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MAR 23 2000

South Plainfield Observer

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MARCH 24, 2000

Public Invited To Meeting On New Master Plan

A special meeting has been announced by the Planning Board to introduce the newly introduced Master Plan for South Plainfield. The borough is required to review and, if necessary, to revise its master plan every six years.

The public is invited to attend the meeting, ask questions and make suggestions pertaining to the proposed zoning changes.

Several parcels of land in the borough have been marked for possible zoning revision.

During the meeting the master plan will be explained and maps will be on display for the public to study.

The meeting will take place on Thursday, April 6 at 7 p.m. in the council chambers in Borough Hall.



Northeastern Products Raises \$4,200 for United Way

The Campaign Director for Northeastern Products, Tina Hatten (center on left), presents a check for \$4,200 to United Way Board Member Aida Santos. The 58 employees at Northwestern Products, located on South Clinton Ave., were all on hand to witness the event. General Manager Dave Parcher emphasized that this was a team effort accomplished by all the employees at Northwestern Products and they all deserve to get the credit. In addition to serving on the United Way Board of Directors, Aida Santos is assistant vice president of Valley National Bank located on Durham Ave. All funds received by the United Way of South Plainfield are used to fund local agencies.

School Board Ponders Next Step in Construction

The Board of Education, along with Superintendent Guy Ferri, are now faced with making some big decisions in the next few months. With the voters rejecting the bond referendum a second time, they must decide whether to go back to the voters a third time with the same plan, or to revise them and come back with a different concept for the voters approval. Either way, the earliest a new bond vote can be taken is the fall and by then students will already be starting the new school year.

"When the December referendum failed, I found it hard to believe it represented a voter mandate, because only 11% of the registered voters got out to vote," commented Superintendent of Schools Guy Ferri. "Now that the March 14 referendum failed with 28% of the voters casting their ballots, I can't ignore the fact that the public will not support the construction program as presented. That's disheartening, to say the least. Now we'll have to cope as best we can with an enrollment explosion and inadequate facilities, while we prepare an alternative plan. The tragedy is that the parents did not get out to vote in sufficient numbers. We intend to survey the public to determine what construction they will support. In the meantime, we can expect overcrowded classes, enrollment shifts and curtailed programs and services as interim coping measures."

Roosevelt School PTA President Diane Gualano stated, "I was extremely disappointed that the building referendum did not pass. This issue not only affects the students of Roosevelt School, but all the elementary schools. The overcrowding situation continues to worsen on a daily basis at Roosevelt School. Something needs to be done immediately, we can not wait another six months until we are able to vote again."

Planning Board Meeting Disrupted

Last week's Planning Board meeting was moved to the Rescue Squad when Borough Hall had to be evacuated. Two dispatchers were transported to the hospital when the janitor inadvertently combined two cleaning products, causing a chemical reaction. The fumes caused the police dispatchers to experience nausea and difficulty with breathing.

Planning Board members were not affected by the fumes, but as a precaution, everyone in

borough hall was evacuated.

The evacuation also caused a delay in counting the votes for the bond referendum, held last Tuesday. Votes could not be tabulated until the building was reopened and the representatives from the voting districts could report their tallies.

The scheduled cases the Planning Board was to have heard were continued to a later date. The board did spend most of the evening studying the proposed new master plan.

'Tommy' Is Coming to SPHS

The SPHS Players Drama Club will present their 2000 spring musical, the Who's 'Tommy' on Thursday and Friday, April 6 and 7 at 7 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, April 8 and 9 at 2 p.m. at the South Plainfield High School auditorium. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5 for students and senior citizens, student Gold Card holders are admitted free.



Terri Cianfrocca won the grand prize at Franklin School's Chinese Auction and Raffle. See page 12.

Teachers Contract Still Not Ratified

We previously reported that the school board and teachers union had come to a tentative agreement waiting for a final ratification by the union. Since then we have heard nothing. A blackout was declared by the arbitrator, pending ratification. Three weeks have gone by. When asked at last week's BOE meeting on when a vote may take place, SPEA President Louise Mruz refused to answer. Superintendent Guy Ferri also would not comment.

State Arbitrator Richard Quen stated he saw no problems with the agreement and that there is no time limit for the union members to ratify or reject the tentative settlement.

Council Notes

■ A check for \$68,218.15 was received from FEMA, reimbursing the borough for costs incurred when Hurricane Floyd hit the area last fall. Mike Zushma was commended by the mayor for the many hours he spent compiling data and filing out forms to recoup those losses.

■ Democracy Day is almost here. Ballots will be mailed to residents in early April and must be returned by May 19. Residents will be allowed to copy them according to the size of the household. Last year residents received only one ballot and were confused on whether they could make duplicates. One ballot per voter is allowed. This year voters can also cast their vote on the borough's web page.

■ The borough's yard waste site could be in jeopardy, according to Councilman Vinnie Buttiglieri, chairperson of public works. The cost of operating the facility has risen by over 31% this year due the loss of several grants from both the state and county. It could cost the borough up to \$150,000 to operate the site this

Borough Notes

year. To help alleviate the problem, the yard waste site hours have been decreased.

In addition, a much closer look at who is using the site has begun. Buttiglieri said that if the borough can't find a way to reduce the huge amount of yard waste, the program may be terminated.

■ New Brunswick Ave. will be repaved. After years of negotiating with Piscataway and Middlesex County, Councilman Vinnie Buttiglieri announced that Middlesex County will be repaving New Brunswick Ave., which is badly in need of repair. Because one side of the road belonged to Piscataway and the other South Plainfield, negotiations were needed. New Brunswick Ave. is now a country road and repaving will begin soon. South Clinton Ave. is also slated for repaving by the county from Astor to Hamilton Blvd.

■ Street sweeping will begin in town starting April 3. Parking will be prohibited in areas where the sweeper is working. A schedule will be published in a future issue of the *Observer*.

