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South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 3, NO. 35

50 CENTS

MAY 5, 2000



Volunteers clean up borough trash as part of Litter Clean-Up Week.

Local Volunteers Clean Up Borough Trash

Last Saturday motorists in South Plainfield probably noticed the crews cleaning up various roadways and parks in town. As part of Clean Communities Advisory Board's-sponsored clean up, volunteers on every major road in town filled orange garbage bags with trash.

Girl and boy scouts, families, businesses and council members and residents formed work crews and volunteered for the annual clean up.

Trash was picked up, put into garbage bags and left to be collected by public works employees.

Riding along Belmont Road or New Market Ave. it was evident how much cleaner the road-

ways looked.

After the cleanup, volunteers met at Borough Hall for a pizza party where raffle prizes were distributed.

VFW Names Robert Bender Outstanding Officer of the Year

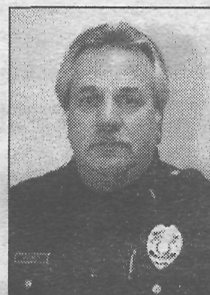
By Patricia Abbott

Lieutenant Robert Bender, a 16-year-veteran of the SP Police Department, will be named VFW Outstanding Officer of the Year on at a ceremony on May 5 at VFW Post 6763 on Front Street.

Bender found out about his nomination after Police Chief Steve Merkler had submitted it. He said he felt very honored and pointed out that there were very few Vietnam veterans left in the police department.

Bender grew up in Butler, New Jersey where he attended

Butler High School. In 1970, at the age of 19, he joined the U.S. Air Force. He trained at Lackland Air Force Base and was a staff sergeant in the Munitions Maintenance Group. During the course of the war he spent nine months in



SP Lt. Robert Bender

Continued on page 12

Ron Zilinski Resigns Three Top Borough Positions Open

Ron Zilinski, South Plainfield Chief Financial Officer, has announced that he will be resigning his post effective May 19.

With the retirement of Borough Clerk Jim Eckert last week and business administrator John Corica last January, three management jobs are now vacant. Shortly after Corica resigned, the council hired Jersey Professional Management, a firm that

specializes in municipal recruiting, to help search for a candidate to fill the vacancy. Applications were accepted for both an administrator and or administrator/CFO. The council has been interviewing applicants for the job, but has not yet hired a new administrator.

Members of the council have been dividing the responsibilities of the administrator.

"Trash Train" Opposition Mounting

Councilman Jim Vokral is asking South Plainfield residents to join together in opposition to the "Trash Train." A list of those opposing the train is now being compiled.

The northern section of Middlesex County has been designated as a key route for the transportation of New York City's trash to landfills in the south and Midwest.

The "Trash Train" may be up to one mile in length and is expected to carry up to 10,000 tons of trash daily to the Marine Transfer Station at Trembly Point, Linden, before passing through Woodbridge, Carteret, South Plainfield, Piscataway, Middlesex Borough, Bound Brook, Metuchen and Edison. (Linden has offered to host this program.)

It has been determined that

any leakage or spillage from these "Trash Trains" would pose significant health, safety and environmental concerns for the residents of Middlesex County and the train may often sit in a holding pattern for hours, resulting in additional noise and air pollution.

Mayor Gallagher and the entire borough council have stated their opposition this train and

Continued on page 12

High School Hall of Fame Candidates Announced

The candidates selected for this year's SPHS "Hall of Fame" have just been announced. They are Kenneth F. Diana, Georgeann DeGrazia, Susan Phifer, John F. Roser, Jr., James R. Schenck and John R. Vargo.

The "Hall of Fame" was established to honor high school graduates for their achievements in business, government, academia, community service and

the humanities.

Induction to the Hall of Fame recognizes these successful graduates as leaders in their fields and also provides current high school students with positive role models from their own community.

The inductees will be honored on May 31 in the high school during the annual academic awards ceremony.

THIS WEEKEND

Police Holding Property Auction

The South Plainfield Police Dept. will hold a property auction this Saturday at the D.P.W. Yard on the corner of Belmont and Spicer avenues.

Property viewing begin at 9:30 a.m. Auction starts at 10 a.m. The property includes bicycles, other items found or confiscated and unclaimed jewelry. All sales are final. Only cash will be accepted. There is no rain date. For information, call (908) 226-7670.

* * *

Project Graduation Auction/Raffle Set For Saturday

Doors open at 6 p.m. for the Third Annual Auction/Raffle at South Plainfield High School on Saturday. Tickets are \$10 at the door.

Food will be available for sale. All admissions include 25 tickets for the potpourri section. Prizes this year include a Hitachi camcorder, 27" picture in picture TV, DVD, scanner, VCR, microwave, vacuum cleaner, grill, Nintendo 64, prom basket (includes free tuxedo, flowers etc.), theme baskets valued up to \$200 and more.

Tickets may be purchased by contacting Pat at 756-6512, email: ando1931@aol.com and Ellen at 756-3731, E-mail: ELMEL17@juno.com.

All proceeds will benefit Project Graduation. Call or e-mail today for your tickets.

* * *

Friends of the Library Sponsoring Annual Book Sale

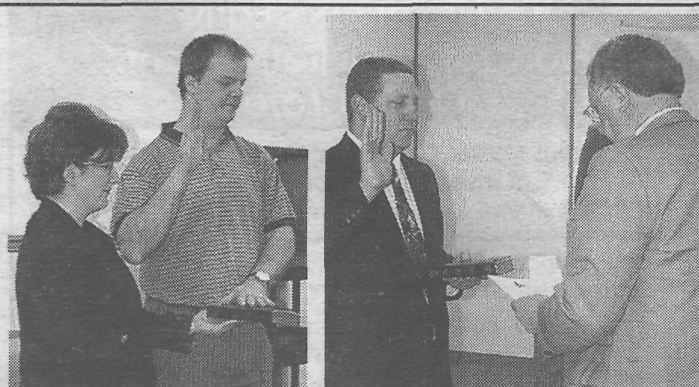
The Friends of the South Plainfield Library will hold their Annual Book and Bake Sale on Saturday, May 6 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the South Plainfield Library.

Residents are requested to bring donations to the library. Only books in good condition (no mildew or water damaged books) including children's books, fiction, non-fiction and PLEASE NO TEXT BOOKS.

Come and browse among our books, books on tape, records, videos, etc. and take home dessert.

* * *

To subscribe
to the *Observer*,
SEE PAGE 9.



Roderick M. Chirumbolo (above) is sworn in as a member of the Environmental Commission while his wife, Judy, holds the bible. Tom McCreesh (right) is sworn in as alternative member of the Recreation Commission by Borough Clerk Jim Eckert at last week's council meeting.

mark your calendars

Log on to
southplainfieldnj.com
for the latest
meeting agenda

councilmeetings

Meets twice a month

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-754-9000

AGENDA MEETING **PUBLIC MEETING**
Monday, May 8 Thursday, May 11

planningboard

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641

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

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:

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

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

Tues. June 6, Tues. September 12,
Mon. October 2, Mon. November 6, Mon. December 4

environmentalcommisslon

Meets once a month

Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-561-8280

May 10, June 14, July 12, August 9, September 13
October 2, Mon. November 6, Mon. December 4

board of education meetings

Board Conference Room at Administration Building, on Cromwell Place

May 8 Special Board Meeting to discuss a student matter will be held in
Executive Session at 8 p.m.
Committee of the Whole, May 9, 8 p.m.; Regular Board Mtg. 8 p.m., May 16,

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South Plainfield Observer

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in South Plainfield Observer:

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

In My Opinion Letters

To the Editor,

On April 8, the fourth grade at Kennedy School sponsored a Breakfast with the Bunny.

We would like to thank the following businesses for their generous donation of prizes: K-Mart, Sportworld, Zany Brainy, Grand Slam, P.H.A.T. Nails, ATA Black Belt Academy, Here's the Scoop Ice Cream, Ciccio's Pizza, European Hair Design and Sodexo Marriott.

We also want to thank the parents who donated prizes and food to make the day a success.

**SINCERELY,
STOKES 2000 COMMITTEE**

Dear Editor,

We are doing research reports in my fifth grade class and I will be reporting on New Jersey. The reports are due in May and cover topics such as brochures, travel guides and letters. The reason I am writing to you is to ask if you could publish my letter in your paper. I am hoping some of your readers in your community will write to me and tell me about their experiences, local traditions and some stories about New Jersey.

I live in Southern California and I am sure many things about New Jersey are different from where I live. Also, if any of the readers find time to reply, it would be great if they would enclose a copy of my "published" letter. Write to me c/o Cielo Vista Elementary, Room 15, 21811 Ave de los Fundadores, R.S.M., CA 92688.

Thank you so much for taking the time for my request and any information would be most appreciated.

**SINCERELY,
GREGORY MOJARRO**

Dear Editor:

We were more than pleasantly surprised last Friday night at both the size of the audience and the caliber of performances given at the South Plainfield All-District Music Festival. Being familiar only with the elementary music level (which is good, especially for beginners) we were astonished at the accomplishments of the middle school and high school level musicians and vocalists.

A huge number of students from the entire district participated and it was evident that much time and preparation had gone into the performances, both from the performers themselves and their music instructors. The borough has much to be proud of in these students — it is too bad that the performances were limited to only one night. Many more people should have the opportunity to hear for themselves the incredible music these students produced!

While every group that performed had something commendable, several things really stood out, particularly a piece entitled *The Maelstrom*, performed by the seventh and eighth grade band, conducted by Andrew Veiss; *Sing, Sing, Sing* by the High School Jazz Band, con-

ducted by Mark Tweed (and with an outstanding solo by Brian Publik); and *42nd Street* by the High School Chorus, conducted by Tracy Glenn Murray, with a tap-dancing chorus line, each of which brought down the house. Mark Tweed, in particular, should be commended for the level of performance that his jazz band gives — everything they performed, including warm-up music prior to the concert while the audience was finding their seats, was wonderful.

In order not to exclude any group, and using the program as a guide, we would like to list the choruses and bands that performed, as they all deserve mention, including The Elementary String Ensemble; Elementary Festival Chorus; Intermediate Festival Band; Middle School Orchestra; Gems; Middle School Festival Chorus; Middle School Stage Band; High School Orchestra; and High School Concert Band. Each was directed by a member of the music department of all the South Plainfield schools.

We were incredibly proud of South Plainfield Friday night and proud to say that our children/grandchildren attend these schools.

Hopefully they will achieve the level of performance that their older counterparts displayed at past festivals!

**SINCERELY,
DONNA M. EGAN AND
FILOMENA VIOLA**

Submit Letters to the Editor:

South Plainfield Observer,
Editorial Dept.,
1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

Letters may be submitted by email at our website at spobserver.com or faxed to 908-668-8819. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. We reserve the right to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject we will publish.

Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the *Observer*.

