

South Plainfield Observer

SOUTH PLAINFIELD
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VOL. 4, NO. 4

50 CENTS

SEPTEMBER 22, 2000

Briefs

Senior Housing Applications

Councilman Ed Kubala said that applications for the new senior residence will be available next March or April.

However, a waiting list will be compiled. Anyone interested in applying is asked to send a letter to Borough Administrator Frank Derosa, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield. Be sure to include your name, address and phone number.

Anyone who placed their names on a previous waiting list should please do so again. It has been a while since the list was compiled and many names and addresses are probably outdated.

2000 Budget Hearing Set For Sept. 28

A hearing on the 2000 budget and a tax resolution will be held during next week's council meeting, Thursday, Sept. 28 at 8 p.m. at Borough Hall.

Questions, comments or objections to the budget will be heard at that time. Copies of the budget are available in the clerk's office in Borough Hall.

This year's budget could mean an increase in the municipal tax rate by 5 or 6 points, or approximately \$65 in taxes for the average homeowner.



Firefighters work to extinguish a fire at Middlesex Mall last Saturday.



Fire Causes Evacuation of Middlesex Mall

Last Saturday afternoon, a fire at Kings Chinese Restaurant caused the evacuation of Middlesex Mall.

The fire was caused by a broken propane gas line which ignited a fire that spread from the kitchen to the roof of the restaurant.

Surrounding stores were evacuated immediately and within a half hour, all stores in the mall were closed.

The fire was brought under control within 15 minutes and did not spread to other stores. The mall reopened at approximately 3:30 p.m..

Almost 30 firefighters responded from South Plainfield as well as surrounding areas. Assistance was needed because many local fire personnel were attending the firemen's convention in Wildwood.

"Railcare" Needed for Abandoned Car

Just a few months ago, the mayor and council, along with many volunteers who had worked on restoring the railcar, attended its official dedication.

What has happened since that day? Well, the car has just been sitting on the tracks, waiting for someone to care for it. If you have been reading the police reports,

you may have noticed that the railcar has been vandalized several times in the past few weeks.

Councilwoman Darlene Pinto is looking for a group or organization in town who would like to adopt it. If anyone would like to volunteer, call Councilwoman Pinto at 561-1517.

Board of Education Seeking Alternative Funding For Schools

SEP 22

The Board of Education has a limited number of avenues they can take to fund capital projects. Each year residents are asked to approve a school budget and if voters reject it, the Borough Council has the authority to cut parts of their budget. If the Board wants to expand or build and needs funding, they must hold a referendum asking for taxpayers' approval for the funding.

Rules that govern the Board of Education differ from those of the Borough Council, which can acquire funding by passing an ordinance and doesn't need voter approval to pass their budget. The Board of Ed and the Borough Council are entirely separate and do not have a say in each other's decision making process.

Board of Education rules, regulations and guidelines, which are mandated by both the federal and state government, must be followed under the law. Board members are aware that taxpayers cannot always bear the burden of each mandate and

are actively pursuing both the state and federal government for equalized funding.

Board Member Frank Mikorski spends hours in Trenton talking, complaining and securing advocates to help the district appropriate additional funding. He has been meeting regularly with Speaker Collins, NJ Senate, to lobby for more school funding to help with our budget restraints. "Our kids should be given the same opportunities as the kids in the Abbott Districts," said Mikorski.

Every board member is working for more funding. Last year, because of their diligence in Trenton, the state increased the districts funding by over \$1 million. Their efforts were worth the time they spent.

The state recently passed a bill aimed at helping districts fund new school building and upgrades by as much as 40%. This funding is available in either a cash grant or by paying up to 40% of the debt service.

Continued on page 7



The speed register device indicates a vehicle is speeding as it passes by Franklin School. It will be used in various locations throughout the borough to deter speeders.



South Plainfield makeup artist Alison Scavone-Axelson gets Gina Viola, Kennedy School fourth grader, ready for her part in *Sins of the Father*.

Local Residents Go Hollywood

By Patricia Abbott

Opportunity often knocks but once and South Plainfield resident and makeup artist Alison Scavone-Axelson was lucky enough to answer the call. While browsing the classifieds, Alison noticed an ad by an independent filmmaker seeking volunteers. She talked to the *Observer* about her initial reaction to the ad, "It sounded interesting, I thought about it, but dismissed it. I figured they'd want someone with more professional experience." Then a friend told her about a film that her fiancé was working on. It turned out to be the same film, *Sins of the Father*. The co-

incidence was too much for her; she relented and called the number. Fate stepped into the picture when the voice on the other end of the phone line was that of a man she knew as a teenager, Christopher Rollings of Bound Brook. He also turned out to be the co-author and main character in the film. A visit to the set and an example of her makeup skills immediately earned her a place on the production crew. What began as a search for a paying job turned into an exciting experience that also boosts her career. Alison explained, "I love the work! From the everyday makeup to, my favorite: bullet holes, bruise and blood effects. The crew is the best-

everyone is like family, very tight knit and respectful of each other."

Alison's introduction into the world of film making didn't end with makeup. The workload of the production coordinator was too much for one person to handle and Alison was asked to share the job. Each day she spends hours working behind the scenes, doing a multitude of tasks that range from minuscule to major, seeing to details that are essential to the shooting schedule and ultimately to the success of the film. Among her duties are researching props, locations, and calling actors.

She also recruits extras and poten-

Continued on page 12

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 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 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

October 3, October 17, October 31, November 8 (Thursday),
November 21, December 5, December 19

taxpayers advisory group

The Taxpayers Advisory Group (TAG) meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at Borough Hall at 2480 Plainfield Ave. at 7 p.m.

siteplace sub-committee

The fourth Thursday of the month as follows:

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

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

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

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

board of education meetings

Board Conference Room at Administration Building, on Cromwell Place

Committee of the Whole, Oct. 10, 7 p.m.; Regular Board Mtg. 8 p.m., Oct. 17, 8 p.m.

In My Opinion Letters

To whom it may concern,

I have patiently sat by for the past year and read the many infuriating letters by Tony Pisaniello. It is time for me to speak up.

I am a South Plainfield resident and mother of three young children. In answer to Mr. Pisaniello's question last week—no, I did not purchase a home in South Plainfield for its educational system. In fact, when I moved here I did not have children. But the fact remains that there are problems with the educational system. As far as whose fault it is doesn't really matter. What matters are the children. The children deserve the best education we can provide.

I will probably send my three children through the public school system until middle school and then switch them to private school. Even though I may have to pay higher taxes while my children are in a private school, I will still support the Board of Education's efforts to make the educational system the best it can be. Why? Because I truly believe that it is the responsibility of all of us, as a nation, as a state, as a community. We all have a responsibility, even those who are retired and whose children are no longer in the public school system. Even the ones who have nothing better to do than to write sarcastic letters to the *Observer* every week.

PATRICIA A. McLAUGHLIN
PROUD SOUTH PLAINFIELD
RESIDENT

To the Editor,

The staff at Ricochet Health and Racquet Club and the South Plainfield Alliance for Substance Awareness want to congratulate all the 5K runners and walkers in the 1.5 mile family Fitness Walk for their participation on Labor Day. The over 200 runners and walkers from South Plainfield and many of the surrounding communities had a great time albeit the weather conditions were warm and humid.

The overall male winner was Stephen Lewicki from South Amboy, with a time of 16.03 for the 3.1 mile course. Fourteen-year-old Jessa Jones from South Plainfield placed first in the female division with a time of 21.53. Mark Clifford of Piscataway and Elaine Nestel of Bridgewater finished second overall and first in their age categories.

There are many individuals who have given their time and support to make this tenth annual race/walk a success. Helping the day of the race to register runners and to assist with race management and refreshments were: Kevin Beegle, Eric Beegle, Kathy Beegle, Erin Christie, Tom Cassio, Dennis O'Neill, Frank Vatalare, Nancy Erickson, Robert Hunter, James Lennox and Eileen Lennox.

There are numerous local sponsors who have provided time, donations or financial support to make

this race/walk possible. Gary Hamrah, owner of Ricochet Health and Racquet Club, donates all the free T-shirts to runners as well as one month free club membership for second place winners in each age category. Joe Romer, a South Plainfield resident and owner of Joe Romer Trophy Shop in Edison, donates all the trophies for each age category. Kevin Brown and Tom Kiczula, owners of Sportworld in South Plainfield donate gift certificates for shoes and merchandise for category winners. Home Depot also donates \$50 gift certificates for category first place finishers. Oak Tree Farms donated oranges, Poland Spring donated water and The Bagel Pantry provides bagels for race finishers and walkers. Pre and post race massages were provided by Pat Aiello of The Aiello Chiropractic Center.