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In My Opinion

Prince of a Fellow

In this town, there is a fellow with the best disposition I have ever seen, young or old. If everyone had a disposition as pleasant as this "Gent" what a wonderful world this would be. This "Gent" was shot-up in the big war (WWII), yet you never

hear him complain. His arm is deformed from his wounds. He's just a happy gent, who will be 90 years of age on April 8, 2000. Happy birthday "Sarge." I have never heard a bad word said about this "Polish Prince." Does he have a name? Yes—Thad Malecki; a nice name for

our new senior citizen center—Malecki Hall. And he's not a bad singer either. YOUR FRIEND, PAT CRILLEY

Mark Your Calendars Council Meetings

Meets twice a month Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-754-9000 AGENDA MEETING Monday, April 10 PUBLIC MEETING Thursday, April 13 Monday, April 24 Thursday, April 27 Monday, May 8 Thursday, May 11

Log on to southplainfieldnj.com for the latest meeting agenda

planningboard

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641 March 28, April 11, April 25, May 9, May 23 June 13, June 27, July 11, July 25, August 8, August 22 September 12, September 26, October 10 (No Meeting) October 24 November 14, November 28, December 12, December 26

zoningboardofadjustment

Meets first, third and fifth Tuesday of the month Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641 April 4, April 18, May 2, May 16, May 30, June 6, June 20, July 4 (No Meeting), July 18, August 1, August 15, August 29, September 5, September 19, October 3, October 17, October 31, November 8 (Thursday), November 21, December 5, December 19

siteplace sub-committee

The fourth Thursday of the month as follows: April 27, May 25, June 22, July 27, August 24, September 28, October 26, November (No Meeting), December (No Meeting)

recyclingcommission

Meets Thursday, once a month Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-561-8280 April 27, May 25, June 22, July 27, August 24, September 28, October 26, November (to be announced), December 28

recreationcommission

Meets once a month PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716 Mon. April 3, Mon. May 1, Tues. June 6, Tues. September 12, Mon. October 2, Mon. November 6, Mon. December 4

environmentalcommission

Meets once a month Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-561-8280 April 12, May 10, June 14, July 12, August 9, September 13 October 2, Mon. November 6, Mon. December 4

Letters

To the Editor,

South Plainfield has lost a great man, Father Michael A. McGuire, Pastor of Sacred Heart Church, who passed away on Friday, March 12.

How do you define great? Father Mike was not wealthy in the way of worldly goods, but he was rich in spirit. He was not famous, but all who knew him will never forget him. Father Mike was not a "Super Hero" but his efforts to live a truly Christian life were heroic.

Father Mike served as Chaplain of Council #6203 of the Knights of Columbus (only one of the multitude of services he performed). The primary goal of the Knights is to become more Christ-like in our everyday lives—to "put on the mantle of Christ." I know of no one who has worn that mantle better than Father Mike. We will all miss him—we are all better off for having known him.

DON BAYMAN PGK COUNCIL #6203

Dear Editor,

I am very glad the budget was defeated. To give the Board of Education that much money is like giving them a blank check. They came up with an idea a few weeks before the vote to downsize the number of students per class to cause overcrowding. Then they had the nerve to add \$89K from the last referendum and tried to push that through.

They are going to pay a consultant 3.1 million dollars to figure out what to do with the buildings and bring them up to code. Why can't they use the Boro Engineer to do the job for them? They also can not predict how many new students are coming to town—that was the sorry part!

Also, I was reading that the superintendent of schools is saying the education is going to be hurt by the defeat. How can it get much lower then it is now? What happens to all the students that move up a grade each year and graduate?

Why can't they make classrooms out of the gym at Roosevelt School? It only goes to the fifth grade? When I went there we had K-6. I voted NO and will continue to do so, as they waste too much money. Then the average salary of a teacher in South Plainfield is \$60,700 per year as stated in the Courier News? Maybe if we cut a few salaries or teachers or clerks we can save some money. I still wish I knew what happens to

the surplus money from year to year?

What is the board of education going to come up with next? Add another 100K to the budget, plus a tax increase of \$140-\$200 per home—and if the town needs to raise taxes and they are going to have to sooner or later. There will be moving vans lined up heading out of South Plainfield!

I just hope at the next vote more senior citizens come out to vote "NO" as well as families with no children, especially the new families moving in to town. It should have been defeated by more votes!

TONY PISANIELLO

To the Editor,

I wrote this as a speech for my Language class. I am in fifth grade and my birthday is July 6. I am sending this to the newspaper because this doesn't just upset me, it has many of my friends disappointed too.

Did you know that this year, a student must be twelve-years-old to be allowed into the Summer Drama Workshop? For a long time now anybody who was entering sixth grade or higher could join, but the rule is supposed to change this year. The reasons they want to change it is because they think there are just too many kids to handle. The younger people last year were fooling around too much and the older kids don't want the younger kids to be involved. This is not fair! I do not agree with these reasons and I think the age should be left the way it has been.

First of all, there are many fifth graders who have been counting on being part of this for years. Some of us have taken voice, dance and acting lessons and we are ready to perform, not to fool around. I think that each student should have to show a

letter from their teacher or principal that tells that they would be the kind of kid who cooperates.

Second, if we can't experience drama here, there is nothing else for us to do. There are not too many places around for kids to try acting and none of them are nearby. If we have to wait for one or two more years, a lot of kids will lose interest and there will be a lot fewer actors left when we are old enough.

As far as the older kids not wanting the younger kids around, that is just not fair. They were sixth graders once too and they got the chance. What makes us any different? If anything, there should be a three strikes and you're out rule, for ALL the ages. That would be fair to everyone.

For my last point, I am also very upset that you have to be 12-years-old by July 1. This makes no sense! That means that some kids who are entering seventh grade can be in it, but some can't and they will have to wait one MORE year. Why is the cut off different than it is for the school system?

As you can see, the age does not have to be changed to make Summer Drama work. If they give us a chance, I think that they will be surprised. Instead of breaking our hearts, they should let us break a leg!

