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South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 3, NO. 3

50 CENTS

SEPTEMBER 17, 1999

Comcast, Learning Channel to Celebrate "Everyday Heroes"

On September 23, Comcast of The Plainfields, along with The Learning Channel and its partners, will host a celebration of



Franklin School student Gina Butrico with fourth grade teacher Mrs. Stavina.

South Plainfield's "Everyday Heroes" winners. Mayor Dan Gallagher and the Borough Council will be there when these local students are recognized as "Everyday Heroes" contest winners. The event will take place in Borough Hall before the regular council meeting.



Kennedy School students Donna Marie Garcia and Kimberly Russell with teacher, Mrs. Shirley.

The program/contest ran three times, from February through April. South Plainfield is proud to boast three winners, Gina Butrico from Franklin School, along with Kimberly Russell and Donna Marie Garcia, both from Kennedy School. All winners are fifth grade students. One of these students will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship at the awards.

Gina Butrico chose her grandmother as her "Everyday Hero." She designed a poster to depict the many roles her grandmother fills: teacher, nurse, cook, baby-

sitter, and more. "I was surprised when I won," Gina said. I thought I had no chance of winning because so many kids from so many schools had also entered." Her fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Stavina, encouraged students to enter. She explained the lessons that the program provided and described what being an everyday hero means.

Kimberly Russell named her mother as the "Everyday Hero" in her life. She wrote an essay describing all her mother does for she and her family.

Donna Marie Garcia's "Everyday Hero" is her dad. Her essay told of how he worked from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m. to provide for a family of seven. She said he had weekends off, but often worked extra jobs. She proudly added that he still found time to coach her softball team occasionally and he always came to her basketball games. Both girls named their teacher, Mrs. Shirley, for motivating them to take a chance and enter the contest.

This unique program was offered in South Plainfield elementary schools in the spring of the



Coach Steve Grubesich, United Team League A, Recreation Soccer holds practice with his team. Soccer competition officially starts next Monday evening.

Schools Beef-Up Security

By Patricia Abbott

South Plainfield elementary students returned to safer schools last week. Over the summer security cameras were installed in the four grade schools. Grant School, which houses the administration offices, will have additional cameras installed in the corridors and rear doors.

The system prevents unauthorized visitors from entering the buildings without registering. The doors are locked after the late bell and remain locked throughout the day. Visitors can be seen on a monitor by the secretary and can

gain access to the building only after being buzzed in. When students enter the playground at lunch time, the one open door will be manned by an attendant.

Students will also be taught new evacuation drills created by the Middlesex County Prosecutor's office. Two new full-time counselors have been added to elementary school staffs to provide assistance for children who want to talk confidentially about issues which bother them. Teachers were also briefed on new techniques and given tips on the signs to look for which might indicate a troubled youth.

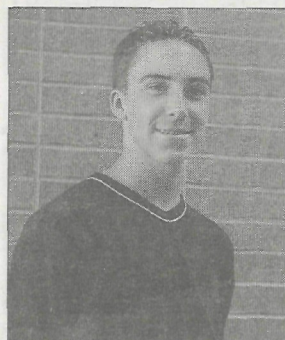
Ellen Johnson, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, explained that the Columbine, Colorado tragedy was not an influence on the need for increased security. The Board of Education began to research systems early in the 1998 school year. Security in the middle and high schools is more complex due to the number of entrances and activity. They are currently investigating systems that can accommodate these larger schools.

At present the systems in the four elementary schools are up and running and have been well received by students, staff and parents.

HS Senior Attends Scholars Program

For most high school students the summer before senior year is one filled with leisure activities or perhaps a job. Textbooks and teachers are the farthest thing from their minds. Not so for Bradford Tierney. The SPHS Senior spent five weeks at the Lawrenceville School attending the NJ Scholars Program. He is one of 39 students chosen to attend the prestigious program. Every high school in the state, both public and private, can recommend one outstanding junior. Over 250 applications are pared down to just 39 through an interview process. The high school juniors chosen were about to fast forward a year. The NJ Scholar course was strictly college freshman/sophomore level material.

The program offers highly motivated students a chance to stretch the learning experience beyond their high school studies. A highly trained staff works closely with the



Bradford Tierney

gifted youths. The course of study was "The Western Experience and Asia: The Collision of Cultures." The students of the 1999 NJ Scholars program explored in-depth, the cultural interchange between the two areas. Studies included history, literature, art, architecture, and music. The program was a far cry

from 'summer school' and invited the scholars to give their all in a complex course of study designed to stimulate and encourage a love of learning.

The students began their day at 7:30 a.m. with breakfast which included both students and staff, allowing them to share ideas and more and from 8:30 on they participated in lectures and seminars with a break for lunch, then studies resumed until 3 p.m.

Classes during the day may have been dismissed, but the work was far from done. A number of books were required reading, averaging about 200 pages a night. The students worked on several papers throughout the course. They enjoyed a field trip to NY to visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art. They also toured the new Chinese Garden at the Staten Island Botanical Garden.

Continued on page 8

Democracy Day Ballots Results Released

The Taxpayers Advisory Group released the results of Democracy Day ballots. Councilman Vinnie Buttiglieri presented the council with the final tabulations, counted by TAG. A total of 256 ballots were turned this year. The council will study the results and take them under consideration when making future decisions.

The results were broken down into categories: traffic, schools, environmental/development, financial infrastructure and miscellaneous concerns.

Receiving the largest comments were items including the clean-up of the borough both residential and commercial areas, halting of future development, preservation of additional open space and providing additional bulk pick-ups in town.

Building a senior citizens center and housing were items also listed, as well as the Canada Geese problem in Spring Lake Park.

The number one financial concern was to reduce and freeze property taxes, and to continue the pay-as-you-go, no borrowing strategy and to also provide a tax break for senior citizens.

Other items were: improving traffic throughout the borough, the enforcement of weight and speed restrictions and reducing wide-truck traffic.

School concerns were provided to the school board for evaluation. They included improving school safety, overcrowding at schools, quality of education and lowering the school budget.

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

Regular Monthly Meetings

1999: 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:

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:

September 23, October 28

Planning Board 1999 Meeting Dates

Second and fourth Tuesday of the month as follows:

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

Council Meetings

AGENDA MEETINGS PUBLIC MEETINGS

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 for the latest meeting agenda.

South Plainfield Observer

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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. Include your name, address, telephone number.

In My Opinion

Letters

To the Editor,

The mayor's statement in the August 27 issue of *The Reporter* states "I'm very pleased that the budget tax rate has had no increase for the past six years" confused me because in 1993 I paid \$3,638.34 in taxes. In 1999 I will be paying \$4,238.46 in taxes. If that is not an increase then I ask you, What is it?

El alcalde Sr. Gallagher en el diario "The Reporter" fecha Agosto 27, dijo "es un placer para mi anunciarles que los impuestos no han aumentado por los 6 años pasados." Yo estoy confundido porque en el año 1993 yo pagué \$3,629.34 en impuestos. En 1999 yo pagaré \$4,238.46. Si esto no es un aumento entonces que es?

VERY TRULY YOURS,
HANK GRABARZ

To the Editor,

On behalf of the Mayor and Council I would like to answer the letter submitted by the "Irate South Plainfield Small Business Owner" whose entire letter was full of false accusations and libelous comments regarding the decorative banner flags in the downtown area.

The first statement that "The concentrated effort of our current political leaders to support and encourage the redevelopment of our downtown business is misleading. Unfortunately actions don't support their words." This is a totally false statement! Downtown revitalization has been on the drawing board for many years through many administrations. The current political leaders have made this a reality and without using taxpayers dollars. The entire downtown project has been paid through grant monies, specifically earmarked for downtown revitalization.

The second false accusation referring to the banner flags states, "Although an admirable action, the town fathers did not purchase them locally, but rather from the American Flag Company in Union, NJ, instead of supporting merchants who could also have supplied this merchandise." First and foremost, the "town fathers" did not purchase the flags at all! The South Plainfield Business Association purchased the flags with money they raised in their organization, but I feel I must backup and give some history to the project. Back in January and February of this year I was obtaining bids for the banner flags, because at that time the governing body planned to purchase the banner flags, decorative benches and planters for the downtown. I received two bids from South Plainfield merchants. The first bid from a small business owner in the downtown area was considerably higher in the cost of the flag and the setup fees. The second bid was from another company on Hamilton Blvd. I also got a third bid from a company in Pennsylvania which was the lowest. This company was recommended from neighboring towns who had recently purchased banner flags.

In the Spring, the South Plainfield Business Association said they would purchase the banner flags as an ongoing effort to give back to the community. At that time I turned over all of my information to the president of the Business Association.

