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# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 3, NO. 51

50 CENTS

AUGUST 25, 2000

## Police Use Defibrillator, Save a Life

Last Tuesday, South Plainfield Police Officers Garret Cassio and John Petruello responded to the report of an unresponsive man at his residence on Frederick Ave.

When they arrived, both officers found a 70-year-old man lying in the rear yard. He was unresponsive and had no pulse. A family member explained that he had been unconscious for almost 10 minutes.

The officers immediately started C.P.R. and utilized the police department's defibrillator (AED). On three different occasions the AED recommended that a shock be given to the patient. The rescue squad arrived as the officers were delivering their third shock to the patient. Shortly thereafter, the patient's pulse and blood pressure returned. He was later admitted to the intensive care unit at Muhlenberg Hospital.

This is the third 'save' for the SP PD since obtaining the AEDs. Three units were obtained by the police department in 1999 through donations by local merchants. Since receiving the units, the entire department has received training in proper operation and use.



Grand Marshall Charlie Decker, Sr. is pictured with the trophies for this year's Annual Labor Day Parade to be held on Monday, September 4.

## Charlie Decker is "Great Choice" for Grand Marshal of Labor Day Parade

By Patricia Abbott

The position of Honorary Grand Marshal of South Plainfield's Annual Labor Day Parade is a one of certain prestige. The person chosen always has outstanding qualities; he or she goes above and beyond the call of duty, has a love of the borough and its residents, is committed to work-

ing to make the community a better place and usually does it all out of selflessness.

The South Plainfield parade committee was deluged with nominations for the 2000 Labor Day parade's Honorary Grand Marshal. There was often more than one nomination per person. The task must have been a difficult one, but with the help of sev-

eral letters from residents, the committee selected Charlie Decker, Sr. as the person best suited for the theme "South Plainfield Celebrates Family, Fun and Community."

Charlie Decker has been a resident of South Plainfield for 38 years, settling here in 1962. He was born in Pittsburgh, Pa. In 1943 during WWII, he served in the US NAVY with the 3rd Amphibious Corp., Guadalcanal, South Pacific.

In 1956 he moved to Hillside from Altoona, Pa. He and wife, Lois, have three children, John, Charlie Jr. and Ellen, as well as three grandsons; Charlie III, Cody and Alex.

He played semi-pro fast pitch softball in Pa. and Newark leagues. His work history is diversified; from an assistant Postmaster in Pa., to 25 years with David Smith Steel, where he held the position of shop steward, secretary and president, to a carpenter/

*Continued on page 10*

## Municipal Budget Introduced

The 2001 municipal budget was introduced at last week's council meeting. A public hearing on the budget is planned for Thursday, Sept. 28.

If this years budget numbers do not change, the budget will result an increase in the municipal tax rate of 5 to 6 points, or about a \$60-\$65 increase per household. During the last few years, the council has kept the municipal budget flat, with no tax increases.

According to Councilman Ed Kubala, the budget that was introduced is still being tweaked and the

in lower. According to Kubala, one reason for the rise in the tax rate is that discretionary aid from the state has been decreasing each year. In fact, last year South Plainfield received no discretionary aid at all from the state. He plans to go back to the state and ask them to restore the funds. The reason the state gave for denying past funds was that the borough had maintained a flat budget for the past years and thus didn't need extra funding. The mayor says that this a form of punishment for those municipalities who keep a tight fiscal ship, while municipalities who didn't have a balanced budget were given state aid.

Another reason for the higher budget are the increased salaries and higher insurance costs.

Kubala stressed they are all still working on the budget and if the state should restore some or all of South Plainfield's discretionary aid, the tax increase will be much lower or minimal.

## Ellis Williams Marks His 95th Birthday

On Aug. 24 Ellis Downing Williams, a well-known teacher in South Plainfield, celebrated his 95th birthday. Mr. Williams was chairman of the Math-Science area of South Plainfield High School from 1956 to 1973, until he retired.

He was born on the family farm located in Lathrop Township, Susquehanna County in Pennsylvania, to parents Dyer and Mary Williams.

Williams attended the rural schools of Lathrop Township and graduated from Nicholson High School in 1923. He then matriculated at Mansfield State Normal School in Mansfield, Pa. His university majors included math-science, English and history. He was active in the symphony orchestra, playing the violin and the college band, playing bass horn. Williams earned his B.S. in Mansfield in 1930 and his masters in education from Duke University in 1937.

His first teaching position was as a seventh/eighth grade science and math teacher in Clark Summit School in Clark Green, Pa. He taught there for 16 years. After four years, Williams became the assistant principal and continued teaching part-time.

In 1935, he married Dorothy



South Plainfield resident Ellis Williams celebrated his 95th birthday this Thursday. Pictured right is Ellis as a toddler.



Killian from Clark Summit, Pa. They had one daughter, Hazelmae Higgins. His wife passed away in 1992.

After teaching in Clark Summit, he taught college physics for 10 years. Williams accepted a position in North Plainfield in 1953 teaching science.

In 1956, he received an offer to become the chairman of the Math-Science Area of the then new South Plainfield High School. He finished his teaching career at SPSHS when the

newest high school opened in 1973, retiring after 47 years.

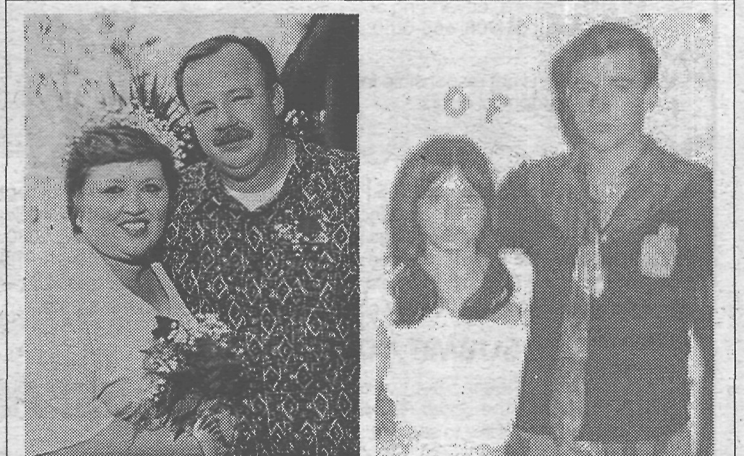
After his retirement, Williams became a professional photographer. For years, before and after his retirement, he took pictures for the year book and of school functions. Williams still takes pictures each year at the high school awards and scholarship evening in the high school.

He has also kept up with his favorite hobby of playing the organ.

He has participated in many extra curriculum activities. He was affiliated with the Central Jersey Science Fair since its beginning, co-chaired the K-12 Science Curriculum Committee, served as a science fair judge for several area schools since 1953, was

president of the South Plainfield Teacher's Association during 1960-1961, sponsored both the Radio Club of South SPSHS and the Photography Club.

In 1971 Williams received the Science Teacher of the Year Award from Rutgers Engineering Society. He also received four National Science Foundation Awards, one in math from Miami University, Ohio, two in math and one in physics from Rutgers University.



**Now and Then...** Observer reader Kristen Kurilew correctly answered last week's question, "Do You Recognize This Couple?" and won herself an Observer t-shirt. Staff writer Pattie Abbott discovered the photo of Alan and Sherrill Lamonda (pictured right) on an SPSHS Alumni website. On the left are the Lamonda's today. For information, see related story on page 5.



## mark your calendars

Log on to  
**southplainfieldnj.com**  
for the latest  
meeting agenda

### council meetings

Meets twice a month

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

#### AGENDA MEETING ..... PUBLIC MEETING

Monday September 11 ..... Monday, September 18  
Monday, September 25 ..... Thursday, September 28  
Tuesday, October 10 ..... Thursday, October 12  
Monday, October 23 ..... Thursday, October 26

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

### planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month

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

September 12, September 26, October 10 (No Meeting),  
October 24, November 14, November 28, December 12, December 26

### zoning board of adjustment

Meets first, third and fifth Tuesday of the month

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

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:

August 24, September 28,  
October 26, November (No Meeting), December (No Meeting)

### recycling commission

Meets Thursday, once a month

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

August 24, September 28, October 26,  
November (to be announced), December 28

### recreation commission

Meets once a month

PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716

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

### environmental commission

Meets once a month

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

September 13, October 2, Mon. November 6, Mon. December 4

### board of education meetings

Board Conference Room at Administration Building, on Cromwell Place

Regular Board Mtg. 8 p.m., August 29, 8 p.m.

Committee of the Whole, Sept. 12. 8 p.m.; Regular Board Mtg. 8 p.m., Sept. 19, 8 p.m.

## South Plainfield Observer

The South Plainfield Observer is published every Friday

G&G Graphics, Inc.  
1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B  
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

(908) 668-0010 • FAX (908) 668-8819

Web page at <http://www.spobserver.com>  
For subscriptions, advertising or information, call (908) 668-0010.

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

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The South Plainfield Observer (U.S.P.S. 018253) is published weekly, except Thanksgiving week, by G&G Graphics Inc. 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080-2004. Second class postage paid at South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080-9998. **POSTMASTER:** Forward change of address orders to G&G Graphics Inc. 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080-2004. Subscription rates \$25 per year in South Plainfield; \$30 per year out of town. To subscribe: 908-668-0010.

### 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](mailto:spobserver.com) or [ggnan@aol.com](mailto:ggnan@aol.com) or [ngrennie@ix.netcom.com](mailto:ngrennie@ix.netcom.com). Include your name, address, telephone number.

## In My Opinion Letters

### To the Editor,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the veterinarians and staff at the Plainfield Animal Hospital on Park Ave. in South Plainfield for their professional services in assisting our family dog, Rusty, with his recent illness.

We would like to thank Dr. Major for his expert knowledge and assistance, but particularly we would like to offer our sincere gratitude to Dr. Linick for his kind, caring, compassionate and complete professional treatment of Rusty.

In addition to providing Rusty with emergency appointments and examinations, Dr. Linick took the time for our family to thoroughly and carefully explain his findings and medical diagnosis.

Furthermore, Dr. Linick consistently returned all our telephone calls promptly and with professional etiquette.

Dr. Linick proved himself to be an outstanding, knowledgeable, competent and compassionate veterinarian and human being for our pet Rusty and to our family.

In conclusion, if you are looking for an animal hospital that is caring, compassionate, knowledgeable and professional, rest assured that your pet will be in the best hands possible with Dr. Linick at the Plainfield Animal Hospital.

**THE MAKOWSKI FAMILY  
SOUTH PLAINFIELD**

### Residents of South Plainfield:

This past Aug. 9, the South Plainfield Golf Association sponsored the Sixth Annual South Plainfield Open Golf Tournament for the benefit of the South Plainfield High School Golf Team. While it is difficult to thank all those who helped make this event the great success it was, we would like to take this opportunity to do so. Our sincerest thanks go to all the area businesses and individual sponsors who donated their time, cash, supplies and prizes.

**PLATINUM SPONSORS** were: ARMPCO Office Machines, DeAndrea Associates, DMR Consulting, Flanagan's Restaurant, Here's The Scoop, Howard's Paving & Excavating, Inc., The Lampost and Sal's Spirit Shoppe.

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**BEVERAGE CART SPONSOR** was Skrocki Memorial Home.

### 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](http://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*.

### HOSPITALITY SPONSOR

was Valley National Bank.

**SILVER SPONSORS** were: Absolute Fire Protection, Carpet Bazaar, Caruso-Dellomo Construction, The Dixon Family, Fay's Deli, Federated Fire Services, Inc., Frank A. Santoro, Esq., The Hess Group Inc., Lynn Graphics Inc., Innovative Folding Cartons Co., Jay-Bees Sports, Inc., Patrick Diegnan Jr. - Attorneys at Law, Peter Pan Pharmacy, Plainfield Animal Hospital, P.C., Players Club/Lemmo's, R.A.D. Corporation, Santoro & Santoro-Attorneys at Law, Roma Food Enterprises, Inc., South Plainfield Democratic Organization, South Plainfield Education Association and Paul D. Zensky.