GINA BUTRICO

To the Editor,

Being a Board member is sometimes a complicated job. There are so many things that make up any decisions you must render. The impact on the students, the staff and the taxpayer are all a part of it. Providing a good learning and working atmosphere while keeping a rein on spending is a constant balancing act. Not having a private

Continued on page 11

South Plainfield Observer advertisement containing contact information for Nancy Grennier, Wayne Grennier, Susan Kaneps, Patricia Abbott, Carol Grennier, Brian Cochrane, Bobby Hunter, Briggs Longbothum, Kenneth Morgan, Roxanne Cortese, and William Tuthill.

FREE CELLULAR PHONES advertisement for OMNIPOINT and CELLULAR ONE, listing monthly fees and minutes for various plans.

INDEPENDENT CELLULAR advertisement for Pager/Beeper Sales & Service, located at 18 South Plainfield Ave.

dot.com... breaking news? check our website-- spobserver.com advertisement.

Vision 2001 Car and Truck Show Planned

Vision 2001 Education Foundation, along with the Northwest Jersey Camaro Club, are planning to hold their Annual Car and Truck Show to benefit the South Plainfield Vision 2001 Education Foundation. The show is planned for Sunday, May 21 (rain date is May 28) from 9 a.m. and will take place in the high school parking lot.

Donation is \$2 for spectators. Door prizes, 50/50 drawings, food and beverages will be available. Miss New Jersey and Wacky Wayne the DJ will be there.

Reserve your space early. Show cars must be in the parking area by noon. Preregistration is \$12 and \$15 on the day of the show. Registration closes at noon on the day of the show. Registration deadline is April 30. Vendor cost is \$20 and the Car Corral is \$15.

For further information, call Tom at (908) 755-6276, Dorothy at (973) 584-1542 or Ed at (609) 586-5222. No alcoholic beverages, pets, bikes or skateboards are allowed.



Left to right, Burlington Coat Factory Store Manager Nevjo Dunatov, Maureen Healy-merchandise manager, Joan Duigon-operation manager, Dave Cestaro-vice president of customer service, Evanne Ehrhart-regional manager and Drew Darata-district manager.

Burlington Coat Factory Opens

Doors to Middlesex Mall's long awaited Burlington Coat Factory opened for the first time at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, March 10. A ribbon cutting ceremony with store managers as well as the regional manager, district manager and vice president of customer service was held at 9:45 a.m. Customers were given flowers as

they entered the store. Balloons were offered to children. The new store had a steady flow of customers throughout their first day. Store Manager Nevjo Dunatov said, "We had a very successful grand opening. Saturday and Sunday were equally busy and things were running very smoothly!"

INTERACTIVE COMPUTER CORNER

I'm not about to believe that the job **By Briggs Longbothum**

market has dried up for persons with computer skills, but in our last column I was hoping that some of you readers might take a moment to reply about what you thought would be worthwhile areas of study for someone aspiring to enter the field. This is supposed to be an "interactive column" where you, the readers, add comment and direction and by so doing help make it better. I'm only the writer here, and it does get to be a lonely job when nobody says "boo" no matter what I write. Hellooo out there! Is anybody home???

Let me start out this time around with a few good links that will come in handy sooner or later. These are two search engine sites that are targeted and very helpful. Try these if you need government or military information.

TIP: www.searchgov.com and www.searchmil.com are worth a book mark. In fact, I maintain a folder on my "personal toolbar" in Netscape just for search tools and I've just added these two. You might consider doing likewise. I find it very convenient to be able to almost instantly punch up a favorite search engine when I need to track down some piece of info or develop an idea. It sure works for me.

How about all you students (read on, we're all students aren't we?) who need to take notes in class or about a lecture. Or how about when you're just sort of daydreaming and want to quickly jot down some suddenly great idea that just popped into your noggin. There are some truly great tools out there that help you do just that and it's really worthwhile taking a few minutes to look into these even if you don't use them.

What we're talking about here (what I'm talking

about here) is called "Mind Mapping." I know this sound like some pretty esoteric stuff, but do take a moment and take a look-see! If any teachers are reading this, take a real good look and then tell me if you don't think this stuff is something all young people should be taught in junior high school or earlier. The evidence is staggering and just trying it once is convincing.

TIP: Search under keywords "mind mapping" and "Tony Buzan" (he's one of the early developers of the technique). The web has several free trial mind mapping downloads to try, or you can get the gist of it by just reading and try it on your own with a large pad of blank unlined paper. Trust me, your note taking will suddenly be thorough and fast, and you'll not resort to old outline styles again.

Ok, well there's some food for thought and a way to remember it too. Come on now, let's click off some RSVPs and comments to yours truly, ok?

One last tip for you Win98 users who think you've got it licked from the prying eyes of other family members. (By the way, you don't!) The Windows98 security model just isn't good, nor was it intended to be. If you don't want to go the route of WinNT, you can visit the website for the "U are U" fingerprint scanner at www.digitalpersonna.com. This neat gadget will enable you to lock down files, folders, and apps from just about anyone. More on windows security another time, but for now look into this a surefire cyber-lock and key. Until then, keep those cards and letters rolling in. -Briggs Longbothum, ed. (Bruggo@home.com)

Governor Signs "DeMolay Month" Proclamation

New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman has officially designated the month of March as "DeMolay Month" to commemorate the 81st anniversary of DeMolay, an international youth organization that encourages leadership, charity and civic service.

The proclamation, signed by Governor Whitman and counter-

signed by Secretary of State DeForest B. Soaries, Jr., calls upon the citizens of New Jersey to salute the young men of the Order of DeMolay, "whose fine examples ... contribute to the welfare of our community by addressing themselves to the building of good character, (and) aid in the development of leadership for tomorrow," by observing March as DeMolay Month in New Jersey.

Founded in 1919, and with headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri, and chapters throughout the United States, Canada, and nine other countries worldwide, DeMolay provides young men ages 12 to 21 a safe and positive environment that encourages leadership, personal growth, self-confi-

dence, education, teamwork, and service to the community. Last year, NJ DeMolay Chapters organized a statewide Food Drive to help the victims of Hurricane Floyd and raised money for a Clifton orphanage by holding a charity baseball game with the DJs from the popular NY radio station 95.5 WPLJ-FM as part of its civic activities.