When I met with the Business Group on September 1, I was advised that the banners were purchased and would be installed by the company they purchased them from. The decision to use the American Flag Company in Union was made by the executive board of the Business Association and I repeat, the governing body did not have anything to do with the South Plainfield Business Association's decision.

This mayor and council makes every effort to purchase from local businesses and encourages all local groups to do the same.

As far as the banner flags being installed just before the Labor Day Parade, I commend the Business Association. While the writer suggests that this was done to be politically correct, I can only believe that this was not the case. Since being actively involved with the organization before being elected, I would rather say that this was an example of people taking pride in their community. The Business Association is an organization committed to doing things that serve as an enhancement to the community. To me the flags add to our community and I think most residents and business owners would agree.

I suggest the writer to contact the Business Association for any further explanation or maybe even join the association, so they may become part of the decision making process, instead of sitting back criticizing people who volunteer their time because they care about their town.

I would also like to add that the governing body has purchased the decorative benches from a local company—Home Depot—not with taxpayers money, but with grant money. The planters will be purchased in the spring by the governing body, again with grant money from a local vendor.

At times I am rather overwhelmed. I find it difficult to believe that someone would prefer to write an anonymous letter filled with false accusations and libelous comments rather than to make a phone call to a member of the governing body who would have cleared up all the misunderstandings. We try to teach our children that communication is a very important tool in our society. Maybe the writer should redefine his/hers communication skills and hopefully learn how to apologize when striking out about a situation that does not warrant criticism!

COUNCILWOMAN
DARLENE PINTO

To the Editor;

During a time of grief, it is sometimes possible to inadvertently miss thanking someone who helped during a time of sorrow. The outpouring of flowers, cards and donations to

the children's fund during the loss of Diane Payne Birath has been overwhelming. Please accept our heartfelt appreciation if you were missed.

A special thank you to my fellow officers from the Greenbrook Police Department for all of their support and also the South Plainfield Police Department and the Plainfield Police Department for their assistance with traffic control.

Surely not to be forgotten, is the professionalism, compassion and friendship of William and Richard McCriscin and staff which has certainly helped to ease our burden.

WILLIAM C. BIRATH & FAMILY

I would like to thank the *Observer* for its assistance in the removal of trash from Putnam Park. After contacting the *Observer* the trash was removed quickly. I would also like to thank those who were responsible for having the trash removed.

I have been informed part of the problem is that someone is dumping their household trash in the park. I personally have observed through my window someone walking down Revere Road and dumping their branches late at night. I have tried to catch that person but always arrive too late.

I have also heard about vandalism of the play equipment at Cotton Street and observed the graffiti here at Putnam on the handball court.

If we are having such a problem in the parks, why not install security cameras to catch those involved? I read in last week's letter to the editor that the fine for dumping is \$1,000. That to me is too low for such a violation. I would support raising the fine to \$5,000. for graffiti, dumping and vandalism to cover the cost of catching violators. These aren't minor violations that don't hurt anyone. These violations hurt our community by destroying our parks and are clearly a choice between right and wrong that someone should have learned as a child.

I would also support that the offenders' pictures be pasted on the front page of the local newspaper if convicted so that other residents could identify those who thought so little of our town by destroying our parks.

Security cameras are not big brother as some would claim. What one does in one's home should not be of concern to others unless a crime has taken place. What one does in our parks is our business since they belong to all of us and I have no problem with installing cameras.

If security cameras are unfeasible, then establish a hotline for tipsters and use the fines to reward the tipsters upon conviction of the accused. While I do not like the idea of neighbor turning in neighbor, I do support such a system for felony violations and for violations such as dumping, vandalism and graffiti.

Again, thanks to all who helped getting the trash removed.

JOSEPH SCALERA

Letters

Status on South Plainfield School District Negotiations

To the Editor:

I have refrained from commenting on the progress of negotiations because at our early meetings we agreed that we would not comment to the press or the public until either party was officially informed by PERC that impasse position was filed. However, the union president has seen fit at almost every opportunity to talk to the press, write letters, use board meetings as a platform and use the Staff opening school program to criticize the board committee for lack of progress.

We have had nine negotiating sessions. The union's initial wage request was for increases of 15% per year for aides, 9% for secretaries and 8% for teachers, excluding increments. During this period, the board negotiators offered two wage proposals and a number of changes in length of work day and changes in the Healthcare program amongst other issues. Presently teachers and secretaries receive hospital/medical, prescription drugs and dental coverage at no cost to the employee and for teachers with three or more years of service, no cost for dependent coverage. Average teacher's salary is approximately \$55,000 and secretaries \$36,000 for a 35 hour week.

At the last meeting held on July 29, the union revised its wage proposal after nine meetings to 12% for aides, 8% for secretaries and 6% for teachers and no change in healthcare. Having made that proposal, the union declared we were at impasse and left the meeting. The board committee was prepared to continue negotiations.

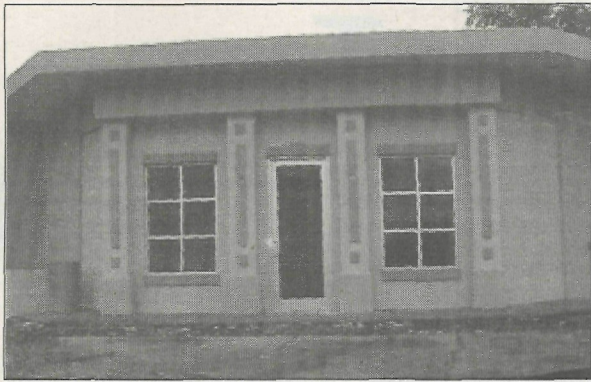
Another issue raised by the union president was that the board offered no increase for aides. The board did have a proposal to discuss the issue of aides, but the union refused to discuss the boards approach. In our district, there are several categories of aides; duty aides, bus aides and teacher aides. Some aides work two hours per day and others up to six hours per day. The average wage is \$12.52 per hour with a range of \$10.04 to \$13.87 per hour.

The board committee takes its obligation seriously and will continue in its efforts to reach a fair settlement taking into consideration the interest of all parties; the students, parents, taxpayers and the staff in spite of the union's leadership attempts to distort the process. The union president says that they have made every attempt to reach a fair settlement. You be the judge and look at the union's last wage proposal and ask, is that in the direction of a fair settlement.

This board committee has demonstrated it can reach a settlement. We negotiated earlier with the principals and administration unit and achieved a reasonable settlement to both parties in just four meetings.

FRANK A. MIKORSKI
CHAIRMAN NEGOTIATING
COMMITTEE

Send your letters and opinions to South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080



Can you identify this building in South Plainfield?

That's what we asked visitors to our booth at the Labor Day Parade in Veterans' Park. This recently renovated (and still under construction site) is the future home of the DARE (Drug Awareness Resistance Education), part of South Plainfield's community policing on Hamilton Blvd. The *Observer* awarded *South Plainfield Observer* t-shirts to the following people who correctly identified the building and its location. (The winners were chosen at random from all the correct entries.) Chris Chicarelli, S. Toth, Gloria Esaw, Sandra Zaluska, Laura O'Shaughnessy and Lisa Mazural.

Billboard Ordinance Voted Down, Committee Formed

The billboard ordinance was officially voted down at last Thursday's council meeting. Mayor Gallagher created a Special Advisory Committee to research and advise on billboard ordinances. The committee will be under the direction of Council President Jim Vokral. Other committee members include Councilwoman Darlene Pinto, Councilman Vinnie Buttiglieri, Larry Randolph from the Environmental Commission, Bob Longo from the Business Advisory Group and Harry Kuhn from the Taxpayer's Advisory Group. The group plans to have their first

meeting on Monday, Sept. 20.

According to the mayor, DOT has already issued six or seven permits for billboards in the South Plainfield area. The mayor said he will ask them to stop issuing permits until this matter is resolved.

Councilman Vokral also announced that the committee would use an outside planner. The present planner, Lester J. Nebenzahl, has been cause of a lot of controversy. Nebenzahl also works as a consultant with THP, Inc. who represents the Elray Corp. of Carteret. Elray has been issued a permit for a billboards in the 287 South Plainfield corridor.

High School Students Caught with Illegal Drugs

The South Plainfield Police Department acting on an anonymous tip, conducted an investigation into illegal drug use in Spring Lake Park prior to school hours.

On Friday, Sept. 10, detectives from the South Plainfield Police Department conducted a surveillance of an area in Spring Lake Park after they received reports of kids using drugs there. Their efforts resulted in the apprehension of six students, four boys and two

girls using illegal drugs (marijuana).

The juveniles, all students from South Plainfield High School, were taken into protective custody and released to their parents.

Because of the ages of the individuals, their identities were not released. The juveniles are being charged with possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and conspiracy to possess a controlled drug substance.