A special thanks to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, the Public Celebrations Committee, and the Police Department for providing security, safety, health support for the runners and walkers. There are many business and/or organizations in South Plainfield who also provide financial support or time. They are Buy-Rite Auto Parts, Casablanca is Hair, Ciccio's Pizza, David's Stationery, Domino's Pizza, Flanagan's Restaurant, Giakas Cleaners, James W. Conroy Funeral Home, K.C.'s Korner Bar and Restaurant, McCrisken Home for Furnerals, Mohr's Florist, Physiques in Motion, Presto Printing Service, Rodolfo's Pizza, Sherban's Diner/Restaurant, South Plainfield P.A.L., South Plainfield Liquor Store, South Plainfield Middle School Graphic Arts Department, Spring Lake Texaco Service Center, Twin City Pharmacy and Vail Hardware/Paint Store.

Race results can be obtained on the Internet at www.Best-race.com. Anyone wishing to work with Bill Beegle, race and SPASA coordinator, in organizing next year's race should contact him at the Middle School or call 908-754-4620 ext. 310.

WILLIAM BEEGLE

To the Editor

RE: The South Plainfield School Budget Referendum

In his most recent "survey," Mr. Mikorski, Board of Education president, says he values my opinion. As a voting taxpayer, I have already given him my opinion at the ballot

box. This TWICE defeated referendum started with a \$20+ million price tag. This most recent "survey" omitted the latest proposed price tag. That can only mean that the price has gone up — again. It also means that the Board will continue to squander money from an already depleted budget by continuing to mail and circulate flyers and surveys endorsing its own rejected proposals.

While 80% of our students "intend" to go to college, enrollments in our state are barely average as are the students' scores on national aptitude tests. Yet, our teacher's wages and student costs per year are well above average. We don't spend more to get less at the grocery store, so why would we do that at our schools?

Spending more money is not the answer, nor is making assumptions about the growth rates of our student rolls. Why not wait for the cut before reaching for the band-aids? Within the existing budget, we have managed to accommodate our current students without resorting to the dreaded threat of split sessions. The current situation is obviously tolerable to a majority of the voting taxpayers. If our school system is not adequate for the needs of new residents, they have two choices, they can move elsewhere or a significant number of them will need to vote to increase their own taxes to pay for it.

As a senior citizen and long time resident of this community, I am still waiting for the day when I'll be exempt from the educational portion of my tax bill. Until then, I will be satisfied to see my money spent producing real results in our students, instead of advertising the Board's opinions. This elected body needs to remember that we are not their gullible customers. They are our employees and they should do what their boss has told them to do — not once, but twice.

ANTHONY PELUSO

Submit Letters to the Editor:

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

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

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

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

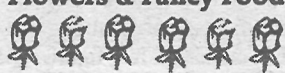
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2. Mail, fax or drop it at: Editorial Department
South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or drop it in the box at Mohn's Flowers on Plainfield Ave. or Twice Is Nice, Front St. or fax us at (908) 668-8819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

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Borough News

Council Notes

■ Commerce Bank purchased the property across the street from Borough Hall for \$300,000. This property was purchased by the borough to build a senior center. However, the new senior center is now being built at the site of the old Shell station on the corner of Lake and Maple Ave. Commerce Bank was the sole bidder for the property.

■ The tax collector has been authorized to put a lien on the following three properties, 101 Cumberland

Ave. for \$592.32; 1125 Sherman Ave. for \$251.70 and 127 Kosciusko Ave. for \$866.60. This is the cost for the borough to clean up properties which are a health nuisance.

■ Building Inspection Underwriters have been appointed as electrical sub-code officials. They were also awarded a contract to perform electrical inspections for a term of three years.

■ Carolyn Allen has resigned from the Business Advisory Group.

Board of Adjustment

■ Michael DeCarlo of DeSepio Ave. was granted a side yard setback variance to construct an 11' x 24' addition.

■ Richard Fulton of Kenyon Ave. was granted a front setback of 19 feet to construct a 15' x 20' attached garage.

■ Ramanda Limited on Hamilton Blvd. was granted preliminary and

final site plan approval for a single story addition, with variances and conditions.

■ Thomas O'Connor was granted a variance to permit the construction of an open porch on his Clinton Terr. property.

■ Ken Buckley of Sussex Street was granted approval to build a 22' x 24' detached garage on his property.

Planning Board

■ Ameriland Inc. was granted a preliminary subdivision approval on Kenneth Ave.

■ Leonard Cursi was granted a preliminary and final subdivision approval with conditions on Kosciusko Ave.

■ AA&G Builders was granted a

waiver request and preliminary subdivision approval with conditions on Spicer, Delmore and Wooden Ave.

■ Coppola Farms previously approved site plan was amended to allow the temporary use of a sales and construction trailer.

Thomas J. Cassidy, M.D. Opens Practice in Plainfield

Thomas J. Cassidy, M.D. is pleased to announce the opening of his Internal Medicine practice, located at 1314 Park Avenue, Plainfield, NJ. He will be associated with Brian J. Cassidy, M.D. and R. Bruce Milligan, M.D. He has also been recently appointed to the Medical Staff at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Plainfield, NJ.

Dr. Cassidy, a lifelong resident of Scotch Plains, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James J. Cassidy. He attended St. Bartholomew the Apostle Grammar School and Union

Catholic Regional High School. Upon graduating Seton Hall University cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology, he attended St. George's University School of Medicine, where he earned his Medical Degree. During medical school, he was a four year recipient of both the Howard G. Lapsley Memorial Scholarship from St. George's University School of Medicine.

Dr. Cassidy has completed a three year Internal Medicine residency at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, Paterson, NJ in June of this year.

Dr. Cassidy is a member of the American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine. He has also been an active member of the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad for the past 13 years.

Dr. Cassidy will be getting married this fall to Ms. Lisa M. Soda of West Caldwell, NJ, and they plan on residing in the local area afterwards.

McCriskin's to Sponsor Balloon Release for War Memorial

Hundreds of red, white and blue balloons will be released over South Plainfield later this year as a part of a nationwide effort to raise money to build a National World War II Memorial in Washington D.C.

Although over 16 million served the war effort in uniform and millions more at home, there is no national memorial to World War II.

About \$75 million of the \$100 million required to build the memorial has already been raised through individual and corporate contributions and sponsorships. The National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA) has pledged to raise \$5 million of the remaining \$25 million needed to construct the memorial.

The memorial will feature a "Registry of Remembrances" database that will include the names of any American, veteran or worker on the home front, for whom registry forms have been received.

The local release of EPA-approved biodegradable balloons is being coordinated by McCriskin Home For Funerals. The nationwide release will occur at the same time (2 p.m. EST) on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2000.

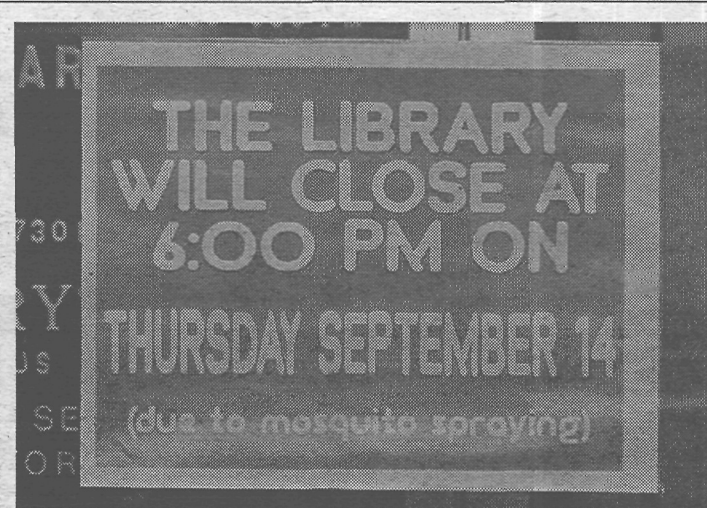
McCriskin is asking everyone to participate in any or all four aspects of the nationwide campaign, called "Celebration of Freedom."