DeMolay chapters throughout New Jersey, known as the DeMolay Leaders of New Jersey are organizing a variety of activities throughout the month to celebrate the occasion and invite the public to learn more about the group by participating in its events.

For more information about the Chapter nearest you, call (877) DEMOLAY (877-336-6529).

Labor Day Parade Committee Seeks Volunteers

Anyone interested in joining the 2000 Labor Day Parade committee should call Debbie Krawiec at 908-757-9432 or plan to attend the next parade committee meeting on March 29 in borough hall at 6:30 p.m.

Jo-Ann's Dance & Feigley's Gymnastics
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(908) 561-5094 (908) 561-8888

When: (Two three-week sessions available)
Session 1 - July 10-July 28
Session 2 - July 31-August 18
9 am-12 noon / Monday-Friday
Early drop off service available (\$5/half hour)
DON'T FORGET TO BRING SNACKS!

Ages: 5-9 years / 10-14 years
Fee: Each three-week session.....\$279
Price includes costuming and materials.
(Take 10% off if you register before May 15/\$75 deposit will hold a place in class and will be applied toward your tuition)



Attention Pet Owners!
Curb Your Dogs -- It's the Law.

The fine for failure to clean up after pets is \$50.
Please be considerate to all borough residents.



MILESTONES

Births

Harmses Welcome Birth of Daughter

Cara (Wild) Harms and Rich Harms, currently of Union, announce the birth of their daughter Caitlyn Amanda on February 23, 2000. She weighed 9 pounds, 2½ oz and measured 21 inches long. She was born at 10:24 p.m. at Muhlenberg Hospital.

Cara is the daughter of Alvin and Ina Wild of South Plainfield and Rich is the son of Loren and Christine Harms of Roselle Park.



How You Can Be a Part of the South Plainfield Observer.

ENCOURAGE YOUR ORGANIZATION TO SEND US THEIR UPCOMING EVENTS. We want to add them to AROUND TOWN. It can make your event more successful. Send them to us by mail, fax or e-mail.

SEND US INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR MILESTONES, i.e., promotions, births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, graduations. Include photos. Share your good news with the community!

IF THERE IS SOMEONE YOU KNOW WHO MAKES A DIFFERENCE in South Plainfield? Thank them by letting us know.

USE THE OBSERVER AS AN ADVERTISING TOOL. Introduce your business to the community. Promote your specials or sales. Residents would rather patronize local businesses than travel out of town. It is more convenient and it's good for the local economy.

SUGGEST A BUSINESS FOR US TO SPOTLIGHT. If you have had great service in South Plainfield share it with your neighbors through the newspaper.

SUBMIT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR to allow readers to discuss and react to issues.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS. If you have an event, take a photo, write a caption identifying the event and people and send it to us via mail. The best photos record action and don't include so many people that it is impossible to identify anyone. Please don't send us photocopies or laser prints. They don't reproduce well.

HOW TO CONTACT US. By mail: 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080; By phone: 908-668-0010; By fax: 908-668-8819; By email: ggnan@aol.

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South Plainfield Scouting

Silver Awards Presented to Nine Girl Scouts

On Sunday, March 12, nine South Plainfield Girl Scouts received Silver Awards in a ceremony held at Wesley United Methodist Church. The Silver Award is the second highest honor a Girl Scout can achieve. The girls had to complete a detailed community service project in order to earn this award.

Most of the girls receiving their Silver Award have been in scouting since kindergarten. South Plainfield has over 700 girls enrolled in scouting and very few ever succeeded in receiving this special award.

The ceremony recognized Girl Scouts from Troops 259 and 819. The recipients of the Silver Award were Allison Kravetsky, Michelle Paterek, Danielle Schweers, Andrea Doell, Kelly Harty, Jody Chepulis, Amanda George, Christina DeMatos and Jaelyn Noonan.

The projects the girls completed were a pet show, presented by Troop 259 for the residents of McCauley Hall, a nursing home at Mt. St. Mary's and a beautification project by Troop 819 at Camp Lou Henry Hoover.

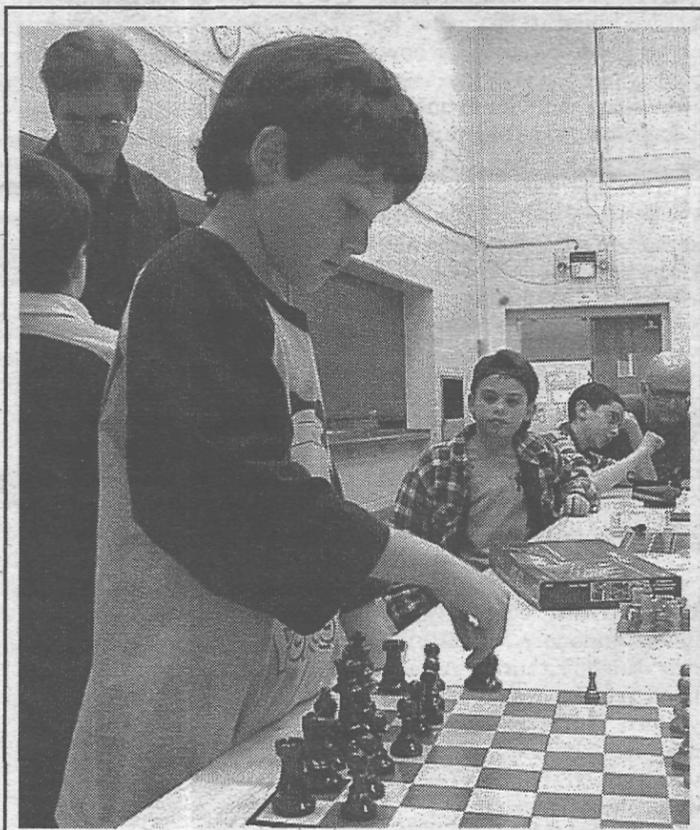
The ceremonies started and ended with a prayer by Pastor

Steve Miller of the Trinity Reformed Church. Councilman Ray Petronko and Councilwoman Darlene Pinto were on hand to help present the awards and each girl was given a proclamation signed by Mayor Gallagher and the borough council. The girls also received a letter of commendation from Governor Christine Todd Whitman. Also participating in the award ceremony were Neva Jankowski, South Plainfield Girl Scout Community cadette/senior consultant; Joanne Otlowksi, South Plainfield Girl Scout Community manager; Gina Zara,

Troop 259 leader and Wayne Otlowksi, member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors for the Washington Rock Girl Scout Council.

