need to spend nearly 50% of all their research and development money to try to convince you, the consumer, that you need their drugs to live. You were created with the greatest drug store in the world—it's the one inside you! Why not seek other avenues of health care that will naturally allow your body to make all the necessary chemicals, and in the proper proportion, that your body needs for you to be truly healthy and well.

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

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Very Rev. Michael A. McGuire, Pastor

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Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:15 a.m.

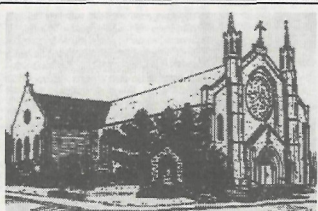
Weekdays 9:00 a.m. (cfurcft)

Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.

Holy Days 7 p.m. (Vigil); 7 and 9 a.m., 12:10 p.m.

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## Another Success Story

## A Producer's Perspective

By Patricia Abbott

Applause and cheers resounded throughout the auditorium as the final curtain came down on the 1999 Summer Drama production of *The Music Man*. Like the previous 28 seasons, it was a fun-filled and successful summer. This season also saw a lot of changes for the youth-oriented theater group.

A 16 member Summer Drama Workshop board was formed in September of 1998. The board met monthly, with members delegated to planning the seemingly infinite details for the upcoming summer. New plans included giving the children name badges to be worn during the closed rehearsals. Parent chaperones on hand at all times. Parent participation became mandatory, with a \$20 deposit that was returned upon the completion of chaperone and/or fundraising duties. Discipline problems were handled more efficiently.

Former producer Pat Guaracci spent 14 years nurturing the group. She noted that many of the changes were things that had been sought for years such as the SDW scholarship and encouraging more parent participation.

This year brought the return of alumni to Summer Drama in many forms, most recognizably as staff. Former SDW student Shayne Miller returned to direct his second season, Janna GaNun returned to the SDW stage as our choreographer. Both last appeared on the SDW stage as the leads in *Oklahoma* in 1996. Mrs. Joan Stasio has worked in the capacity of Music Director a number of times over the years. Her first summer drama production was *Plain and Fancy* in 1977. Paul McCullen a recent SPHS graduate and long time SDW band member returned to the pit as assistant music director. A veteran of the program and a 1999 SPHS grad, Kristin Pfeifer joined the staff as Production Stage Manager. Also returning was Paul Leporino as technical coordinator. He was last seen on our stage in 1987.

The summer was full of surprises. John Abbott (no relation) the "Harold Hill" of the 1974 production of *Music Man* and his wife, Maria, were guests at the show on opening night. With his vintage Harold Hill suitcase at his feet, John sat mesmerized as the show unfolded before him. It was a far cry from the small stage and simplistic sets and costumes of 1974. Another face returning to the audience was Paul Hilko. Paul was a member of the quartet in '74 as well as the makeup artist for that show and several other SDW



Two generations of *Music Man* (L to R) Jose Pineda, Harold Hill '99, John Abbott Harold Hill '74, Jamie Rose Helfand Gracie '74, Candice Helfand Jacey Squires '99, Pattie Abbott Mrs. Squires '74, Bill Seesselberg '74; (Bottom) Chris Abbott-Salesman #1 '99.

productions. Like John, Paul was amazed at the differences between the two productions.

Producer Bob Publik enjoyed his first year on the production team. What he had not expected was to end up playing with the band when the drummer injured his hand two nights before the show was to open. What impressed him most about the SDW experience, were the kids. Bob said, "We are so lucky to be working with such a fine group of young men and woman. The adults and staff had more differences of opinions and frustrating moments than these kids had." He commented on the dedicated adult volunteers. Bob praised them with, "The belief that these few individuals can put so much time into something for no pay, with no major accolades, just for the kids is something they must surely be proud of, even though they don't let on. I would encourage all the fathers and mothers of these fine performers to get involved in the play. We have a great time and it's very rewarding."

Jan LaJeunesse, Chairperson, SDW board had this to say, "This is a happy and sad time. Happy because our 90 performers were able to see the results of the hard work come together to another record breaking performance. The sad side is that it's over for another year. As part of the production staff, this is a rewarding experience for me. You get to see the show progress from the early rehearsals to an actual play. It was a pleasure working with such a talented group of kids."