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Special thanks to the South Plainfield Athletic Booster Club for their continued support!

To see a recap of this event, visit our web site at [www.spga.org](http://www.spga.org).

**SINCERELY,  
SOUTH PLAINFIELD GOLF  
ASSOCIATION**

## Technology Committee Will Present Specifications on Electricity

Mr. Oberkehr, chairman of the technology committee, plans to build a prototype of a typical classroom showing exactly what is required for today's technology and display it at their Aug. 31 meeting.

The district has been working to upgrade each classroom with a five-year plan and this will give the technology committee a starting point.

The committee is in the process of deciding what electricity, wiring and communication is essential for any upgrade to be started. The public is invited to attend this meeting.

In order to provide students with the latest technology, all of the classrooms need to be upgraded to bring them into the 21st century. Mr. Oberkehr, computer specialist at the high school, is working with the

committee in projecting what will be needed for the classrooms.

This is just one of the volunteer committees that was formed a few weeks ago to decide what the schools need in the future. The other committees are building, curriculum and public relations.

## NOTICE

Please be advised that all Board of Education meetings originally scheduled for the Board Room at Grant School will be held in the gym at Grant School on Cromwell Place.

The Special Public Meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 19 to be held at 6:00 p.m. will be held in Grant School gymnasium as well.

## Celebrating our 23rd year in South Plainfield

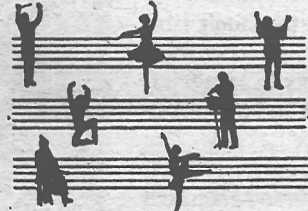
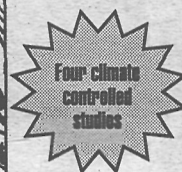
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## From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Wherever does the time go? Now we're just about finished with August! Before it's gone completely, though, here's some August news from the South Plainfield Library:

First of all, this month's Home-schoolers meeting is set for this morning at 10:30. It's an informal meeting of those who home school their children or those considering it.

Tomorrow is the last day of availability for the August group of Circuit videos. So, if you've been waiting to borrow something from this group, stop waiting and pick it up. The next group will be available late next week.

Last week's closing program for our Summer Reading Club went very well. About 70 children attended and the return performance by Mr. Kurt was well received. We'd like to thank everyone who participated in making this year's program a success. Children who couldn't attend the program can pick up their certificates in the Children's Room.

Turning to our children's programs for next week, we've got our normal Storytime schedule. The programs are for children ages three and over and last about an hour. They're held on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday at 1:15 p.m. No pre-registration is needed. We also have our Game Gang program on Wednesday morning. Children can bring or play one of ours. And there's our continuing live reading of *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* on Thurs-

day at 7 p.m. If you have any questions about our children's programs, check with Children's Librarian Linda Hansen.

We've been doing some more weeding of our collection. The discarded items have been added to the ongoing Friends of the Library book sale. They include fiction, non-fiction, young adult and children's books, as well as videos and audiobooks. Prices are as marked; please come in and check on what's available. There are also a number of books that are going for the low price of nothing; help yourself to what's there.

Concerning the previously mentioned audiobooks, we're conducting a survey about our collection. At present, we have an extensive assortment of books on cassette and we're working on building up our selection of books on CD. We'd like to know just what you'd be interested in seeing added. Survey forms are available at the main desk.

We've recently updated the Upcoming Books fliers at the main desk. Titles coming soon include *The Devil's Code* by John Sandford, *Lost & Found* by Jayne Ann Krentz, *The Carousel* by Richard Paul Evans and *The Last Precinct* by Patricia Cornwell. If you're interested in them, feel free to fill out a reserve slip and hand it in. We'll make sure you're on the list when the book comes in. But, don't wait too long; some of the books on the way are sure to have long lines of reserves. That's about all for now. See you next month, which is next Friday, actually.

## LOSAP Program Introduced

The council introduced an ordinance at last week's meeting creating a Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) for volunteers on both the fire department and the rescue squad. This ordinance will not take effect until it has been approved by voters. Approval will be in the form of a question on the Nov. 7 ballot.

LOSAP came about as a way towns can retain their existing volunteers and offer incentives for recruiting new members in both the

fire department and rescue squad. These volunteers do receive any pay for their hard work.

The program works on a point system, depending on how many hours a volunteer puts in on calls and alarms. Members can earn up to \$500 a year, which will be deposited into a fund in their name. Taxes will have to be paid on the funds. No one is paid directly.

The LOSAP program has been in the works for 17 years and is in effect in many other communities.

## Historical Society Seeks Member Volunteers to Sell Raffle Tickets

The South Plainfield Historical Society Raffle Committee will hold their annual Quilt Raffle on Labor Day at the Veterans Park after the parade. Chance books were mailed out two weeks ago to all members. Returns should be sent to P.O. Box 11, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. The committee is seeking members

who will sell chances along the parade route. They can call Bill Tuthill at (908) 756-9654, Mary Mazepa at (908) 754-3503 or Arlene Anthony at (908) 753-7852 by August 31.

This is the society's major fundraiser. Participation will be appreciated.



## Delaney Court Holds Annual Block Party

Although the Delaney Court Third Annual Block Party held on August 12 was forced to move in doors to escape the rain, the party was a huge success. Friends gathered at the Pinto-Zipp household and ate, drank, laughed and created lots of good memories. A magician was on hand to entertain the kids. The block group is already planning their annual Christmas holiday party and cookie exchange. Thanks to all our neighbors and friends who made our block and our town a great place to live! -Submitted by Genvieve, Joe, Joseph, Julia and Marie.

## Teachers at Grant Central to Form Teams

By Caroline Reilly

In previous years, entering the middle school meant many changes, both good and bad. A larger school meant new friendships and a sense of maturity. Changing classrooms for every subject was introduced, as well as changing clothes for gym everyday. Sixth grade was the epitome of change for students.

However this year, while students are entering a different building from will remain the same when it comes to learning. Grant Central, which will house the sixth graders, will stray its learning course away from the middle school and gear itself more towards an elementary styled learning.

Students will have one teacher all

day long to teach all five major subjects. The day will be divided into eight periods. The students will travel together in groups, switching classrooms to their "special" classes, i.e., art, music, computers and physical education. Lunch will be divided into two 50-minute sessions.

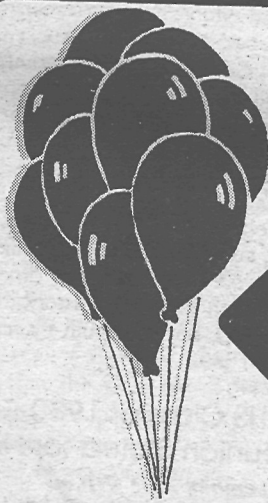
Teachers who have voluntarily switched from SPMS will be divided into teams. This allows the teachers to have a better chance of being able to teach in their strong areas. Due to this support, there is flexibility to switch with other teachers so that they will be able to teach their strengths.

On Tuesday, Sept. 5 at 7:00 p.m., an orientation will be held for parents and the new sixth graders. Administrators and teachers will be present to answer any questions and

address any worries that both parents and students may have about their new school.

Transferred teachers from SPMS are as follows: academic: Camille Deutsch, Judith Dias, Joann Haus, Barbara Hepburn, Karen Kellerman, Lori Kowalski, Annmarie Nelson, Katherine Wilson, Robyn Mikaelian, Barbara Florio, Kelly Panuzzo and Cathy Coyle; computer - Denise Hogan; special education: Julie Flasser, Gina Capizola, Ann Holtz and Lynn Reebe; physical education: Bruce Hunt; art: Kara Giorgio; teacher aide: Patricia Benward; nurse: Dawn Wallis.

Joan Stasio will be transferred from Riley and Franklin Elementary Schools to Grant School as the music teacher.



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# Around Town

## Ninth Annual NJ State PBA Golf Tournament

August 28

The South Plainfield P.B.A. Local #100 will be holding their **Ninth Annual Golf Tournament** on Monday, Aug. 28. Shotgun starts at 12 p.m. at the Gamblers Ridge Golf Course, Burlington Rd., Cream Ridge. One low price of \$85 includes all green fees, golfcart, lunch at the turn, a chance to win one of numerous prizes including a television and an awards banquet (following the tournament and featuring a buffet barbecue). The tournament will also offer prizes for longest drive, closest to the pin, low score and more.

To register, call Kevin at (732) 294-8530, Matthew at (908) 561-6937 or Brad at (908) 412-8328.

## Rec Trips to Broadway Musicals

August 31 & December 17

The 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 have been reduced to \$50 per person for orchestra seats.

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

Purchase tickets at the PAL, 8:30-4:30 p.m. 226-7713.

## Trip to Three Bakers Dinner Theater

August 27

The Caring and Sharing Group of Sacred Heart Church is sponsoring a trip to Three Bakers Dinner Theater to see *The King and I*.

The trip is scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 27. Bus will leave from the South Plainfield Borough Hall parking lot at 9 a.m. and will return at approximately 7 p.m. The cost is \$50 per person and includes bus, dinner, show and driver gratuity.

For information and reservations, call Lydia at (908) 755-1596.

## Attention All South Plainfield Alumni!

September 3 • 7 p.m.

The Class of 1985 is inviting all South Plainfield Alumni to a Family Fun Day, on Sunday, Sept. 3, held at Forest Lodge in Warren. The day includes all-you-can-eat barbecue type foods, desserts, beverages and four hours of beer on tap. The use of the inground pool facilities, softball, volleyball, horseshoes and picnic games for adults and children will also be provided. The cost to attend is \$40 per adult and \$10 per child.

Send your check with number of adults and children to 1985 Reunion Committee, 143 Lafayette Place, South Plainfield.

For questions, contact Lisa Banach at (732) 836-9235 or Wesley Spear at wspear@bns.nec.com. Questions will be answered through www.toymgr@gowebway.com.

## Tenth Annual 5K Labor Day Run and Family Fitness Walk

September 4 • 9:15 a.m.

South Plainfield Alliance for Substance Awareness and Ricochet

## Submit your Events for Around Town:

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

Health and Racquet Club will host the Tenth Annual 5K Labor Day Run and 1.5 Mile Family Fitness Walk on Monday, Sept. 4 starting at 9:15 a.m.

The race begins and ends at Veterans Park. The entry fee for the 5K Run is \$10, if received by Aug. 28; \$12 on the day of the run. Entry fee for the Fitness Walk is \$5 for individual or family. For information or an entry form call Bill Beegle at (908) 754-4620.

## VFW Post #6763 to Host Annual Picnic

September 9

Memorial Post #6763 VFW will hold their annual picnic, at the Post grounds, located at 155 Front St., on Saturday, Sept. 9, from 12 noon until 5 p.m.

There will be live music, door prizes and plenty of food and beverages, with a menu consisting of hamburgers, hot dogs, keilbasa with sauerkraut, chicken, sausage and peppers, corn on the cob, potato salad, baked beans, watermelon and beverages. Clams will be available for an additional fee. Entertainment for children will be featured as well, including a moon walk and a clown.

Admission tickets can be purchased in advance, with children up to 5 years old free, 6 years to 12, \$5; 13 and older, \$10. Admission paid at the gate will be children 6 to 12 years \$6, all others are \$12.

For more information, phone (908) 668-9751 daily after 3 p.m., and weekends after 12 noon.

## Italian American Club to Hold Members' Picnic

September 9 • 1 p.m.