The flag ceremony was conducted by Brownie Troop 8. Also participating were Junior Troop 678 who handed out the programs and flowers and Junior Troop 690 who helped setting up and serving the refreshments.

The ceremony ended with the Silver Award recipients participating in a candle lighting ceremony while each recited part of the Girl Scout promise.



Cub Scouts Learn Chess

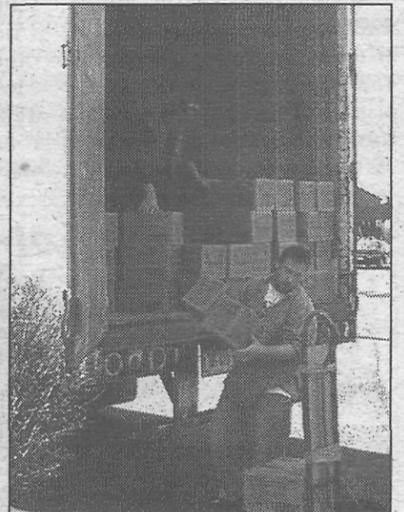
Cub Scouts from Pack 207, Franklin School have been learning to play chess in order to earn the new chess belt loop. The boys paled up and, under the instruction of Steve Seigel, began to learn about the game. They learned about the different chess pieces and their values, how each piece moves across the board and began to study the strategy of the game. The boys displayed their skill in a tournament held on Thursday, March 23.

It's That Time Again... Girls Scout Cookies Arrive

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus building became the official distribution point for this year's Girl Scout cookies.

On March 15, over 2,000 cases of cookies containing 24,000 boxes of cookies were stacked in the building waiting for pick-up. Throughout the day 46 "Cookie Moms" filed in and out of the building picking up their orders. Those moms represented the 46 troops in South Plainfield.

This year's community cookie managers were also neighbors. They spent the day hauling boxes in and out of the distribution center. Managers were Cathy Hom, Elise Cosma and Donna Teller. Their husbands, Marty Hom, Joe Cosma and Russ Teller, were also on hand to help out.



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Welcome Wagon \$40 coupons no longer accepted.



The Alternative View

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

Dear Dr. DeCosta: My sister has been told by her daughter's teacher that she believes her daughter to have ADHD, and that she should be put on Ritalin. We have heard so much negative information on Ritalin. Are there some alternative health care options for children with ADD or ADHD? - S.S.

Dear S.S.: First of all, your concern about Ritalin is certainly justified. According to Drs. Gretchen LeFever and her research colleagues who published their findings in the *American Journal of Public Health*, as many as 10% of all children in second through fifth grade have been given prescriptions to the powerful drug Ritalin, even though many of them probably don't have attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

According to Peter R. Breggin, M.D., director of the International Center for the Study of Psychiatry and Psychology and associate faculty at the Johns Hopkins University Department of Counseling, "Ritalin does not correct biochemical imbalances - it causes them."

In his book, *Talking Back to Ritalin*, he notes that there is some evidence that the drug can cause permanent damage to the child's brain and its functions. Dr. Breggin states, "Pediatricians, parents, and teachers are not aware of these hazards because a large body of research demonstrating the ill effects of this drug has been ignored and suppressed in order to encourage the sale of the drug."

Damaging effects of the drug can include:

- Decreased blood flow to the brain, an effect recently shown to be caused by cocaine where it is associated with impaired thinking ability and memory loss.
- Disruption of growth hormone, leading to suppression of growth in the body and brain of the child.
- Permanent neurological tics, including Tourette's Syndrome.
- Addiction and abuse, including withdrawal reactions on a daily basis.
- Psychosis (mania), depression, insomnia, agitation, and social withdrawal.
- Possible shrinkage (atrophy) or other permanent physical abnormalities in the brain.
- Worsening of the very symptoms the drug is supposed to improve including hyperactivity and inattention.
- Decreased ability to learn.

Dr. Breggin says that contrary to claims by drug advocates, giving Ritalin to a child does not help to prevent future problems such as school failure or delinquency. Ritalin's lack of effectiveness has been proven by hundreds of studies but has not been revealed to doctors, teachers or parents.

"Parents and teachers and even doctors have been badly misled by drug company marketing practices," says Dr. Breggin. "Drug companies have targeted children as a big market likely to boost profits - and children are suffering as a result." "Educate - don't medicate," should be the motto of every parent or teacher who is tempted to resort to Ritalin, Dr. Breggin urges.

According to Tracy L. Pipp, Health Writer of *The Detroit News*, there are several alternative options that parents can use are:

- *Pycnogenol*, which is a patented extract made from the bark of the French maritime pine tree that has been used for more than 30 years in Europe for a number of ailments, is an antioxidant and is classified as a food supplement by the FDA.
- *Blue-green algae* is a nutritional supplement harvested by Celltech, and the company's founder, a former teacher named Daryl Kollman, said he became concerned about students' inattention in class and theorized that nutritional deficiencies were to blame.
- *The Feingold Diet* was developed during the 1960s by allergist Ben Feingold, who said that a diet free from artificial flavorings, artificial colors, preservatives, and other additives improved the symptoms of ADHD.
- *Chiropractic adjustments* are chosen by some children and adults with ADHD. "Many times, children with this disorder have misalignments in their spine that irritate the nervous system, contributing to the hyperactivity," says Dr. Sue Anderson, a chiropractor in Ann Arbor.
- Finally, *massage* is sometimes chosen as an adjunct to medication, says massage therapist Sandy Fritz, in Lapeer, Michigan. She also feels that children can be taught how to use massage to re-center themselves if they are distracted.