Producer Creighton Pfeifer added his two cents worth. "Enough can't be said about the actors and actresses who gave up their summer to be involved in one of our town's most worthwhile youth programs, Summer Drama Workshop. I've had the pleasure of watching each one of 'our kids' take their character out of the script and transform it into a real person on the stage with their own personal flair. Putting on any production doesn't just happen. It takes many hours of rehearsing and hard work. The experience each one 'our kids' enjoyed this sum-

mer will stay with them forever. Please continue to support our program and 'your kids' in the years to come, who knows, someday you may see one of these talented young people on 'Broadway.'"

*NOTE: I have viewed the Summer Drama program from many different perspectives, child, volunteer, producer and parent. Each different and unique.*

*I spent 24 of Summer Drama Workshop's 28 seasons watching the group grow and change. As a child I experienced the early SDW years hesitantly, as a performer then with more confidence as I learned more theater skills. For the past 15 years I have been fortunate enough to work as a producer to watch shy children blossom on our stage. A second generation now graces the SDW stage. Mrs. Jamie Rose Helfand played the role of Gracie in 1974, this year her daughter Candice portrayed Jacey Squires, one of the quartet members. I was a pick-a-little lady back in '74. Last week, I proudly watched as my son Chris performed in his sixth summer drama production. Best of luck to the new generation of SDW thespians, and thanks to all those who made it possible this year and over the past 28 years.*

## The Voice of South Plainfield

Continued from page 1

tary history and enjoys reading books on the subject. Bill recently returned to the stage after many years, appearing in Neil Simon's "Plaza Suite" at the First Unitarian Society in Plainfield. It was his first time on stage since his high school days.

Bill has many memories from his years at the South Plainfield Police Department, including the old Hadley Airport, now shut down and the construction in that

area including the Middlesex Mall. He also remembers his years spent in the Juvenile Aide Bureau meeting many troubled young people. It makes him feel good to know he was able to help some of them straighten out their lives. In 1980 he was part of the support team when the police department jogged to Atlantic City to raise money for the Elks Crippled Children's Committee. He said there was a lot of teamwork and camaraderie from his fellow officers during this great undertaking.

He was president of the South Plainfield P.B.A. from 1976-1980. He recalls the early negotiations and the first contract that was signed with the borough after demonstrations in front of and inside Borough Hall. Bill said he was proud of the unity the PBA displayed. He is also proud to be a small part of the accreditation process when the department was recognized as a nationally accredited police department, one of only three in the state of New Jersey at the time.

While reminiscing about his years of service as an officer, Bill said, "What I remember the most is the many people I've met. The many friends I've made and the

many police officers and civilians I have worked with over all these years, some of whom have passed on. They will not soon be forgotten." The *Observer* asked Bill what people, if any, stand out in his mind. He replied, "Only two in particular, Patrolman Richard Conklin and Patrolman William Cady. They gave their lives in the line of duty, serving the citizens of South Plainfield. I was fortunate to have known them, to have worked with them and to have called them friends. They should not only stand out in my mind, but in the minds of every police officer and citizen of South Plainfield, lest they be forgotten."

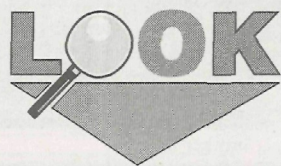
Bill offered advice for young men and women

who might aspire to become police officers saying, "I have had regrets during my years as a police officer, but not one of them would dissuade me from making the same decision today that I made in 1970. I consider law enforcement a noble profession, one which has become more and more competitive each year. A young person considering law enforcement should be serious and not be discouraged in their pursuit. I would be very proud if any of my children choose law enforcement as a career."

In summing up his nearly 30 years Bill said, "I did my best to be a good police officer. I hope the citizens of South Plainfield and the men and women of the South Plainfield Police Department would agree." In reply to his summation, this writer agrees wholeheartedly and, along with his many friends and co-workers, we congratulate him and wish him the best of luck in the future."