To start, you can sponsor a memorial gift of at least \$10 in exchange for a biodegradable helium balloon. Then join in at the simultaneous nationwide balloon release held at 2 p.m. on Nov. 11 at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Submit the names of men and women who helped in the war effort, whether in the armed forces, or on the home front as a leader of aluminum, rubber and other scrap drives or as a worker in an area plant that was converted to war time production. At no charge whatsoever, that name will be entered into the memorial's special "Registry of Remembrances."

McCriskin is encouraging family members and friends to release the \$10 sponsored balloons in the name of a veteran or home front worker. The person's name can be written on the balloon before it is released. All donations will go help to build the memorial.

Individuals or organizations interest in sponsoring a balloon or who would like further information should contact McCriskin Home For Funerals at (908) 561-8000.



This sign on SP Public Library reflects most of South Plainfield public offices and businesses last Thursday which closed early due to mosquito spraying performed throughout the borough.

Middlesex and Somerset Police Officers Trained as Child Seat Inspectors

Police officers from 16 Middlesex and Somerset County police departments completed specialized training on how to inspect child safety seats for proper use and installation, as part of the state's ongoing effort to promote safety travel for infants and youngsters.

The police officers performed free and voluntary child seat inspections for the public at a local car dealership upon their completion of the four-day, 32-hour training class conducted by the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety (NJDHHS).

"National studies have shown that approximately 80% of all child safety seats are improperly installed," said

Colonel Peter J. O'Hagan, director of the NJDHHS. "We're training law enforcement personnel and other public safety advocates in how to inspect child safety seats so we can help parents ensure that their children are properly protected in the event of a crash."

New Jersey presently has more than 250 trained child passenger safety technicians, with technicians located in each of the state's counties.

Patrolman Vincent Campagna is South Plainfield Police Department's Child Passenger Safety Technician.

A list of upcoming child seat inspections for the public can be viewed at www.njsaferoads.com.

Fire Dept. to Hold Annual Open House

On Sept. 24 from 11 to 4 the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department, in conjunction with the South Plainfield Bureau of Fire Prevention, will hold its annual Open House.

There will be classes in electrical safety held by PSE&G. The Saint

Barnebus Burn trailer will be there to make children aware of everyday hazards that are present in the home.

Smokey the Bear will be there to greet the children and talk about fire safety when out in the woods. There will also be games and prizes for the children.

AIDA SANTOS

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT
BRANCH MANAGER

Valley National Bank

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South Plainfield, NJ 07080

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Corrections



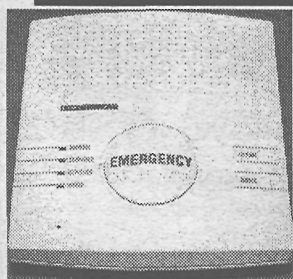
In last week's article, "Senior Housing Becomes a Reality," on page 1 the caption incorrectly listed Dave Crabiel as "Bill Crabiel." We regret the error.

In last week's page 3 "Milestones" column we wished a "Happy Anniversary to the Gallaghers. Mrs. Marion Gallagher was incorrectly identified as "Miriam." We apologize for the error.



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Events

Around Town

Historical Society Resumes Monthly Mtgs.

The Historical Society's monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month in the media center of South Plainfield High school at 7:30 p.m.

Guests are invited to attend all meetings. The group plans to update their archives and any input from the public is welcome.

AARP Events Include Meetings, Dinner Theatre

The AARP Chapter 4144 will meet the third Friday of the month at the PAL on Maple Ave. The needlecrafters of Chapter 4144 AARP will meet every Wednesday at 1 p.m., also at the PAL.

The program for the Oct. 20 meeting will be a slide show and talk about a trip to Wales by Dorothy and Henry Meriwether of South Plainfield. Featured will be Conway and Caernarfon castles, Bodnant Gardens, Tenby and Pembrokeshire Coastal Path. New members and guests are welcome.

You don't have to be a member to take the Oct. 19 trip to The Evergreen Dinner Theater to see the classic revival of "I Remember, Mama." The cost of \$55. includes the meal, the show and transportation from South Plainfield. Call (732) 968-6613 or 752-3764 for reservations. Checks to AARP #4144 are due on sign-up.

Future Stars Parents Tea

A "Welcome Tea" will be held on Thursday, Sept. 21, at 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of Grant School. Your involvement is needed. New ideas are welcome.

VFW Pasta Dinner

The VFW Memorial Post #6763, 155 Front Street, will be holding a Pasta Dinner on Friday, Sept. 22, from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. Donations are \$6.00.

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

Music Booster Festival

On Oct. 22, come hear some wonderful music provided by the South Plainfield High School Marching Band and Chorus under the direction of Mark Tweed, Tracy Murray, Kathy Petrocelli and Angela Gallagher.

You will be amazed and dazzled by what our students can achieve! There will also be good food and fun!!

You will be treated to some wonderful sounds and sights as Marching Bands from around the state perform at our festival. Hope to see you there.

Submit your Events for Around Town:

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

Rescue Squad Ladies Auxiliary Fashion Show

October 22

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad Ladies Auxiliary will be hosting their annual Fashion Show/Brunch on Sunday, Oct. 22, at the Italian American Club, Somerset St., North Plainfield, at 12 noon.

Fashions will be presented by Dress Barn and Fashion Bug, and the Answer Store in Menlo Park. Come out and join your friends and neighbors for an afternoon of food, fun and fashions. Raffles include our traditional holiday baskets, a weekend at the Doubletree Suites, luggage and more exciting prizes.

Tickets are \$25. and can be purchased from any auxiliary member or by calling Joan at (908) 754-8275. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

SPHS Class of 1980 Reunion Slated for Nov.

November 25

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

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

Multi-Class Reunion Planned

An invitation has been extended to all SPHS graduates from Sandi Spisso Connelly and Bobby Cobb, SPHS Class of 1969.

The 1969 alumni are planning a special "Golden 50th Birthday" Class Reunion for May of 2001, to be held as an all day outdoor event at Forest Lodge in Warren. Many people from a diverse range of graduating classes find the idea of a multi-class reunion appealing. It offers an excellent way to renew old friendships. Some classes lack either reunion coordinators, sufficient number of alumni or both.

In view of this interest, we, of the Class of 1969, have opened the invitation for the event to all SPHS alumni. The 60's Boardwalk theme will not only celebrate the class of 1969, but all those who once walked the halls of South Plainfield High School.

Please pass the word to any and all alumni you have contact with. If they have an interest, please contact either Sandy Spisso Connelly or Bobby Cobb at the following email

addresses: spdcon@aol.com or racobb@epix.net.

Events In Surrounding Towns

Woodbridge Wows to Hold Dance/Social

The Woodbridge Widows & Widowers (WOWS), a non-sectarian group sponsored by the Family Life Services of the Diocese of Metuchen, sponsors a dance the third Sunday of each month at the Woodbridge Elks, 665 Rahway Ave., Woodbridge, 7:30 to 11:30.

For more information, call (732) 826-4714 or (908) 757-0515.

Alliance Bible Church to Sponsor 5K Run

September 23

Registration is now being accepted for the Alliance Bible Church "Run To The Son" 5K and one mile fun run to be held at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 23. The run is the kick off event for Fall Frolic Weekend, a weekend of free family entertainment sponsored by the church located on Mt. Horeb Rd. in Warren.

Both races are slated to begin at 9 a.m. and will be held rain or shine.

Advanced race registration is \$10 and must be postmarked before Sept. 10. Race day registration will be \$15 and will begin at 7 a.m. Participating runners will receive a long sleeved race T-shirt and chance to win a 25" Sharp color TV.

The first annual Fall Frolic will be held on Sept. 23 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the church will include live musical performances, stage presentations by clowns, magicians and line

dancers will perform. Admission and parking is free.

Pony rides, a petting zoo, face painting, game and prizes are scheduled for the kids.

To obtain race registration forms, additional information or directions, please contact the church office at (732)469-1425.

Middlesex East Wows to Hold Dance/Social

September 29

The Middlesex East Wows (Widows and Widowers) Carteret Chapter, a non-sectarian group sponsored by the Family Life Services of the Diocese of Metuchen, will hold an All Welcome dance/social on Friday, Sept. 29 at the St. Demetrius Community Center, Roosevelt Ave, Carteret. The group will also sponsor dances on the second Friday of each month as well, 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Members are \$7, guests are \$8.

Also every fifth Friday of the month an open dance is held, where everyone is invited, starting at 7:30. Guests are \$8.00, live music will be featured and refreshments will be served.

For more information, call (732) 826-4714 or (908)757-0515.