Leaf Compost Available

South Plainfield residents can pick up free leaf compost at the borough's Recycling Center on Kenneth Ave. The compost is from leaves collected last fall throughout Middlesex County which were composted at the County's compost site on Quarry Lane in North Brunswick.

Residents should be prepared to bag their own compost and bring whatever equipment they need. The compost is located in the wooden bins behind the Recycling Center shed, not at the Yard Waste Site. Recycling Cen-

ter hours are: Tuesdays, noon to 7 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Leaf compost makes a good soil amendment, lightening heavy clay soils, improving water holding in sandy soils and adding organic matter that supports earthworms and healthy soil microbes. It also makes a good mulch on top of the soil, to reduce water evaporation and weed growth.

For more information, call the Recycling Coordinator at 226-7621. Visit our website: www.southplainfieldnj.com

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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

You can almost set your watch by this, or, at the very least, your calendar. We are, of course, referring to your weekly bit of news from South Plainfield Library:

Our Sunday operating hours have been brought back. Starting this Sunday, we'll be open from 1:30-5 p.m.

We've got our regular slate of children's programs set for next week. Each program is for children ages three and over. They're held on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday at 1:15 p.m. No registration is required. If you'd like more information, check with Linda Hansen, our Children's Librarian.

We've got two special programs coming up in the near future. On Tuesday at 7 p.m., we've got a special program from the Friends of the Woods. They'll be presenting the new local *Nature Guide, Trail Map and Species List*. They'll also present a slide show on local woodland. Later in the month, on Thursday, September 30, we'll host a meeting for local Home Schoolers. Parents who home-school their children, or those interested in doing so, are invited to come for an informal discussion. As with the children's programs, you can learn more about this meeting from Linda Hansen. You don't have to register for either of these programs.

A change is on the way re: Internet access. In the very near future, we'll change to a system whereby patrons will use their library cards to log onto the system. We'll have more details on this very soon.

As we've said many times before, we're always interested in your opinions. Following in the path of our recent General and Children's section surveys, we've now pre-

pared a Reference section survey. Please take a few moments and pass along your views on our Reference department, then put the survey form in the clearly marked collection box. Also, we're still accepting submissions for those other two surveys. Survey forms are available at the main desk.

We've got several new items coming soon. Upcoming books include "O" is for *Outlaw* by Sue Grafton, *The Alibi* by Sandra Brown, Danielle Steel's latest book *Irresistible Forces*, and a Stephen King collection called *Hearts in Atlantis*. Meanwhile, a number of new videos are on the way. In the children's section, these include several tapes featuring the Olsen Twins, plus tapes in the "Berenstain Bears," "Franklin" and "Bear in the Big Blue House" series, respectively. The general section will soon feature more movies from director Alfred Hitchcock, "The Outlaw Josey Wales" starring Clint Eastwood, and the "Horatio Hornblower" series. We're also adding some new books-on-tape, including *Certain Prey* by John Sanford, *Black Notice* by Patricia Cornwell, and *Tara Road* by Maeve Binchy. Keep your eyes open for these new additions; if you want to make sure of getting one ASAP (particularly the books), you might consider putting in a reserve on the item. Ask at the main desk about this.

We're about out of space for this week. Please be sure to check us out next week for more news.

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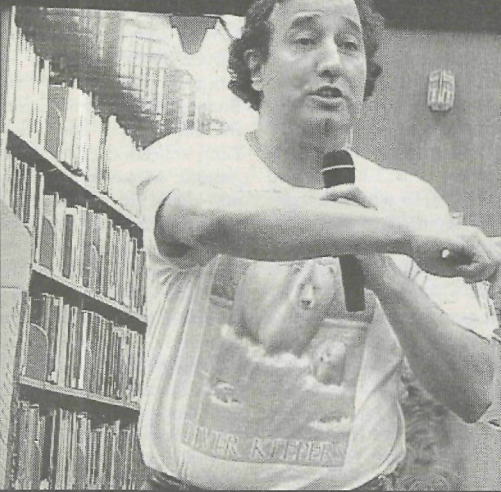
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**COMPUTER EDUCATION
CENTER**

AROUND TOWN

EVENTS



Dave Street performs his highly acclaimed "The Habits that Save Habitats" last Saturday at the South Plainfield Public Library.



Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support Meeting

Connected Heart's Adoption Triad Support (CHATS) will meet 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 27, at Watchung Ave. Presbyterian Church, 170 Watchung Ave., North Plainfield. Open sharing of adoption-related stories and light refreshments. Call Alyce at (732) 227-0607 for information.

Riley School Fifth Graders Will Hold a Spaghetti Dinner

Riley School's fifth graders will be hosting a spaghetti dinner on Friday, Sept. 24 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the school. The doors will open at 4:30 for senior citizens.

The dinner includes spaghetti, meatballs, salad, garlic bread, beverage and dessert.

The proceeds will be used to benefit the 1999 Stokes Trip. The cost is \$5 per person, \$4 for senior citizens and children under 10. Advanced tickets can be purchased from fifth graders.

Recreation Plans Trip to Atlantic City

Come join us on a trip to Atlantic City. Play in the sand or the casinos on Sunday, Oct. 10. The bus leaves the PAL Building at 11:30 a.m.

Price is \$12 per person and includes \$17 in coins and a \$2.50 food credit.

Tickets may be purchased at the PAL Building located on Maple Ave.

Polish Home Annual Picnic Set

The Polish National Home will be holding their Annual Picnic on Sunday, Sept. 19 from 12 noon to 6 p.m.

Tickets are on sale at the Polish Home located on New Market Ave. or at the gate.

Our Lady of Czestochowa Sponsoring Spaghetti Supper

Our Lady of Czestochowa Rosary Altar Society will be holding a spaghetti supper on Saturday, Oct. 2 from 4-8 p.m.

Price for adults is \$7, senior citizens are \$6, children 5-12 years old are \$3.50 and children under five year are free. The spaghetti supper includes salad and dessert.

Atlantic City Trip Planned by Polish Home

The Polish National Home is sponsoring a trip to the Resorts Casino in Atlantic City on Sunday, Oct. 17. Tickets are \$15 per person and include a \$17 return and a \$2.50 food voucher.

The bus leaves the Polish Home parking lot located on New Market Ave. at 11:30 a.m.

For reservations, call Ann at 561-6551 or Emily 757-3428.

Roosevelt School Craft Night '99

Roosevelt School will sponsor a craft show on Friday, Oct. 1, 5-9 p.m., featuring 35 crafters. Start your holiday shopping early!

For table information, call Michele at (908) 753-0124.

Cedarcroft Bible Chapel Will Hold Fall Festival

Cedarcroft Bible Chapel on Kenyon Ave. will hold its Fall Festival on Friday, September 17, from 7-9 p.m.

Interested South Plainfield residents and residents of surrounding communities are invited to learn about programs for children, young adults and adults.

The festival will include a hot dog cookout, puppet shows, crafts, a sing-a-long and interactive displays. Also plan to visit the Cedarcroft Sunday School Dollar Store.

Register for the following: Sunday school classes for ages two through high school; Pioneer Clubs for kindergarten through fifth grade, Young Timers for sixth through eighth grades; Front Line Youth Group for ninth through 12 grades and adult bible studies for college aged and up.

Polish Home Sponsoring Trip to NY Yankees Game

The South Plainfield Polish National Home is planning a trip to see the NY Yankees play the Tampa Bay Devil Rays on Saturday, Sept. 25. The game starts at 7 p.m. The bus will leave the Polish Home parking lot at 2 p.m. sharp. The cost is \$30 per person and includes a bleacher seat ticket and transportation.

Tickets are available at the Polish Home bar. Please call (908) 668-9442 for more information.

SPHS Class of 1979 Planning Reunion

What a long strange trip it has been since graduation from South Plainfield High School in 1979. Join us at the twenty year reunion of the high school class of 1979 and tell us about what the past 20 years have been for you.

The reunion will be held on Saturday, Nov. 27, at the Pines Manor located on Route 27 in Edison, from 8-12 p.m.

The cost is \$45 per person and includes a buffet and a DJ. There will be a cash bar. Pass the word to other alumni. For more information log on to <http://idt.net/~abbottk/SPHS1979.HTML>.

VFW Monthly Dinner

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

New Jersey's 18th Annual "Let's Talk Adoption" Conference

The 18th Annual "Let's Talk Adoption" Conference will be held at Seton Hall University in South Orange on Saturday, Nov. 6 from 8 a.m.-4:45 p.m.

The conference is sponsored by Concerned Persons for Adoption. The scheduled keynote speaker is Dr. David Brodzinsky and the lunchtime speaker is Dr. Anne Brodzinsky.

Over 25 different workshops will be held throughout the day for prospective and current adoptive parents, adoption professionals and members of the adoption triad.