"... Patrolman Richard Conklin and Patrolman William Cady gave their lives in the line of duty, serving the citizens of South Plainfield. I was fortunate to have known them, to have worked with them and to have called them friends. They should not only stand out in my mind, but in the minds of every police officer and citizen of South Plainfield, lest they be forgotten."  
— Bill Cochrane

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## Obituaries

### Ferdinand "Ferdi" A. Thiel, 69

Ferdinand "Ferdi" A. Thiel died on Sunday, August 15, at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born in Haarlem, Netherlands, Mr. Thiel immigrated to the United States from Germany in 1950 where he settled in Scotch Plains.

He had resided in Union before settling in South Plainfield 36 years ago.

Mr. Thiel was employed by Bell Labs in Murray Hill in the research department where he had extensive knowledge and had been published in numerous articles. He was employed with them for over 40 years before he retired at the age of 65.

He was a Veteran of the Korean War where he served in the United States Army in Germany.

Mr. Thiel was extremely active in the Borough of South Plainfield. He was honored for his accomplishments and dedication to the community by being named grand marshal of the South Plainfield Annual Labor Day Parade in 1992.

He was active in the Republican Party and served as a councilman from 1983-1986. He served as the council president in 1985. He also served on the South Plainfield Board of Health, as well as the borough's Planning Board and Board of Adjustment and had served as chairman of both. Mr. Thiel had also served on numerous other borough committees and

boards. He received the Bob McCann Community Service Award in 1981 for outstanding service to the community of South Plainfield.

Mr. Thiel was a member of the South Plainfield Lion's Club where he held numerous positions for the organization including president in 1987-1988 and Deputy District Governor of District 16D from 1989-1991.

He was also a member of the American Legion Chaumont Post #243 of South Plainfield and a member of St. Stephens Lutheran Church in South Plainfield.

He is predeceased by two brothers and a cousin.

Surviving are his wife, Gisela (Arns) Thiel; three daughters, Christa and her husband, Henry Reineke of South Plainfield, Linda Thiel of Piscataway and Barbara and her husband, Michael Ustupski of Rockaway Township; two sisters, Hilda Mych and Ingeborg Belschner, both of Germany and three brothers, Werner Thiel of Bevedere, NJ; Edward and Guenther Thiel, both of Germany. He is also survived by three granddaughters, Emily and Sara Reineke and Madison Ustupski and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Donations in his memory may be made to St. Stephens Memorial Fund c/o 3145 Park Ave., South Plainfield, NJ. 07080.

### Joseph Edward Force, 86

Joseph Edward Force of South Plainfield, died on Thursday, August 12, at the Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

He was born in Plainfield and lived there most of his life before moving to South Plainfield 10 years ago.

Mr. Force was a custodian at the Holy Trinity R.C. Church in Westfield for 15 years before retiring in 1993. He volunteered at the Holy Trinity Church Bingo for many years.

He was a veteran of United States Army serving as a corporal during WW II.

He was predeceased by his sister, Margaret Force Wilson, who died in 1997.

He is survived by his brother-in-law, William (Woody) Wilson of South Plainfield; six nephews, Robert, Fred, Edward, Charles and Raymond Eustice and William Wilson, Jr.; five nieces, Nancy Sailer, Carol Waryn, Jane Curcio, Peggy Devlin and Janice Wilson.

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

### Dorothy Mullaney Kavka, 84

Dorothy Mullaney Kavka died on Thursday, August 12, at the Woodlands Genesis Eldercare Center in Plainfield.

She was born in Hoboken and had resided in Newark and Linden before moving to South Plainfield in 1975.

Mrs. Kavka had worked as a cashier in the Thomm McAnn Shoe Store in Linden for 20 years. She later had worked for a brief while at the Thomm McAnn Shoe Store in Menlo Park Mall. She retired 20 years ago.

She was a member of the South

Plainfield Senior Citizens where she was a long time social director. She was also a communicant of Our Lady of Czestochowa RC Church.

Her first husband, Raymond D. Mullaney, died in 1959 and her daughter, Dorothy J. Lane, died in April of this year.