The Italian American Club of South Plainfield will be holding its members' picnic on Saturday, Sept. 9, starting at 1 p.m.

Hamburgers, hot dogs, corn, clams, free tap beer and more will be served. Members with paid-up dues will be free of charge. Guests of members, which include wife and immediate children, will be \$5 each. Non-members will be \$15 each. Call the club at (908) 668-0865 to let us know if you will attend, or stop down at the club to get your free ticket.

## Republican Org. to Hold Fashion Show & Brunch

September 10 • 11 a.m.

The South Plainfield Republican Organization will be holding their Seventh Annual Fashion Show and Brunch on Sunday, Sept. 10 at the Metuchen Country Club from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Fashions will be presented by B.J.'s Dressing Room in Scotch Plains and The Answer in Menlo Park.

Tickets may be reserved by calling Maryellen at (908) 755-4014 or Linda at (908) 756-6519. Tickets are \$35 per person. Ticket deadline is September 2.

## Visit Lake George

September 13-15

The 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. The cost is \$245 per person. Only 40 tickets are available. Purchase tickets at the PAL on Maple Ave.

## Concert by Fr. Alphonse Stephenson On Sale

September 17 • 4 p.m.

Sacred Heart Rosary Society tickets are now on sale for Father Alphonse Stephenson and his 45-member symphony orchestra, *St. Peter by the Sea*. He will give a perfor-

mance at Sacred Heart Church on Sunday, Sept. 17. This concert is sponsored by the Sacred Heart Rosary Society.

Father Alphonse Stephenson is well-known for his versatility; part maestro, part comedian and part Priest.

Stephenson's first orchestra was formed in New York's Theatre District while he served at St. Malachy's, the Actors' Chapel. In 1980, Michael Bennett, the late Broadway director and choreographer, hired him as conductor and music director for his smash hit, *A Chorus Line*. He conducted nearly 3,000 performances of the famous musical.

The Sept. 17 concert will consist of light classics and seasonal favorites. Father Alphonse also entertains his audience with his good cheer and charisma.

*St. Peter by the Sea* consists of 45 members who have 750 years of study and performed over 57,000 concerts and recitals.

The Sept. 17 performance will take place at 4 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church. The concert promises to be a big hit; so pick up your tickets now.

General admission is \$25; students and seniors are \$20. Members of the Sacred Heart Rosary Society are selling tickets after all Sunday masses. Ticket information can be obtained by calling either (908) 756-0632, ext. 10, (908) 755-6416, or (732) 549-9633.

## Cruise Planned on the Cornucopia Princess!

September 17 • Noon

The South Plainfield Historical Society will be sponsoring their Second Annual Brunch Cruise on the Cornucopia Princess. Sailing takes place on Sunday, Sept. 17 at 12 noon out of the Perth Amboy Smith Street Dock. Boarding begins at 11 a.m. and cruise returns at 2:30 p.m.

A buffet-lunch will be served with a large selection of items, such as broiled salmon, a carving station with roast beef and chicken, cooked to order-while you watch-omelets, shrimp, a variety of salads, fruits, pastries, coffee, tea and a cash bar.

For tickets or more information, call Bill Tuthill at 756-9654; Arlene Anthony at 753-7852 or Dot Rotola at 753-2519. The cost is \$49, tax and gratuities are included. Mail your check or money order to the South Plainfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 11, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

## SPHS Class of 1980 Reunion Slated for Nov.

November 25 • 7 p.m.

The South Plainfield High School Class of 1980 will holds its 20 year reunion on Sat., Nov. 25 at 7 p.m. at The Martinsville Inn in Martinsville, NJ.

We are presently trying to locate classmates. Invitations will be sent out in late Sept. Contact Jim Insel at (908) 713-0193 or Susan Graves Metz at susanmetz@worldnet.att.net.

## Events In Surrounding Towns

### CHATS Group to Meet

August 28 • 7:15 p.m.

CHATS (Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support), will meet 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 28, at Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church, 170 Watchung Ave. in North Plainfield.

"Both Sides Now" Mary Gilroy will share, first as a birthmother who found and reclaimed her teenage son and then as an adoptive mother, discussing how her experiences affect her parenting. Open sharing of adop-

tion-related stories and light refreshments.

Call Alyce at (732) 227-0607 or <http://community.nj.com/cc/chats> for information.

## Tourette Support Group Sets Meeting Dates

September 12 & November 14

The Tourette Syndrome Association-Middlesex/Union County Family Support Group Meetings will be held at JFK Medical Center's Neuroscience Institute in Edison, from 7-9 p.m., on Sept. 12, and Nov. 14.

The speaker for the Sept. 12 meeting is Adam Pearlman, a physician with extensive expertise in conventional and complementary medicine. He will present an overview of both and its application for Tourettes patients.

The scheduled speaker for the Nov. 14 meeting will be Adam Bloom, a psychologist who specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of tourette syndrome and related disorders.

For more information, contact Debbie after 6 p.m. at (732) 283-1439 or [www.tsanj.com](http://www.tsanj.com)

## Ship Model Exhibit and Workshop Planned

September 12 • 9 a.m.

The Ship Model Society of Northern New Jersey will be presenting a model exhibit and workshop free to the public at the Federal Aviation Administration Building, 200 Fred Wehran Dr. at Teterboro Airport from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 23. Anyone who is interested in joining the Society or is just interested in ships, ship models and other nautical topics is invited to attend.

The exhibit will feature ship models of all types, from all eras, crafted by the Society members. In addition, members will be present working on current projects and demonstrating ship modeling techniques and tools. This is a great opportunity for people new to modeling or experienced modelers who are new

to ship modeling to learn more about the hobby and to talk to some of the finest ship modelers in the Northeast.

The Ship Model Society of Northern New Jersey has more than 70 members. It meets at the Milburn Free Public Library on the fourth Tuesday of every month from 7:30 to 10 p.m. Each meeting includes a display and discussion of models completed or under construction, reviews of nautical books and publications, technical talks and demonstrations, discussions on maritime history and events and announcements of upcoming events of nautical or modeling interest. Guests are always welcome at the meetings.

For more information about the Ship Model Society of Northern New Jersey or the Sept. 23 exhibit and workshop contact one of the following: Dave Watkins at (973) 822-1312 e-mail: [david-watkins@worldnet.att.net](mailto:david-watkins@worldnet.att.net); Jeff Herne at (973) 586-6666 e-mail: [jherne@hotmail.com](mailto:jherne@hotmail.com) or Nick Starace at (973) 376-9026 e-mail: [nstarace@aol.com](mailto:nstarace@aol.com).

Information is also available at the society's website at <http://www.smsn-nj.simplenet.com>.

## Renunion Planned for Crew of Seven Ships

October 19-22

A reunion is being planned in Newport News, Virginia, for Oct. 19-22, for the former crew members of the seven ships of the DeSoto/Suffolk County Class LSTs. The ships are the USS *DeSoto* County, LST-1171, USS Suffolk County, LST-1173, USS Grant County, LST-1174, USS York County, LST-1175, USS Graham County, LST-1176, USS Lorain County, LST-1177, and the USS Wood County, LST-1178.

An effort is underway to acquire the USS Lorain County as a memorial by the Ohio War Memorial, Inc. of Lorain, Ohio. For further information contact: Charles C. Patton, Ohio War Memorial, Inc., P.O. Box 307, Lorain, Ohio 44052. (440) 284-2621 or [OWMI@excite.com](mailto:OWMI@excite.com)

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<p><b>\$100.00 OFF</b></p> <p><b>on the booking of a vacation for two or more people.</b></p> <p><small>Not applicable with any other discount or promotion. Expires 12/1/00</small></p>	<p><b>\$300.00 OFF</b></p> <p><b>on the booking of a cruise for 4 or more people.</b></p> <p><small>Not applicable with any other discount or promotion. Expires 12/1/00</small></p>



## Police to Face Fire Dept. in Benefit Game

On Saturday, September 2, the Annual South Plainfield Police vs. South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department Benefit Softball Game will be held in Veterans' Park at 7:30 p.m.

This annual charity game benefits The South Plainfield Handicap Childrens Society through the South Plainfield Elks Lodge #2298.

Last year the fire department prevailed over the police department in a close game, with a final score of 23-22.

All residents are invited to attend and show their support for our local policemen and fire department personnel.

Admission for the event is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children. Refreshments will also be available.

This is a fun event so plan on coming out not only to have a good time, but to support a worthy cause.



### Sonshine Vacation Bible School Program

Last Friday, Sonshine Vacation Bible School on Keynon Ave., held their closing program. Students, who ranged in age from first through fifth grade, sang songs for the parents. Awards were also presented. After the program, refreshments were served.

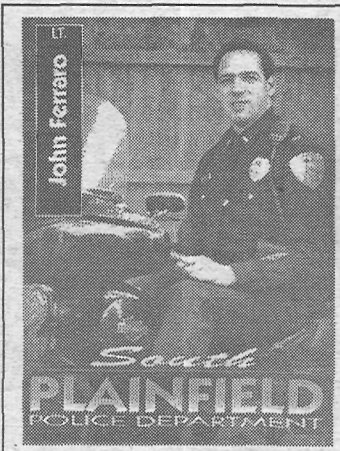
## Police Trading Cards a Hit

To date, many South Plainfield children have collected complete sets of the police trading cards. They have either approached officers or visited police headquarters to obtain the cards. All who collect the full sets should stop into police headquarters and inform the dispatcher who will record their name and phone so that they may be contacted to receive their prize. Those who have collected cards should continue to ask the officers to sign them.

A local youngster, Kyle Junge, was the first to collect a full set and the first to have them all signed. He even requested that Car #59 sign the card with its tire print. We were glad to accommodate him.

Most officers will be working on Labor Day during the parade and fireworks. They will have cards available and will be glad to autograph them. Lt. John Ferraro will arrange for several card signings in September. The program will end on October 16. Dates and locations will be announced.

Lt. Ferraro has received noth-



ing but positive comments from the children and the officers who have been participating in the program. It provides a reason to approach an officer-to request his card. It also allows for a dialog between the police and South Plainfield youth.

All youngsters are encouraged to stop into police headquarters to pickup a few cards to get them started and a list of cards to collect. The D.A.R.E. officers will be in the schools in September and will have cards and information available to the students.

## SPHS Alumni Website Links the Past with New Opportunity for the Future

By Patricia Abbott

Last week the *Observer* published a vintage photo of a couple at the 1968 SPHS Sadie Hawk-in's dance and asked readers to call in and identify the couple in the photo. The first correct caller was Kristin Kerilew, who identified the couple as Sherrill (Vangergriff) and Alan LaMonda. Kristin showed the photo to her father Victor, who went to school with Alan and Sherrill. Although the *Observer* received many calls, Kristen was the first to correctly identify the photo and will receive an *Observer* T-shirt. The vintage photo can be found on the Class of '70 page at the SPHS Photosite.

The website, which was created by SPHS Alumnus Bill Proesch (Class of '69), offers a glimpse into the past, along with current photos. Says Bill, "I left South Plainfield after graduation. Except for the 10th reunion, I had no contact with the people I went to school with 30 years ago. In 1999, I began participating in a message board affiliated with Classmates.com, a web site for high school alumni and started to make contact with old friends. I also made new friends from among the people I wasn't friendly with in high school. We seemed drawn to each other by the fact that we shared a common age and came from a common place."

The site grew from his desire to put faces to the names. "I started out by posting a few photos on the message board itself. The response was so good that I

set up a Class of '69 web page to post 'then and now' photos of the participants of the message boards so that we might make a visual connection to go along with the verbal one. This evolved into the current photo site," he continued.