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.

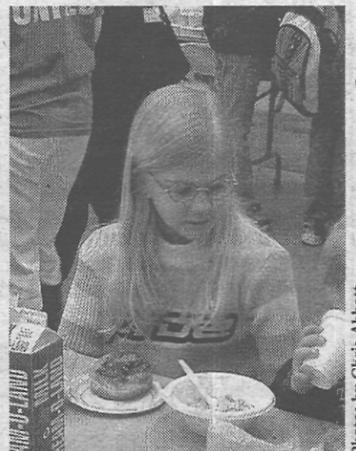
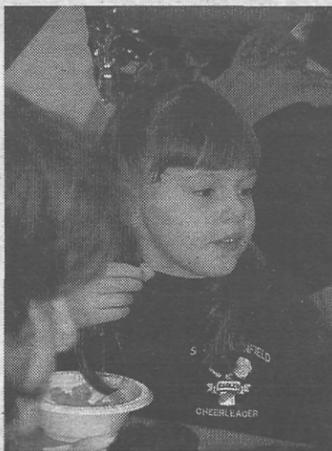
IN SCHOOL

Franklin Holds Thomas B. Lenahan Breakfast

By Patricia Abbott

Franklin School celebrated St. Patrick's Day with their annual Thomas B. Lenahan memorial breakfast. The breakfast brought parents and children together for an extra hour before school. The Irish and Irish-for-the-day enjoyed donuts, fruit, cereal, milk, juice, coffee and tea. The food was supplied by the PTA. The color of the day was obviously green and students and parents wore assorted shades of the color in every conceivable way, from shirts and hats to bows and socks.

St. Patrick's Day was the favorite holiday of one time principal Thomas Lenahan. The breakfast was started by Angela Prybella 12 years ago as a way for families to celebrate with Mr. Lenahan and the students. Lenahan passed away several years ago. The multi-purpose room was renamed in his honor two years ago and bears a plaque with his likeness dedicating the room. Two of his daughters attended the breakfast that honors the memory of their father. Jaquie Slatky was chairperson for the successful event.



Photos by Chris Abbott

All District Music and Art Festival Set for March 31

The South Plainfield Public Schools' Fine Arts Department will hold its 31st Annual All-District Music and Art Festival on Friday, March 31 at South Plainfield High School, starting at 7 p.m. The festival will feature music performed by instrumental and vocal ensembles as well as displays of art work by the many talented art students from each of the town's schools.

The music program will feature performances by the Elementary String Ensemble under the direction of Carleen Cunningham-Tedeschi and Bruce Mikolon; the Elementary District Chorus directed by Joanne Gursky, Barbara Habeeb, Glenn Parisi and Sharon Perez; and the Elementary District Band under the direction of Tobie Baldwin, Joan Stasio and Paul Sturm. These young musicians will be followed by the Middle School Orchestra directed by Mrs. Tedeschi. The Gems, an all-girl chorus from our middle school, and the Middle-School Festival Chorus under the direction of Doris Younker will then perform followed by the Middle

School Concert Band and the Middle-School Jazz Band, led by Andrew Veiss and Paul Sturm. Tracy Murray will direct the High School Chorus. The concert will conclude with performances by the High School Stage Band and the High School Concert Band under the direction of Mark Tweed. The art display will be a delightful combination of styles and techniques. All grade levels will be represented so you may see the artistic development and interests of students both young and older. The works on display are done in oils, acrylics, pen and ink, watercolor, temperas, markers and crayons.

Denise Timinski, high school art teacher; Diane Kardos, middle school art teacher; Barbara Har-

ris, Mary Ellen Kopf and Glenda Posey, elementary art teachers, thank all their students who have made the display possible for the festival.

The festival is open to the public. Tickets may be purchased at the door during the evening of the festival for \$2 per person. Everyone is cordially invited to attend and enjoy this delightful once-a-year event.

The elementary groups (band, orchestra and chorus) consist of students from each of the four elementary schools. Selection to these groups is by audition. These students get bused to either the middle school or the high school one day each week for four weeks to rehearse together in preparation for the festival.

Feigley's Announces Open House

There will be a gymnastics open house for all-non-enrolled boys and girls at Feigley's School of Gymnastics located on South Clinton Ave. in South Plainfield.

Children must be accompanied by an adult, come dressed

ready for tumbling, balancing on the beam, swinging on bars and jumping on the trampoline.

The date is Wednesday, March 29 at 6:30 p.m.

Please call to reserve a place, (908) 561-8888.

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SPORTS

Lanza Wins New Jersey Championship At International Shootout

Former South Plainfield and current Berkley Heights resident Bob Lanza was the winner of the New Jersey State Championship of the International Shootout held last weekend at the Edison Recreation Center on Stelton Road in Edison. Lanza topped the field of 76 partici-

pants with a score of 90 points out of a total score of 100, as he hit a total of 23 of 25 free throws as well as 23 out of 25 three point shots.

Forty two-year-old Lanza will represent the state of New Jersey in the National Competition which will be held May 20 and

21 in Dallas, Texas. The winner will move onto the World Finals which will be held later this year in Spain. There will be about 200 participants in the National Competition in Dallas, from all over the country. This is not the only Lanza in the family to reach the National Finals of this competition. His older brother Mike "Shotman" Lanza reached the finals of this competition back in 1998 when it was held in Las Vegas. He finished second, with a score of 88 out of 100.

In same competition in 1998, Bob Lanza participated with his brother Mike in the Team Shooting competition where they both finished second to a father and son duo from Somerset, Pa. Mike will be one of the guest lecture's at the National Competition in Dallas this May and has provided a lot of training and tips to his younger brother. Bob was an all county player himself back in 1978 when he played for South Plainfield High School.