Surviving are her husband, Paul S. Kavka; two sons and daughter-in-laws, Raymond and Lorraine Mullaney of Surf City and Michael and Rita Mullaney of Hopewell Junction, NY; two step sons, Skip and his wife Kathy Kavka of South Plainfield and Peter Kavka of North Brunswick; a brother, Walter Guinan of North Palm Beach, Fla. and eight grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Memorial donations to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad or to the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Dept. would be appreciated.

### Andrew Chichvar, 85

Andrew Chichvar died on Sunday, August 15, at Genesis Extended Care Facility at the Woodlands in Plainfield.

Born in Swoyersville, Pa., Mr. Chichvar had resided in South Plainfield for the past 43 years.

Mr. Chichvar began his employment at a very young age in the mines of Pennsylvania as a coal miner for many years. He later worked in production of Balantine Ale of Newark. He later was employed by Tenco, a division of Coca-Cola, in Linden where he was a coffee roaster before his retirement in 1976. He became a starter for the Plainfield County Club's West Nine Golf Course in Plainfield from 1976 to his final retirement in 1994 at the age of 80.

He was a veteran of WW II where he was stationed in the Lucian Islands off Alaska as a staff sergeant in the Army.

He was a member of the South Plainfield Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Post #6763. He was also a communicant of Sacred Heart RC Church.

He is predeceased by his wife, Helen (Chorba) Chichvar, who died in January of 1996 and his brother John.

Surviving are his daughter and son-in-law, Carol and Craig Spisso, his son and daughter-in-law, Mark A. and Sue Chichvar of South Plainfield and his son, Joseph of Ocala, Fla.; four sisters, Helen Walsh and Alberta Podgurski, both of Dallas, Pa. and Margie Magli and Anna Eustice, both of Swoyersville, Pa. Also surviving are three grandchildren, Kristin and Stephen Spisso and Jennifer Gebbia.

By Cyrus n Moon

## Weekly Horoscope 8/20-8/26

**LEO 7/23-8/22** A moon trines sun on Saturday, for those of you who are getting married this weekend. What a most wonderful time for a wedding. Those of you who tie the knot will be blessed with a long and harmonious relationship. Energies are flowing this weekend. DO SOMETHING FUN.

**VIRGO 8/23-9/22** Here are some tidbits for you. High-energy times of the year: 8/23-9/22, 10/24-11/21. Low-times: 2/19-3/20, 7/23-8/22. Best time to drop a bad habit: The week beginning with the Full Moon in Virgo. Best day of the week: Wednesday. Find interesting ways to keep on a diet.

**LIBRA 9/23-10/23** A moon conjuncts Venus transit will have you feeling quite cheerful and gregarious. And with this warmth you radiate! People will enjoy being in your company. For those of you in a new relationship, Venus will help existing ones take the next step to a new level of commitment, if you wish.

**SCORPIO 10/23-11/21** Some tidbits for you. High-energy times of the year: 1/20-2/18, 3/21-4/19, 10/24-11/21. Low-times: 2/19-3/20, 4/20-5/20, 9/23-10/23.

Best time to drop a bad habit: the week beginning with the Full Moon in Scorpio. Best day of the week: Tuesday. Study Zen?

**SAGITTARIUS 11/22-12/21** With a moon/Jupiter combination you will have certain events that happened in your past come up, and it may make you feel uncomfortable. But being on a personal emotional high, this can be the time to heal past wounds.

**CAPRICORN 12/22-1/19** A moon trines Saturn transit. At this time the past has a strong attraction for you. You will feel conservative and not very experimental. The old ways are best, because they have been proven ways in which you handle life's little surprises. And they will work for you now!

**AQUARIUS 1/20-2/18** Fun facts for you! High-energy times of the year: 1/20-2/18, 9/23-11/21. Low-times: 1/19, 4/20-5/20, 7/23-8/22, 12/22-31.

Best time to drop a bad habit: The week beginning with the Full Moon in Aquarius. Best day of the week: Saturday. The masters of surprise.

**PISCES 2/19-3/20** Moon conjuncts Neptune is a transit with two sides. On the negative side, this influence makes drinking or drug taking dangerous, because you may have difficulty controlling the amount you take. But on a positive side, you may have a friend in which to confide in to get a weight lifted off your heart.