St. Joseph's HS Holding Service Auction

October 7

St. Joseph's High School in Metuchen will be holding a 'Service Auction' on Monday, Oct. 7 starting at 6:30 p.m.

Join us for light dinner, beer and wine and bid on services like gourmet dinners, plumbing services, concert tickets and much more.

The cost is \$10. For further information, contact Al Federici at 908-276-1903.

Autumn Craft Fair/3rd Annual Silent Auction

October 14

Hillsborough Presbyterian Church, Route 206 and Homestead Road, Belle Mead, will hold its 15th Annual Craft Fair and third annual Silent Auction on Saturday,

Oct. 14 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Featured are a luncheon counter and a baked goods table, also with theme baskets and gift certificates up for auction.

For more information on how to participate, contact Kathy Schramm at (908)369-6228.

Reunion 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

Family Fun Day Planned

October 28

The Hydewood Park Baptist Church, located on the corner of Manning and Norwood Avenues in North Plainfield will be holding a Family Fun Day on Saturday, Oct. 28 from 1-5 p.m. The event will take place rain or shine. Admission is free.

There will be games, prizes, music, moonwalk, clown, magic show, car wash, face painting, refreshments, crafts, kids' fingerprinting and ID cards, bike inspections, blood pressure check, prayer table and more.

For more information, call (908) 754-6363.

Tourette Support Group Sets Meeting Dates

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 Nov. 14.

The scheduled speaker 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



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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Today marks the beginning of autumn, yet we observed the end of summer weeks ago. Is there some previously unknown season in place during that gap? While you ponder that, here's some news from the South Plainfield Library:

In response to several patron inquiries, our Sunday operating hours return this weekend. We'll be open on Sundays from 1:30-5 p.m. Be sure to check this column and our monthly calendar for changes in that schedule.

The September group of Circuit videos will be available until Monday. Among the titles found in this group are, *End of Days*, *Lake Placid*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Ed Wood*, *Honey, I Blew Up the Kids* and *Fight Club*. The group for October will be ready by early next week. Meanwhile, we're between groups on the Large Print Circuit. A new group of large print books will be available as soon as possible.

Once again, our usual children's Storytime programs have been cancelled this month. They'll be back in October. On the other hand, we've got the special sing along program with Mr. Tim scheduled for Wednesday night at 6:30. No pre-registration is needed. If you'd like more information, ask Children's Librarian Linda Hansen.

The library will host the next monthly Homeschoolers meeting next Friday at 10:30 a.m. You don't have to sign up for this informal meeting.

We've added a number of new videos to our collection. New tapes in our juvenile section include *Saludos Amigos*, *Melody Time*, *Stuart Little* and *Buzz Lightyear of Star Command*, as well as new tapes in the *Magic School*

Bus series. The adult section now features the musical *Top Hat*, the Abbott and Costello comedy/mystery *Who Done It?* and the recent hit, *Erin Brockovich*. More tapes are on the way, so keep your eyes open.

Speaking of videos, and referring back to the previously mentioned Circuit videos, we've moved the display boxes for the Circuit tapes to the rotating rack in front of the circulation desk, the one previously occupied by the Young Adult paperbacks. Those Young Adult paperbacks were moved wwwwaaayyy over to the rotating rack right next to the rotating rack they used to occupy. With all these changes, it can be very easy to lose your bearing when searching our collection. Feel free to ask a staff member for help.

We've been receiving a number of compliments and congratulations at the success of our Summer Reading Club. Looking at the figures, 344 children signed up for the club and read a total of 9,594 books. We'd like to thank all of you who helped make this year's program turn out so well. Now comes the gearing up for next year...

Finally, here's a note about Inter-Library Loan (ILL) books. When other libraries loan us their books for the use of our patrons, they're not permanent loans. In fact, just like any other loan, there's a time limit; further, the loan time may not be the same as the one used by South Plainfield. So, if we call you about the arrival of your ILL book, please pick it up ASAP. That way you'll have the item for the maximum amount of available time.

With that, we'll close things out for this week. See you next time for more Library news.

Historical Society Enjoys Brunch Cruise

By William Tuthill

Last Sunday the South Plainfield Historical Society sponsored the second Brunch Cruise on the Cornucopia Princess.

The weather was perfect and the food was even better. Because so many activities were going on in town, the cruise was a small group of 21. The South Plainfield group mingled with other diners on board and made a lot of new friends.

The committee extends a "thank you" to all those who attended. We hope that next year many more will join us.

Membership renewal forms for the Historical Society will be going out in the mail shortly.

The Historical Society meets the second Tuesday of the month in the library at South Plainfield High School at 7:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Oct. 10. Discussions will include plans for programs for future meetings.

Everyone is invited and welcome to attend the meetings.



South Plainfield residents sailed on a Historical Society-sponsored brunch cruise on the Cornucopia Princess last Sunday.



South Plainfield to Participate in Scotch Plains-Fanwood HS Band Festival

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Music Boosters Association is proud to announce the Second Annual Scotch Plains Fanwood Marching Band Festival on Sunday, Sept. 24 at the Perry Tyson Athletic Field in Scotch Plains.

Marching bands from seven high schools in Central New Jersey will take the field to strut their stuff. Scheduled to compete are Linden, Old Bridge, South Plainfield, West Orange, Carteret and J.P. Stevens. The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Raider Marching Band will also participate in the festival. However, in the tradition of marching band competitions, the Raider Marching Band, as the host band, will perform in exhibition only, not in competition.

For those who haven't seen a

Marching band in action in many years, you should be prepared to be not only entertained but thoroughly impressed by the performances presented by these students. The bands blend intricate musical arrangements, precision marching movements and graceful dance routines.

Students spend many hours rehearsing for half-time shows at football games, as well as for competitions. Most schools have the students attend a "band camp" for two weeks at the end of the summer for non-stop drilling of the routines. Once school opens, rehearsals are held in the early mornings, after school, in the evenings and on weekends in order to polish and perfect the performances during the fall season.

At the competitions, the bands

are judged in several areas, including best music, best front squad, best percussion, best drum majors and best overall performance. Trophies are usually presented for first, second and third place in each category.

Tickets are available at the high school football field on the day of the festival. The admission fee is \$6 for adults and \$4 for students and senior citizens. Children under ten are admitted free.

Gates open at 12 noon. The first band is scheduled to perform at 1 p.m. A variety of refreshments will be available throughout the afternoon.

Perry Tyson Field is located behind Scotch Plains Fanwood High School on Westfield Road in Scotch Plains.

Join the South Plainfield Bldg. Dept. at a Retirement Party for John Allen

Where: Caffé Piancone When: Oct. 19, 2000
Time: 7-11 p.m. Cost: \$35 p.p. (includes gift)

RSVP to Jean Sherwood or John Pabst by Oct. 12 at SP Bldg. Dept., 2480 Plainfield Ave. (908) 226-7640-Jean or (908) 226-7644 (John)