Workshops to be held include: Homestudy, International Opportunities, Adopting the Waiting Child, Searching, INS Update Subsidies, How to Finance an Adoption, Finding a Therapist, School Issues and Language Issues for the Internationally Adopted Child.

To register, call 908-273-5694 or email mcben216@aol.com to request a registration flyer.

Single Parents Group to Meet

A newly formed Single Parents of Central New Jersey group will meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month, 7:30-10:30 p.m. For information, call Sandra 732-283-1250 or e-mail snlprntnj@aol.com.

• Entry fee of \$85 for indi-



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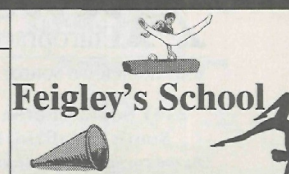
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EVENTS

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. Transportation is included. Tickets can be purchased at the PAL Building on Maple Ave. For more information call 226-7713.

Columbiettes Chinese Auction and Events

The South Plainfield Columbiettes are sponsoring a Chinese style auction on Friday, Oct. 1 in the cafeteria of Sacred Heart School. Doors will open at 6 p.m. and the drawings start at 7 p.m. The \$6 admission includes a sheet of auction tickets and a door prize for all who attend, as they enter.

There will be over 250 prizes, including a camcorder, DVD player, TV/VCR combo, stereo, the just released Sega Dreamcast game system, luggage, microwave oven, 50 baskets, autographed sports items from the Nets, Devils and NASCAR, sports tickets for Devils hockey, Rutgers football and Patriots baseball, theater tickets and much more.

Food will be available for purchase in the kitchen and complimentary coffee, tea and dessert will be served. Seating is limited and tickets can be purchased by calling Mary Ann at (908) 226-1222.

Upcoming events for the Columbiettes also include a shopping trip to Reading, Pa. on Saturday, Nov. 6, cost is \$18; a Country Western dinner dance on Saturday, Nov. 20 at Bobby & Mary's in Piscataway, cost is \$20; and "The Miracle of Christmas" at the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, Pa. on Saturday, Dec. 11, cost is \$85. All events are open to the public. For information or tickets for any of these trips, call Mary Ann at (908) 226-1222.

AARP Schedules Meetings

South Plainfield Chapter #4144, AARP, resumes monthly meetings on Sept. 17 at 12:30 p.m. at the PAL Building on Maple Ave. The guest speaker, Mr. John Mulkerin, President of First Sav-

ings 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.

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, Oct. 24, at the Polish National Home on New Market Ave. Doors open at 12 noon. Tickets are \$27 and may be purchased by calling 908-754-8275 or from any auxiliary member.

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.

Tickets will not be sold at the door. Proceeds from this annual fund raiser help the South Plainfield Rescue Squad defray numerous expenses.

Polish National Home Flea Market

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

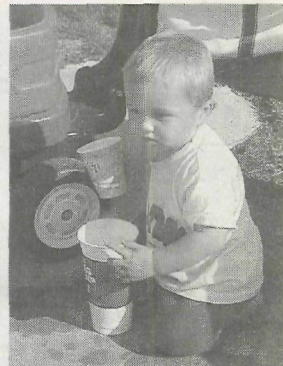
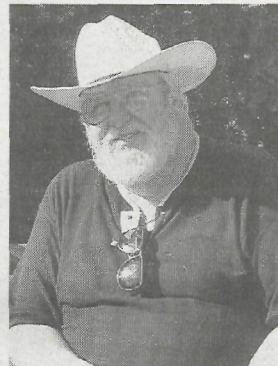
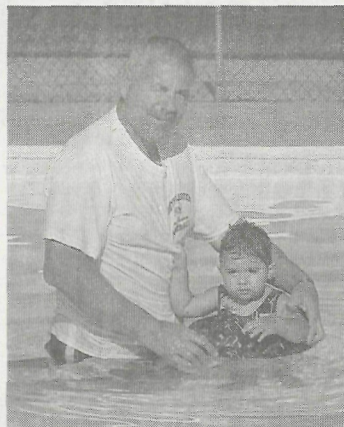
P.B.A. Eighth Annual Golf Tournament Set

The South Plainfield Police P.B.A. Local #100 will be holding the Eighth Annual Golf Tournament on Monday, Sept. 20. A shotgun start is planned for 11 a.m. at the Mattawang Golf Course on Township Road in Belle Mead. An awards banquet will follow at the clubhouse located at the course. A large turnout is expected this year, as usual, so sign up as soon as possible.

There are still several sponsorships available:

- Playing sponsor at \$210—Your company will receive a commemorative pennant that is displayed on a green and a company representative may play for free!
- Donation of \$150—Sponsors a beverage cart on which your commemorative pennant will be displayed.
- Non-playing sponsor at \$110—Your company name will be printed on a sign located on a tee.
- A donation of \$85 sponsors a golf cart with your company name printed on a sign fastened to a player's golf cart.

Employee Appreciation Day Held at the Pool



The Borough held an Employee Appreciation Day last Saturday at the Community Pool. Borough employees spent the afternoon swimming in the pool, picnicking and playing games.

Highland Woods Photos on Display

By Dorothy Miele, chairperson

Photographs taken at Highland Avenue Woods Environmental Education Reserve are on display in five district schools, Board of Education, and the public library throughout the month of September. Accompanying most of the displays are examples of plants and animals found in the reserve. The Friends of the Woods, presenters of the exhibits, hope to encourage students, teachers and parents to use the reserve more actively as an environmental education site. A diversity of ecosystems, plants and animals are found at the 34-acre site and an established trail system is in place.

The Board of Education leased the site from the borough in 1993, intending to use it as an outdoor science classroom and botanical field trip center. Early in the 1980's, the board sought to establish an environmental education center on the former NIKE missile base in South Plainfield. The U.S. government instead sold the land to developer Michael Kaplan. That decision is historically recorded in cement, steel and asphalt. Then in 1991, negotiations resumed with the Borough Council and Environmental Commission to preserve 20-acres between South Clinton

Avenue and Pitt Street Park owned by the borough. Additional acreage was added, and on January 19, 1993, a lease was signed with the Borough giving the Board of Education stewardship of the land.

The Friends of the Woods, a subcommittee of volunteers under the auspices of the S.P. Environmental Commission, was officially formed in January, 1997 to maintain the trail system and organize clean-ups. The friends also conduct public walks and talks programs. Guided nature walks for scouts, environmental clubs, church groups and schools, etc. are scheduled upon request. The reserve is open to the public year-round from dawn until dusk.

The Friends have designed a September mini-media blitz designed to bring more public awareness of the existence of the site which is tucked away between housing and light industrial development. Besides the photo displays and artifact exhibits, a butterfly float in the annual South Plainfield Labor Day Parade, an

information center in Veterans' Park at the Community Picnic and feature article in the "Community" section of the *Courier News* (Sept. 1, 1999) are getting the word out. A slide show of the reserve's natural wonders and official presentation to the public and Board of Education of the recently published *Nature Guide, Trail Map and Species List* will take place on Sept. 21 at 7 p.m. at the South Plainfield Free Public Library. The nature guide, station markers and work table in the reserve were made possible by a \$3,873 grant from ANJEC (Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions). The free guide will be available at the Environmental Office at Borough Hall on Plainfield Avenue.

For more information about programs, or to schedule a group walk, call Environmental Specialist Dr. Alice Tempel at (908) 226-7621 Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., or write to D. Miele, 123 Elliott Place, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

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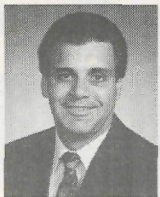
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The Alternative View

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



Dear Dr. DeCosta: My sister was telling me how she regularly takes her children to her chiropractor and that since she has done so, her children are hardly ever sick or miss school in your experience, is this common? - C.R.

Dear C. R.:

In today's society we hear on the news of all kinds of tragedies and horrors that befall our children. Sometimes these stories of abuse are beyond our comprehension or belief. And if given the chance most of us would go to any length to prevent the possible tragedy that might occur to one of "the little ones."

Fortunately, today our society is beginning to wake up to the horrors of kidnaped or abused children. As a nation we are starting to stand up and act to prevent these visible tragedies from happening. But, unfortunately, there still lies one terrible tragedy, that because it cannot be seen, is more common and in terms of sheer numbers, more devastating than any other horror that can befall our children. This tragedy is "Vertebral Subluxation."

If this term doesn't trigger the same immediate "gut" reaction as the term "child abuse" does, it's probably because you are not totally familiar with the horrors that a vertebral subluxation can cause on a young, fragile nervous system.