Sacred Heart Petition Placed by Single Parishoner

Last week a petition asking Bishop Breen of Metuchen to reconsider his decision not to appoint Father Thomas Ganley as permanent pastor of Sacred Heart Church was published in the *Observer*. The advertisement asked Sacred Heart parishioners to fill it out the petition and mail it to the bishop.

We received many calls about the ad. We would like our read-

ers to know that the petition was placed by an individual parishioner who said he did it with the best of intentions for the parish and without the knowledge of the parish or Father Ganley. He added that he had no malice towards Bishop Breen or his decision.

Deadline for Voter Registration

The Municipal Clerk's Office will be open until 9 p.m. Monday, May 8, 2000 for anyone wishing to register to vote for the June 6 Primary Election.

Anyone requesting an absentee ballot for the Primary Election must do so no later than Tuesday, May 20, 2000.

For further information, call Mary Blue at (908) 226-7606.

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Buckle Up — It's the Law

Residents are reminded to buckle up. A new law just took effect which allows police to stop you if you are driving without a seat belt. In the past, you could not be stopped for just failing to wear your seat belt, but could be ticketed if you were stopped for another violation.

Teachers Union Contract Still Not Ratified

The South Plainfield teachers union (SPEA) still have not ratified their contract with the school district.

Even though the union announced they reached a tentative agreement on the contract in February, no apparent movement has been made to vote on the contract. The teachers, who had been without a contract since last June, were very vocal about working without a contract.

Teachers could be seen marching to the schools every Friday, wearing SPEA t-shirts. They attended numerous BOE meetings, filling the board room, spilling out into the hall and carrying signs of unity. But since the announced tentative agreement, they have been silent. When asked when they plan to vote, we only hear, no comment.

BOE members also have no answer, saying they too are waiting for the vote by the teachers union.



Easter Flower Sale 50/50 Won By Margaret Sheldon

50/50 winner Margaret Sheldon is pictured with cadet squad members (L-R) Robert Prongay, VP/Secretary; Eric Toth, President and Melissa Jamieson. The Cadet Corp. members are between the ages of 16 to 18 and assist the Rescue Squad with fundraising and other squad related activities. Cadets ride along with the EMT's and first responders of the Rescue Squad and can become certified the same as regular squad members are.

Postmaster Michael Deignan Asks Residents Help with Food Drive

Postmaster Deignan announced that South Plainfield letter carriers will collect non-perishable food along their routes on Saturday, May 13, to help stock local food banks for the needy.

"On a daily basis our letter carriers touch the lives of all our residents in delivering their mail," said Postmaster Deignan, this is one more outstanding example of their dedication to delivering to others much needed food."

"We need the help of all South Plainfield residents to make the drive a success," stated Deignan. All residents of South Plainfield

are being asked to place non-perishable food at their mailbox on Saturday, May 13. The food will be collected by their carrier on his/her route while making mail deliveries. The food will be taken to a redistribution point for transportation to the local food bank.

South Plainfield letter carriers will be eagerly looking forward to food donations from their postal customers on May 13," said Deignan.

"For millions of Americans who are hungry, the only opportunity for their family to have a good meal is through their local food bank," said Deignan. "Through the efforts of our letter carriers and the generous donation of food from homes along our carrier routes, we hope to help those in need."

The May 13 local drive is being sponsored by the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC), in conjunction with the US Postal Service and AFL-CIO.

Third Annual Police Bicycle Rodeo Planned for May 13

On Saturday, May 13, the Borough of South Plainfield Police Department will be hosting a bicycle rodeo in Spring Lake Park from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Featured will be an obstacle course presented and conducted by volunteer employees of State Farm Insurance. Proper riding techniques and rules of the road will be emphasized during this phase of the program and an On Bike Skills Development course will be conducted. Helmet-wearing cyclists will negotiate a moderately challenging course of cones to improve their riding abilities.

For cyclists 14 years of age and younger, who do not have bicycle helmets, a limited supply of helmets, donated by the South Plainfield Traffic Safety Advisory Commission, will be provided to them. Those participants who wear their own helmets to the rodeo and register their bicycles with the South Plainfield Police Department will be entered into a drawing to win a new bicycle or a locking device for their bicycle. Ron Sward, director of



the Physical Therapy Center located on Halmilton Blvd. in South Plainfield and a member of the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, has donated a bicycle for this event.

Safety-oriented literature supplied by AAA and the South Plainfield branch of the N.J. Division of Motor Vehicles, will be provided to all participants. Bike N Gear from Middlesex will be on location to conduct safety inspections on all bicycles as well.

Halls Fast Motor Freight and Warehouse, Haagen Dazs Ice Cream, Pepsi, McCriskin's Home for Funerals and Freihof's Baking Company all have donated refreshments. In conjunction with our bicycle safety program, a unique bicycle registration/theft prevention program will be available to the public. The "Baron Von Pedal-off" program, designed by Officer William Frink of the Special Problems Unit, is specifically designed to reduce bicycle thefts. By encouraging bicycle owners to register their bicycles and taking anti-theft precau

Borough News

Council Notes

- The mayor commented on a letter in the *Observer* relating to the new look of our police cars. He said the decision to paint the cars black and white was made by the police chief and will save the borough money.

- An ordinance was passed appropriating \$56,5000 to purchase land for the purpose of improving the intersection at the corner of Hamilton Blvd and Stelton Rd. Funding for this project was made available by Developer Contributions for off-site improvements.

- A professional services contract has been awarded to CME Associates in the amount of \$19,750 to prepare bid specifications and related services for the design and construction of the new senior citizen center.

- Glen E. Thimons and Sharon Thimons have been hired as part-time telecommunications operator-trainees, at an hourly rate of \$12.21.

- Richard Levine has resigned as a member of the Environmental commission.

- Police Officer Thaddeus Malecki announced he will be retiring as of Dec 31, 2000.

- Homeowners who have experienced flooding in the New Market area may be able to have their property purchased through a recently passed \$3 million grant from the federal government. Congress must still release the funds before the flood-prone properties can be purchased from the owners.

- A resolution was introduced asking the NJ Legislature to extend the one time appropriation assisting municipalities who will see tax revenue losses due to Bell Atlantic's accelerated depreciation. The legislature has given a one time appropriation to municipalities, but revenue losses will be felt for several years.

- Shadyside Park is now renovated with new material in the play area and new swings were installed. Councilman Ray Petronko said the next park will be Pitt Street. A new parking area will be built on the site of the old basketball court. New playground equipment is also being considered.

- The paint recycling program is held the third Saturday of each month at the Recycling Center.

VOTE!!

Democracy Day Ballots Due

The mayor and council would like to remind all residents that all completed ballots must be either dropped off at Borough Hall or postmarked no later than Friday, May 19. You can also complete a ballot on southplainfieldnj.com webpage.

If your household has more than one eligible voter the Democracy Day ballots may be reproduced!! There are also extra ballots available at Borough Hall.

In order to vote you must be at least 18 years old, a United States citizen and be a permanent resident of South Plainfield.

All eligible voters should take the time to cast their ballots. South Plainfield is a government for and by the people and your input is extremely important to the mayor and council.

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Mon-Fri. Sat. Sun. All Day

DINNER 4:30-9:30 PM

\$4.99 \$5.99 \$5.99 \$5.99

Mon-Thur. Friday Saturday Sun. All Day

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Mon.-Thurs. 11 AM-9:30 PM • Fri. & Sat. 11 AM-11 PM • Sun. 12 Noon-9:30 PM

events

Around Town

Rec Trips to Broadway Musicals

SP Recreation Department is sponsoring two trips to Broadway musicals.

- Jesus Christ Superstar, Thursday, Aug. 31, 8 p.m. performance. Bus leaves PAL at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$70 per person.

- A Christmas Carol, Sunday, Dec. 17, 2 p.m. performance. Bus leaves PAL at 10:30 a.m.. Tickets are \$66 per person.

Only 48 tickets per trip are available. Purchase at the PAL, 8:30-4:30 p.m. First come, first serve. 226-7713.

Riley Car Wash

Calling all cars, trucks and vans! John E. Riley's fourth grade announces its Spring Car Wash.

Mark your calendars and come out on Saturday, May 6 (raindate: May 13), 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. at John E. Riley School on Morris Ave. Support our cause and drive away with a clean vehicle.

Advance tickets are available from any fourth grade student for \$5/all vehicles. Price at event is \$6/cars; \$7/trucks and vans.

Health Educator To Speak on Women's Cancer

The G.F.W.C. Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, May 4 at 2 p.m. at the American Legion Hall on Oak Tree Road.

Guest speaker will be Terri J. Manes, coordinator of Health Education services, for the Middlesex County Public Health Department.

Her topic will be cancer for women. She will present a program for women focusing on prevention, early detection and best treatment options for the cancers that have the greatest impact on women; including breast, lung, uterine, cervical, ovarian, colo-rectal and skin cancers.

For further information or for membership, please call 756-7071. New members are always welcome.

Visit Lake George This September

SP Recreation Department is sponsoring a trip to Lake George for 3 days/2 nights. Bus transportation, deluxe hotels, four meals, boat cruise, shopping. Sept. 13-15. \$245 per person. 40 tickets only. Purchase at the PAL on Maple Ave.

Musical Performance

Violinist James Graseck is back by popular demand with his unorthodox style, accompanied on piano by Doris Stevenson. He will be performing on Sunday, May 21

at 2:30 p.m. at Kennedy Library located at 500 Hoes Lane in Piscataway. Admission is free. This event is sponsored by Piscataway Cultural Arts and the Kennedy Library. For information call (732) 563-4117 or 463-1633.

VFW to Honor Outstanding Officer, Install Officers, Hold Breakfast

The VFW Post will present its award for Outstanding Police Officer of the Year to Lt. Robert Bender of the South Plainfield Police Department on Saturday evening at 7 p.m. The public is invited.

Also, the monthly breakfast sponsored by Pup Tent 41 Military Order of the Cootie will be held on May 7, 8 to 11 a.m. Donation is \$4. A children's menu will be available.

The 54th installation of Post and Auxiliary Officers will take place on May 12 at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served after the ceremonies. There will be music by Billy Phillips. The event is free and open to the public.

For further information, call (908) 668-9751 after 3 p.m.

Mother's Day Flower Sale

The South Plainfield Soccer Club is sponsoring a Mother's Day flower sale on Saturday, May 13, from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. in the PAL parking lot and also at Roosevelt School parking lot.

Environmental Reserve Nature Trail Guide on May 6

The public is invited to explore South Plainfield's Highland Avenue Woods Environmental Education Reserve with nature trail guides on Saturday, May 6, at 9 a.m. This is the second of four scheduled events offered this year as part of its free public "Walks 'n' Talks" program.

Participants are expected to see a wide array of blooming spring wildflowers and migratory birds.