The first pictures were from Bill's own collection or scanned from his yearbook. Then people



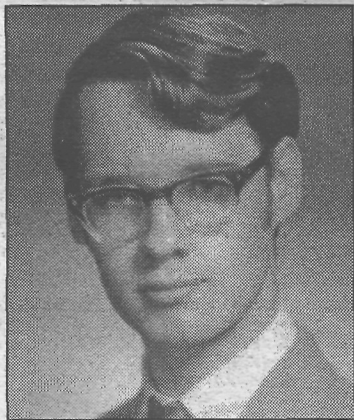
SPHS Alumna Fran Loggia

began to send him images via email. More people wanted share their photos and the site became a place where any SPHS alumni could post photos, old and new, of themselves, their family and places they remember. The site was expanding and Bill was no longer in the area. Bill said, "Since I had been away for so long, I enlisted the aid of former classmate Fran Loggia, who has been in and around the area all her life. Fran arranges the photos and adds or edits the labels. She enjoys the ongoing connection to the past and says, "I want to see every-

one-I like memory lane!"

Bill agreed with her sentiment, "The SPHS Photo Site lets us see each other, even though we are spread out across the country. It helps to bring us up-to-date and to meet new friends from the old home town. Many of those meetings have already progressed from the virtual to the real."

The site opens with an old



SPHS Alumnus Bill Proesch

photo of the high school taken outside the lobby, which at the time was the senior door. While the color photo could feasibly be any year, if you look closely you'll see that the girls are all wearing dresses. The photo was taken long before female students were allowed to wear pants to school. The site now has 'albums' for the Class

of 70 and 76. A Class of '59 page may soon be started as well. One page is entitled "Sad Farewells" and is a tribute to those from the Class of '69 who have passed away. Other pages include friends, teachers and memories, which contains a shot of the courtyard in 1969, the 1969 yearbook cover, as well as a photo of the current SPHS marching band trailer. There is an ever-growing album called *Places* that contains photos of various locations around town that, for those who live here are everyday sights, but for the people no longer in town, are a trip down memory lane.

To find old friends and classmates check out Classmates.com. The basic site is free, you can view lists of each SPHS class and see who is a member. You can visit the message boards to find old friends or make new ones.

There are thousands of messages and a multitude of discussion topics. You can also access the member list for classes and schools throughout the state and the country. For more in depth access and privileges there is a fee.

To visit the SPHS photosite go to <http://www.photoisland.com/servlet/GuestLogin?> USER NAME=sphs. The password is:

tigers. The site is open to all SPHS alumni. Bill noted that there is a lot room for photos and memories. He is hoping more people will discover the site and want their class represented. If you have photos you'd like to share, you can email your pictures to: [sphs@yonder.com](mailto:sphs@yonder.com). If you do not have access to a scanner but would like to upload photos to the SPHS site, the *Observer* will scan photos for you.

To arrange to have your photos scanned, send an email to [Angelonly@aol.com](mailto:Angelonly@aol.com) or drop them off at the *Observer* office located at 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B. Place them in an envelope with "Pattie/SPHS Photosite" written on the outside. Be sure to include your name, address and phone number so they can be returned!

# ???

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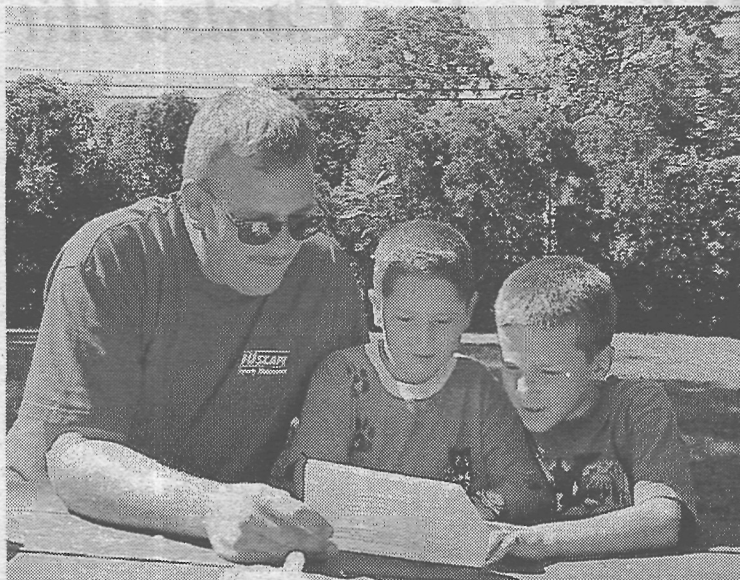
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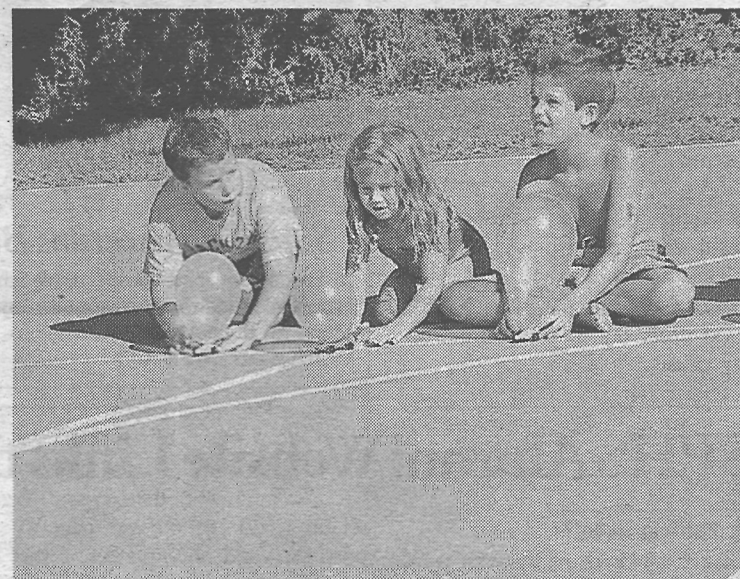
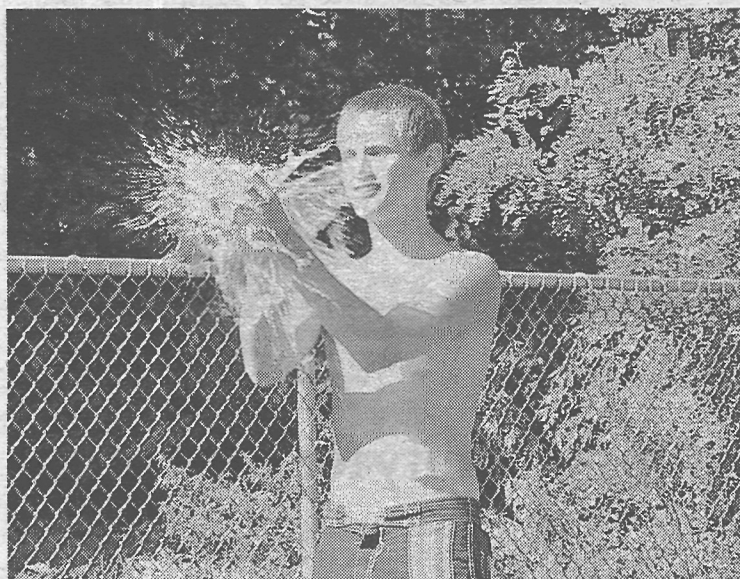


## Cub Scouts Picnic/Party at Pool

Story/photos by Patricia Abbott

Roosevelt School Cub Scout Pack 20 held their annual picnic at the community pool last Sunday. More than half the scouts attended along with their families.

Hot dogs, hamburgers, corn on the cob and watermelon were plentiful. There was a steady stream of activities throughout the day. The children enjoyed spin art and a scavenger hunt, played shuffle board and volleyball and more. There was a water balloon toss for both the kids and the adults. Only a few braved the chilly pool water.

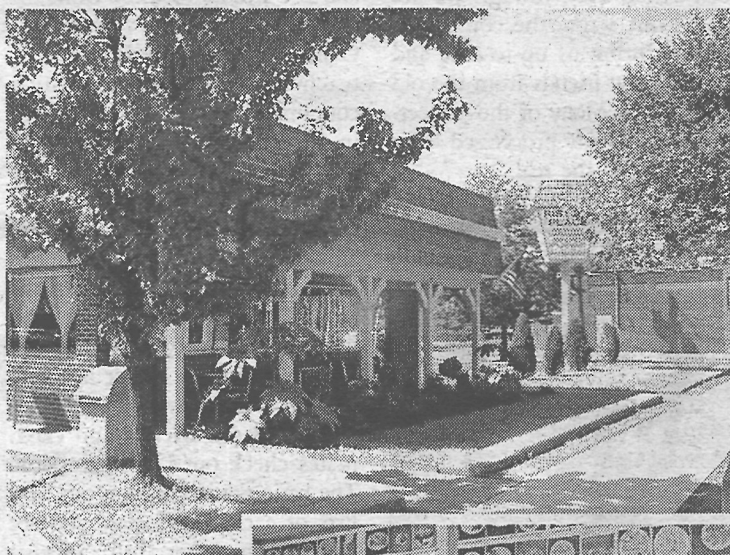


## South Plainfield Welcomes New Business

Risto's Place, located on the corner of South Plainfield Ave. and Front Street, opened their doors recently.

Owner Risto, who was born in the Macedonia Republic of Yugoslavia, came to the United States in the 1960's. He has spent most of his time in New Jersey, but this is the first business he opened in South Plainfield. He also spent some time in Florida working and learning the restaurant business.

Risto said that when he came to South Plainfield, he fell in love with the town and the people in it. "They are all so friendly. They remind me of my own people in the town where I was born. I hope I will be successful in here, so I can grow and get to all of the residents in South Plainfield," said Risto.



Risto's Place on South Plainfield Ave., which recently opened, serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. Their hours are 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. Stop by and welcome them to South Plainfield.



## Improvements Underway at Pitt Street Park

The borough will be spending \$17,000 to make improvements to Pitt Street Park. The money will be taken from developers' funds.

New playground equipment is in the process of being installed. Additional storage space will also be added to the hold some of the equipment used by the Ponytail Softball teams. At present the equipment is stored in the restrooms in the snack stand.

Pitt Street Park has seen a few

improvements this summer. The basketball court was converted into parking spaces to help with the limited parking near the field.

Home Depot has painted the bleachers and donated the material and built the sand boxes behind each field.

Councilman Ray Petronko explained that many families spend a lot of time in the park, while they girls are playing softball and the addition of playground equipment is needed.

## Bon Jour, Bon Appetit

A Pampered Chef Kitchen Consultant means more than whipping up good things to eat.

Local resident Marie Markey was awarded an all expense paid vacation to Montreal, Canada by The Pampered Chef. Markey earned the award for a job well done. Each year kitchen consultants are offered the opportunity to earn free vacation travel by meeting requirements set by The Pampered Chef.

As an independent consultant Marie does home cooking shows where she cooks for guests using products in their product line. It's

not your normal home demonstration. It's fun, informative and everyone eats.

Marie, a stay-at-home mom of two, Christopher, 5 and James, 3 is grateful for this opportunity. She says it's like having her cake and eating it too. It allows her the flexibility to be home and still be involved with her boys' activities, and at the same time earn the extra income. Marie is working on her next trip to Cancun, Mexico.

If you would like information on Pampered Chef, contact Marie Markey at 908-755-3213.