If you are not familiar with the term, a "vertebral subluxation" is when one or more of the bones of your spine move out of position and press or irritate a nerve. When this happens there is a sort of "short circuit" in the nervous system, and the end result is that the brain cannot properly communicate with some part of your body. Now, commonly most people assume that this means a "back pain," but this is not very common compared to the multitude of other disorders and health problems that do occur. In comparison, the ratio of muscular problems to internal disorders is about 1 to 15. So, with a subluxation it is five times more common for someone to get an internal sickness, disease, or disorder, before ever getting a back pain.

When you then think about this child, the problem becomes clear and evident. I don't think that any parent would knowingly say that they think it would be all right for their child to have subluxations. Knowing of the damage that subluxations can do, wouldn't you want your child to be free of this menace?

Fortunately, this problem is correctable. In children, vertebral subluxations have not had a long time to become difficult, and they therefore can be fairly easily corrected with a chiropractic adjustment. The only real sad point to all this is that many times parents will not have their children checked for subluxations either because they don't know about the dangers of it, or because their children appear healthy. Both of these false reasons can lead to tragedy in your child's health.

As far as the dangers of subluxations, let me say that I believe that subluxations are the most significant danger facing the health of children today. When you consider the volumes of research now available which link subluxations to an unbelievable amount of childhood diseases, it makes good sense to have your child checked for subluxations on a regular basis.

Even if your child looks and acts healthy, you can never tell if a subluxation is present just by how a child acts. Most subluxations lie dormant, causing damage to nerves for a long time before they ever cause a noticeable health problem.

So, no matter how you look at it, children are important! We should take all prudent measures to protect them from harm. And in doing so, we should never neglect the most dangerous harm of all, the Vertebral Subluxation.

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

A Shining Example of a Good Neighbor

By Concetta M. Perro

Nycomed Amersham Imaging has begun a beautification project at their manufacturing facility located on the corner of Durham Ave. and Hadley Blvd. The purpose of the project is to clear away the unsightly brush and poison ivy and dismantle the unattractive barbed wire fence that runs along the south edge of the property and replace it with groves of trees and flowering bushes that will provide a park-like setting for employees and neighbors to view. A new white shadow-box fence will add the final touch and give the immediate neighbors a pleasing view from their homes. In addition, Nycomed Amersham will donate to the borough of South Plainfield and plant 20 trees alongside their facility on Hadley Road. The South Plainfield site, which has been at its present location of 900 Durham Road for twenty-seven years, did not have any residential neighbors until approximately two years ago, when a housing development was constructed next to the facility.

Gordon Glass, Director of Site Operations and Andy Toth, Maintenance Manager have communicated personally with the neighbors to inform them of the objectives of the beautification project and to ascertain any concerns and/or questions that the neighbors have concerning the project which is taking place near their homes. Some of the neighbors' concerns included privacy for their children from the nearby Hadley Road, possible damage to their gardens and the noise generated by the



Nycomed Amersham Imaging, corner of Durham Ave. and Hadley Blvd

project. Most neighbors are pleased that Nycomed Amersham is sharing this information with them, and some have commented that they are glad to see such improvements taking place. The result from the beautification project will afford the neighbors a level of privacy that meets or surpasses what they had prior to the commencement of the landscaping at the site. In addition, the new landscaping will provide a scenic overlook from the homeowners' second floor windows.

"The old barbed wire fence could have been more than 50 years old, dating back to an Army Radar installation built during the early Cold War. Through the poison ivy growing on this fence you could still see the army sign, warning against trespassing. I'm very much looking forward to the new 'neighborly' appearance, which will improve the community's impression of our

company, and give a manicured, more professional look to the site," commented Glass.

The idea behind the improvements originally came from Jerry Goff, maintenance manager for the South Plainfield site, who felt that the landscaping project would enhance the view of the facility from the neighbors' rear yards. Accordingly, Andy Toth has driven the project forward and continues to communicate with their neighbors on issues and concerns. The project commenced in early spring 1999 and is scheduled to conclude by spring 2000.

Headquartered in Princeton, New Jersey, Nycomed Amersham Imaging is part of Nycomed Amersham plc (NYSE: NYE). Nycomed Amersham plc is a world leader in in-vivo diagnostic imaging and in life sciences. The company has annual sales of £1.1 billion (approximately U.S. \$1.85 billion) and around 8,500 employees worldwide.

MILESTONES

Wedding

Dena Siushansian and Frank Smith Wed

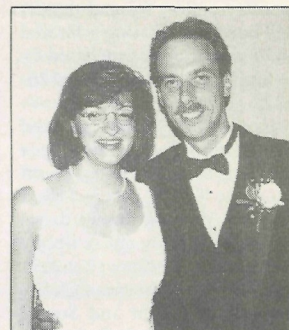
Dena Siushansian of Princeton, and Frank Smith, Jr. of South Plainfield were married on August 28 at First Congregational Church in Westfield. The bride is the daughter of Roland and Mary Ann Siushansian of Olney, Md. The groom is the son of Frank and Barbara Smith, longtime residents of South Plainfield.

The groom is a graduate of South Plainfield High School. He received his BS in finance from Seton Hall University and an MBA in Business Management from Rutgers University. The bride is a graduate of

American University in Washington, DC, where she received her BS in liberal arts. She recently attended Rutgers University where she received her MBA in International Marketing.

Dena and Frank met while they both were attending Rutgers University. They were married by Elise Hawke, a close friend of the couple.

Leigh Davis was the Matron of Honor and Phil Huson was best man. Bridesmaids were Gail Giorno, Laura Pohl and Kim Yow. Ushers were Bob Smith, Rod Dasper and Sony Senia. The flower girl was



Mr. & Mrs. Frank Smith, Jr.

Dayna Smith and the ring bearer was Logan Jones.

After a honeymoon in Hawaii the couple plan to live in Princeton.

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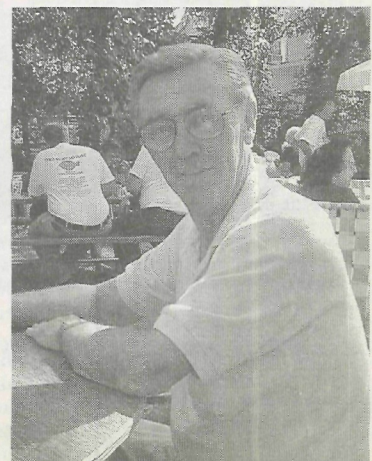
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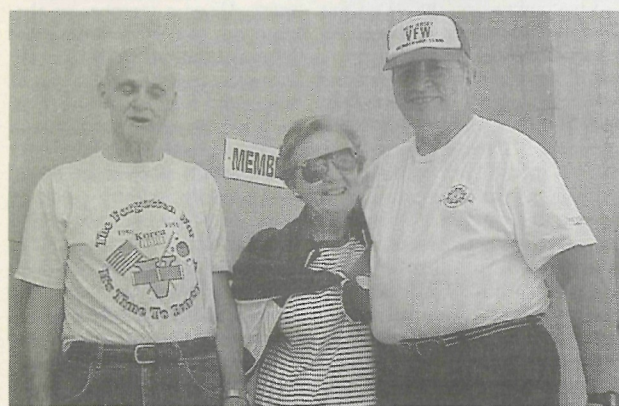
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VFW Annual Picnic Celebrates 100th Anniversary

The year-long commemoration of the Veterans of Foreign Wars 100th Anniversary was celebrated at their annual VFW picnic. Festivities included a pig roast, moon walk and pony rides for children, and a DJ.



We Want Your News!

If you have news about South Plainfield people or events, send us a note or fax us at (908) 668-8819. We would like to include your story in the paper.

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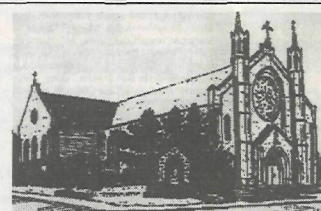
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 Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.
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Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 11 a.m. - 12 noon, 5:15 - 5:45 p.m.
 and after 5:45 p.m. Vigil Mass



Sacred Heart "Back to School Night"

Sacred Heart School will hold its annual "Back to School Night" on Monday, September 20 at 6:30 p.m. Attendance is Mandatory for the parents/guardians of Sacred Heart students.

"Back To School Night" is a great way to hear firsthand about the exciting events planned for the upcoming school year, as well as school policies and/or changes. It is also a great way to learn and understand the mission of our school.

After a prayer by Rev. Michael A. McGuire, the teachers and staff will be introduced by Sister Cornelia Ramirez, RVM. Refreshments will be served.

Upcoming Events For October

- Oct. 15 Bulb planting at 1 p.m.
- Oct. 18 Book Fair (week of)
- Oct. 22 Bulb planting rain date
- Oct. 29 Halloween Parade at 12:30 p.m.