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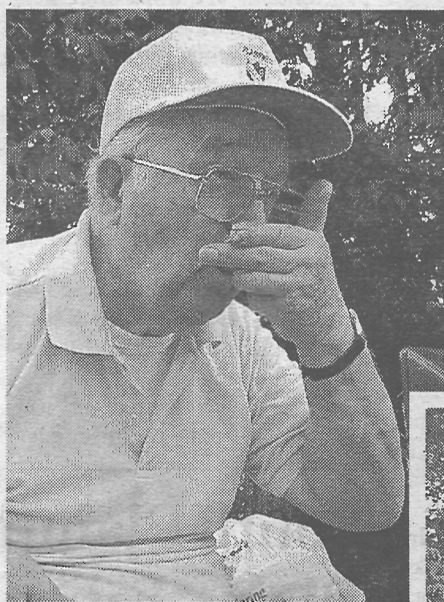
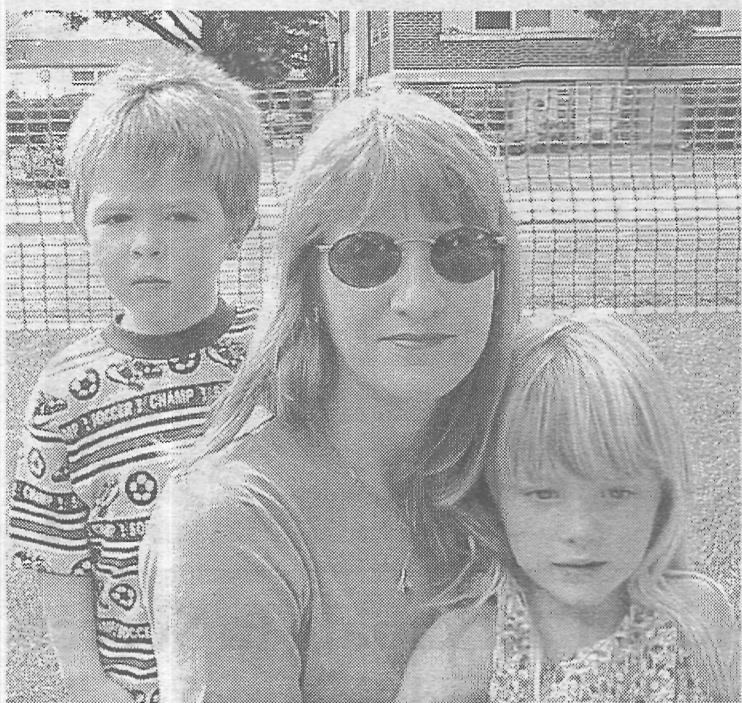
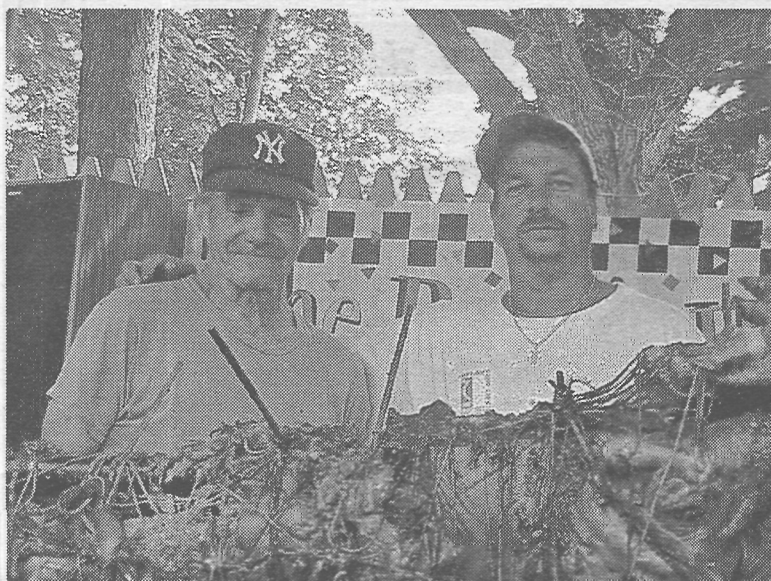
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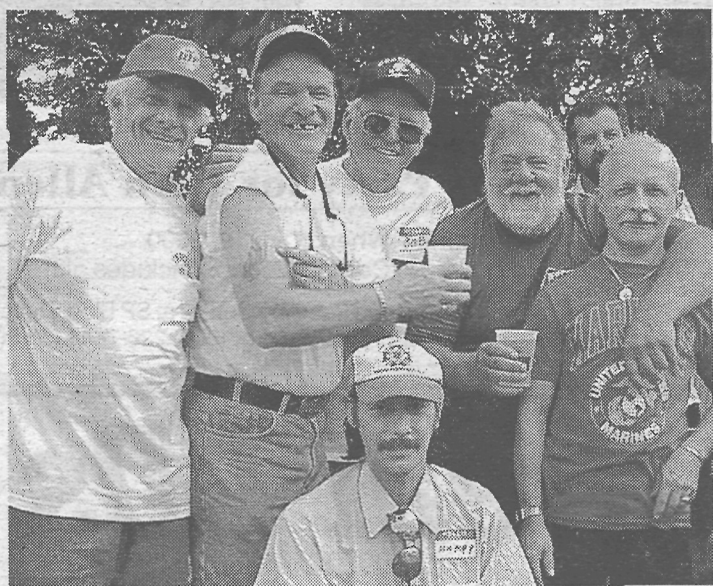
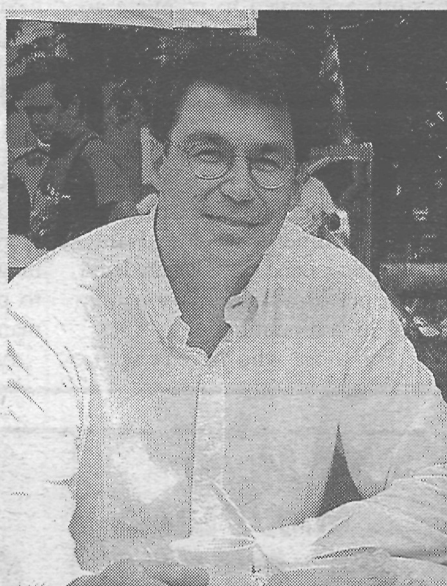
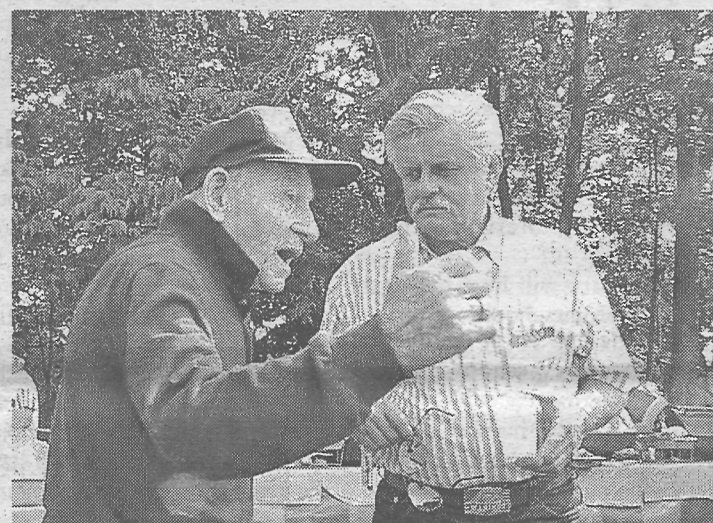
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The Annual Percentage Yields (APYs) are available as of publication date. The minimum balance to obtain the APY is \$500. For CDs with maturities of less than 12 months, the APY is calculated on the assumption that the funds could be reinvested at maturity at the same rate. For CDs with maturities of 12 months or more, funds must remain on deposit until maturity to earn the APY. Rates are subject to change and may be discontinued without prior notice. A penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal.

*The APY shown for the 8-month, 14-month and 18-month CDs includes .15%, .10% and .15% bonus interest respectively, payable if you have a Columbia Savings Bank Advantage PLUS Checking Account. If at any time during the term of your CD, your checking account is not maintained, you will earn the regular CD Annual Percentage Yield.



THE ANNUAL VFW PICNIC offered visitors perfect picnic weather, hot and summery, but not overwhelming. Picnickers of all ages filled the side lawn of the VFW. Some sat at tables under canopies, while others enjoyed their food under the bright sun. Music by the "Happy Tones" filled the air and brought some people to their feet to dance. As the pig was slowly roasted those who couldn't wait to eat had a huge selection of food from which to choose. Soda and beer flowed freely. Steamed clams were available for purchase. A moonwalk offered youngsters a place to play. A clown, with an assistant, arrived in the afternoon to entertain children with magic tricks.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Students "Go For the Gold" In Reading Program

South Plainfield School students have been asked to join this year's Olympic athletes and "Go For the Gold" in the district wide "Reading Olympics." In the two-week program, which runs from Sept. 15 through Oct. 1, students can earn "bronze," "silver" or "gold" certificates by reading each day. Students are eligible to earn all three awards.

Parents can earn a "+" for their children by reading their own books along with the students.

Fifty minutes of reading will earn students the "bronze," 100 minutes will earn the "silver" and 150 minutes, the "gold."

Students will receive certificates and bookmarks for their accomplishments.

Petronko/Cusick Proud of Democratic Record

Democratic Councilperson Ray Petronko and his running mate, Bob Cusick, ask all residents of South Plainfield to look at the record of accomplishment of the mayor and council before casting their vote this November. Ray Petronko said, "There's an old joke that says most politicians stand on their record because they are afraid you will look at it if they get off of it. Well in South Plainfield, it's different. Bob Cusick and I want the voters to examine the record of your Democratic Mayor and Council. We are confident that you will

agree that good things are happening in our Borough."