**See the September 1 issue for a complete listing of Labor Day Parade Information.**

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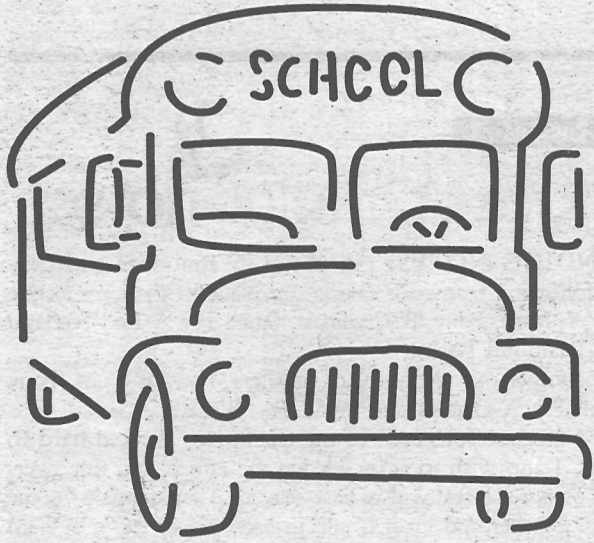
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# 2000/2001 School Bus Routes/Hours



The following is a list of the School starting times and bus locations for the 2000/2001 school bus routes in South Plainfield.

Bus and van drivers will make every attempt to pick up students at the proposed times noted on the student bus pass. However, there could be delays such as traffic, student loading, inclement weather and other unknowns. If delays occur, everyone's patience and cooperation will be appreciated.

## Student school hours for transportation for 2000/2001

High School ..... 8:10 a.m. to 2:20 p.m.  
 Middle School ..... 8:10 a.m. to 2:20 p.m.  
 Grant Central Sixth ..... 7:50 a.m. to 2:10 p.m.  
 Elementary Schools  
 (Grades 1-5) ..... 8:35 a.m. to 2:55 p.m.  
**KINDERGARTEN**  
 Morning Session ..... 8:35 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.  
 Afternoon Session ..... 12:15 p.m. to 2:55 p.m.

## NON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Sacred Heart School ..... 7:45 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
 Bishop Ahr High School ..... 7:58 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
 St. Joseph's H.S. .... 8:15 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
 Timothy Christian School ..... 8:30 a.m. to 3:05 p.m.  
 New Life Christian ..... 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

A list of bus stops for all of the routes will be posted at all schools near the main offices, in the administration building, and in borough hall.

### Bus Routes for 2000/2001

The following is a list of school bus routes and stops for the 2000/2001 school year. Please note there may be revisions to these stops.

#### ROUTE HM1

(High School/Middle School)

Rush St. - 1104  
 Woolworth at Mondoro  
 Hamilton Blvd. - 2928  
 Hamilton at Shevchenko  
 Hamilton at West End  
 Durham Ave. - 212  
 Hogan Dr. at Durham  
 Jankowski at Durham  
 Crown at Durham  
 New Durham at Shadeyside  
 Regency at Crown  
 Clover at Yurgel  
 Belmont at Kosciusko  
 Delmore at Belmont

#### ROUTE HM3

(High School/Middle School)

Belmont at Harvard  
 Hopkinson - 213  
 Hopkinson at Jackson  
 Beatrice at Hillside  
 Hillside at Perth  
 Hamilton at Montrose  
 Montrose at Bell  
 So. Clinton at Astor  
 New Market at Highland

#### ROUTE R1

(Roosevelt School)

Durham - 212  
 Durham at Hogan  
 Durham at Jankowski  
 Durham - 1308  
 Durham at Crown  
 Crown at Famularo  
 Clover at Yurgel  
 Hamilton Blvd - 2225  
 Beatrice at Wooden  
 Zwolak Ct - 120  
 Arlington at Garfield  
 Jackson at Matis  
 Jackson at Day

#### ROUTE HM2

(High School/Middle School)

Jackson at Garfield  
 Arlington at Garfield  
 D/O Wooden at Scalera  
 Lorraine at Delmore  
 Kenneth At Birch  
 Delmore - 301  
 Spicer - 214

#### ROUTE HM4

(High School/Middle School)

Woodland Ave./Various Stops  
 Clark Lane at Elissa  
 Park Ave at Caffrey  
 Universal at Fleet  
 Fleet Ave at Park St.  
 Oaktree at Putnam  
 Oaktree at Teeple  
 Oaktree at Babes

#### ROUTE R2

(Roosevelt School)

Belmont at Harvard  
 Belmont at Kosciusko  
 Belmont at Kenneth  
 Kenneth at Chatham  
 Green at Spicer  
 Green at Delmore

Arlington at Lorraine  
 Lorraine at Delmore  
 Mondoro at Christopher - K  
 Lexington at Bell Place - K  
 Sims at Lafayette - K  
 New Market at Roosevelt  
 New Market at Middlesex  
 New Brunswick Ave - 2505  
 New Market at Highland  
 Valley at Elsie - K  
 Valley at Carmine - K  
 New Market at Bergen - K

#### ROUTE JR1

(John E. Riley School)

So. Plainfield Ave. - 189  
 Church at Hamilton  
 Kaine at Elm  
 Front at Randolph  
 Oakland at Ada  
 Oakland at Randolph  
 Leonard at Maple  
 Maple Ave - 910  
 Maple at Faulks  
 Maple at Faye  
 Maple at Daniel - K  
 Oxford at E. Golf - K  
 Oxford at Fairmount - K  
 Sprague at Woodland  
 Woodland Ave - 1930  
 Selene at E. Hendricks - K  
 Oxford at E. Hendricks - K

#### ROUTE JR3

(John E. Riley School)

Fred Allen at Schillaci  
 Fred Allen Dr. - 217  
 Schillaci La - 221  
 Sampton at Martin  
 Sampton at Norway  
 Oakmoor at Willow  
 Willow at Lowden  
 Merchants at Freed  
 Ritter at VanFleet  
 VanFleet at LaCosta  
 LaCosta at Manning

Manning at Lane

#### ROUTE JR2

(John E. Riley School)

So. Madison at No. Madison  
 So. Madison at So. Central  
 So. Central at No. Madison  
 Plainfield at Risoli  
 Plainfield at Thomas  
 Thomas at Field  
 Field at Firth - K  
 Field at Wadsworth - K  
 Central at Wadsworth  
 Kenyon at Marsh  
 Central at Clifford  
 Kenyon at Clifford - K  
 Wickford at Rahway - K  
 Wickford at Bollinger - K  
 Bollinger at Kenyon - K  
 Skene at Kenyon - K

#### ROUTE KS1

(Kennedy School)

Michael at Joan - K  
 DeFillipo at Joan - K  
 Maple Ave. - 2100  
 Terrace at Dolores - K  
 East Crescent at Oxford  
 Dolores at Oxford - K  
 Dolores at Linden - K  
 Park at W. Elmwood Dr. - K  
 E. Elmwood at Clark Lane  
 Clark Lane at E. Nassau  
 Park at May - K  
 May at Revere Rd. - K  
 May at Beverly - K  
 West Elmwood at Schindler - K  
 So. Plainfield at Cotton - K  
 So. Plainfield at Minford - K  
 Oaktree at Celentano  
 Surrey at Devon  
 Oaktree - 159  
 Diana at O'Loughlin  
 Babes at O'Loughlin  
 Oaktree at Teeple  
 Universal at Victory

Universal at Fleet  
 Fleet Ave at Park St.

#### ROUTE SHI

(Sacred Heart)

Durham at Regency  
 Hamilton at Hillside  
 Hamilton at Matis  
 Hamilton at Montrose  
 Day at Jackson  
 Belmont at Kosciusko  
 Arlington at Lorraine  
 Belmont at Arlington  
 West at Rush  
 Rush at New York Ave  
 Pitt at Carmine - K  
 Orchard at Garden  
 Fred Allen at Schillaci  
 Clinton at Cherry  
 Cherry at Chestnut  
 New Brunswick at Sussex  
 So. 9th at McDonough  
 Franklin at Perry  
 Clinton at W. 8th  
 Tompkins at Baker  
 Rahway at Field  
 Kenyon at Stratford  
 Firth at Central  
 Edgar at Dawes  
 \*Oxford at E. Golf Ave.  
 \*Oxford at Hendricks - K  
 \*Park at May  
 \*Oak Tree at DeSepio - K/Oak Tree at Babes Dr.

#### ROUTE TC/NL

(New Life Christian - Dunellen)

(Timothy Christian - Piscataway)

Frank at Old Raritan Road  
 Woodland Ave - 3152  
 New York at Nevsky  
 So. Plainfield at Gubernat  
 Maple at Michael  
 Kenyon at Bolliger Way  
 So. Central at Conklin  
 Sampton at Fred Allen

Clinton at Cherry  
 McDonough at So. 10th  
 Irving at Foster  
 Palmer at Tompkins  
 Franklin at Greenwich  
 Geary at Grant  
 Delaney at Bullard  
 Plainfield at Franklin  
 Plainfield at Merchants  
 Hamilton at Pomponio  
 Hamilton at Elliot  
 New Durham at Hogan

#### ROUTE BA/SJ

(Bishop Ahr/St. Joseph's School)

Durham at Hogan  
 Durham at Jankowski  
 Durham at Crown  
 Hamilton at Hillside  
 Hamilton at Day  
 Belmont at Arlington  
 Hamilton at Jackson  
 Delmore at Fulton  
 Amboy at Carmine  
 Sampton at Orchard  
 Clinton at Cherry  
 Clinton at Ledden  
 Clinton at So. 9th  
 Clinton at Tompkins  
 Tompkins at Pershing  
 Rahway at Central  
 Plainfield at Merchants  
 Maple at Oakland  
 Maple at Joan  
 Murray at Chambers  
 Terrace at Maple  
 Sprague at Oxford  
 Park at W. Fairview  
 Park at So. Plainfield  
 Park at E. Crescent  
 Park Ave at Nassau  
 Park at Caffrey  
 Oak Tree at Babes  
 Oak Tree at Putnam  
 Universal at Fleet

K=Kindergarten

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# Sports



Ponytail 10-And-Under are (front row) Stephanie Szeliga, Jackie Kukuch, Allison Huffsmith, Dorian Bishop, Kate Reichert, Katie Hardy; (middle row) Tiffany Roth, Elizabeth Flannery, Christina Schuetz, Julianne Bosse, Rachel Senz and Kelly Downes; (back row) Assistant Coaches Rich Szeliga and Tim Hardy, Head Coach Steve Senz and Assistant Coach Kathy Downes. Not pictured are Kathy Gorman and Alyssa Sutherland.

## Ponytail Softball 10 & Under Team Takes Title

The 10-and-under Ponytail Softball All Star Team wrapped up an outstanding season by winning the Tri-County Softball League Championships. The team entered the playoffs as the top seed on the strength of an 8-0-1 league regular season record. After a convincing victory over North Brunswick, they entered the championship game against a strong Watchung Hills team.

In the final game, the South

Plainfield bats came alive early with key run scoring hits by Stephanie Szeliga, Katie Hardy, Tiffany Roth, Christina Schuetz and Kelly Downes. Defensively the team was led by the one hit, complete game pitching of Rachel Senz and a timely shoe string catch in right field by Dorian Bishop. By the time the final out was registered the South Plainfield squad had a hard-earned 10-3 victory and the league championship

trophy.

This victory capped a season that saw the team drop its first four games. However, they rebounded to achieve a final record of 21-5-1, concluding by a stretch of 17 consecutive wins, including an undefeated 6-0 record and the tournament championship in the tough North Edison Tournament. In addition the squad took second place in the Sayreville Tournament.

## Bill White Masters the South Plainfield Open

Against a field of 150 golfers, Bill White took first place at this year's tournament with a two-under-par gross score of 70, at Bunker Hill Golf Course. Cecilla deLeon won the women's division with a low gross score of 91.

This was the Sixth Annual South Plainfield Open, a fund raising event sponsored by South Plainfield Golf Association for South Plainfield High School Golf Team.