Registration Begins for South Plainfield Girl Scouts

Fall registration has begun to join the girls scouts and the adults who are already participating in South Plainfield Girl Scouts has begun. Both girls and adults are encouraged to join the largest organization for girls in the world. Through Girl Scouting, girls experience outdoor skills, educational enhancements and friendships. Volunteers receive training and access to a multitude of resources.

Registration will be held at each elementary school's "Back to School Night." Registration forms will also be available in the Girl Scout box found in each school's main office. Anyone interested in more information regarding registration or volunteering should call Nancy Regan, (908) 756-4530.

New Jersey International Orchestra To Hold Registration Sept. 16

The New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra will hold a registration and rehearsal on September 16 in the music room at Cranford High School, 201 West End Place at 7 p.m. The NJIO holds two free concerts yearly at Cranford High School. It will also perform this fall at the United Nations in October. Future plans include a trip to Washington D.C. to perform at Kennedy Center.

The NJIO is made up of musicians aged from 6-87 from 31 communities.

The NJIO is funded in part

by the Cranford Public Schools, The Rotary Club of Cranford, The New Jersey Council on the Arts, Dept. of State through a grant administered by the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs and the Recording Industries Fund in whole or in part the instrumental music performances as arranged by Local 151 of American Federation of Musicians.

For further information contact conductor Lorraine Marks at 908-709-0084 or web site <http://www.bobdevelin.com/orches.html>.

High School French Club Sponsoring Trip to France

The South Plainfield High School French Club is sponsoring a trip to France for Spring 2000. Sixteen students have already signed up for the tour which will take them to Paris, Switzerland and the south France. The tour is named "Le Magnifique" and is offered by the Cultural Heritage Alliance educational tour company.

The trip begins with two days of sight-seeing in Paris including visits to the top of the Eiffel Tower, the world famous Louvre Museum and other Parisian landmarks as well as a Seine River cruise. After a tour of the Versailles Palace, students will board the 'TGV (train grande vitesse), France's high-speed passenger train and travel to Lausanne, Switzerland, a popular picturesque town near the Swiss Alps. The city of Lyon, France's third largest is next and

then historic locations such as Avignon and Nîmes.

Finally, the group will arrive in Provence where their travels will take them to Aix-en-Provence, Nice and Monaco. The tour will focus on the history, culture and of course, language of France.

In addition to practicing their language skills, the student participants and their chaperone, Mrs. Perry Sicola, will be sampling the gastronomic specialties of France and enjoy shopping in the fashion capital of the world.

The trip is scheduled for April 13-21, 2000 and is open to students who are studying French, have taken French in the past or have been French Club members. See Mrs. Sicola at the high school for details or call 908 754-4620 ext. 352. Bon voyage A tous!

By Cyrus n Moon

Weekly Horoscope 9/17-9/23

VIRGO 8/23-9/22 Mercury challenging aspect to Mars. Understand that your tolerance and patience level are stressed by this transit. Your perceptions and your reactions are fast. Be careful as you're inclined to say just what you think, in no uncertain terms. Be aware and count to three (at least) before you speak.

LIBRA 9/23-10/22 Moon squares Saturn. You should be careful about falling into negative thinking about yourself. Or you may start to dwell endlessly on negative experiences from your past. Your perspective is distorted now. Also the possibility of separations is great under this transit.

SCORPIO 10/23-11/21 Mercury sextiles Pluto. Keep an open mind and do not let single ideas cloud your mind. But you will have the energy to examine, scrutinize and probe everything that comes your way. Nobody will be able to pull the wool over your eyes. When you have the question, you will find the answer.

SAGITTARIUS 11/22-12/21 Moon enters Sagittarius. During this time you should be experiencing a need to get away from routine and restlessness occurrences. Taking a trip to anywhere USA will be just what the doctor ordered to get out of them doldrums. Also sports is high on this list.

CAPRICORN 12/22-1/19 Moon trines Saturn. The past will hold a strong attraction for you. You will feel rather conservative and inclined to follow the old answers that have always worked in the past. And they probably will work now. Any adversity you encounter now you will have the reserve strength to handle it.

AQUARIUS 1/20-2/18 Venus sextiles Uranus. If a relationship that starts this week does last more than a short time, it may revolutionize your life in some way. You will have to give your friend or lover great freedom. Because there is no room for possessiveness or jealousy in a Venus-Uranus relationship.

PISCES 2/19-3/20 Mercury sextiles Neptune. This is a very creative time for you if you are interested in art,

music, or poetry. Also you will have the ability to teach anything new to someone who wants to learn. So communicate the spiritual or psychic experiences that you are feeling.

ARIES 3/21-4/19 Moon in challenging aspect to Mars. Be careful this week as emotional clashes and disputes are possible or suppressed tensions that can lead to self-sabotage (little accidents for example). If you can be clear about your own feelings and are willing to consider the other person, it might be best to clear the air.

TAURUS 4/20-5/20 Moon opposition Venus. At this time if alone you have a strong desire to want to be involved in a relationship and you may not care if it will run smoothly or not. What is important to you now is the intensity of interchange with another. So have a positive mind with your search and you can find a love in your life.

GEMINI 5/21-6/20 Moon squares Mercury. Be careful there is the danger that your feelings and emotions will overwhelm your rational intellect, making your thinking so subjective that no one else will be able to relate to what you say. Also if someone confronts you do not run from the situation, that can make it worse.

CANCER 6/21-7/22 Jupiter/Moon combination. This is a time when people may come after you to meet you for some reason, and these people could be quite beneficial to you in business or personal affairs. And this can be even more of a benefit from a woman during this transit.

LEO 7/23-8/22 Sun in challenging aspect to Uranus. Expect the unexpected. If you are determined to stick doggedly to a routine, something or someone is likely to disrupt it. The best way to get out of this routine is to do something different or unusual. Innovate! Experiment! Test your limits. You may discover something new about yourself.

QUOTE: If you are happy and can express your freedom, Then let no one person take that away from you.

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Offer good while supplies last.

Brad Tierney Continued from page 1

Students were housed together in one dormitory. They shared a lot during their five weeks together, often learning from each other as well as the instructors. The camaraderie grew as they experienced time to "rest the brain." The Lawrenceville School's athletic facilities offers many activities to the students. They got a serious glimpse of college life and of living away from home by making decisions to study or go off with new found friends.

All the costs were covered by the NJ Scholar Program, which is supported by grants from New Jersey corporations, foundations, alumni, and the Lawrenceville School. The students came from diversified backgrounds with 75%

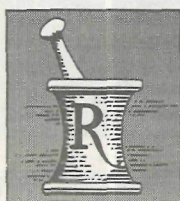
of attendants coming from New Jersey's public schools. The diversity continued in the broad mix of cultures; ethnic, economic, religious and racial.

Brad is entering his last year of high school with an advantage—a taste of what is to come as well as a wealth of memories. Brad had this to say about his experience with the program, "I went to the New Jersey Scholars Program to learn about Asian culture. I not only learned about Asian culture, I also learned about myself. I learned what it was like to be completely independent, doing what I wanted to do when I wanted to do it. I learned what it would be like to be in college."

Brad is currently student coun-

cil president and served as vice president of his class for three years. He is a member of the Academic and Math teams, the Jersey Club and SADD, as well as soccer, and the varsity tennis team. He is also a member of the South Plainfield Soccer Club. He is co-president of the SPHS Drama Club and has appeared in a number of their productions. He is vice president of the National Honor Society and a member of the German National Honor Society. He has been awarded the Kidak Young Leaders Award and is a finalist in the National Merit Scholarship contest.

Brad is the son of Donna and the late James Tierney of South Plainfield.



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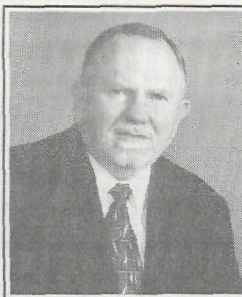
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SPORTS

Junior Baseball Club Notes

Annual Picnic

The annual SPJBC picnic was held on Saturday September 11 at the baseball complex. Hundreds of families were on hand for the occasion. The club would like to extend a special



thank you to everyone who helped out before, during and after the picnic. A 'Dunk Tank' provided a large part of the entertainment as players tried to drop coaches and board members into the tank.

There were Players vs. Coaches games for each age group. Trophies were awarded to teams in each of the leagues. The out-going Executive Board members each received a plaque from the club, and the Executive Board presented the Woman's Auxiliary with a plaque in appreciation for all of their efforts.

Monthly Meeting

The regular monthly meeting was held on Monday evening. This meeting marked the close-out of the 1998-1999 year and the turnover of the club to the new Executive Board. The 2000 schedule of events was distributed. The 1999-2000 budget was presented, and will be voted on at the October Meeting. The Rules and Bylaws Committee was formed to prepare and propose rule changes to be presented at the next meeting.