Bob Cusick agreed with Councilperson Petronko, "Just drive around town and see all of the good things that are going on. The addition, which will double the recreational facilities for our kids at the P.A.L., is already underway. Within the next couple of weeks, the old Shell station will be demolished so that our new 10,000 square foot Senior Recreation Center can be built. Just this Tuesday, the ribbon was cut on the new 100 unit senior housing project on Morris Av-

enue. At the same time over 80 roads have been repaved, our parks upgraded, our library and municipal complex improved, and our police, fire, rescue squad and emergency managements services given the equipment they need to keep us safe and secure. Ray Petronko is too modest to say so, but he has been an integral part of the process which has brought these improvements to South Plainfield."

Ray Petronko summed up the Democrats' position, "I'm excited to run with someone of Bob Cusick's ability, energy and dedica-

tion. He has already distinguished himself as a member of our Planning Board and Environmental Commission. He will be a welcome addition to our borough council. Obviously, Vinnie Buttiglieri's shoes will be hard to fill, but Bob Cusick is committed to continue the programs which have made South Plainfield the best community in Middlesex County. Please look at the record and vote for the candidates that will keep a good thing going.

—Bob Cusick and Ray Petronko

Arts and Kids to Award \$38K in Prizes and Scholarships

Arts and Kids is pleased to announce that \$38,000 in prizes and scholarships will be awarded this year in its Annual Art Competition. Students from the South Plainfield area, particularly beginners, are welcome to try to win their share of over 115 prizes. The deadline for the contest is Dec. 31, 2000. The contest is open to everyone 17 years of age and younger and entry is free.

"Everyone will enjoy an equal

chance of winning the contest since entrants will be judged using age-appropriate standards," stated Deidra Hampt, contest director. "Many of the artists who enter this contest will gain national recognition through the publication of their artwork," continued Hampt.

In addition to the 115 scholarships and prizes totaling \$38,000 that will be awarded to young artists, a \$1,000 grant will be

awarded to the schools of the five finalists for art education or to provide supplies or art-related technology.

To enter, send one original work of art, any style and any medium. All entries must include the child's name, address and age on the back. Artwork should be sent to: *Arts and Kids*, Suite 101-2112, 3600 Crondall Lane, Owings Mills, MD 21117. Entries must be postmarked by Dec.

31, 2000. Artwork cannot be returned.

Arts and Kids is an organization dedicated to bringing the work of young artists to the public's attention. In the last ten years, they have awarded over \$100,000 to talented artists, most of whom have never before entered—or expected to win—any type of artistic competition. Visit their website at www.ArtsandKids.com.

Alternative Funding Sought

Continued from page 1

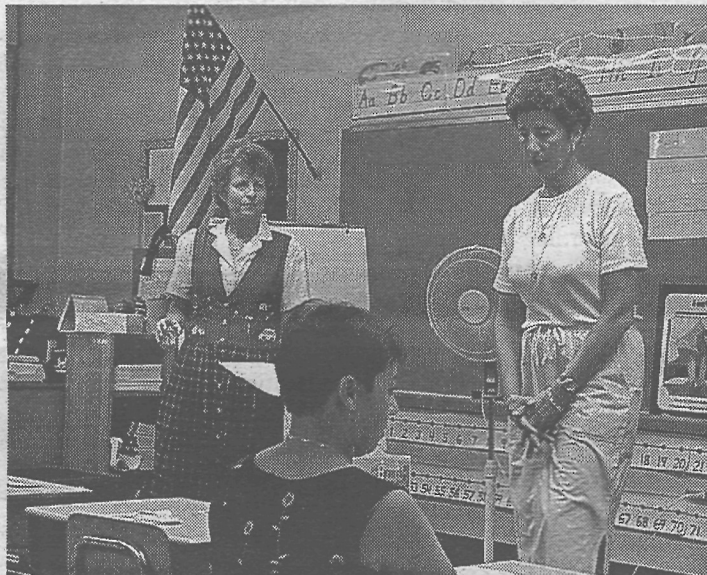
Board members are planning to apply for this funding to help reduce the costs of the bond they are in the process of completing for either a new school or expansion of the present schools.

In a bill passed in 1971, the Federal government agreed to support 40% of the costs for special education children. A special education child can cost the district more than \$40,000. So far, our district has received only 12% of the costs. Board members are working with both local and national politicians to get this funding released.

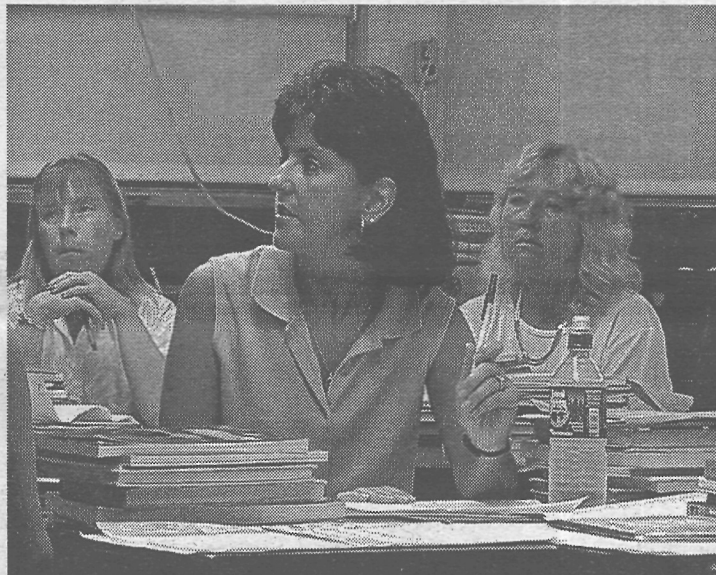
Board members want residents to know they are looking at all avenues for funding, not just to the taxpayers.

Residents should also actively participate in obtaining funding for the district. Write both your state and federal congressman or senator and ask why school districts are not given funding for mandates imposed upon them. To get more involved ask Frank Mikorski for the names of those officials with whom he is meeting and write a letter, or email them and put some pressure on those who hold the purse strings.

Parents Go "Back to School" at Kennedy School



Parents of Kennedy School students attend the annual "Back to School Night" to meet their children's teachers.



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

Weekdays 9:00 a.m. (church)

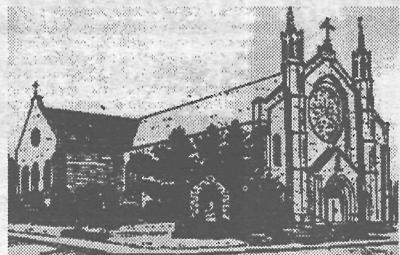
Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.

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



Sports

U-12 Girls Traveling Soccer Off To a Blazing Start

South Plainfield Blaze U-12 Girls traveling soccer team opened the season against East Brunswick Emeralds with a 2-nil win.

Defense was the key to our success last year and could prove the same this year. With the acquisition of six new girls in the off season, our defense seems tougher than ever. In as keeper for the whole game, Becky Keller was invincible with over six saves and produced her first shutout. Our sweeper Jackie Miller and stopper Elizabeth Flannery, stopped all attacks in the middle with Ashleigh Gaspari, Jenna DeLillo, Megan Boyle, Tiffany Smith and Katelyn Conrad handling all attacks wide in our fullback wing positions.

Our two first half scores were done in spectacular style. With the speed of Ashley Little and Joy Maszczak, who shared our left attacking positions and helped to

keep the defense off guard, Kate Hardy was able to blast in a score from the right side.

Blaze 1- Emeralds 0—That score in the 14th minute came off an assist from Jennifer Copeland, who with help from Dorian Bishop, dominated our center mid positions and controlled the tempo of the game. In the 22nd minute Blaze was awarded a direct kick, when Emerald's keeper stepped outside the eighteen. Facing a wall and not to be out done, Kate Hardy sailed a shot to the upper right corner for the second score.

Blaze 2-Emeralds 0—The second half produced the same kind of strong defense we saw in the first half, allowing our halfback Lauren Fry and center mid Dorian Bishop multiple shots on goal. Great team effort. Congratulations girls! Visit our web site www.soplfdsoccerclub.com

—Submitted by Tom Hardy

SP Fire Traveling Soccer Teams Home Opener

The Fire played their first game of the fall season this Sunday against the Montgomery Eagles and it was very exciting.

The game took place at the Franklin school field. Visitors at the game were all rewarded with exciting play from both teams. Late in the first quarter, the Fire struck first with a great shot from Johnathan Llereana. The second quarter was a battle between both teams with great defense by Dylan Pops in goal and Gregory Herbster at right fullback.