The Wilson International Shootout is a National Competition held yearly with All-Star Champions competing in different locations. The competition starts at the state level where there are approximately 20,000 competitors and dwindles down to 200 finalists from 50 states.

South Plainfield High School 2000 Golf Schedule

- Monday, March 27 at 3:30 Jonathan Dayton @ Baltusrol (scrimmage)
- Tuesday, April 4 at 3:30 Union @ West-9
- Wednesday, April 5 at 3:30 Old Bridge @ West-9
- Thursday, April 6 at 3:30 Colonia @ West-9
- Friday, April 7 at 3:30 Bishop Ahr @ Ashbrook
- Monday, April 10 at 3:30 North Brunswick @ Tamarack
- Tuesday, April 11 at 3:30 Monroe Township @ Forsgate
- Wednesday, April 12 at 3:30 Watchung Hills/Ridge @ West-9
- Friday, April 14 at 3:30 Sayreville @ Tamarack
- Tuesday, April 25 at 3:30 Monroe Township @ West-9
- Thursday, April 27 at 3:30 South Brunswick @ West-9
- Monday, May 1 at 3:30 Old Bridge @ Glenwood
- Tuesday, May 2 at 3:30 Bishop Ahr @ West-9
- Friday, May 5 at 3:30 North Brunswick @ West-9
- Monday, May 8 at 3:30 South Brunswick @ Bunker Hill
- Tuesday, May 9 at 3:30 Colonia @ Colonia Country Club
- Wednesday, May 10 at 3:30 Ridge @ Basking Ridge
- Thursday, May 11 at 3:30 Sayreville @ West-9
- Monday, May 15 Sectionals
- Tuesday, May 16 at 3:30 Wardlaw-Hartridge @ West-9
- Wednesday, May 17 at 3:30 Clark @ Oak Ridge
- Friday, May 19 at 3:30 Watchung Hills @ Quailbrook
- Monday, May 22 Tournament of Champions
- Tuesday, May 23 GMC Tournament @ Tamarack
- Thursday, May 25 at 3:30 Cranford @ Echo Lake



SPHS Bowling Team: (bottom row, left to right) Danielle Larisch, Danielle Sevidio, Kristen Herzog, Meredith Cooper; middle row, Michele Smith, Alexis Montanaro, Rachel Feller, Jacquie Herzog; top row, Coach Ralph Fech, Melissa Jamieson, Rebecca Horn, Amanda Smith, Sabina Montanaro and Assistant Coach Lori GertsI.

SPHS Girls Bowling Team Final Results

Third Place White Division
Division (12-2-2) Overall (14-4-2)

Grade	No.	Avg. Games	Hi Game	Hi Set	
11	Melissa Jamieson	71	168.2	229	558
GMC Individual Qualifier 16th Place #200 games-6 All White Division Team					
12(capt)	Amanda Smith	67	144.5	220	510
12	Jacquie Herzog	62	142.4	191	502
9	Alexis Montanaro <i>Rookie of the Year</i>	28	138.5	179	456
11	Kristen Herzog	63	136.5	199	477
12	Rebecca Horn	27	136.1	178	440
11	Rachel Feller	25	134.4	172	415
Most Improved +7.7 over last years avg.					
11	Sabina Montanaro	56	134.1	239	521
Dec. 16 vs. Monroe 239 game (100 points above her avg.)					
9	Meredith Cooper	25	132.	4	177

Highlights:

Team Average 745 — Individual Average per game 149.1
Thirteen out of 30 teams — Bishop Ahr Holiday Classic
Seventh out of 25 teams — NJISSA State Sectionals
Seventh out of 17 teams — Joe Romer Memorial
All 14 victories resulted in shut-outs.

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Sixth Grade Lady Tiger Girls Basketball Team

Sixth grade Lady Tigers finished the tournament season with six wins and five losses. They are Courtney Alston, Darice Bishop, Dana Chepulis, Angelica Cirilli, Nicole Cortese, Courtney Eustice, Carlie Kazimir, Lindsay Loiacono, Jacqueline Ortega, Heather Palitto, Lacey Santone, Amanda Smalley, Natalia Tamzoke, Morgan Walter, Amanda Vienott, Rebecca Watts, Krystal Williams, Nadine Yon. Coach Miss Lefsky/alias the alien sitting in front row.)

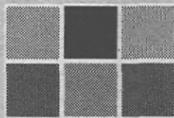
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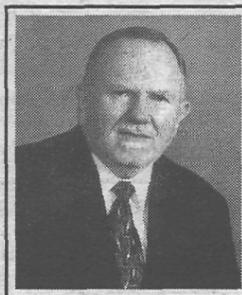
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Police Report

• A Sterling Ave. resident reported a burglary in his home. He arrived home and found the lights on, the bathroom window and front door open. Unknown suspects climbed onto an air conditioner and entered via an unlocked bathroom window. The bedroom was ransacked, only jewelry and money were removed.

• A Sprague Ave. resident reported her car had been keyed while she was working at Ricochet Racquet Club. A Kosciusko St. resident, who has had verbal arguments with the victim, is a suspect.

• Johnny Daza of North Plainfield reported that someone cut a hole in the tire of his car while the vehicle was parked at Nutro Labs, Hadley Rd. In a previous incident, someone put sugar in his gas tank.

• A So. 9th St. resident reported that someone had stolen her cell phone during a party at her home. The guests included some people she did not know. She called the phone and a male answered; she asked for the return of the phone. The unidentified male said he would return it if he saw her again but added he did not think he would see her again. She provided police with a list of the guests at the party.

• A Sims Place resident reported receiving harassing phone calls. The calls seemed to be coming from the Union County Correctional Facility. Several calls were made over a 25-minute period. The caller threatened to come to the victim's home at midnight, break all the windows and kill his family. The number and times of the calls were saved on the caller ID unit.