**ARIES 3/21-4/22** Venus squares Mars; a relationship that is reasonably healthy will have little difficulty during this transit. But new ones are

where the problems lie. This energy causes discord, especially if there are hidden tensions in the relationship. So Aries, try not to make so many demands on your loved one.

**TAURUS 4/23-5/20** Fun astro info: high-energy times of the year: 2/19-3/20, 4/20-5/20, 6/22-7/22. Low-times: 3/21-4/19, 7/23-8/22, 10/24-11/21.

Best time to drop a bad habit: the week beginning with the Full Moon in Taurus. Best time of the week: Friday. Love not only yourself!

**GEMINI 5/20-6/21** Mercury opposition to Uranus can have you being blunt with others in conversation. Just be careful not to overdo it, avoid saying things simply to shock people. And be prepared to back up your words later. On new projects try not to become impatient and restless or you will start making mistakes.

**CANCER 6/21-7/22** With a moon trines sun, opportunities may arise from unexpected corners that can improve your life, in small ways at least. These may well come about through friends. Also at this time! Relations with the opposite sex are good. You have the ability to create an emotional communion.

**QUOTE: IF YOU WANT ONLY BEAUTY IN YOUR LIFE, THEN IT IS POSSIBLE YOU WILL MISS ME.**  
FUN BITS IS SUPPLIED BY SUZANNE SMITHER

### Rescue Squad July Calls

The Rescue Squad logged 142 calls in July, including 118 medical assistance requests, 13 motor vehicle accidents, five fires, two hazardous materials calls, two community service requests on transportation and one maintenance run. The squad's volunteers spent 342 crew hours answering the July calls. From January through July the squad responded to 1,002 calls.

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by Robert Hunter

### CONTEMPLATING ETERNITY

To contemplate eternity, we must extract ourselves from the daily routines that speak only of limits and position ourselves in a nearly limitless realm. Rachel Carson wrote of such a place: "To stand at the edge of the sea, to sense the ebb and flow of the tides, to feel the breath of a mist moving over a great salt marsh, to watch the flight of shore birds that have swept up and down the surf lines of the continents for untold thousands of years, to see the running of the old eels and the young shad to the sea, is to have knowledge of things that are as nearly eternal as any earthly life can be."

When we are young, we truly believe that we have an eternity in which to experience life. As we journey into middle age, life begins to seem like a speeding train, and we long to find the means to slow it down. By accepting our mortality, we learn to savor the moment, and thus make the most of our time. At the JAMES W. CONROY FUNERAL HOME, we've been helping individuals to plan their end-of-life services for many years, and are always open to new ideas. To schedule a consultation, call 756-2800. We are located at 2456 Plainfield Avenue in South Plainfield. Cremation services available.

"Everything in nature invites us constantly to be what we are."

- Gretel Ehrlich

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## POLICE REPORT

• The Exxon Gas Station on Clinton and 7th Street was robbed by a man with a bag over his right hand, possibly concealing a weapon. Money was taken from two employees who were told "Give me your money and don't say anything." The attendants ran to the owner and the police were called. The suspect left the station heading west on 7th St. The area was searched but the suspect was not found.

• A North Brunswick man reported that the window of his vehicle was smashed while parked in a lot behind a building on Corporate Blvd. A radio was removed from the dashboard and the contents of the glove box were found on the front seat. Additional items were removed but left behind the car. Video cameras tape the back parking lot of the building. The owner of the building is the only person who can access the tapes.

• Mark Donahue, co-owner of DMS Enterprises Inc., reported three checks were stolen, forged and cashed by one of their former employees. Two of the checks were cashed; a stop was put on the third check. Donahue contacted the employee but has not yet been reimbursed.

• The manager of Unitemp Inc., located on Kennedy Road, reported the theft of a company vehicle from the parking lot. The vehicle was last used by an employee but it had been locked upon its return and the keys were secured in the building.

• A Morton Ave. resident reported a number of harassing phone calls that contained profane language. The victim activated a trace on each call. The phone company was notified and advised the victim to file a

report.