The Fire controlled the mid-field most of the quarter and scored their second goal by moving the ball up the sidelines and crossing the ball to Johnathan Llereana who didn't hesitate to put the ball into the net. The third quarter produced no score from either team as the Fire and Eagles continued to battle it out. Richie Szeliga played an excellent quarter in goal by throwing his body on a shot that looked like a sure goal from the Eagles.

The fourth quarter kept everyone sitting on the edge of their seats. About half way through the quarter, the Eagles scored their first goal. It was a great shot from outside the 18 yard line. There was no way Gregory Herbster in

goal could stop it.

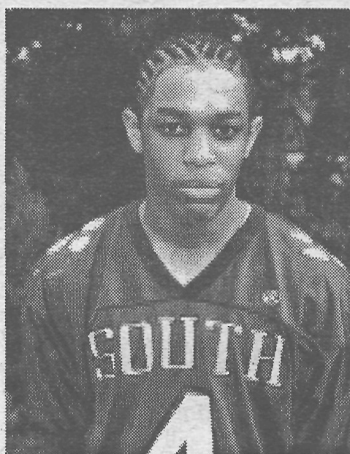
The Fire switched to a prevent-defense, led by Kyle Pompilio and Riley Hubner. The Eagles kept constant pressure on the Fire, but the fire just kept fighting. In the end, The Fire won with the score Fire 2, Eagles 1.

Coach Scot Bishop and Paul Baldassarre could not be have been any happier with the way the team played. The coaches would also like to welcome the new players to the team this fall season, Michael Farrel, Michael McHugh, Richie Zeliga and Kyle Junge. Thanks to all the parents for their support, Good luck FIRE for the rest of the season and to Riley Hubner LETS GO FIRE (O.K.!!).

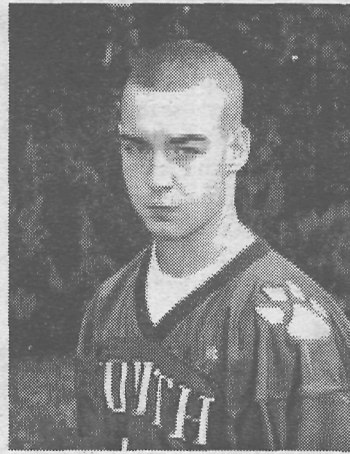
Submitted by Coach Baldassarre

HS Boys Soccer To Play Friday

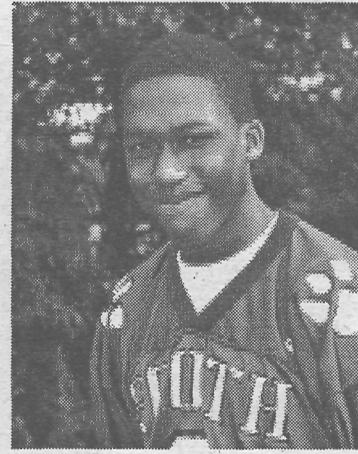
The South Plainfield High School Boy's Soccer Team will play a home night game against Perth Amboy High School on Friday, Sept. 22. The game will be played at Frank R. Jost Athletic Stadium behind the P.A.L. building. Kickoff is at 7:00 p.m. Admission is free.



Rodney Jones



Andrew Fyffe



Eric Forde

SPHS Tigers Fall to Colonia 28-21

The South Plainfield Tigers football team played their second home game in as many weeks and after the first four minutes it looked as if the Tigers would bounce back from last weeks loss to Rahway and pummel the Patriots from Colonia.

Not only did Eric Forde take the first play from scrimmage 68 yards to pay dirt, but teammate Andrew Fyffe nearly matched the feat with a 47-yard scamper of his own on the very next offensive snap to put the Tigers deep into Colonia territory.

The Tigers failed to score on this drive, but all signs pointed to the offensive line dominating up front. The defense also showed their claws early by forcing the

Patriots to go "three and out" on their first two possessions.

Colonia eventually got on the board with a four yard dive early in the second quarter, but the Tigers answered that with another Eric Forde touchdown run, this one from ten yards out with 4:05 left in the half. Forde also picked off a pass in the second quarter, only to see the Patriots pick it back seven plays later then proceed to tie the score 14-14 going to half time.

The second half opened with fireworks once again, as sophomore Rodney Jones intercepted

a pass, taking it back 30 yards to the end zone to put us up 21-14.

The fourth quarter began and so did the self destruction, as the Tigers fumbled deep in Patriot territory and Colonia capitalized on the next play, plunging in from 9 yards out to tie the score 21-21.

The ensuing kick-off produced another Tiger fumble and once again Colonia punched it in four plays later for the final score. Eric Forde carried the ball eleven times for 84 yards, while Andrew Fyffe carried 17 times for 122 yards.

The Tigers next home game is Sept. 28 against North Brunswick. squad.

Pop Warner Football Results

This past Sunday was the first game of the season for the South Plainfield Pop Warner Eagles. They swept all the Divisions of Play against New Providence. The results were as follow:

Mighty Mites - Won a very close game 7-0 thanks to a rushing touchdown by Nick Heilmann (32), with a great block from Mike Wagner (36). Some of the other standouts were Seth Yocum (76), Mike Jeffreys (64), Thomas Katowich (75) and Shaun Boyle (49).

Junior Pee Wees - Won 25-6 thanks to two touchdowns by Garrett Lake (77), one touchdown by Mark Wagner (18) and one by Jake Williams (33). Other standouts were Billy Ashnault (2), Bernie Gibson (23), Brad Martin (73) and Jordan Petriello.

Junior Midgets - Won 13-0 with two touchdowns, one from Anthony Costante (12) and the other from Justin Hoffsmith (27). Other standouts were Mike Jakobik (25), Mike Doomes (25), Debarius Alfred (45) and Fred Cummings (86).

Midgets - Won 26-6 with two

touchdowns each from Ryan Kenny (28) and Marquis Jones (9). Other standouts were Jamar Beverly (2), Charlie Leon (30), Bill Merkler (83), Chris Jones and many others.

Flag - Standouts were Eric Lake (19), Austin Jenkin (38), Ryan Hughes (34), Tyler Hunt (1), Troy Heilmann (8), Joe Jakobik (16) and Jeffrey Conroy (7).

Punt, Pass & Kick Contest

The South Plainfield Pop Warner Club will be hosting the local 2000 NFL Gatorade Punt, Pass & Kick Contest.

The local contest takes place at the South Plainfield Pop Warner Field on Kenneth Ave. on Saturday, Sept. 23 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Registration starts at 8:45 a.m. The contest is open to boys and girls ages 8 to 15 from any town and must bring their birth certificate.

If you have any questions, call Craig Berkowitz at (908) 753-6361 or (908) 253-2542 at work.

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Columbiettes Sponsoring Chinese Auction

The South Plainfield Columbiettes are sponsoring a Chinese style auction on Friday, Oct. 6 in the cafeteria of Sacred Heart School. Doors will open at 6 p.m. and drawings will start at 7:30 p.m. The \$6 admission includes a sheet of auction tickets and a door prize for all who attend.

There will be over 250 prizes, including a shopping spree TV/VCR combo, espresso/cappuccino coffee bar, bake and broil toaster oven, Kitchen Aid mixer and accessories, dishware, blender with mixes, music boxes, 50 baskets filled with assorted merchandise, autographed sports items, sports tickets for the New Jersey Nets, Rutgers football and Patriots baseball, theater, opera and symphony tickets, gift certificates and much more.

An added table this year will include a boy and girl's Christ-

mas stocking, valued at over \$75 each. All proceeds from this table will be donated to the Children's Specialized Hospital.

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

Upcoming events for the Columbiettes also include a shopping trip to Reading, Pa. on Saturday, Nov. 4 at \$18; a Country Western dinner dance on Saturday, Nov. 18 at Bobby & Mary's in Piscataway; and a Christmas show and dinner at the Spinning Wheel Inn in Conn. on Saturday, Dec 2 for \$50. All events are open to the public. For information or tickets for any of these trips, call Mary Ann at (908) 226-1222.

Observer Readers Quickly Identify Local Landmarks

The two pictures of South Plainfield landmarks past and present which appeared in last week's *Observer* stirred quite a few memories. The first to identify the Sons of Italy marker was Emil Leporino. Sorry, Emil, you don't get a prize, just a pat on the back!

Next Frank Kertes arrived at the *Observer* office. He identified the Knotty Pine Diner. Frank worked there in his younger years and remembers several of the other employees. Great job, I didn't think anyone would know that landmark.