2000 Season Registration

Registration is open to all South Plainfield residents ages 8 to 16. New players must turn eight years old before August 1, 2000 and must present a copy of their birth certificate. Any parent interested in being a manager, coach and umpire can sign up at the registration.

The Woman's Auxiliary will be on-hand to take orders for the new line of SPJBC clothing.

The October "EARLY" registration for the 2000 season will be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Thursday October 21 and Friday October 22, and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct.

23 at the clubhouse. Early registration fees are \$50 for one player, \$80 for two players, \$100 for three or more players. (All per family)

The January registration will be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 13 and Friday, Jan. 14 and from 9

a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 15 at the clubhouse. January registration fees are \$55 for one player, \$85 for two players, \$105 for three or more players. (All per family)

Late registration fees will be \$60 per player and are no discounts.

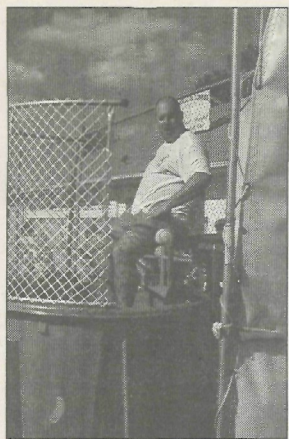
Contact the SPJBC ... Clubhouse 908-754-2090 or email spjbc99@aol.com.

Events at a glance

Monthly Meeting - Monday, Oct. 4 at 7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse

Woman's Auxiliary Meeting - Wednesday, Oct. 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse

Registration - Oct. 21, 22 and



23 at the clubhouse; January 13, 14, 15 at the clubhouse

Try Outs - Saturday, March 4 at the PAL

Opening Day - Saturday, April 15



1999 FULLERTON BOWL MIGHTY MITES CHAMPIONS—The South Plainfield Pop Warner Football Mighty Mites Division (ages 7-8) won their championship game 13-0 against Somerville. The team was 4-0 in pre-season games. Their season home opener will be played this Sunday, Sept. 18 at 11 a.m. at the Pop Warner field, near the recycling/compost center.

High School Tigers Drop Season Opener

By Brian Cochrane

Coming into this season the South Plainfield Tigers football team knew they would have their work cut out for them in trying to better last season's 6-4 record as well as their near miss in the playoff picture.

After losing nine of 11 offensive starters and eight of eleven defensive starters to graduation, the "new look" Tigers will have to rely on many first year starters in the quest for the Greater Middlesex Conference Blue division crown.

That quest got off to a bumpy start last Thursday night as the Raiders from North Brunswick came to town and overwhelmed the Tigers 44-6. Behind the run-

ning of huge (6' 4" 245 lbs.) sophomore tailback Chris Arnold, the Raiders were able to put up 38 unanswered points all in during the first half.

South Plainfield finally got on the scoreboard with two minutes to go in the half when returning senior Chris Francis took the hand-off from first year quarter-

back Matt Rennie and sprinted 82 yards for the Tigers first and only score.

The Raiders added a 65-yard-run by Chris Arnold to open the third quarter and round out the nights scoring. Arnold finished with 15 carries for 204 yards and the Tigers Chris Francis tallied 164 yards on 14 carries.

Tiger Football 99 Schedule

Sat. Sept 18	J. F. Kennedy	Away	1:00
Fri. Sept 24	Monroe	Home	7:00
Fri. Oct. 1	New Brunswick	Home	7:00
Fri. Oct. 8	Carteret	Away	7:00
Sat. Oct. 16	Spotswood	Away	1:00
Fri. Oct. 22	Hackettstown	Home	7:00
Fri. Oct. 29	Bishop Ahr	Away	7:00
Fri. Nov. 5	So. Amboy	Home	7:00
Sat. Nov. 13	Playoffs		

Youth Basketball League Forming

South Plainfield Recreation is starting to form its Youth Basketball League. The league is open to all South Plainfield residents ages 7-14 (as of October 1, 1999).

Games are played Saturdays at the Middle School. Practices are at the coaches' discretion, weekdays, afternoons and evenings at

various locations.

The fee is \$35 per participant. Register at the Recreation Office located on Maple Ave., Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Registrations will be taken until 8:00 p.m., October 18. The Recreation Office will also be open from 6-8:00 p.m. on Monday, September 20, October 4 and October 18.

Birth Certificates are only required for registrants who have not participated in a Recreation sponsored Youth League in the past 24 months. For more information call 908-226-7714.

Adult Co-Ed Volleyball Leagues Forming

The South Plainfield Recreation Department is accepting registrations for an adult co-ed volleyball league.

Games will be played on Tuesday nights at the Middle School starting on Jan. 4, 2000. The times are 6:30, 7:30 and 8:30 p.m.

Registration is being taken at the PAL Building located on Maple Ave. The fee is \$225 for a 16 member roster. Deadline for registration is Dec. 6.

To be eligible you must be 18 years old or older. The first 12 teams with the fee will be accepted.

For more information, call 226-7714.

Adult Basketball Registration

The South Plainfield Recreation Department has announced that Adult Basketball will be starting on November 18. The games will be played at 6, 7, 8 and 9 p.m.

The fee is \$500 for a 15 member roster. You must be 18 years or older. The first eight teams with the required fee will be accepted.

Register at the PAL Building on Maple Ave. by October 18. For information, call 226-7714.

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Obituaries

Rosemary A. Macellara, 66

Rosemary A. Macellara died on Wednesday, September 8 in Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Jersey City, she had resided in South Plainfield since 1958.

Mrs. Macellara was a homemaker and a communicant of Sacred Heart R.C. Church.

Her husband, Carmine W., died in 1972 and her sister, Ann Flanagan, died in 1986.

Surviving are four daughters and son-in-laws, Joan and Thomas Daly of South Plainfield, Regina and Jeff Macan of Bay Head, Mary and Robert Dilley of Piscataway and Rita and Paul Nagy of Glen Gardner; three sons and daughter-in-laws, William and Strathene Macellara of South Plainfield, Joseph and Deborah Macellara of Edison and Stephen and Connie Macellara of Bound Brook; a sister, Delores Mazzetta of Edison; two brothers, John Courtney of South Plainfield and James Courtney of Dover Twp. Also surviving are 10 grandchildren.

Funeral Services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Dorothy M. Miocha, 87

Dorothy M. Miocha died on Sunday, September 5 at Runnells

Specialized Hospital in Berkeley Heights.

Mrs. Miocha lived in Plainfield, where she resided most of her life. She was a homemaker.

She is predeceased by her husband, John Miocha and a dear friend, Elma Diana.

Surviving are several friends, including Wayne and Janice Diana of South Plainfield.

Private funeral services were under the direction of McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Mary A. (Postorino) Cirone, 91

Mary A. (Postorino) Cirone died on Tuesday, September 7 in Genesis Elder Care, The Woodlands in Plainfield.

Born in Jersey City, she resided there for most of her life. Mrs. Cirone had resided in Bayonne before moving to South Plainfield in 1994.

She was employed by the Jersey City Board of Education as a elementary school teacher from 1967 to 1972. She had also taught in the Jersey City School System at the elementary level during the 1932 school year.

Mrs. Cirone had graduated from Dickinson High School in Jersey City and had graduated from Jersey City State College where she had received her teaching degree.

Her husband, Natale Cirone, died in 1967.

Surviving are two daughters, Mary M. Sarao of South Plainfield and Margaret E. Flynn of Warren; two sons, Frank D. Cirone of Rahway and Dominick J. of Saddle Brook; two sisters, Connie Crisalfi of Bayonne and Ann Paladino of Louisville, Kentucky. Also surviving are eight grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Funeral Services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Edwin Stopherd, 86

Edwin Stopherd of South Plainfield died on Friday, September 10 at the Muhlenberg Re-

gional Medical Center in Plainfield.

He was born in Oldham Lancashire, England and came to the United States in 1912, settling in Newark. He was a former resident of Bloomfield before moving to South Plainfield 53 years ago.

Mr. Stopherd was a supervisor and machinist for the former American Type Founders in Elizabeth for many years.

He was a member of the Wesley Methodist Church in South Plainfield and a member of the Azure Masonic Lodge 129 in Cranford. He was a former den leader for the Webelos Lion Den Cub Scout Troop 125 in South Plainfield.

He is survived by his wife, Anna J. Cadiz Stopherd; two sons, Edwin C. Stopherd of Grantsville Pa. and John R. Stopherd of South Plainfield; a brother, Charles Stopherd of Las Vegas, NV. He was the grandfather of Stephanie, Michelle, Christina and Renee.