Other winners this year included Charles Hasselgren with the low men's net score of 72 and Catherine Johnson with the low women's net score of 76. The low gross team score came from the foursome of Bill White (70), Kevin Brady (77), Joe Mills (85), and Mike Sullivan (89). There were special awards to Reese Kirchofer, who pounded the Men's Longest Drive. Jill Giro hit the women's Longest Drive. Fred



Best Team Score: (l-r) Mike Sullivan, Kevin Brady, Bill White (2000 South Plainfield Open Champion) Bill White and Joe Mills.

Oberkehr earned Closest to the Pin Award.

No one was able to make a hole-in-one to win the 2000 Ford Taurus, arranged by Kathy Gasparri of Liscardi Ford. Coach Mike Kavka thanked everyone who participated in the event, particularly local businesses and sponsors who helped make this event a success.

More info about the event and complete individual results can be found at [www.spga.org](http://www.spga.org).

By Tony Cassano



## juniorbaseballclubnotes

**SEASON ENDING NOTES:** I'm proud to announce and congratulate the following teams for taking 1st place in their respective leagues. Pony 'A'-Mets, Pony 'B'-Cardinals, Small Fry 'A'-Red Sox and Small Fry 'B'-Diamond Backs.

And let's not forget our second place finishers, Pony 'A'-Cubs, Pony 'B'-Mets, Small Fry 'A'-Orioles and Small Fry 'B'-Cubs.

Thanks for a great season, each of the champions worked hard to earn their titles. I also wish to acknowledge the efforts and fine overall play of all of our 41 teams this past season. Thanks again to the managers, their coaches and most of all, to each player for your hard work, good sportsmanship and overall effort. Thanks for the memories!

**WOMEN AUXILIARY: URGENT!** New volunteers are needed for all four executive board positions for the upcoming 2001 season. Please call the club for details at 908-754-2090

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Friday Sept. 8—Coaches Old Timer** game at 6:30. In addition, volunteers are needed to help set up for our annual post-season picnic which will be held the next day. Please come and support the SPJBC and have some fun watching the coaches "try" to play baseball.

**Saturday Sept. 9—Annual Picnic** at noon. Our season ending annual picnic starts at 12 noon and goes all afternoon. The SPJBC invites all players and their family for a day of fun. Its our way of honoring the players by awarding trophies to all 'C' League players along with 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishers in all other leagues. Come join in and enjoy the festivities.

**Monday Sept. 11—September General Membership Meeting** at 7:30. Regularly scheduled monthly meeting held in the clubhouse. Join in and be part of the club. All men and women are welcomed. Come and be part of the decision making process of the club. Your opinion and your vote will count. Get involved and help out, your kids and the youth of South Plainfield depend on you.

## Fastpitch Softball Leagues Forming

The Jersey Girls Fastpitch Softball league is currently forming for the fall season.

Teams and players include U-10, U-12, U-14 and U-16.

For more information or to sign up, please call (732) 845-0880 or visit us at our web site [www.eteamz.com/JerseyGirlsFastpitchSoftb](http://www.eteamz.com/JerseyGirlsFastpitchSoftb).

## South Plainfield High School GYMNASTICS 2000 SCHEDULE

Thurs., Sept. 14	East Brunswick	Away	4:30
Tues., Sept. 19	Cranford	Away	4:15
Thurs., Sept. 21	Piscataway	Home	5:30
Mon., Sept. 25	Bishop Ahr	Away	4:00
Wed., Sept. 27	South Brunswick	Away	5:00
Tues., Oct. 3	North Brunswick	Home	5:30
Thurs., Oct. 5	Old Bridge	Away	4:00
Wed., Oct. 11	Sayreville	Home	5:30
Thurs., Oct. 19	GMC Meet	Away	
Tues., Oct. 24	Hillsborough	Away	5:30
Thurs., Oct. 26	Novice Tournament		
Sat., Nov. 4	State Sectionals		
Sat., Nov. 11	State Finals		

## 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.

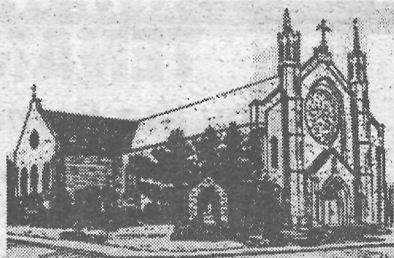
Weekdays 9:00 a.m. (church)

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.

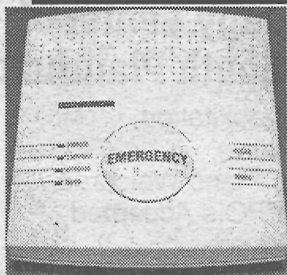
### Sacrament of Reconciliation

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



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PUBLIC NOTICES

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

Ordinance #1545 entitled: **AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE A LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND THE RESCUE SQUAD IN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY** be adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, August 25, 2000 and that a public hearing be held Monday, September 18, 2000 at 8:00 PM in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey.

ORDINANCE NO. 1545

**AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE A LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, AND RESCUE SQUAD IN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

WHEREAS, the Borough of South Plainfield deems it appropriate and necessary to act to insure retention of existing members and to provide incentives for recruiting new volunteer fire fighters/first aid organization members; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of South Plainfield has determined that the creation of a Length of Service Award Program will enhance the ability of the South Plainfield Fire Department and South Plainfield Rescue Squad to retain and recruit volunteer fire fighters and first aid organization members;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield that:

1. A Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) is herewith created effective January 1, 2000 in accordance with Chapter 388 of the laws of New Jersey 1997 to reward members of the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department and South Plainfield Volunteer Rescue Squad for their loyal, diligent and devoted services to the residents of the Borough of South Plainfield.

2. The LOSAP shall provide for fixed annual contributions to a deferred income account for each volunteer member that meets the criteria set forth below; that such contributions be made in accordance with a plan that shall be established by the Borough of South Plainfield pursuant to PL 1997 C. 388; and that such plan shall be administered in accordance with laws of the State of New Jersey, the U.S. Internal Revenue Code and this ordinance.

3. A. Volunteer Fire Department - attendance at all calls & alarms for members of the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department as per Schedule A attached hereto.

B. South Plainfield Rescue Squad - attendance at calls & alarms for volunteers of the South Plainfield Rescue Squad as per Schedule B attached hereto.

4. The estimated cost of the program has been calculated as follows;

A. For regular annual services excluding administration; not to exceed \$50,000.00.

5. That this Ordinance shall not take effect unless it is approved by voters as a Public Question at the next general election to be held on November 7, 2000.

6. Any ordinances, or parts of ordinances inconsistent or in conflict with ordinance are repealed.

Exhibit A									
Percent	Fires	Percent	Drills	Percent	Cleanups	Percent	Meetings	Percent	Add Activ
	30%		30%		15%		15%		10%
50-100	150.00	50-100	150.00	50-100	75.00	50-100	75.00	50-100	50.00
25-49	75.00	25-49	75.00	25-49	37.50	25-49	37.50	25-49	25.00
18-24	37.50	18-24	37.50	18-24	18.75	18-24	18.75	18-24	12.50
0-17	0.00	0-17	0.00	0-17	0.00	0-17	0.00	0-17	0.00

Exhibit B South Plainfield Rescue Squad Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP)									
Percentages									
Duty Time	40%								
Drills	15%								
Clean-ups	15%								
Meetings	15%								
Fund Raisers	15%								
Total	100%								
Duty Time		Drills		Cleanups					
100% = 100%		100% = 100%		100% = 100%					
75% = 75%		75% = 75%		75% = 75%					
50% = 50%		50% = 50%		50% = 50%					
25% = 25%		25% = 25%		25% = 25%					
> 25% = .0		> 25% = .0		> 25% = .0					
Meetings		Fundraisers							
9-10 = 100%		100% = 100%							
6-8 = 75%		75% = 75%							
4-5 = 50%		50% = 50%							
2-3 = 25%		25% = 25%							
0-1 = 0		>25% = 0							

ATTEST:  
Mary Blue/Deputy Municipal Clerk  
\$165.00 1T August 25, 2000

**BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD**  
Ordinance #1544 entitled: **AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE EXCHANGE OF LANDS BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD AND HARRY POPIK PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF NEW JERSEY STATUTE 40A:12-16 ET SEQ.** was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Borough Council on Thursday, August 17, 2000 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

Approved August 17, 2000  
Daniel J. Gallagher/Mayor

ATTEST:  
Mary Blue/Deputy Municipal Clerk  
\$15.00 1T August 25, 2000

PUBLIC NOTICE

**Return of Performance Guarantee To S & L Cursi Construction Company, Inc. For public improvements at 453 Kosciusko Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ Lot 10.03, Block 365**

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 a Performance Guarantee posted by S & L Cursi Construction Company, Inc., for public improvements at 453 Kosciusko Avenue, known as Lot 10.03, in Block 365 listed on the official tax maps of the Borough of South Plainfield. Said public hearing will be held at 8:00 PM Monday, September 11, 2000 in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall, 2480

Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey, 07080.  
S & L Cursi Construction Co., Inc.  
3808 Fleet Avenue  
South Plainfield, NJ 07080  
\$35.00 1T August 25, 2000

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

Ordinance #1546 entitled: **AN ORDINANCE TO SET THE CONSTRUCTION SPEED LIMIT FOR BOTH DIRECTIONS OF TRAFFIC ALONG STELTON ROAD DURING THE LIMITS OF THE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT** be adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, August 25, 2000 and that a public hearing be held Monday, September 18, 2000 at 8:00 PM in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey.

ORDINANCE NO. 1546

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Borough of South Plainfield has authorized construction along Stelton Road in the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, and

WHEREAS, the governing body in order to expedite this project, needs to authorize reduction of the speed limit for the term of the construction; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the road users to reduce such speed limit;

NOW THEREFORE BE ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD that the construction speed limit for both directions of traffic along Stelton Road, in the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex within the limits of the project for the improvements of Stelton Road shall be and is hereby established at 25 m.p.h. to begin upon the commencement of the project for a period of 180 days or until construction is completed, whichever comes first with temporary signs posted accordingly only when one or more of the following conditions exist;

- Where hazards or obstruction are present and construction barriers are in use.
- When workers are on or adjacent to the traveled way.
- When other conditions exist which are deemed potential hazards to the traveling public.

When none of the above conditions exist, the temporary construction zone signs R2-1 and R2-5a shall be covered with an opaque material in a manner and at such time as approved by the engineer, during which periods permanent speed limit signs shall be visible; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this Ordinance shall take effect upon approval by the Commissioner of Transportation.

ATTEST:  
Mary Blue/Deputy Municipal Clerk  
\$54.00 1T August 25, 2000

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

Ordinance #1547 entitled: **AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$17,000 FOR THE PURCHASE OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MORE SPECIFICALLY, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO PITT STREET PARK** be adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, August 25, 2000 and that a public hearing be held Monday, September 18, 2000 at 8:00 PM in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey.

**ORDINANCE #1547**  
**AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$17,000 FOR THE PURCHASE OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MORE SPECIFICALLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE PURCHASE OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO PITT STREET PARK**

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, for the purchase of playground equipment at Pitt Street Park.

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 \$17,000.

B. That the cost of said project shall be financed by Developer Contributions for Off Site Improvements in the amount of \$17,000, 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.

ATTEST:  
Mary Blue/Deputy Municipal Clerk  
\$57.00 1T August 25, 2000

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

Ordinance #1095B entitled: **"AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #1095A, 1095 AND 697 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CERTAIN NO PARKING ZONES FOR MOTOR VEHICLES WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF"** be adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, August 25, 2000 and that a public hearing be held Monday, September 18, 2000 at 8:00 PM in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey.