• Carlos Dalmay of Piscataway reported the theft of his cell phone from his vehicle while the unlocked vehicle was parked at Middlesex Mall.

• A Field Ave. resident reported someone had entered her locked vehicle while it was in the parking lot at Spring Lake Park. The car had been locked and her purse was under the

seat. After leaving the park the victim went to Munchies on Park Ave. and discovered the theft when she went to pay for her purchase. \$103 in cash was removed from her wallet. The victim is sure the car was locked. There was no sign of forced entry and the car is locked upon her return.

• Isabel Vignone of Highland Park reported the theft of her pocketbook from her desk while working at Thaw Associates, Hadley Rd. The victim stated that the purse was on her desk, and the only person who entered the office was a delivery man from Staples. After the delivery she noticed the purse missing. Staples was notified and are looking into the incident.

• A Maryland resident reported an attempted purse snatching. The victim and her husband were outside their vehicle in a driveway on Robert Place when a black male approached her. When he got closer he grabbed her purse. She held on and fell to the ground and was dragged several feet. Her husband who had been removing things from the car chased the suspect off after she screamed. Several youths playing basketball had seen the man hanging around the street.

LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

March 21, 2000

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the Planning Board of the Borough of South Plainfield at its meeting held on March 14, 2000.

Case No. 629/V-Degussa-Huls Metal Division-Blocks 467.01 & 470.01; Lots 29-02 & 1.02; M-3 Zone; South Clinton Ave.—Applicant's request for preliminary and final site plan approval and a variance for parking, was hereby GRANTED with conditions and waivers.

Case No. 99-13-Lawrence Massaro-Block 378; Lot 2.01; R-10 Zone; 825 Spicer Avenue—Applicant's request for a classification and final two lot subdivision was hereby APPROVED, with conditions.

Janice J. Muccilli
Recording Secretary, Planning Board

\$21.00 1 T March 24, 2000

South Plainfield Observer

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PHOTOGRAPHY

COPIES OF OBSERVER PHOTOS for sale. Call Pattie Abbott at 756-8011 or the Observer at 908-668-0010.

Letters

Continued from page 2

agenda for your actions makes life a little simpler. Doing this difficult task must be taken seriously. It isn't something you take on to "get out of the house" or "away from the television set." Dedication, the ability and stamina to work long and hard, a thick skin and a clear head are all necessary attributes of a board member.

Over the years there have been people who think that, by being elected to the board, they have a right to dictate the day to day operation of the district. This is not so! The board is the policy maker, the staff are the implementers. Having an axe to grind only makes life more complicated for the Board member and the people with whom they interact.

At this point in South Plainfield's history, stability and experience are crucial. With the defeat of the referendum, the arrival of hundreds of new students in the not too distant future, new mandates by the State and Federal governments on teacher training and instructional standards and the necessity of providing the infrastructure to make it all viable, are not work for novices.

South Plainfield faces many difficult decisions over the next few years. I have the necessary abilities and experience to serve the South Plainfield community and ask that you support my candidacy for the Board of Education on April 18 to continue to provide an affordable, quality educational future for our children.

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Franklin School Holds Annual Chinese Auction and Raffle

By Patricia Abbott

Last Saturday evening the South Plainfield High School gym was filled with exuberant cheers, applause and screams of delight. The commotion was the annual Franklin School Raffle/Auction Night.

More than 300 people filled the gym, quickly commandeered tables, adorned them with their good luck charms, filled them with goodies, then set to work purchasing tickets.

Long before the prize drawings began, the partying began in earnest. The fare ranged from chips and dip, soda to subs, catered plates of cheese and crackers and antipasto. A few experienced auction attendees brought additional noisemakers to ensure they were heard.

The drawings began promptly at 8 p.m. Girl Scout volunteers were kept busy delivering prizes to winners and circulating a soda cart around the gym. Every item brought cheers from the winner's table. Some tables seemed to have brought Lady Luck with them as they claimed prize after prize. Even those who did not fare as well seemed to enjoy the evening.

After distributing door prizes, the three grand prizes were awarded. The grand prize was won by an excited Terry Cianfrocca. The eight-day adventure vacation included airfare for four to Mexico, Hawaii, Florida or the Bahamas and a \$500 dollar American Express gift check. The next prize, a mini-vacation, was won by Mrs. Hogan. The trip is a three day, two night-pick-your-destination vacation, which included a \$200 American Express gift check. The 50/50, amounting to \$820, went to Karen Rue. The highly successful event is in its fourth year and everyone is eagerly looking forward to number five.



Riley School Students Celebrate Grandparents Day

St. Patrick's Day at Riley School is not just an event for the 'wearing of the green,' but also an opportunity for students in kindergarten, first and second grades to put on a show for their grandparents.

This year's celebration started with a breakfast. The gym at Riley was filled with hundreds of grandparents. Students escorted grandparents to their seats and then helped serve them juice, coffee, tea and an assort-

ment of bagels and muffins.

Then the real fun began as each class put on a show for their grandparents. By the time the show started it was standing room only in the gym. The theme was Irish and the songs all followed the theme. The proud smiles of the audience said how well their show was received. After the show, grandparents were invited to the children's classes to see their work.

Photos by Patricia Abbott



Summer Drama Workshop Seeking Staff Members

The South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop is looking for a production staff for their 29th season. This youth theatre program will present the hit musical "42nd Street" during the first weekend in August. Rehearsals begin the end of June.

Applications and resumes are being accepted for the positions of director, choreographer, vocal director, musical director, technical coordinator, assistant director, assistant vocal director, assistant musical director, rehearsal pianist and costume coordinator. All po-

sitions receive a stipend.

Anyone interested in applying for a position should send their materials to the South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop at 210 Oakland Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080; fax them to (908) 756-8790, or contact us through our website at www.spsdw.com.

Deadline for applications is Apr. 15. All applicants will be contacted and/or interviewed by phone or in person by Apr. 30.

Questions can be forwarded to the above addresses, or call (908) 756-0539.

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