The trails are easy to walk, but wear comfortable walking shoes. If you have binoculars, bring them to get a better look at the birds. Camera-buffs are encouraged to bring their photo equipment to capture the beauty of the woods in spring attire. It's a fun hour-long walk in the woods for all members of the family. No sign-up is necessary, but if you need further information, call the South Plainfield Environmental Specialist Dr. Alice Tempel at (908) 226-7621 Monday-Friday 9-4 p.m.

The Friends of the Woods has published a self-guiding Nature Guide, Trail Map and Species List for those who desire to explore the Reserve on their own. These are available free of charge at Borough Hall at the Environmental Specialist's office.

Participants will meet at the main gate on Sylvania Place (off South Clinton - see sign at the turn). There is ample parking along the street. Please be prompt. Heavy rain will cancel.

Vision 2001 Car & 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 Plain-

field Vision 2001 Education Foundation. The show is planned for Sunday, May 21 (raindate: May 28), 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. All 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. Vendor cost is \$20 and the Car Corral is \$15.

For 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 allowed.

Senior Trip to See The Student Prince

Seniors are planing to go to the Papermill Playhouse to see *The Student Prince* on Thursday, May 25. The bus leaves from the PAL building on Maple Ave. at 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$35 per person. Purchase tickets at the PAL.

Car Rally Planned in Downtown Area

The Northwest Jersey Camaro Club will hold a car rally on Saturday, June 17 in the downtown area. This is the first of many events planned by the newly formed Downtown Activities Committee.

Plans are still in the early planning stages, but the car rally will include a DJ, vendors, plenty of food and special events for the kids. South Plainfield Ave. and a portion of Hamilton Blvd. will be closed to traffic to accommodate the cars and the pedestrians.

Vendors who would like to participate should call 756-8038 for further information.

Cholesterol Lecture At Senior Center

Senior citizens who live in South Plainfield are invited to attend a lecture sponsored by Pfizer Pharmaceutical at the Senior Center, 1 So. Plainfield Ave., on May 10, 12 noon to 1 p.m. Dr. Goyale will speak on "Learning About Your Cholesterol". A lunch will be served.

Please call 754-1047 for reservations and transportation.

Circle Players to Present Arthur Miller Play

The Circle Players of Piscataway proudly announce the opening of Arthur Miller drama "A View From The Bridge," directed by Elaine Wallace.

The show runs Friday and Saturday evenings through May 20 at 8:30 p.m. A Sunday matinee is set for May 7 at 2 p.m. Ticket prices are \$13 for opening night which includes a champagne reception, \$12 all other evenings and \$10 for the Sunday matinee. Students and seniors receive a \$1 discount at all performances with ID.

For reservations and information, call (732) 968-7555.

Plainfields' Unico 3rd Annual Golf Outing

Plainfields and Clark's Unico will be co-sponsoring their annual golf outing on Monday, June 12. The event will be held at Beaver Brook Country Club in Clinton. The outing will be a shotgun start at 1 p.m. Registration is 11:30 to 1 p.m.

There will be a \$10,000 putting contest, prizes on all par threes for a hole-in-one, closest to the pin, as well as longest drive, closest to the line and many more. A banquet dinner will follow the outing and many door prizes will be awarded.

Prizes will be awarded for men and women for low gross and low net. Calloway scoring system. Entrance fee is \$115 for early bird sign-ups by May 5. After that date the fee is \$125 per person. Call Roxanne Cortese to sign up or information at (908) 561-1539.

Jim Eckert to be "Roasted"

The South Plainfield Republican Organization will hold a "Roast to Jim Eckert," retiring borough clerk, on May 19 at the Willows Restaurant on Washington Ave. in Green Brook. The program will begin at 7 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m.

For ticket info, call Linda (908) 756-6519 or Mary Ellen (908) 755-4014 no later than May 12.

Mets vs. Pirates Trip Planned

Sacred Heart Church is sponsoring a trip to see the Mets vs. Pirates

on Saturday, June 24.

The cost of \$50 per person includes game ticket in lower loge, transportation and driver gratuity. This is also kickball day and all children 13 and under will receive a kickball. The bus will leave Sacred Heart parking lot at 4:30 p.m. and return immediately after the game.

For additional information and reservations, call Helen at the Parish Center at (90) 756-0633 ext.11 or Mary Ann (908) 226-1222.

Yankees vs. Baltimore Tickets Available

The Polish National Home is running a bus trip to see the Yankees vs. Baltimore on Saturday, May 6. The game starts at 1:05 p.m. Bus leaves parking lot at 10 a.m. The cost of \$35 a person includes ticket and transportation. Tickets are currently available at Polish National Home.

Please call (908) 668-9442 for more information.

Rescue Squad Auxiliary Holding Open House

The Rescue Squad Ladies Auxiliary is seeking individuals who may be interested in joining their organization. There will be an open house on May 17 at the Rescue Squad building on Plainfield Ave., starting at 8 p.m.

Meet current members, see how the meetings are conducted and learn what the auxiliary is all about. Interested parties can come out and get answers to questions about the organization, and enjoy cake and coffee.

Suburban Woman's Club Flea Market

The G.F.W.C. Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield will hold a flea market on May 6 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the American Legion Hall on Oak Tree Road.

Vendors are needed and may set up (their own tables) at 8 a.m. Space registration is \$10 and/or \$18 for two spaces. The Woman's Club will be selling hot and cold beverages and light desserts. Proceeds from the sales will go toward a scholarship, as well as other charities.

For info, call (908) 753-5753.

Submit your Events Around Town

Mail or drop off your stories and photos: The South Plainfield OBSERVER, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Fax (908)668-8819; email GGNAN@aol.com.

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8 PM



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School Auditorium

200 Lake Street
South Plainfield, NJ

TICKETS ONLY \$14
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events

Around Town

Elks Lodge to Hold Annual Mother's Day Breakfast

South Plainfield Elks Lodge #2298 on New Market Ave. will hold an Annual Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast on May 14 from 8 a.m. until noon.

The cost is adults, \$6; children \$2.75; under 5 are free.

Menu offerings include eggs any style, bacon, sausage and pancakes, french toast, homefries, toast, coffee, tea and juice.

A free carnation will be offered to all mothers.

The event is sponsored by the Handicapped Children's Committee.

Sacred Heart's Funstival 2000

It's time once again to come and enjoy family fun on South Plainfield Avenue right across from Drug Fair. Enjoy homemade foods, games and rides on Tuesday, May 16 through Saturday, May 20.

Pay-One-Price rides on May 16, \$12, 6 p.m. to closing. Pay One Price rides on May 20, \$12, 2-5 p.m.

Friday night enjoy music by BackSplash. Call Parish Center for discount advanced rides tickets—\$12 for 8 rides at (908)756-0633.

Great homemade foods at reasonable prices.

Red Cross Holding Area Blood Drives

The American Red Cross provides blood to millions of people in need from approximately 4.5 million volunteer blood donors.

The demand for blood is high!!!

Just 5% of all eligible donors donate blood. We understand that this is partly due to a lack of awareness. Many people do not fully understand that blood is extremely perishable, and they underestimate the ever-increasing need for blood.

The American Red Cross (ARC) in conjunction with New Jersey Blood Services (NJBS), are working together in our area to help supply the need of blood for emergency rooms, liver transplants, premature babies in neonatal intensive care units, cancer patients, people with sickle cell disease and many other situations.

If you are interested in becoming a blood donor or would like additional information, please contact Rosi Merg at ARC (908) 353-2500.

The following is a list of hours and locations Blood Banks will be open for May in the area:

- May 11, 2-9 p.m.
United Church Of Christ,
220 W. 7th St., Plainfield
- May 12, 3-8:30 p.m.
Evangel Church,
1251 Terrill Rd., Scotch Plains
- May 15, 3-8:30 p.m.
Elks, So. Plfd.,
1254 New Market Ave,
So. Plainfield

Tourette Syndrome Support Meeting

The Tourette Syndrome Asso-

ciation Family Support Group of Middlesex County will meet on May 9. For more information, contact Debbie at 732-283-1439 or www.tsanj.org.

Cruise on Big Red Boat II Planned

Dunellen Recreation is sponsoring a cruise on the NEW Big Red Boat II to New England and Canada. A seven nights cruise leaves on Aug. 5 and returns Aug. 12, with ports of call of Newport, Boston, Halifax and St. John New Brunswick Canada.

Rates for the cruise range from \$875 per person for an inside stateroom to \$1,075 for an ocean view stateroom. Cost includes port charges, transportation to and from the pier in New York from South Plainfield, driver gratuities.

Third and fourth passengers sharing cabin rate is \$565 per person.

For additional information and reservations, call Mary Ann at M.H.A. Travel at (908) 226-1222 or Clem at Dunellen Recreation (732) 752-2466.

Future Kindergartners Invited to Kennedy

The John F. Kennedy School PTSO will be holding Get Acquainted classes for all students entering kindergarten at the school in September. The purpose is to familiarize the students with the school and staff. Some of the activities during the program are visits to the school nurse, the principal and taking a none-bus ride.

The sessions for Get Acquainted are as follows: Tuesdays, May 9 and

15 from 9:30-11 a.m. and Wednesday, May 10 and 17 from 9:30 to 11 a.m.

For information, call Rosann Copi at (908) 757-8174.

Kindergarten Orientation At Roosevelt School

Children entering kindergarten in September, 2000 are welcome to join us to explore Roosevelt School and meet the teachers and staff.

The orientation program will meet on Wednesdays, May 10, 17, 24 and 31. There will be two sessions offered, mornings from 9:30 to 11 a.m. and afternoons from 1:15 to 2:45 p.m.

Questions? Contact Denise Kelly at 753-3714.

Rec Department Sponsors Yankee Trip

The South Plainfield Recreation Department is sponsoring a trip to Yankee Stadium to see the N.Y. Yankees vs. Boston Red Sox on Tuesday, June 13. Bus leaves the PAL lot at 4 p.m. Ticket price is \$37 per person. Call the PAL, 226-7713.

Festival of India

"Festival of India" program featuring traditional dance, costumes and music of India will be held on Saturday, May 6 at 7:30 p.m. in Piscataway High School, Patton Building located on Behmer Rd. and Hoes Lane in Piscataway. Admission is free. This event is sponsored by Piscataway Cultural Arts Commission. For further information call (732) 563-4117 or 562-2301.

Friday, May 19, 2000

Time: 7:00 to 11:00 p.m.

The South Plainfield Elks Lodge 2298

★ Wine Tasting ★ & Dinner ★

*Enjoy an evening sampling
superb wines selected by*

*Witty's Liquors and
fine foods prepared by
Michael's Kitchen*

*\$65. per person
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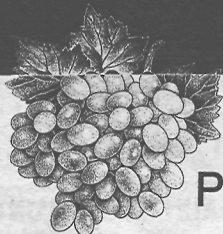
Contact Barbara Muller at 908-757-5734

Barbara Shuleski at 908-561-1663

So. Plfd. Elks at 908-668-9750

South Plainfield Elks Lodge 2298

1254 New Market Road



Seven Course Menu to include:

Appetizer Course

**Jumbo Shrimp wrapped in bacon
Filet mignon on toast points
Mushroom spring rolls**

Salad Course

Field greens / blood orange vinaigrette

Soup Course

Warm Vichyssoise

Pasta Course

**Rotolo: Swiss chard,
marscapone w/lobster sauce**

Fish Course

**Maine Diver scallop w/pears,
almond glaze**

Entree

**Veal Scaloppine w/wild mushroom
in Madeira wine reduction
Pomme Sayvarde
Haricot Vert / French green beans**

Dessert Course

**House made coconut ice cream on
puff pastry/roasted macadamia nuts**



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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Here's some of the latest news from the South Plainfield Library.