**ORDINANCE #1095B**  
**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCES #1095A, 1095 AND 697 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CERTAIN NO PARKING ZONES FOR MOTOR VEHICLES WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF"**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION 1. Pursuant to the Provisions of NJSA 40:48-2.46, no person shall park a vehicle at any time within 30 feet of any commercial store structure, or in any area so designated as a Fire Zone, with the appropriate signs posted, known as:

- Golden Acres Shopping Center, Oak Tree Avenue and Case Drive
- Middlesex Mall, Hadley Road and Stelton Road
- Home Depot, Hadley Road and Stelton Road
- Hadley Center, 4901 Stelton Road
- Fairmount Park Associates, 1597-1620 Park Avenue
- Dunham Shopping Center, 1711-1721 Park Avenue
- Quick Check Center, 100 Sampton Avenue
- LaCosta's Plaza, 2313-2323 Plainfield Avenue

I. Lakeview Plaza, 112-118 Maple Avenue  
J. DeAndrea's Galleria, 2381-2383 South Clinton Corner  
K. Clinton Corner, 1239 W. Seventh Street  
L. Oak Park Commons, Park Avenue and Oak Tree Avenue

SECTION 2. All of the land area described in Section 1 above is hereby designated as a "No Parking" zone or a "Fire" zone.

SECTION 3. Signs shall be erected designating the No Parking Zones and Fire Zones, and placed and maintained as required by the Commissioner of Transportation.

SECTION 4. Unless another penalty is expressly provided for by New Jersey Statute, every person convicted of a violation of the provisions of this Ordinance or any supplement thereto, shall be liable to a penalty of not more than \$100.00 or imprisonment for a term not to exceed 15 days or both.

SECTION 5. This Ordinance shall take effect after final passage, publication and as provided by law.

ATTEST:  
Mary G. Blue/Deputy Municipal Clerk  
\$72.00 1T August 25, 2000

**BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD**  
Public Notice is hereby given that the following actions was taken by the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment of the Borough of South Plainfield at its meeting held on August 15, 2000.

Case No. 33-00—Ronald & Anthony Capobianco—Block 23; Lot 12; R-75 Zone; 1906 Grant Ave.—Applicant's request for one foot side yard setback to allow an existing carport to remain was hereby GRANTED.

Case No. 31-00—Mark Noble—Block 219; Lot 14; R-75 Zone; 311 Clinton Place—Applicant's request for a front yard setback variance to construct a second story addition was hereby GRANTED.

Case No. 28-00—James & Gina Sacco—Block 232; Lot 5, R-75 Zone; 199 W. Elmwood Dr.—Applicant's request for a front yard variance to construct an addition was hereby GRANTED.

Case No. 23-00—Joseph & Susan Demin—Block 239; Lot 8; R-10 Zone; 111 Vakarich Place—Applicant's request for a front yard variance to construct a pool within five feet of Beverly Road was hereby GRANTED.

Case No. 21-00—Thomas O'Connor—Block 138; Lot 18; R-75 Zone; 1165 Clinton Terrace—Applicant's request for a front yard setback variance to construct an open front porch was hereby GRANTED.

Case No. 13-00/S/V—New Era Development—Block 538; Lots 3, 4 & 5; OBC-3 Zone, Hamilton Blvd./Easton Blvd.—Applicant's request for variances from side yard setback and lot area and preliminary and final site plan approval, was hereby GRANTED.

Case #29-00/TU—Home Depot USA—Block 472; Lot 36; 3096 Hamilton Blvd.—Applicant's request for a six month temporary use variance was hereby GRANTED.

Janice J. Muccilli  
Secretary/Zoning Board of Adjustment  
\$39.00 1T August 25, 2000



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## Obituaries

### Joseph Faso, 90

Joseph Faso, formerly of Scotch Plains and Plainfield, died on Monday, August 21, at his home.

Born in the Providence Alta Villa, Sicily, Mr. Faso came to the United States at the age of three. He had resided in Chicago and Brooklyn, where he spent his childhood. He then moved to Hillsborough and later to Plainfield, where he spent most of his life. Mr. Faso moved to Scotch Plains where he spent 16 years before settling in Belvidere three years ago.

He was employed as a tailor by Sax Fifth Ave.-Fashions for Men of New York City for many years before his retirement in 1975. He previously was employed by the Ladies Garment Workers Union #162 of New York City.

Mr. Faso served as an air raid warden during WWII and served as a special police officer for the City of Plainfield in the 1950's and 1960's.

He was a true outdoorsman who had a love for skiing, which he did until recently. He was a member of the Plainfield Ski Club and the 70+ International Ski Club. He also had a great love for being outdoors while enjoying hiking, fishing, hunting, gardening and bicycling.

As his granddaughter expressed, "A true gentlemen in everything he did."

Mr. Faso was a communicant of St. Bernard's RC Church in Plainfield and was a member of

their Holy Name Society in which he served as vice president.

He is predeceased by his first wife, Clare Faso who died in 1971; a sister, Providence Bucaro and three brothers Matthew, Frank and Nick Faso.

Surviving are his wife, Alice (Dilks) Faso, whom he met while skiing, two daughters- and sons-in-law, Catherine and Frank Pish and Rosemary and Thomas McDonnell, all of Bridgewater; three grandsons, Thomas and Joseph McDonnell, both of Bridgewater and Frank and his wife, Claire Pish and great grandchildren, Lindsay and Jonathan Pish, all of Flemington.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### Charles C. La Costa, 86

Charles C. La Costa of South Plainfield, died in his home on Wednesday, Aug. 16.

Born in Plainfield, he had resided in South Plainfield since 1919.

He was the owner of the former LaCosta's Barber Shop in South Plainfield for 30 years and he was also the owner of La Costa Plaza in South Plainfield before retiring in 1973.

He had served in the United States Army during WWII and was a member of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield. He was a former member of the BPO Elks Lodge #2298, American Legion Chaumont Post #243, and the Lions Club, all of South Plainfield.

Surviving are his wife, Eleanor A. (Renelli) La Costa; two daughters, Rosann Lozinski of Manasquan and Charlene Lindberg of Watchung; a son, Joseph La Costa of San Diego, Calif. and a sister, Victoria Delayo of South Plainfield. Also surviving are seven grandchildren, Thomas and Michael Lozinski, Erik and Christopher Lindberg and Charles, Diane and Katherine La Costa.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Jersey Shore Medical Center, Breast Care Center, 1945 Rt. 33, P.O. Box 397, Neptune, NJ 07754-0397.

### John S. Negra, 76

John S. Negra of South Plainfield died on Friday, Aug. 18, at Southgate at Ramapo Ridge-Christian Health Care Center in Wycoff.

Born in Nutley, Mr. Negra had resided in South Plainfield for the past 50 years.

He was a 1950 graduate of Newark College of Engineering where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemical Engineering.

Mr. Negra began his employment as a chemical engineer with Chemical Construction Corp as a process and project engineer in 1950. He escalated to supervisory engineer, then to the manager of the Development Center and later to Corporate Business Development. In 1975, he transferred to Corporate Development for Union Carbide until 1977. He then accepted the position as manager of Process Engineering for Nichols Engineering and Research Company of Belle Mead from 1977 until his retirement in 1983.

Mr. Negra had extensive process experience in the engineering field which led to his development and patenting of numerous devices and processes that control emissions from combustible fuels, such as the Engine Exhaust Emissions Controls patent and the Catalytic Muffler patent. He was also an integral part of the supervision of plant operations in numerous locations in the United States, as well as in Japan, Canada, France, England and Italy.

He was a member of the A.I.Ch.E. (Association of International Chemical Engineers).

He was a communicant of Sacred Heart R.C. Church of South Plainfield and a former member of St. Cecilia's RC Church Knights of Columbus Council #3639 of Iselin and a former member of the Iselin Rescue Squad.

Surviving are his wife, Audrey A. (Meidhof) Negra; a brother, Robert Negra of Hazlet, numerous brothers- and sisters-in-laws, many nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

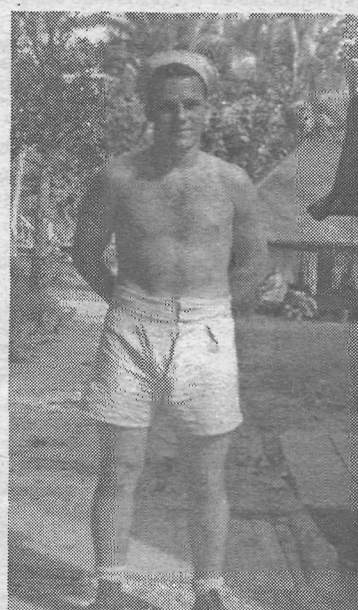
In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to Iselin Volunteer Rescue Squad, 477 Route 27, Iselin, NJ 08830.

## Charlie Decker 'Great Choice' for Grand Marshal

*Continued from page 1*  
layout person with Engo Company and also a night custodian for our own South Plainfield Board of Education.

Charlie is a member of the National Organization of the AARP, the American Legion, and the VFW. He is also the first Life Member of SPHS Booster Club with about 20 years of service, a Life Member of the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club, where he has held the position of secretary, manager and coach, as well as serving on various committees.

A number of nominations came in for Decker, offering a variety of reasons to substantiate his nomination. "I can think of no other person who deserves this honor other than Mr. Decker. His love of this community and the people of South Plainfield is apparent every single day," said one nominee. He is described as "always smiling and pleasant... he lights up a room everywhere he goes." One resident told of how she had taken a fall in an icy parking lot and found Mr. Decker right there at her side to assist her. The resident told of having surgery and the card she received from Decker signed by people she knew, as well as strangers. He carried the card around town asking people to sign it. The card is now a treasured keepsake.



Charlie Decker, Sr., pictured when he served in the US Navy during World War II in 1943.

On the sports front, nominations lavished praise for his years of volunteering in an official capacity, as well as just being there for the kids. A nominating resident said, "Mr. Decker's face is one you see all over our community. You many not know his name, but you know his smiling face." He is noted for his love of sports and for attending sporting events ranging from SPHS football games and SP Jr. Baseball Club, to Ponytail softball and Pop Warner games.

By Cyrus N. Moon

## Weekly Horoscope 8/25-8/31

**LEO 7/23-8/22** Conflict arises between what you must do and what you would rather do. You may encounter insensitive or arrogant people. But if you do not come back at them bigger battles will be avoided. If something needs to be accomplished don't let your feelings get in the way.

**VIRGO 8/23-9/22** Everything should run smoothly for this week. Most likely you will read or hear about some emotionally uplifting news. If you are requested for your help in any area, you can gain a personal advantage for providing this favor. Visit a family member, it's long overdue!

**LIBRA 9/23-10/22** If there were problems arising within a relationship this would be a good week in which to discuss them. This is because you have a sense of reality that is strong and this will lead to fairness on your part. You won't get carried away with foolish ideals. Do you want this to continue?

**SCORPIO 10/23-11/21** Keep an open mind on all issues that come your way and try not to become obsessed with one idea or thought. In discussions and conversation you can state your point of view, but to try to force your point is useless. Avoid arguments this week!!! It's possible it can get out of control.

**SAGITTARIUS 11/22-12/21** It is possible that you may try to coerce someone into doing something. Not a good idea! Or if they try it on you, run the other way and let someone know immediately. This sounds like a naked power play and what you worked hard for can be lost. You have too many years invested.

**CAPRICORN 12/22-1/19** Hold back on the little white lies this week because if you exaggerate your social status, such as in a job, you better be ready to do the job you boasted about. Now on the other hand be prepared to demonstrate what you can do with the skills you have to those in charge. Now to the lady goat, you know who you are! How about a "story story nite."

**AQUARIUS 1/20-2/18** This week you may want to write down in your schedule book any small, and I do mean no matter how small, detail or appointment that you will need to remember. The reason for this is you might find yourself at one place or another and not where you are supposed to be.