• A West Nassau Ave. resident reported the theft of two bikes from the back yard. No serial numbers were available.

• A Plainfield Ave. resident reported the passenger side window of her vehicle was smashed while parked at Regal Cinema. Nothing was removed from the car and there are no suspects.

• A Hamilton Blvd. resident reported a window smashed at his place of residence. He had been watching TV on the second floor when he heard a crash. He used a pay phone across the street to notify police. There are no witnesses or suspects.

• An employee of Flavor Innovations reported the theft of the company mailbox. The wooden stand was not touched. She told police that her home mailbox has been vandalized the day before but she is unsure if they incidents are related. She noted that she had been finding beer bottles behind her building and said she had had problems with a previous employer recently.

• An employee of Penske Trucking reported the theft of a 150 lb. front drive shaft from a vehicle that was parked across from the business. Several previous reports have been filed regarding parts taken from company vehicles parked in the same area.

• A Mass. resident reported the theft of a company truck from the parking lot of the Ramada Inn. The victim parked the truck and walked to Café Piancone. When he returned, the truck was missing. No sign of glass was found in the area. Surrounding towns and state police were notified.

## Local Student Receives \$1,000 Scholarship From McDonald's

South Plainfield resident Lisa Sepkowski is a winner of a \$1,000 McDonald's Golden Arches Scholarship Award, one of the scholarships available through the Arching Into Education Scholarship Program offered by New York Tri-State McDonald's Restaurant Owners. The Golden Arches Scholarship will help Sepkowski pursue her college education at the College of New Jersey this fall.

Sepkowski competed against more than 2,400 Tri-State students who applied for one of the scholarships offered by local McDonald's Restaurant Owners as part of their commitment to education in the community.

This year, through the Arching Into Education Scholarship program, McDonald's Owners awarded \$175,000 in scholarships to Tri-State students looking to pursue post-schools or majoring in music or performing arts.

Winners were selected by Scholarship Management Services, a division of Citizens' Scholarship Foundation of America, Inc. (CSEA) based on meeting the program criteria for GPA and exemplary community service or employment, two characteristics which embody New York Tri-State McDonald's Restaurant Owners' commitment to

the community.

"We take great pride in recognizing tremendous students in the community that exemplify outstanding service and leadership qualities," said Ana Madan-Russo, president of New York Tri-State McDonald's Restaurant Owner/Operators Association.

"Local McDonald's Restaurant Owners have a longstanding commitment to programs that promote education in the community."

In addition to scholarships for Tri-State students, local McDonald's Restaurant owners support education in the community through a series of initiatives under the Arching Into Education™ program, including bike helmet safety, fire safety and reading programs for young children.

## ROAD CLOSURE

This Friday, August 20, Oak Tree Road will be closed between Joan and Front streets at about 6:30 p.m. All traffic will be detoured on to Oak Tree Ave. down Joan Street to South Plainfield Ave. and back to Front Street.

The construction involves the milling of Front Street between Oak Tree Ave. and South Plainfield Ave. Oak Tree Ave. will be open during the milling. During the paving the detour will be set up.

Motorists are advised to expect delays and it is suggested that they find alternative routes during the construction.

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- Bagel Pantry, Plainfield Ave.
- B & C Deli, Belmont Ave.
- Corner Deli, Hamilton Blvd.
- Carousel Hair Salon, Oak Tree Rd.
- Dave's Stationery, Sampton 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.
- Twin City Pharmacy, Park Ave.
- The Bagel Stop, South Plainfield Ave.
- Mohn's Flowers, Plainfield Ave.
- Oak Tree Farms, Oak Tree Road
- Pauls Stationery, Hamilton Blvd.
- Quick Chek, Sampton Ave.
- Quick Foods, Park Ave.
- Sals Liquor Store, Park Ave.
- Service Plus, South Plainfield Ave.
- Sunrise Foods, Front & Maple
- Twice Is Nice, Front Street
- We Care, Plainfield Ave.
- Yogurt Express, Maple Ave.