This year's big Friends of the Library Book and Bake sale is set for tomorrow. Weather permitting, it'll be held outside the Library from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A wide variety of items, including books, videos, audiocassettes, records and baked goods, will be on sale at various prices.

We'll stick to our usual schedule of children's Storytime programs next week. Each program is for children ages three and over; no pre-registration is needed. They're held on Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday night at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday afternoon at 1:15 p.m. If you have any questions, call us at (908) 754-7885; ask for Children's Librarian Linda Hansen.

The Library Board of Trustees will meet on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. The public is encouraged and welcome to attend and get the latest information on our present and future plans.

This month's group of Circuit videos and DVD's is now available for borrowing. Some of the titles you'll find in this group are "The Waterboy," the remake of "To Be or Not to Be," the final five chapters of "War and Remembrance," "Tea and Sympathy" and "The Governess." This month's selection will be available until May 27.

In response to several requests, we've done a slight upgrade on the Reference computer terminal provided by Comcast Cable. The terminal can now access the EBSCO Host periodical reference database; the

SIRS research database and our own computerized catalog. The terminal is for the primary use of the Reference Librarian, but patrons may use it for research purposes at the Librarian's discretion.

Unfortunately, for the second week in a row, our column must address a less than pleasant subject. By and large, our patrons return their borrowed items on time or, when that's impossible, they pay their fines as quickly as they can. But, this doesn't always happen. In fact, some patrons abuse the privilege by keeping items far past due or not settling their debts. This has led us to institute a new procedure: We will now be using the services of a materials recovery service, similar to a collection agency. When a patron's outstanding account totals more than \$35, either in materials or charges, for a period of 60 days, the account is turned over to the service. (A processing fee of \$15 is also added to the outstanding total.) This will occur only after the Library has sent out our usual number of overdue notices. If the patron doesn't respond to either the service, or us the matter could be, as a last resort, turned over to credit reporting agencies, which will keep the information on file. On the other hand, if a patron contacts us and makes arrangements to pay off the debt, the recovery service will be notified at once. We hope you understand that this procedure will be used only when necessary and, we hope, very rarely. Please do your part to help us in this respect.

And, with that, we'll wrap it up for another week.

Fun Fair Draws Fair Weather, Big Crowds



For this the fifth year the Girls Scout Community of South Plainfield enjoyed a gorgeous day for their Annual Fun Fair and Flea Market. Not only was Saturday a beautiful day, but the turnout was spectacular for both the fairgoers and volunteers. It was hard to believe the fair would surpass past years' successes, but thanks to Mother Nature and those who helped make this event possible, it did.

The fair was held on the grounds of the South Plainfield Middle School and ran from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Of course, there were the usual (and unusual) flea market vendors and the games created by the vari-

ous troops. There also was delicious food, pony rides and the ever-popular moon walk.

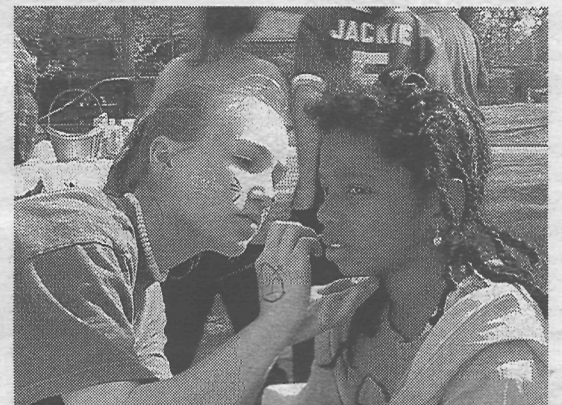
The Girl Scouts, their leaders, friends and volunteers who participated in any way, shape or form certainly can be proud of the great job they all did to make events like these. It means a lot of hard work and planning and is also a lot of old fashioned fun. The outcome of course is that the South Plainfield Girl Scout Community as a whole and the girls in general will benefit from the additional funds generated by this event.

Finally, to everyone who helped to make this event a success, the South Plainfield Girl Scout Community would like to thank you. You also know that without your help, events like this would not be possible. Girl Scouting, like the world around us, is changing in order to keep up with the changing world. It's good to see



that even as we change, we maintain the friendships and relationship that we've established, while at the same time creating new ones. As the song says, "Make new friends, but keep the old...."

—Submitted by Wayne Otlowski



Civil War Encampment at Middle School



By Patricia Abbott

Middle School students stepped into the school's courtyard and were taken back in time. The 19th century came alive in the form of blue-clad Civil War soldiers as students watched

the 43rd New York Volunteer Infantry load and fire their muskets.

The event was an incredibly accurate display of life during phases of the Civil War. Instead of an actual reenactment, the 43rd Infantry set up a series of stations each depicting a different time frame from the beginning to the end of the war. The "Manual of Arms," or the firing of the muskets, caught the attention of the students right away. The uniforms, authentic replicas of those worn by soldiers during the war, were not brand new shining examples of the military but more realistic displays of wear and tear and the rough material available at the time. The display began with a large and cumbersome "Sibley" tent similar to those of American Indians teepees, fashioned to hold up to 18



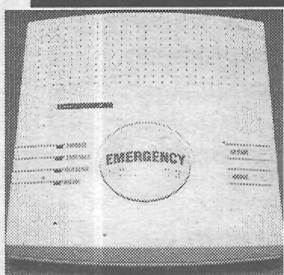
soldiers. These tents had to be carried by wagon. As the war progressed so did the need for simplicity and ease. Modifications were made to make the soldiers' lives just a bit easier. Next came the "A-frame" tents, "dog tents" and "shebang" tents, each easier to pack and carry. One tent featured a

civilian member of the organization. Beth Suckiel talked to students about civilian life and the roles woman played during the war. Each station offered typical camp equipment for the students' inspection. A pit fire near the center of the courtyard was kept ablaze and an actual meal such as

the soldiers might have had was cooked. Two of the 43rd members came dressed as confederate prisoners to give students an idea of how the enemy appeared.

Three South Plainfield residents are active in the organization. Mike Harty and his son, SPHS junior Ryan, became involved in 1996. They recruited Tom Edridge, also of SP, in 1997. Ryan is one of the few teenagers in the 43rd. Edridge described how gratifying it is to have a 21st century teenager who is not only interested in the American Civil War but dedicated to teaching others. Detail is important to the 43rd NY Volunteer Infantry. The modern day cost of outfitting an infantry soldier for reenactment, full uniform, musket, tent and camp gear, is close to \$1200. Each member pays for his equipment. The 43rd NYVI are a family-oriented reenacting/living history group that strives for and prides themselves on accurate recreations of the lifestyles and battles of the Civil War.

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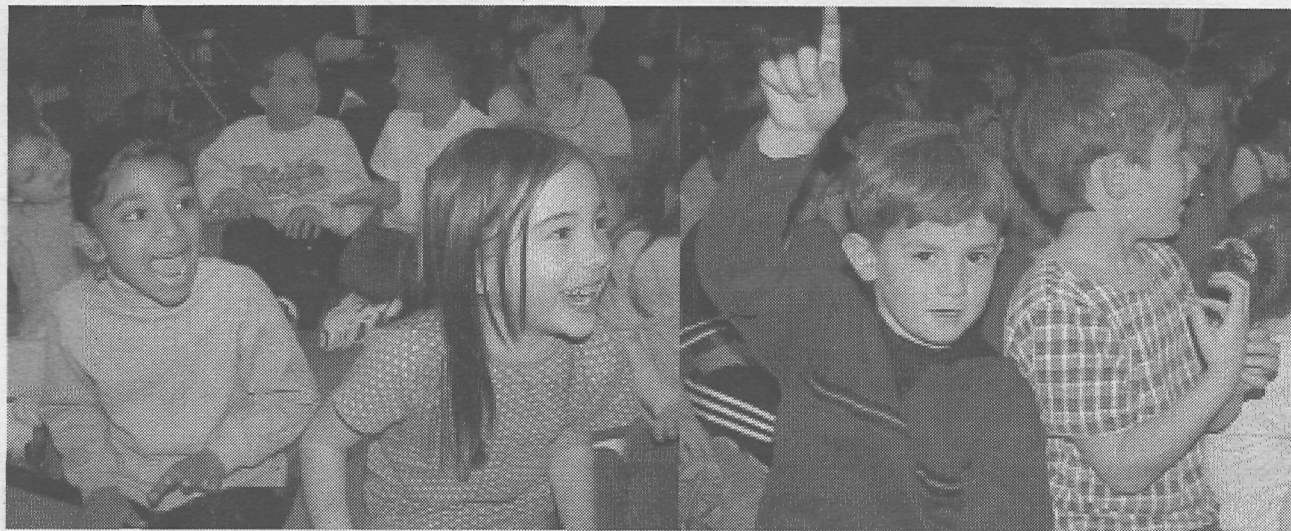
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS

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FOOD DRIVE



Place your non-perishable food donation by your mailbox on Saturday, May 13. Your letter carrier will deliver it to a local community food bank or pantry.



Spellbinding Storyteller Visits Elementary Schools

By Patricia Abbott

Students at John E. Riley and John F. Kennedy schools recently had the opportunity to experience the age-old art of storytelling. A far cry from the quick bed time stories that mom or dad read and reread from a dog-eared book, Mr. Bill Mooney did not merely tell stories. The performer brought new and old, outlandish and outrageous adventures to life. He provided the eager students with a chance to participate by adding to the tales at appointed times, often with hysterical results.

There were no sets, stage or props, but with his first words Storyteller Bill Mooney had the student's attention. His constant movement gave each child a chance to experience the charismatic performer up close. Children sat mesmerized as he altered his voice to represent each character. The first tale had a much repeated phrase that the K-2 students quickly picked up on. As they recited the words, Mooney exclaimed

in mock surprise, "You've heard this story before!"

As the stories continued the student's could be seen leaning forward with anticipation. The final tale, *The Jersey Devil*, was a story that involved much audience participation and ended with an uproar of giggles and laughter.

Grades three through five heard a different set of tales with the exception of *The Jersey Devil*. Enthusiasm was still at a high when he asked the students where stories came from. The response—"books!" The program concluded with Mooney's encouraging the children to read more books.