**PISCES 2/19-3/20** This is a period when you can work with your mind much longer than usual and thereby accomplish quite a bit. If you are aching for a debate with others this is the time to do it. You will present your position clearly and skillfully, defend it ably, and find quite a bit of satisfaction in doing so.

**ARIES 3/21-4/19** Keep an open mind on all issues that come your way, and try not to become obsessed with one idea or thought. In discussions and conversations you can state your point of view, but to try to force your point is useless. Avoid arguments this week! It's possible it can get out of control.

**TAURUS 4/20-5/20** Emotional attitudes figure more prominently than usual at this time. Be careful not to lose your objectivity in a discussion or lose your sense of perspective. You will be feeling the Moon's tide more strongly and in that case take an issue a bit too far. Remember, moderation is the key here.

**GEMINI 5/21-6/20** This is a week to seek out win-win situations. You can make your point, but respect the opinions of others. And that is what they are, so why anger someone just to make them understand your thoughts. Take a deep breath before you speak, you can avoid making things worse.

**CANCER 6/21-7/22** When was the last time you told your love how much they mean to you? Well this week should be very easy for you. You should notice a good feeling inside of you, and it should be easy for you to radiate that charm. This is also a good time and meet someone if your single. Start the conversation!

*Because We Care*



by Robert Hunter

### COMING TO TERMS WITH LIFE

There is hardly a game, a project, or other endeavor in life that goes on with no end. So, why is it that we find it so hard to accept the end of life itself? Is it the one thing that is exempt from finality? Etty Hillesum talked about accepting the inevitability of death when she wrote, "By 'coming to terms with life' I mean: the reality of death has become a definite part of my life; my life has, so to speak, been extended by death, by my looking death in the eye and accepting it, by accepting destruction as part of life and no longer wasting my energies on fear of death or the refusal to acknowledge its inevitability."

While the fact of our own mortality initially gives one a sense of powerlessness, by choosing the manner in which we wish to celebrate our existence, and pass on our accumulated knowledge and possessions, we can regain a certain sense of control and equilibrium. For assistance in arranging your end-of-life services, call the JAMES W. CONROY FUNERAL HOME, established in 1949, and conveniently located at 2456 Plainfield Avenue in South Plainfield, at 756-2800 to schedule a preplanning consultation. Complete care financing and cremation services available.

*"I am not ready to die,  
But I am learning to trust death  
As I have trusted life."*

-Mary Sarton

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## police report

• A Smith St. resident reported the theft a car stereo/CD player. During the night someone smashed the passenger side window and removed the stereo. The car had been parked on Saint Johns Place in front of her home.

• A Hancock St. resident reported receiving harassing phone calls for many months. The calls came early in the morning or late at night. The victim had dialed \*57 numerous times and has caller ID. The calls stopped for a few months and recently began again, she stated it is the same man. She called back a number on the caller ID and the man identified himself as Mark Marciano. In the past he had identified himself a Joe Torasco. The victim is not familiar with either name. Some of the calls have come from a pay phone and a Pantry One Food Market in Middlesex. The victim reported an unusual incident involving an Ada Place resident in which he appeared to be following her at work inside the A&P, Oak tree Rd. She stated that the man, who is approximately 50, showed up at A&P on March 4, he watched her work for almost two hours. He left then returned later in the day. The calls increased within a few days.

• A Merchants Ave. resident reported the theft of his van from his home. He stated that a male came by and asked for a former

housemate. The woman had been removed from the house and arrested earlier in the day. He told the resident that she owed him \$200 for a drug transaction. The suspect stated that if he did not get the money he would return and shoot the house. The resident believes that the former housemate is behind the problem. The victim also believes the former housemate may have copied his keys while she was residing there. He believes that the van was taken by the man who had come by earlier.

• Police discovered the open rear door of the Historical Society's train rear door open, investigation showed three ceiling light bulbs smashed and the fixtures damaged.

• Days Inn, New World Way, reported a guest leaving without paying. The suspect stayed for two nights, paid cash then requested a third night saying he would pay in the morning. The man took the his belongings and left.

• An employee of Staples, Hadley Rd. reported receiving a call from a female who said there was a bomb in the building and it would go off at 8 p.m. Police evacuated the building, along with Blockbuster Video, Party City and Red Lobster. A search was negative. Blockbuster reopened but the others remained close.

## 'Family Day' Held At Roma Food

Three years ago Roma Food Enterprises, Inc., Piscataway based nationwide foodservice company, took a different approach in planning its annual employee picnic. Roma felt that family values were the cornerstone of building/maintaining a successful business. Thus, "Family Day" was created for its employees and their families.

The Family Day committee began meeting in January to plan this celebration, which will be held Aug. 26 on the company's property on

Stanford Rd.

Team members brainstormed making this year's event even better. Employees from Caffè Piancone of South Plainfield have been enlisted to help.

The menu includes traditional favorites, hamburgers, hot dogs, BBQ ribs, potato salad, watermelon and corn on the cob. There's even a pig roast.

Activities, such as an old-fashioned sack race, three legged races, a water balloon toss, a hula hoop contest and

a tug-of-war, will all focus on teamwork and family.

A live band will be playing all day long. The Roma Driving Team and award winning horses will arrive to take the children for wagon rides. Awards will be given to the winners of the Family Day games.

Everything is free, with the exception of a few carnival games. Roma will match and donate the proceeds to charity.

The fun starts at noon and continues all day and into the evening.

To place an ad call 908-668-0010.

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### HELP WANTED

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**Submissions for Classified Advertising should be received no later than noon on Tuesdays.**

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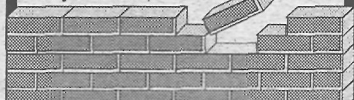
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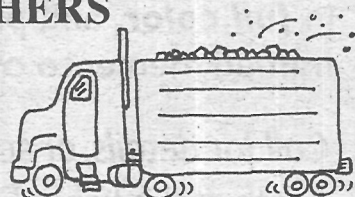
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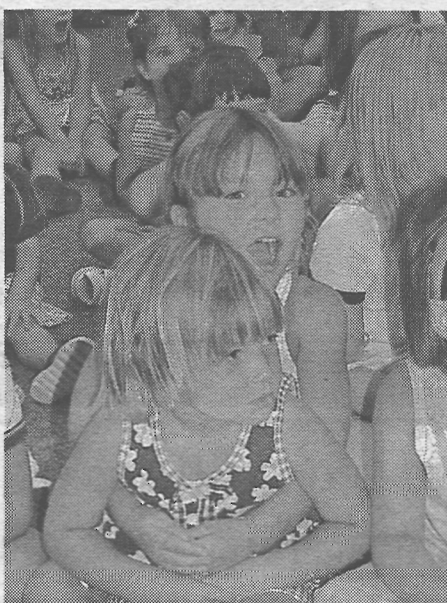
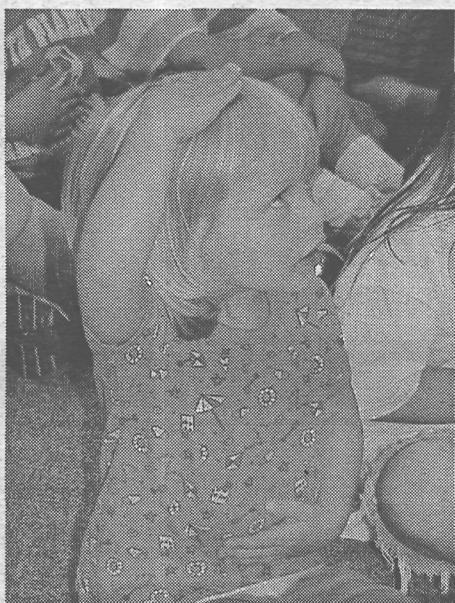
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## Summer Reading Program Ends With Sing-A-Long

By Patricia Abbott

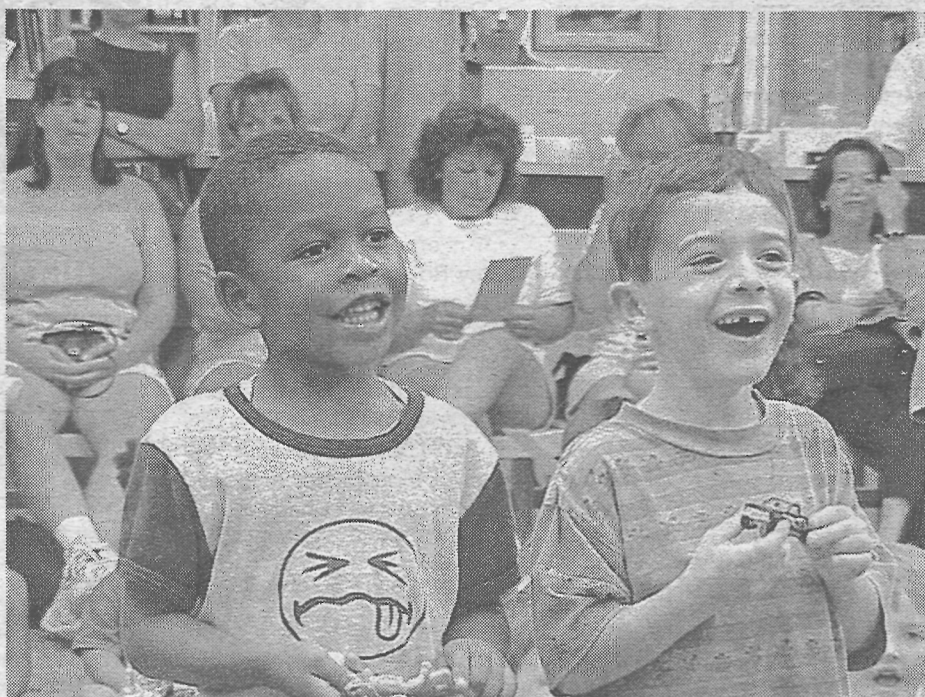
The Library Reading Club's younger members ended the season with a visit from return guest, Children's Music Specialist "Mr. Kurt." The packed room held more than 50 youngsters of varying ages. As Kurt entered the room with his guitar all eyes turned to him and the children's smiles grew wider.

The fun began immediately. The children laughed and sang to Kurt's silly songs and antics. They giggled as they tried to rub their stomachs and pat their heads at the same time. Many in the audience had seen Mr. Kurt before and knew the words to each song. Those experiencing Mr. Kurt for the first time were singing and clapping along in no time at all.

His show involves a lot of audience participation, from singing, to dancing and taking turns at the microphone. His simple use of childish silliness endears him to the

children. He delights them with songs, stories and nonsensical rhymes. Favorite songs included *All Mixed Up* and *Who Fed the Chickens*.

Kurt Gallagher is a children's music specialist. His background started with studies in journalism, with leanings towards the entertainment field. He worked as an assistant manager at "Stand Up NY" and in his own words, "I even toyed with doing comedy myself for about five minutes. I got married in '88, bought a car in '89 and moved to Jersey in 1990." His goal was to be a musician. Friends suggested he try playing music for children. While slow at first, it has been his full time occupation for the past six years. He has recorded three albums, *Call Me Mr. Kurt*, *Try To Fly*, (which was nominated as the best album for toddlers in 1999, by Children's Music Web) and his new album, *When I Was A Kid*. A winter holiday album is also on the way.



## Capture the Moments

If you've seen stories or photos in the Observer that you would like to preserve or give as a gift to a loved one or friend, we can provide you with full-sized reprints of individual pages. We can highlight your photo and story in **full color**, and provide you with a framed memento of your event.

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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GRADUATION'S START ON PAGE 2

**South Plainfield Observer**

**BOARD SAYS YES!**

Police Department Promotes Two Officers, Hires Four More

Father John Alvarado Named Sacred Heart Pastor

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