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

Memorial Donations in his memory may be made to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, 2520 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

Thomas "Skip" Allison, 54

Thomas "Skip" Allison died on Saturday, September 11 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Born in Plainfield, Mr. Allison had resided in South Plainfield for 41 years before settling in Middlesex 10 years ago.

He served in the United States Army for 17 years as a heavy operations mechanic during the Vietnam Era, where he was stationed state side.

Most recently he was employed by the Middlesex County Educational Services Commission in the Piscataway Regional Day School's Maintenance Department. He was employed for 10 years before his retirement in 1997.

He was a member of the Middlesex Elks Lodge #92301.

He is predeceased by his father, Thomas Reed Allison and his first wife, Kerri Allison.

Surviving are his wife, Elizabeth (Andrews) Allison; two daughters, Dawn Roche of Edison and Helene Rudnick of Middlesex; four sons, Scott Allison of South Bound Brook, Daniel Allison of Edison, David Galek of Middlesex and Ricky Galek of Bound Brook and his mother, Mrs. Betty (Diehl) Vargo of Piscataway.

Also surviving are his seven grandchildren, Kerri Allison, Angelo Roche, Stephanie and Danielle Rudnick, Lara, Allen and Samantha Galek.

Funeral Services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Donations in his memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, New Jersey Division, 846 Main Street, Fords, NJ. 08818.

Tecla Mella, 82

Tecla Mella died on Wednesday, September 8 at Genesis Eldercare - The Woodlands in Plainfield.

Born in Mt. Vernon, New York, Mrs. Mella had resided in South Plainfield for the past 34 years.

She was employed as a seamstress for the former Middlesex Dress Company of South Plainfield for 10 years before her retirement in the 1986.

She was a member of the South Plainfield Senior Citizens and had also been a believer in the Bah'Al religion.

She is predeceased by her husband, Leonard Mella, who died in January of 1975.

Surviving are her son, Barry Mella of South Plainfield; a sister-in-law, Natalie Pasca; many nieces and nephews, as well as, many dear and devoted friends and neighbors.

According to her wishes, Mrs. Mella had her body donated to medical science. A memorial services in her memory was held at James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

Memorial contributions in her memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, New Jersey Division, c/o 846 Main Street, Fords, NJ. 08818.

Thomas Santaguida, 60

Thomas A. Santaguida died on Monday September 13 at his home in Toms River.

Born in Plainfield, Mr. Santaguida had resided in Plainfield for many years, as well as in Bridgewater and Kenilworth, before settling in Toms River seven years ago.

He was a 1956 graduate of Plainfield high school and earned his Bachelors degree in History and Physical Education from Colgate University in Hamilton, NY in 1960. He continue his studies at New York University where he obtained his Masters Degree in education and continued studies toward his doctoral degree.

Mr. Santaguida was employed as an athletic director for the Clark Board of Education at the Arthur L. Johnson High School for the past six years. Previously he was employed at the David Brearley High School in Kenilworth in the same capacity for 25 years.

He was a member of the College Football Officials Association, the IAABO Basketball Officials Association, the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association and the Eastern College Athletic Conference.

Mr. Santaguida was also a communicant of St. Joseph's R.C. Church in Toms River.

Surviving are his wife, Ethel Santaguida; a daughter, Susan Lewis of Sunbury, Pa.; two step daughters, Betsy Renna of Wall and Diane DeFonza of Toms

River; three sons, John of Bridgewater, Thomas of New Gloucester, Maine and Steven of Weehawkin; three stepsons, Lou of N.Y.C., Dan of Aberdeen and Michael DeFonza of Toms River; a sister, Rose Vail of South Plainfield and a brother, Reutilio L. Santaguida of South Plainfield.

Also surviving are his grandchildren, John, Mark and Sarah Santaguida and Holden and Madison Leivis; two step-grandchildren, Daniel Renna and Raina DeFonza.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the American Institute for Cancer Research, 802 R Street North West, Washington, D.C. 20009.

Fall Trail Maintenance at Highland Ave. Woods

The South Plainfield Environmental Commission and Friends of the Woods will be doing fall maintenance in the woods on Sunday, September 19. Those interested in helping out should meet at the Sylvania Place (off of South Clinton Ave.) entrance at 9 a.m.

Registration is not required. Participants should wear sturdy shoes. For more information, call the Environmental Specialist at (908) 226-7621.

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by Robert Hunter

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We sometimes awaken from sleep with the desire to continue dreaming rather than face a harsher reality. In a sense, it is good we regard immortality with much of the hazy recollection with which we regard dreams. If we were to clearly recall the ethereal mists from which we first sprang upon the earth, we might be far more eager to return to the relative calm of eternal life. As Madame de Stael said: "Divine wisdom, intending to detain us some time on earth, has done well to cover with a veil the prospect of the life to come; for if our sight could clearly distinguish the opposite bank, who would remain on this tempestuous coast of time?"

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POLICE REPORT

• A Grant Ave., resident reported a burglary in his home. Entry was gained by placing a ladder against the rear of the house to access the windows. The screens were slit and the windows pushed open. Various power and hand tools were removed from the home. Exit was via a rear sliding door. There are no suspects.

• Gregory James Kinney a resident of Colorado reported the theft of his cell phone from Red Lobster, Hadley Rd. The phone was left unattended on a table. Kinney had the service turned off. The victim was staying at the Holiday Inn and was scheduled to return to Colorado on Sept. 9.

• A Hancock Street resident reported the theft of a Magnavox VCR from her apartment. A television was moved by not taken in the burglary. There was no sign of forced entry and both doors had been locked. The victims roommate found the doors unlocked when he returned. A similar burglary occurred at the same residence a few weeks ago.

• A Sampton Ave. resident went to police headquarters to file a report of harassment against his neighbor. He stated that he had received a registered letter from the neighbor stat-

ing his intentions toward the victim.

• A Cumberland Ave. resident reported the theft of a gold chain from a closet in his home. While searching for the chain the victim noticed a number of things out of place in the home. He noticed a window was not latched properly and pry marks on another window, plus books and other things moved from their normal location. Another chain hanging on the belt rack was left untouched.

• A Perry St. resident reported that someone had entered her unlocked vehicle while it was parked at a friend's house. A key chain with photos on it and a 1999 SPHS graduation tassel were taken. The victim noted that she had found a secret admirer note on her vehicle earlier. She was advised to hold onto the note in case the detective wanted to see it.

• K Mart on Hadley Road reported a bomb threat received via a telephone call. The manager called police and evacuated the store. After a thorough search of the store, a decision was made to reopen. The manager noted that the security company for the mall had recently been fired and a new company hired.

• A Delaney Ct. resident reported the theft of a bike from his driveway.

The bike was left unattended and unlocked in the driveway for approximately 15 minutes to a half an hour.

• A Piscataway resident reported the theft of his bike while riding on Foster Ave. in South Plainfield. The victim stated he dropped his cell phone and when he went to retrieve it, a black male approached him and took the bike.

• Café Piancone reported damage to the front window of their restaurant. The damage appears to be the result of a BB gun.

• A maintenance employee for Middlesex County Parks Dept. reported a lock broken on the door to the ladies room. in Spring Lake Park.

• Blockbuster Video reported the theft of a video tape. A new magnometer strip which triggers an alarm if not deactivated, was found on the floor nearby. An employee stated that a male customer had been in the area just prior his locating the empty box. Another Blockbuster employee saw the suspect across the road at Middlesex Mall and noticed him looking inside vehicles. Police were notified and the suspect was found in the mall parking lot. The officer asked the suspect if they could search him for the blockbuster property. The suspect asked if while being searched, they found something else, would he get locked up? When asked what else? He replied "A knife with holes for the fingers." A knife and the video tape were found on the suspect and he was placed under arrest. The suspect said that someone else had removed the magnometer tape but he admitted taking the tape.

• L & R Metal Treating reported a chain link fence cut and a door to the plant pried open. A jack hammer and a check for \$374 was stolen and a number of windows were broken.

Have you been caught in front of the South Plainfield Observer's cameras lately?

If so, there's a good chance you can purchase a copy of your photo. Call 756-8011 (leave message) to make an appointment to drop by the office and select your photo from our book of photo proofs (starting September 17). There are many photos available, including those not published.

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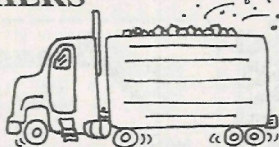
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Fire/Police Rivalry Benefits Handicapped Children

The Annual South Plainfield Police vs. South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department Benefit Softball Game was held at Veterans' Park on Sept. 4.

The Fire Dept. prevailed over the Police Dept. in a close game with a final score of 23-22. The charity game benefits The South Plainfield Handicap Childrens Society through the South Plainfield Elks Lodge #2298.

South Plainfield Observer is sold at the following locations:

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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.
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- Sunrise Foods, Front & Maple
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