Bill Mooney has been telling stories for over 30 years. His successful premiere was a one-man show in Vienna, Austria. *Half Horse, Half Alligator* featured humorous

tales from America's moving frontier. The show played throughout Europe, New York, was recorded and filmed by RCA



Victor and CBS-TV respectively and toured America for 20 years. He is a featured storyteller at the National Storytelling Festival, and has performed at the NJ Folk Festival, Alabama Tale-Tellin' Festival, as well as performing all over the world for the Holland America cruise line. Soap fans will recognize Mooney as 'Paul Martin' of *All*

My Children. He is the author and co-author of a play and several books and audios. One story of note is *With a Dog's Eyes*. The Seeing Eye in Morristown commissioned Mooney to write and perform the story of Morris Frank, the founder of the organization that trains guide dogs for the blind.

Easter Egg Hunt at Pilgrim Covenant

Pictured are the students of Pilgrim Covenant Church Learning Center's 4 Plus Class. The class had an Easter Egg Hunt and enjoyed their findings afterwards. While the class was having their hunt, the Easter Bunny visited the classroom and filled their homemade baskets with more goodies. A sweet time was had by all.



Easter Egg Hunt at Sacred Heart School

Students at Sacred Heart School pose with the "Easter Bunny" at the school's egg hunt. Also pictured (far right) is the finder of the "special egg."



SACRED HEART SCHOOL ANNOUNCES HONOR ROLL & PRINCIPAL'S LIST

Third Marking Period

First Grade

Principal's List—Shaun Bandrowski, Shannon Bell, Sabrina Douge and Kristin Treslar.

Honor Roll—Rosa Campanaro, Alexander Liszewski, Ivonne Martinez, Javon Ratliff, Angelica Sajonas, Michael Vitello, Emily Garcia, Curtis Murry, Jake Salerno, Jennifer Villacres and Timothy Zoda.

Second Grade

Principal's List—Aaron Pinkard, Nicole McDonough and Ryan Ricarte.

Honor Roll—Jayson Bolton, Brenda Eke, Alexandra Fee, Jilleanne Gulotta, Daniel Lang, Jessica Napolitano, Amanda Bowker, Michael McHugh, Matthew Miceli, Alfonse Muglia, Kaitlin Muglia and Zachary Zikanowicz.

Third Grade

Principal's List—Aedan Bayona, Taylor Boosmann, Lauren David, Jackie Dougherty, Ashley Forbes, Ryan Hohner, Gloria Lobato, Michael Muglia, Allyson Paterek, Kathryn Paterek and Rachel Pinto.

Honor Roll—Ian Collins, Astara Maiure, Walter Rodriguez, Katlyn Salvatore, Marika Simons, Daphne Aguinaldo, Brianna Bicho, Sara Crane, Khaliah Douglas, David Ervin and Alessandra Grant.

Fourth Grade

Principal's List—Kristen Partesi.

Honor Roll—Jonathon Abel, Megan McHugh, Skylar Randolph, Camille Romano, Allison Whitefleet, Davonna Approvato, Elix Colon, Carol Kigozi, Rita Landry, Reginald Myers and Erick Paley.

Fifth Grade

Principal's List—Lisa Del Negro, Amanda Ivarone, Amanda Jenkin, Anthony Pelle, Daniel Schiavo and Erica Palma.

Honor Roll—Joseph Campanaro, Kristen Ciandella, Amy Hsieh, Andrea Spruill Wright, Adam Barletta, Erin Boosmann, Joseph Casey, Samantha Crane, Maria Lipnick, Alicia Presely, Kiersten Whitaker and Peter Yeung.

Sixth Grade

Principal's List—Juliet Fryszczyn, Roseller Lapitan, Julia Dougherty and Diane Romano.

Honor Roll—Michael McClore, Robyn Douglass, Lauren Sprott, Kristin Barko, Brittany Frazer, William McCall and Jennifer Yeung.

Seventh Grade

Principal's List—Michelle Arango, Courtney Ervin, Mary Lillis, Jenna Zielinski and Kevin Hohner.

Honor Roll—Kenneth Abel, Jinelle Arki, Zida Castillo, Kevin Ciampi, Kristen Gilormini, Keley Hrutkay, Monea Nash, Kate Polifka, Matthew Revolinski, Kristin Salvatore, Summer Scott, Lauren Ciandella, Courtney Cullen, Alexandria Gamboa, Kristy Glavasich, Sarah Kulihin and Allison Pietruszki.

Eighth Grade

Principal's List—Kristina Latonio, Marisa Palma and Danielle Counts.

Honor Roll—Kimberly Brana, Shaun Casey, Raymond Kardos, Michelle Musoke, Tiffany Ogradnik, Saniqua Pitt, Jessica Regenye, Kelly Daley, Nichole Gutierrez, Valerie Rojas, Calvin-John Smiley, Linh Tran and Jennifer Traynor.

Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Ave.
South Plainfield, NJ

Very Rev. Michael A. McGuire, Pastor

Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:45 p.m.

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

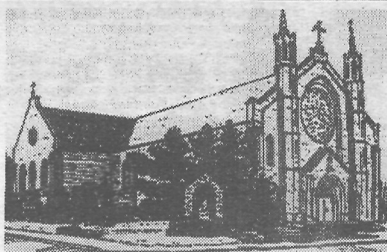
Weekdays 9:00 a.m. (church)

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

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation

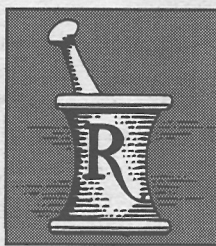
Saturday 11 a.m. - 12 noon, 5:15 - 5:45 p.m.
and after 5:45 p.m. Vigil Mass



Is Your Community Event Listed in The Observer?

If your community or school event is not listed here in the Observer, drop us a note with the details at South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

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Sports

High School

SPHS Golf Team Wins 10th of the Season

The South Plainfield high school golf team schedule resumed last Tuesday at West Nine golf course.

The Tigers once again pounding Monroe 201-257. Monroe, whose preseason projection had them challenging, took yet another 55+ stroke pummeling at the hands of this days fearsome

five, consisting of Frank Gaspari (37), Jason Bataille (39), Matt Kurilew (41), Matt Peloquin (42) and Paul Hermann (42).

The following Thursday a very talented South Brunswick team visited the West Nine and edged the Tigers 189-198.

The tenth win would wait until May and a trip to Glenwood

Country Club, where the Tigers faced Old Bridge.

Pity for Old Bridge, the Tigers bounced right back as Jason Bataille (38), Matt Kurilew (39), Frank Gaspari (43) Paul Hermann (45) and Mike Jankoski (46) wielded the irons this day and they went home with win number ten.

High School Spring Track Notes....

Spring track for the boys at South Plainfield High School has been like the weather. Some days are warm and some are cold and windy. They have started the season with two wins and two losses. It seems that every day they have a meet the weather turns cold and windy. Despite the colder days they have performed well.

The team is coached by Coach Fonti, who handles head coach duties along with the weight events. He is assisted by Coach Smith, who handles the jumpers and sprinters and first year Coach Horowitz, who handles the distance runners, pole vault and hurdles. Coach Horowitz ran the 400 and pole vault for Old Bridge who is one of the track and field powers in New Jersey. He brings some tough workouts from Old Bridge to SP, in which the boys have handled in stride.

The captains for 2000 are seniors Mike Loenser, Pat Draper and junior John Foscolo. These three bring a lot of experience and leadership to this very young team. The other seniors who help the young performers are Eric Johnson (400, 800), Dave Friedland (shot, disc, javelin), Paul Israel (shot, disc, jav), Peter Pham (HH, IH, 400) and Rich Drum-bore (shot, disc, jav).

With a majority of freshman and sophomores, the team is still getting good results. The first meet against North Brunswick was a 75-52 victory. Mike Loenser and John Foscolo were double event winners. Mike won the 1600 and 3200 while John won the 400 Intermediate hurdles and the 400. Other winners were Brian Wilson in the 110 high hurdles, Eric Johnson in the 800, Phil Thomas in the javelin, Dave Friedland in the discus and the

4x400 team of John Rayho, Tom Troia, Anthony Cole and Pete Pham.

The second meet turned cold against Colonia with a loss 54-76. Mike Loenser had another double win in the 1600 and 3200, while other victors were Eric Johnson in the 400, Pat Draper in the Long Jump, Dave Friedland in shot and sophomore Ted Donnelly in the pole vault. Ted is the first pole vaulter in many years to clear opening height of eight-feet. Since this meet Ted has now cleared 9 feet 6 inches and almost cleared 10 feet. Ted has picked up many unanticipated points for the team this year. They expect good things from Ted over the next two years.

After just two meets the boys had 46 different personal bests. "This is the result of hard work" said Coach Horowitz. "The boys are starting to come together now. They have set aggressive goals and they are meeting them consistently" said Horowitz. "The young boys are learning a lot from the older ones and that makes for a great team effort."

The third meet still had the cold weather with another tough loss to Perth Amboy 55-76. Mike Loenser doubled again in the 1600 and 3200 with his teammates sophomore Tim Morgan and junior Mike DeSimone taking second and third in both events. Other winners were Brian Wilson in the 110 High hurdles and Pat Draper in the Long Jump. Mike Loenser has enjoyed success this year with cross country and winter track but is looking to make the Meet of Champions for the first time this spring. Mike will be attending East Stroudsburg University in the fall where he will run cross country and dis-

tance events for the winter and spring seasons. Mike said "Everyone has been working hard and it is starting to pay off for the team. With all the young kids this year, and how well they're doing, it will pay off in the next few years."

In last week's "warm" meet, the Tigers beat up on a usually tough Bishop Ahr team 99-28. Freshman John Rayho had wins in the 100 and 200 with the 200 team of John, Pat Draper and sophomore Sean Grevious taking a sweep. In the 800, Mike Loenser had the win with Eric Johnson and frosh Jeff Williams completing the sweep. The 3200 had simi-

Continued on page 12

A League Standings

Team	W	L
Red Sox	2	0
Mets	2	1
Reds	2	1
Yankees	1	1
Cubs	1	2
Orioles	1	2
Athletics	0	2

Home Run by Anthony Petriello of the Mets

B League Standings

Team	W	L
As	4	0
Cubs	3	0
Diamond Backs	3	1
Mets	2	1
Devil Rays	2	1
Braves	1	2
Reds	1	2
Cardinals	1	3
Yankees	1	3
Orioles	0	2
Red Sox	0	3

Pony League Standings not available

By Frank Hanley

juniorbaseballclubnotes

Raffle—Raffle books were distributed at the monthly meeting. The books are due back on June 5. The raffle will be drawn on June 17.

SPJBC Scholarship—The scholarship recipients were announced at the May 1st meeting. Congratulations to Patrick Fittsimmons and David Alles, this year's scholarship recipients.