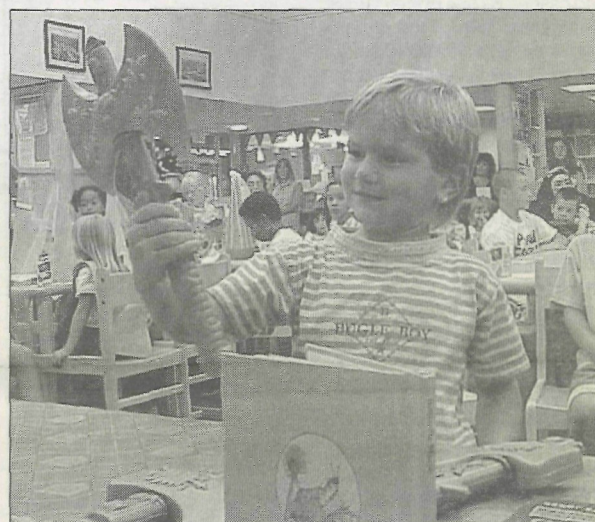
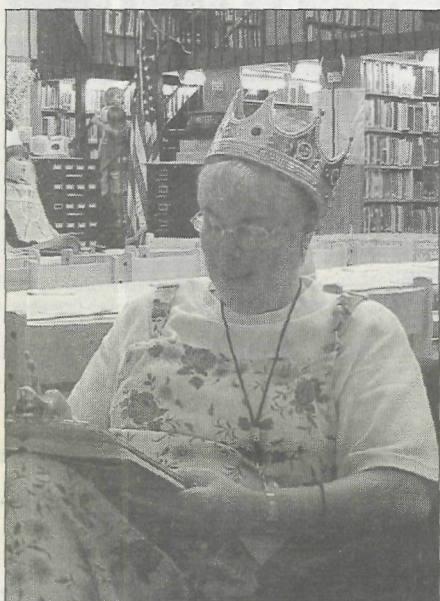
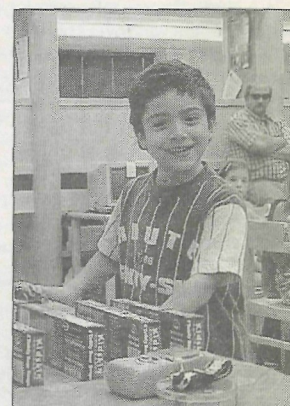


# Reading Program Steps Back in Time



The 1999 Summer Reading program at the Library transported the children back to the days of knights and dragons. Each week the young readers would meet at the library to create a different piece of their Medieval costumes. They made shields, swords, helmets, cone hats, jewelry and more.

The program for the older children ended on Monday, August 16 with a costume parade around the library. Once inside they were awarded their certificates for completing the reading program. They enjoyed snacks and each child went home with a prize. The younger readers will end their program on Thursday with a guest entertainer. Pictures for that event will be in next week's issue.



## August / September 1999

## Meetings & Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Copy Deadline: Friday, 5 pm Advertising Deadline: Monday, 5 pm	16 Borough Council Agenda Meeting 8 pm	17 Board of Adjustment 8 pm	18 Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	19 Borough Council Meeting 8 pm	20 Publication of <i>So. Plfd. Observer</i>	21
22	23	24 Board of Education Regular Meeting Planning Board Meeting 8 pm	25 Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	26	27 Publication of <i>So. Plfd. Observer</i>	28
29	30 Observer Office Closed—Going to US Open Tennis	31 Board of Adjustment 8 pm	1 Sacred Heart School Starts ½ Day Business Advisory Group 5:30 pm Court 9:30 am	2 Sacred Heart ½ Day Taxpayers Advisory Group 8 pm	3 Sacred Heart ½ Day Publication of <i>So. Plfd. Observer</i>	4
5	6 Labor Day Parade	7 Recreation Comm. Meeting 7 pm PAL Borough Council Agenda Meeting 8 pm	8 Opening Day School Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	9 Borough Council Meeting 8 pm	10 Publication of <i>So. Plfd. Observer</i>	11
12	13	14 Board of Adjustment 8 pm	15 Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	16	17 Publication of <i>So. Plfd. Observer</i>	18

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