Woman's Auxiliary—The Women will be holding their annual dinner-dance, a "Casino Night" on Saturday, June 3 from 7 p.m. to midnight at the VFW hall. Tickets are \$45 per person. Tables of 8 to 10 may be reserved. Contact Cindy Eichler at 769-4047 for tickets and information. There are a limited number of tickets available.

Snack Stand Captains—The club is looking for a few additional snack stand captains. There are several shifts that still require a captain. The captains are responsible for the operation of the stand. Contact Tom Curtis or Bob Golon at the clubhouse for more detail.

Sign Sponsors—The Sign Sponsor program is again being offered to local businesses. This program provides businesses with advertising space at the complex. Businesses interested in becoming or continuing as a sponsor or should contact the club.

Contact the SPJBC—clubhouse phone: (908) 754-2090 ... email: spjbc@aol.com ... Web Site: members.aol.com/spjbc/spjbc.html.

Events at a Glance—Woman's Auxiliary Meeting on Wednesday, May 10; Somerset Patriots Game on Friday, May 26; "Casino Nite" Dinner/Dance on Saturday, June 3 and the All-Star Day on Sunday, June 4

Small Fry C Game Highlights

A's vs. Cardinals—Michael Jefferys had a hit and scored twice and Zack Bishara played well in the field for the A's.

Braves vs. Orioles—Dominic Papa had two hits and Erik White singled for the Braves.

Cubs vs. Orioles—Ricky Walton singled driving in two runs and Shaun Boyle tripled driving in one run for the Cubs.

A's vs. Braves—Matthew Little and Tim Yuill pitched well for the As. Matthew Franzson and Doug Porzio each had two hits for the Braves.

Reds vs. Red Sox—Ryan Szumski hit two doubles for the Red Sox.

A's vs. Reds—Michael Maiorino and Patrick Nolty pitched well for the A's.

Braves vs. Cardinals—Kyle Quail had three hits and pitched well, Greg Herbster and Robert Scott had two hits each for the Braves.

Cubs vs. Red Sox—Joshua Rivera hit a double and pitched well in his first start for the Red Sox. Stephan Wagner threw out a runner at first base from right field and Zachary Haupt doubled driving in two runs for the Cubs.

Braves vs. Red Sox—Nick Vallone doubled and tagged a runner out at the plate and Zack Melanson pitched well for the Red Sox. Teddy Skwiat had two hits for the Braves.



Commander Phil Cortese presents a \$1000 check to Junior Baseball Commissioner Tony Cassano for the baseball club on behalf of the VFW Post #6763.

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Sports

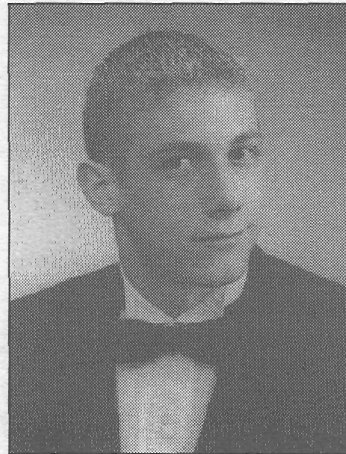


Home Depot employees Nicole Lomba and Melissa Corforte accept certificates of appreciation from Councilman Petronko for their volunteer efforts in constructing sand containers at Pitt Street Park. Also recognized but not present were Home Depot employees Mark Boehm, Ed Dvernachuk, Deane Croce, Ari Levine, Lisa Huewetter, Bob Boehm, Steve Castro, Mike MacDonald, Nathalie LaLumiere and Ciarra Hamill. Home Depot donated the materials.

Tim Goetz Off to Gymnastic Nationals

Tim Goetz, senior at South Plainfield High School, will compete May 5 in the Junior Olympic National Gymnastic Championships to be held in Austin, Texas. Tim qualified for Nationals last month at Regionals which were held in Albany, New York with an all-around score of 48.60, his highest score to date.

Tim has been taking gymnastics for nine years and is enrolled at Feigley's School of Gymnastics in South Plainfield. He is coached by Ben Dungee and is a member of the Phantoms Boys Team. Tim is a level 1 gymnast and has won numerous medals and awards in local, state and regional meets, including a first place on rings at a regional competition at West Point. He also took first place all-



Tim Goetz

around at the Olga Korbut Diamond Classic in Atlanta, Georgia.

This summer, Tim will work at International Gymnastic Camp

in Pennsylvania as a counselor and instructor. In September, Tim will attend Springfield College in Massachusetts, where he will be a member of Springfield's gymnastic team under the direction of Coach Steven Posner. Tim plans to pursue a career in Sports Management.

Presently, Tim is president of the Cabinet and Manufacturing Club at the high school, was voted second place runner-up for homecoming king and has performed annually in the Labor Day Parade. Tim credits his elementary school gym teacher, Mr. Semple, for giving him his push-start toward gymnastics.

Tim is the son of proud parents Linda and Larry Goetz of South Plainfield.

Blaze U-11 Girls Soccer Win Three in a Row

South Plainfield Blaze vs. Montgomery Wee Badgers

The last couple of weeks have been exciting for the South Plainfield Blaze Under-11 girls' soccer team. Playing a make-up game on Saturday gave the team their third win in a row for the first time ever. Going into this game against Montclair Wee Badgers and struggling this season gave the Blaze the opportunity to experiment with positions. Loading up on defense as in the past with Kate Hardy in as keeper, Becky Keller as sweeper, fullbacks Ashleigh Gaspari on the right, Katie Baldassarre on the left and Denise Lopez as stopper allowed for a scoreless first half.

Midfielders and sharing positions through the first half Clare

Kelly, Alex Viscosi, Lauren Fry, Elizabeth Flannery, Maria Lipnick and Victoria Plasse all played as tough as usual controlling the tempo of the game. Allison Huffsmith and Jen Copeland up front as attackers showed the depth of the team. Allison Huffsmith did a great job and came real close to scoring. Jen Copeland, who has been handling midfield in previous games with her natural talent and incredible speed, stepped up as a striker and scored the first two goals of the game on exciting breakaways.

At halftime the score was South Plainfield Blaze-2, Montclair Wee Badgers-0.

In the second half still keeping defense strong with Dorian Bishop doing an excellent job as

keeper, the Blaze stayed with their game plan and gave Katie Baldassarre and Clare Kelly a chance up front as attackers. And what a great job they did! Coming as no surprise, Katie Baldassarre played as tough as ever up front and almost scored. Clare Kelly put the game out of reach and scored on a PK. The final score was South Plainfield Blaze-3, Montclair Wee Badgers-0.

Great job Girls! Tryouts for next season are the end of May and beginning of June. All are welcome!

Visit the tryout section of our web site for details at www.sopfldsoccerclub.com

-Submitted by Coach Tom Hard



Ponytail Softball

"C" League

Butrico Auto Body recorded its first double play of the season! A fly-pop was hit to the outfield and caught by centerfielder Katherine Gorman. The second out of the double play was made by first base person, Lark Stagnitto, after a relay throw by Theresa Huber. Great Job Girls!

"A" League

DeFrancesco Paving 17-Polish Home 1: Vicki Boley led the team batting with two singles, one double, four RBIs and a walk. Kim Baub racked up seven strikeouts in four innings.

DeFrancesco Paving 13-Transways 0: Allia Ghanim had a grand slam in-the-park home run in the first inning. Pitching three innings for DeFrancesco, Kim Gaub struck out six and walked none. Jaclene Prongay held Transways scoreless for the last three innings.

Sportworld 19-Flannagans-5: Kendahl Green and Eileen Milcarek led Flannagans with two hits each. Jessa Jones and Johanna Hedler provided the key hits for Sportworld. Jessica Senz pitched three scoreless innings.

Scholarship Applications Available

The South Plainfield Parent's Ponytail Association is now accepting applications for college scholarships. Applicants must be South Plainfield residents graduating this June and must have participated in the South Plainfield Recreation Ponytail Softball Program for a minimum of three years.

Applications can be picked up at the SPHS Guidance Department, or by writing the South Plainfield Parent's Ponytail Association at P.O. Box 441, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. The filing deadline for applications is May 8.

Tryouts for All-Star Tournament

The South Plainfield Parents Ponytail Softball Association is holding tryouts for the summer 2000 All-Star/Tournament teams on Saturday, May 6 at 9 a.m. at the Pitt Street Softball complex. There are three teams and the managers are:

14 and under	Bob Keck
12 and Under	Tom Walter
10 and under	Steve Senz

All South Plainfield resident girls, ages 8-14 (as of January 1, 2000) are eligible to try out for their respective age group team.

United Defeats Readington

The South Plainfield United put together a huge win this past Sunday and found themselves back in the hunt for the top spot in the division.

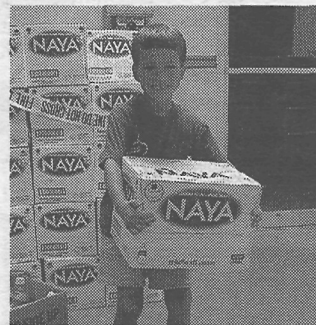
After finding themselves in a not so unusual spot down 1-0 at the end of the first half, the team regrouped and played solid dominating soccer. They won the game

by playing as a team.

Anthony Moretti did a fine job tending the goal; Vinny Padula and Ryan Cullen controlled the back; Lee Garay and John Lopez ran the midfield and they set the tempo allowing Diego Arroyo to score a hat trick sending Readington on a quiet ride home with a 4-2 loss.



There's a lot
going on....



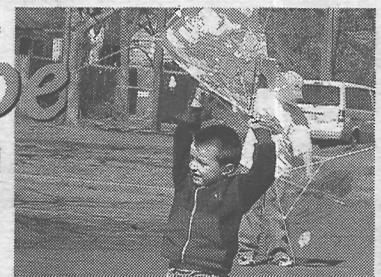
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Obituaries

Ralph A. Bengivenga, 89

Ralph A. Bengivenga died on Wednesday, April 26, at the Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

He was born in Villa Liberi of the Province Caserta in Italy and came to the US as a baby with his family in 1912, settling in Plainfield, where he lived until moving to South Plainfield in 1972.

Before his retirement 19 years ago, Mr. Bengivenga had worked for 35 years as a presser with the former Middlesex Dress Co. in South Plainfield. During the 1950's and 1960's, he had worked with the former Bruno Dress Co. of South Plainfield and the former Star Dress Company of Plainfield. He was a longtime member of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, Local 149 of Plainfield. He was also a tin smith by trade and had worked part-time for many years in the Plainfield/South Plainfield areas. During WW II, he had worked for the Eastern Aircraft Division of GM in Linden.

He was a longtime communicant of St. Mary's RC Church in Plainfield, where he was a former member of the Holy Name Society and the Plainfield Council Knights of Columbus. In the past, he had also belonged to the Tri-County Senior Citizens of Piscataway.

Mr. Bengivenga was an avid bowler, having bowled for over the past 63 years in various commercial leagues in Plainfield, Edison and Watchung, mostly affiliated with his union. For over the past 20 years, he had bowled in the Super Seniors League at the AMF Strike'N Spare Lanes in Greenbrook, where he was

a longtime team captain.

At his home, he enjoyed gardening and was an accomplished cook.

He was predeceased by his brother, Joseph Bengivenga and by his sisters, Christina Cameron and Lena and Angelina Bengivenga.

Surviving are his wife of 63 years, Antoinette E. (Muglia) Bengivenga; his children, Judy and Sandy DiLeo of South Plainfield, Ralph Bengivenga, Jr. of Flemington, Phyllis and Michael Colucci of Piscataway, Bob and April Bengivenga of South Plainfield, Anthony Bengivenga of Greenbrook and George and Janice Bengivenga of Bound Brook; a brother, Michael Bengivenga; four sisters, Mary De Filippis of New Providence, Antoinette Morella of Somerville, Florence Beck of Toms River and Rose Reinman of Dunellen. He is also survived by 17 grandchildren, 20 great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Erna M. (Gassler) Hartpence, 82

Erna M. (Gassler) Hartpence died on Friday, April 29 at Genesis Elder Care-The Woodlands in Plainfield.

Born in Allentown, Pa., Mrs. Hartpence had resided in South Plainfield for most of her life.

She had been employed as a nursing clerk at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield for "Central #1- Same Day Surgery Unit" for 15 years before her retirement in 1977.

She was a former girl scout troop leader in Plainfield and South Plainfield.

Her husband, Kenneth Hartpence, died in 1976. She is also predeceased by two sisters, Theresa Mipe and Marie Kane.

Surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Suzanne and Richard Nuzzo of Bridgewater and Linda and James Bohl of South Plainfield; a son and daughter-in-law, David and Judy Hartpence of South Plainfield and a sister, Frieda Walker of South Plainfield.

Also surviving are 10 grandchildren, Scott and Keith Steele, Kelli Steele Wilson, Chirs and Dan Nuzzo, Christine, David and Matthew Hartpence and Kiersten and Andrew Bohl and 10 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Compare

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Hillside Cemetery

www.hillsidecemetery.com

Evelyn (Brower) Levandowski, 74

Evelyn (Brower) Levandowski died on Saturday, April 29, at the Hunterdon Medical Center in Flemington.

She was born in Bayonne and had resided in South Plainfield for over 30 years before she retired with her husband, to No. Fort Myers, Fla. in 1993.

While her children were growing up, she had been active in youth sports and athletics in South Plainfield, being a former member and past president of the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Auxiliary. She had also been a member of the parents club of the Pop Warner Eagles Football in South Plainfield, where she had participated with a number of fundraising events.

She was a devoted wife to her husband of 53 years, Felix "Phil" Levandowski.

Also surviving are her seven children, that she raised and educated and their spouses, Dr. Richard Levandowski of Princeton, Clare and Robert Ackers of Hopewell, Philip and Carolyn Levandowski of Manasquan, Patricia and Raymond Steingall of Washington (NJ), Roy and Jean Landen of Bridgewater, Marilyn and Larry Clayton of Toms River and Thomas and Carol Levandowski of Clinton; a brother, Joseph Brower of Ft. Myers, Fla.; a sister, Roseann Lyons of South Amboy. She was also the loving grandmother of 18 grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Vongi C. Mc Cormick, 88

Vongi C. Mc Cormick died Thursday, April 27.

Born in South Plainfield, she had resided here for 46 years and had resided in Beach Haven before moving to Manahawkin.

Mrs. Mc Cormick was employed as a saleslady for Whalens Furniture Store in Long Beach Island for 20 years, she retired in 1990. Previously she had worked for Don Roberts Dress Shop in Plainfield during the 1950's.

She and her late husband, Vincent, had been the co-owners of Mc Cormick's Dock, Long Beach Island.

Mrs. Mc Cormick was a member of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield and St. Mary's Church in Barnegat. She was also an avid bingo player.

Her husband Vincent died in 1987. Surviving are two sisters, Mary Mason of Manahawkin and Natalie Keslosky of Kensington, MD.

Also surviving are eight nieces and nephews and 14 grand nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Donations in her memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, Central Jersey Chapter.

By Cyrus N. Moon Weekly Horoscope 5/4-5/10

TAURUS 4/20 TO 5/20 Watch out! Compulsive behavior can get you in trouble. You may face a challenge this week to balance your desires with self-control. Power struggles in a relationship signal a need to probe within. Manipulation is ultimately destructive and must be avoided.

GEMINI 5/21-6/20 This is a good time to expand your monetary resource for your business. One thing you can expect to come across is a lot of advertising. Why not try direct-mail promotions. Current news and concerns can involve a court decision or the employment of relatives.

CANCER 6/21-7/22 If, at this focal time, you are experiencing tension and low energy, this is a sign you are not integrating property. You must examine those needs that you are neglecting and then do something about it. This is a good time to build up your self-esteem, so how about it?

LEO 7/23-8/22 Communications and travel at this time are closely linked with the dictates of your ego and personal goals. You can take the ideas of others and add your input to create something entirely different and unique. But do not consciously or subconsciously present the idea as yours only.

VIRGO 8/23-9/22 This week you may find yourself a little out of synch with those trying to communicate with you because you are not at your usual place or not following your normal schedule. Since your ideas will be different than theirs or at odds, it is necessary to get in touch and discuss.

LIBRA 9/23-10/22 This is an excellent, perhaps even fortuitous period to expand your appreciation and knowledge of art, music, diplomacy and law. It would be equally fortuitous to launch an important project in any of those areas. Be willing to consider the opinions or judgement of those in position.

SCORPIO 10/23-11/21 This is not the best time for easy exchanges or free thinking. Information may be withheld as a form of paranoia or protection and the wrong information may be deliberately given in an effort to mislead. A bit much! Yes, just the same, now is not the time to ask personal questions.

SAGITTARIUS 11/22-12/21 Increased optimism and generosity are with you this week. If current circumstances turn out to be troublesome, something positive is apt to occur in spite of the difficulty. Courage and confidence will be a part in your actions; you need that dealing with the in-laws.

CAPRICORN 12/22-1/19 An urge to make daily tasks or responsibilities more interesting or meaningful is likely to be on your agenda. Also some circumstances will call for reliability and trustworthiness. And the good thing about this! The loyalty you demonstrated can earn you recognition.

AQUARIUS 1/20-2/18 Dealing with older people can become frustrating during this week. You will be in trouble if you are too liberal and yet stymied by taking a too conservative approach. This is a time to stand back and let situations reach a level that seems comfortable for everyone.

PISCES 2/19-3/20 Somethings just can't be explained, exactly how or by what means some task or achievement is successfully accomplished may not be apparent. But the result of such actions will make everybody happy. One field that can benefit from this is if you are in the entertainment field.

ARIES 3/21-4/19 If you are feeling irritable and nervous, try to find a moment to slow down and perhaps meditate for a bit. Be aware of your feelings and take a deep breath and count to three before you speak. While debate can be quite constructive, angering others could make things worse.

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

Ordinance #1538 entitled: **AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$56,500 FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MORE SPECIFICALLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE ACQUISITION OF LAND FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE INTERSECTION OF HAMILTON BOULEVARD AND STELTON ROAD** was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Borough Council on Thursday, April 27, 2000 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ORDINANCE #1538

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$56,500 FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MORE SPECIFICALLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE ACQUISITION OF LAND FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE INTERSECTION OF HAMILTON BOULEVARD AND STELTON ROAD

Be it ordained by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, by not less than two thirds of the full membership thereof affirmatively concurring that:

SECTION 1. That there is hereby authorized pursuant to the applicable statutes of the State of New Jersey, as a general improvement, the acquisition of land for improvements to the intersection of Hamilton Boulevard and Stelton Road in the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, New Jersey.

SECTION 2. That the improvement described in Section 1 hereof shall be authorized as a general improvement for the Borough of South Plainfield in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey.

SECTION 3. It is hereby determined and declared by this Mayor and Borough Council as follows:

A. That the maximum estimated amount of money to be raised from all sources for the purpose stated in Section 1, hereof, is \$56,500.

B. That the cost of said project shall be financed by Developer Contributions for Off Site Improvements in the amount of \$50,000, which said sum is now available for said purpose.

SECTION 4. That the total amount of the appropriation to be expended for architectural and inspection costs, legal costs, advertisement of ordinance and other expenses as provided in Section 48:2-20 of the Revised Statutes, is not exceeding \$5,000.

SECTION 5. This ordinance shall take effect after final passage and publication in accordance with the law.

Approved April 27, 2000

Daniel J. Gallagher/Mayor

ATTEST:
Jim Eckert/Municipal Clerk
\$67.00 1T May 5, 2000

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

Whereas, there exists a need for the preparation of plans, specifications and bidding documents for the site improvements for the proposed Senior Center, and

Whereas, the Local Public Contracts Law (NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of the contract for Professional Services without competitive bidding must be publicly advertised.

Now therefore be it resolved by the Governing Body

of the Borough of South Plainfield as follows:

- The cost of said preparations shall not exceed \$19,750.00.
- The Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with CME Associates.
- This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a Professional Service under the provisions of the Local Public Contract Law because the services rendered are professional services of a recognized profession whose practice is regulated by law.
- A copy of this resolution shall be published in The Observer as required by law within ten days of its passage.

Approved April 27, 2000

Daniel J. Gallagher/Mayor

ATTEST:
Mary Blue/Deputy Municipal Clerk
\$34.50 1T May 5, 2000

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

Ordinance #1337A entitled: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #1337 ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH FEES FOR THE USE OF THE SOUTH PLAINFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT OUTDOOR FIRING RANGE** be adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, May 5, 2000 and that a public hearing be held Thursday, May 25, 2000 at 8:00 PM in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey.

ORDINANCE #1337A

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #1337 ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH FEES FOR THE USE OF THE SOUTH PLAINFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT OUTDOOR FIRING RANGE

Be it ordained by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield that Ordinance #1337 be amended as follows:

SECTION 2. The fees to be charged to law enforcement agencies of the State of New Jersey and political subdivisions shall be as follows:

Fifty-five (\$55.00) dollars per day.

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final adoption and publication.

Approved April 27, 2000

Daniel J. Gallagher/Mayor

ATTEST:
Mary Blue/Deputy Municipal Clerk
\$35.25 1T May 5, 2000

PUBLIC NOTICE

RETURN OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE TO LESLIE GRAHAM FOR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AT 1004 Lewis Avenue, South Plainfield, N.J.; Lot 52.01, Block 14 also known as Lot 20, Block 524, on the Tax Map of the City of Plainfield, N.J.

A public meeting has been scheduled by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield to hear objections, if any, to the release of the Performance Guarantee posted by Leslie Graham for public improvements at 1004 Lewis Avenue, South Plainfield, known as Lot 52.01, Block 14 listed on the official tax map of the Borough of South Plainfield, being also known as Lot 20, Block 524 as listed on the official tax map of the City of Plainfield. Said public hearing will be held 8:00 PM Monday, May 22, 2000 in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

Leslie Graham
927 Pine Street
Plainfield, N.J. 07060
\$42.00 1T May 5, 2000

Because We Care



by Robert Hunter

BEING A FRIEND

While friends of grieving individuals may find that the bereaved may initially want time to be alone, there eventually comes a time when talking is helpful. That is when the offer of friendship and an open ear can prove to be invaluable to the bereaved. A good friend is also accepting of the emotions and mood swings that may come into play soon after the death of a loved one. And, when holidays and special anniversaries arise, good friends make sure that grieving individuals do not have to observe these occasions alone. These can stir memories and thoughts that can be difficult upon recollection. With the help and support of friends, the grieving process can be somewhat easier to bear.

There is perhaps no other time at which our need for the comfort of unconditional love is as essential for our well being as when coping with the loss of a loved one. Grief can show itself in swift mood swings, emotional outbursts, and a tendency to isolate. Having an old friend to rely on during the "dark night of the soul," can make all the difference. These thoughts brought to you by the JAMES W. CONROY FUNERAL HOME. To schedule a private consultation, please call 756-2800. You'll find our facilities located at 2456 Plainfield Avenue, in South Plainfield.

"A faithful friend is the medicine of life."

—Ecclesiastes 6:16



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James F. Connaughton, Assoc. Dir.

(908) 561-8000



Pictured above is South Plainfield Superintendent of Schools Guy Ferri along with this year's honorary chairperson of the Vision 2001 Art Auction, Georgeann DiGrazio. An annual event, the auction is a fundraiser which benefits local students through scholarships, academic incentive programs and more.

Vision 2001 Art Auction Draws Large Audience

The recent Vision 2001 Annual Art Auction was attended by one of the largest crowds in recent years. This year's honorary chairperson was Georgeann DiGrazio.

Not only was the crowd large, it was out to buy paintings and artwork. Bidding was enthusiastic and many went home with something for their homes or offices.

Vision 2001 50/50 raffle tickets sales raised \$6,000; \$3,000 was awarded in cash prizes divided among four winners. The top winner, Denise Tenko, took home \$1,500; \$600 went to Julie



Yon and Sheri Daily won \$450. The final two winning tickets drawn belonged to Bill Gerichter for \$300 and \$150.

Vision 2001 awards scholarships, endowments, donates to student curriculum programs and academic incentive programs.

police report

- A diner at Holly Park Diner reported that while her seven year old son was in the restroom a white male offered to take him to his parents. The suspect said, "Kid, come with me and I'll take you to your parents." When the suspect extended his hand to the child, the child became frightened and locked himself in a stall. He was coaxed out by the suspect who called out "last one out is a rotten egg." The suspect left the bathroom. The child observed him leave the diner and then returned to his parents. The child did not tell his parents until he was told to wash his hands and he refused to go to the bathroom without his older brother, who is eight. The victim's mother spoke and called the police.

- A resident reported being harassed by an unknown male who continues to call her home. The suspect asks to speak to her husband claiming she is being unfaithful to him. The caller describes the victim, her workplace and work hours.

- Penske Truck Leasing reported the theft of 37 diesel emissions state inspection stickers. The maintenance supervisor noticed the stickers missing while doing inventory. Actual value per sticker is \$1.50 but black market prices to truckers may be considerably higher. ID numbers of the missing stickers have been given to police.

- Exxon Gas Station, Park Ave., reported a burglary. An employee arrived to open the station and observed the front door was smashed. Entry was gained by throwing a bench, located near the door, through a glass door. The office was ransacked; the cash register drawer was missing. Money was removed from a box in a closet.

- Getty Gas Station, Park Ave. reported the glass was cracked on the front door. The door had been struck with a heavy object.

- Conti Communications, Montrose Ave., reported a company truck had been burglarized. A pry tool was used to gain access to the truck bed. A number of tools were removed.

- An O'Laughlin Dr. resident reported unknown suspect(s) had stolen tires and rims from his garage. The garage had been open at the time of the theft. He located the tires in North Plainfield by distinct markings. He made a note of the vehicles tags and notified police.

- A South Plainfield resident reported to police that he suspected his wife of taking his wallet from his residence. The resident stated that he kept the wallet under the mattress in his room. The wallet was placed there before he went to sleep. He and his wife are living together but will be divorced soon. He noted that he was sure he had not lost it.

South Plainfield Observer

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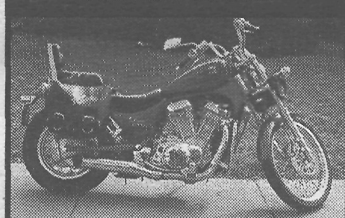
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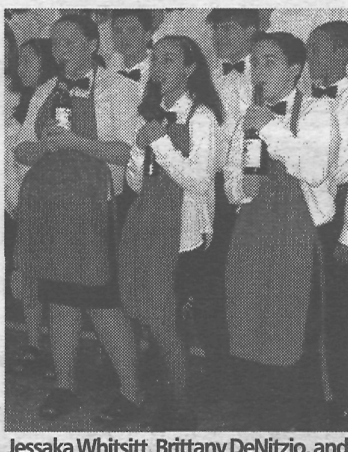
All-District Music Festival Hits All the Right Notes



"Mark Tweed directs the High School Concert Band"



Trevor Rastelli, Jessica Vasquez, Phi Nguyen, and Katie Hardy perform with the Elementary Festival Strings.



Jessaka Whitsitt, Brittany DeNizio, and Alex Tierney get instrumental with the Middle School Festival Chorus."

Photos and story by Bill Seesselberg

"The 31 Annual All-District Music Festival and Art Exhibition was held last Friday evening at the high school. Over 600 students displayed their musical and artistic talents through an art exhibition and a series of concert performances.

Proud members of the performers' families, along with administrators and teachers enjoyed an entertaining evening which featured many styles of music, from classical to jazz, to Broadway and movie themes.

A big hit was the high school stage band, featuring an outstanding drum solo by Brian Publik. Other featured bits were a washboard-and-bottle rhythm section

with the Middle School Chorus and members of the high school chorus tapping their way through a medley of songs from *42nd Street*.

The excellent evening was the result of many hours of practice and work by the students, led by a faculty of teachers. They were: for music, Doris Younken (team leader), Tobie Baldwin, Joanne Gurske, Barbara Habeeb, Bruce Mikolon, Tracy Murray, Glenn Parisi, Sharon Perez, Joan Stasio, Paul Sturm, Carleen Tedeschi, Mark Tweed and Andrew Veiss.

For art, Denise Timinski (team leader), Kara Giorgio, Barbara Harris, Mary Ellen Kopf, Diane Kardos and Glenda Posey.



Barney Johnson of the Intermediate Festival Band plays the tuba.



Members of the Elementary Chorus sing out.

VFW Names Lt. Bender Outstanding Officer of the Year

Continued from page 1

Thailand and six months in Da-Nang, Vietnam. After an honorable discharge in 1973, he attended Bloomfield College where he studied criminal justice. Even as a child he wanted to become a police officer. While serving his country, he made up his mind to follow his childhood dream. Bender joined the South Plainfield Police Department in March of 1974. He also served in the National Guard from 1978-1986.

Bender served as patrol officer from 1974 to 1981, detective from 1981 to 1986, a patrol sergeant/road supervisor from 1986 to 1995 and Lieutenant/Watch Commander, Patrol Division, from 1995 to present. He has been recognized and commended for outstanding work many times over the years, with honors ranging from local to the county level. His work, often at great risk to himself, has resulted in the capture of many individuals carrying concealed guns, narcotics and more. He was surprised when the *Observer* contacted him regarding the upcoming award. He was unaware that so many knew about it.

Bender laughingly noted that his wife might reveal another side of him. His wife, Pat Bender, remarked that he is very conscientious about police work. She proved his predictions correct and created a kaleidoscope of images describing his hobbies of jet skiing and rollerblading. She said they often skate in Johnson Park. She explained how he is waiting for the time when they could open their pool for the summer and he could indulge in another favorite pastime, lounging around the pool with a cool drink within reach. Pat described her husband's love for racing as "...beyond an enthusiast - a racing nut!" She said if he could, he would be a NASCAR driver. Almost in the same breath, she described this active officer as a homebody, leaving his "busy" days to one's imagination.

Pat proudly explained that Robert has never had a guitar lesson in his life yet he is an accomplished player. He belongs to a band called "Copperheads." The band is made up of SP officers Kevin Murtagh, John Alles and a Highland Park police officer. The musical foursome often rehearse in the garage at Pat's business, South Plainfield Auto Body, after hours. The sessions are occasionally a source of entertainment for an unexpected audience. A security guard across the street was seen "boppin" to the music during a break and she described the practice sessions as a concert for her kitties.

The public is invited to the award ceremony that will take place Friday night at the VFW on Front at 7:30.

High School Track Notes...

Continued from page 8

lar results with Tim Morgan taking the win with Mike DeSimone and Mike Loenser, second and third. John Foscolo won the 400 Hurdles and Eric Johnson won the 400. Eric had a great race beating one of the top 400 runners in the county. Other winners included Pat Draper in the long jump, Ted Donnelly in the pole vault, and Rich Drumbore in the shot put. Brian Wilson won the high hurdles and in the high jump he took first with frosh Mike Raynes second and Pat Draper third. Mike Loenser had a win in the 1600 with Tim Morgan and Mike DeSimone completing the sweep. The 4x400 team of John Rayho, Eric Johnson, Peter Pham and John Foscolo won the final event of the day.

Coach Fonti agrees it's a very young team and sometimes it is difficult to get them to act like a team, but the boys have pulled together. The coaches have been pleasantly surprised by some of

the young talent. Freshman Ervin Williams, John Rayho and Jeff Williams will make a difference this year and it looks good for the future. The coaches have also been very happy with sophomore Tom Troia and junior Mike DeSimone. Jeff and Mike have already made a big difference in this year's Cross Country divisional Champion team while John has been a standout in soccer for Coach Smith.

The team has been well represented at the relays they have attended. They were at the GMC Coaches Relay, the Holmdel Relays and the Milburn Relays. In the Milburn Relays the 4x800 team of Eric Johnson, Tim Morgan, Mike DeSimone and Mike Loenser finished with a Gold medal for First Place.

The boys are looking forward to the GMC relays and the GMC individual meet. They should score some points in one of the toughest track and field counties in New Jersey. GO TIGERS!!

"Trash Train" Opposed

Continued from page 1

the negative impact it will have on the quality of life in South Plainfield.

In an effort to prevent the train following a route through the borough, the council is asking the help of the residents. To be included on the list of people who oppose the "trash train" put your name and address on the form, which is available at in the clerk's office and return it to Jim Vokral at borough hall or log onto South Plainfield's webpage, (southplainfieldnj.com) and complete the form on-line. It will be forwarded to Councilman James Vokral.

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