The Knotty Pine Diner photo was taken in 1959 and came from Margo Mann, who is organizing the 1959 reunion along

with her husband Jerry and classmate Helen Tetenburg.

Then Lou Spisso called. He also identified the Sons of Italy stone marker, which by the way is the Pic-A-Toy building, located on South Plainfield Ave. Lou is a true native of South Plainfield. He was born here when the town was still part of Piscataway. He added a few more nicknames. Cherry Dell, which was located in town next to the cemetery on Clinton Ave., and Holly Park, which was located near the present PAL building.

Lou also thinks he can identify almost half of the men in the picture of the 1944 firehouse and we are going to let him give it a try. We will try to publish the picture again with their names.



Right on Schedule...

The Pal expansion is moving right along. The foundation has been completed. The next step is putting in the rough plumbing and electric and then the slab can be poured.

Setting a Place at the Table for Everyone

Each year, 31 million Americans will worry each day about where they will get their next meal. Twelve million of them are children. But once again, The Pampered Chef® is doing something about it.

The Pampered Chef, a multi-million-dollar direct selling company that markets kitchen prod-

ucts through in-home cooking demonstrations, will launch its annual *Round-Up from the Heart* corporate-giving campaign on Sept. 1.

This unique campaign is a team effort among The Pampered Chef's customers, independent contractors, corporate employees and America's Second Harvest, the largest domestic hunger-relief charity in the United States. Last year's \$1,000,000 donation brought the *Round-Up campaign's* nine-year total to just over \$4 million, which is more than any other promotional sponsor in America's Second Harvest's history.

The Pampered Chef's 60,000 independent contractors across the country promote the Round-Up from the Heart campaign during the kitchen shows they conduct between Sept. 1 and Feb. 28. Customers contribute to the campaign by rounding up their purchase totals to the nearest dollar

or more. These funds are then sent to America's Second Harvest food banks in the region where the donations originate, making this a national program with a local impact.

The customers can also purchase a special collectors' cookie mold, and The Pampered Chef will donate \$1 for each mold that is purchased. In addition, the administrative costs of the program, which include salaries and supplies, are contributed by the company.

"We are committed to helping set a place at the table for everyone," says Pampered Chef Founder and President Doris Christopher. "Our partnership with America's Second Harvest has allowed us to address the growing hunger crisis in America."

For more information, contact Marie Markey at 908-755-3213 or email MMPmprChf@aol.com.

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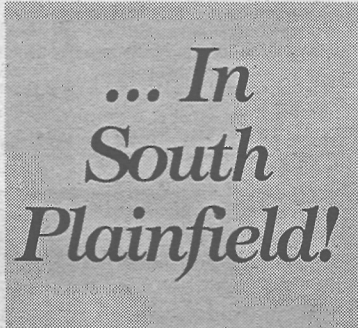
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Obituaries

Hazel Stewart Pyatt, 101

Hazel Stewart Pyatt of South Plainfield, died on Saturday, Sept. 16 at Green Brook Manor Nursing Home in Green Brook.

She was born in Brooklyn and was a former resident of Plainfield, before moving to South Plainfield 75 years ago.

As a young woman Mrs. Pyatt was a musician playing the mandolin, guitar and the banjo in an ensemble formed by her late uncle, the renowned William Stewart and played in many social events throughout the Plainfield area.

During WWII Mrs. Pyatt was involved with the American Red Cross chairing many benefits to help raise funds for the British and American War Relief.

Mrs. Pyatt was a writer and composed a book of poems relating to nature, people and inner thoughts interspersed with pen and ink sketches. Genealogy was her favorite hobby, tracing the Stewart and the Pyatt families. The information was compiled and put into family books to be enjoyed by her family and friends.

Her husband Melvin G. Pyatt died in 1972, and her son Melvin Maxwell Pyatt died in 1992.

She is survived by two daughters, Shirley Boguski of South Plainfield and Jean Loupassakis of Jamesburg; five grandchildren, Craig Loupassakis of Branchburg, Gary Loupassakis of Watchung, Karen Loupassakis of Perineville, Diane Burkhour of Somerset and Bruce Boguski of Phil-

lipsburg. Also surviving are eight great grandchildren and three great great grandchildren.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, 2520 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

Helen B. Eckel, 74

Helen Eckel of Belleville died on Tuesday, Sept. 12 at John F. Kennedy Medical Center in Edison.

Born in Jersey City, Ms. Eckel had resided in Jersey City for most of her life. She later moved to South Plainfield, where she lived for three years before settling in Belleville four years ago.

She had been employed as a Payroll clerk for the I.B.E.W. Local #164 and #153 of Hackensack before her retirement 10 years ago.

She is predeceased by her brother, Peter J. Eckel Sr., who died in May of 1994.

Surviving are her nieces, Pat Meleo of Jackson Township, Cindy Eckel of Richmond, Va., and Sally Gillis of South Plainfield; two nephews, Peter J. and Phillip Eckel, both of South Plainfield, a sister-in-law, Sally Eckel of Toms River and her dear friend with whom she resided, Joan Rummeler of Belleville. Also surviving are 11 great nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Mona I. Pratt, 52

Mona I. Pratt Johnson of South Plainfield died on Friday, Sept. 15 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

She was born in Cambridge, Mass. and has resided in South Plainfield for the last 23 years.

Mrs. Johnson was a project manager for Telecordia Technologies in Piscataway.

She loved making crafts and doing ceramics, needle point and quilting and was an avid reader.

She is survived by her beloved husband, Niel Johnson; her daughter, Nora Johnson; her parents, Saul and Harriet Pratt and her sister Susan Shosa.

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

Beauty

Hillside Cemetery's gentle slopes are dotted with stately trees and evergreens. Flowering trees and bushes accent the grounds. The serene landscape is meticulously attended and renowned for its care and upkeep. All lots are fully developed areas and include perpetual care. Located on Woodland Avenue in Scotch Plains, a non-profit organization. 908.756.1729

Hillside Cemetery
www.hillsidecemetery.com

PUBLIC NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Steve and Denise Litrean requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the erection of an 18' x 16' wood deck. Proposed deck lacks the required 20' rear setback, 17' being proposed; and any other such variances that may be required, said property being located on Block 365 Lot 10.05 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, October 17, 2000, in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

The maps and documents pertaining to this appeal are available for public inspection in the Building Inspector's Office, South Plainfield Borough Hall, Monday through Thursday, between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm.

\$35.00 1T Sept. 22, 2000

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

September 14, 2000

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Planning Board of the Borough of South Plainfield at its meeting held on September 12, 2000.

Case No. 00-04-AA&G Builders-Block 379; Lot 6; R-10 Zone; Applicant's request for preliminary subdivision approval for a three lot subdivision was hereby GRANTED, with conditions.

Case No. 00-05/V-Fourth MPPL Realty-Block 362; Lot 6.01; R-10 Zone; Applicant's request for preliminary subdivision approval was hereby GRANTED to construct two single family dwellings, with conditions.

Case No. 00-07-Leonard Cursi-Block 346; Lots 5.01; 9 & 10; R-10 Zone; Kosciusko Ave.-Applicant's request for preliminary and final subdivision approval was hereby GRANTED, with conditions.

Case No. 99-14-AmeriLand, Inc.-Block 368; Lots 2, 3, 4, 7 & portion of 6.01; R-10 Zone; Kenneth Ave.-Applicant's request for preliminary subdivision approval was hereby GRANTED, with conditions.

Janice J. Muccilli, Recording Secretary
Planning Board

\$27.00 1T Sept. 22, 2000

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

Ordinance #1546 entitled: **AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE CONSTRUCTION SPEED LIMIT FOR BOTH DIRECTIONS ON STELTON ROAD** was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Borough Council on Monday, September 18, 2000 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ATTEST:
Mary Blue/Deputy Municipal Clerk

\$15.00 September 22, 2000

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

Ordinance #1095B entitled: **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"** was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Borough Council on Monday, September 18, 2000 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ATTEST:
Mary Blue/Deputy Municipal Clerk

\$15.00 September 22, 2000

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

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 THE PURCHASE OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO PITT STREET PARK** was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Borough Council on Monday, September 18, 2000 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ATTEST:
Mary Blue/Deputy Municipal Clerk

\$15.00 September 22, 2000

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

Ordinance #1545 entitled: **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** was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Borough Council on Monday, September 18, 2000 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ATTEST:
Mary Blue/Deputy Municipal Clerk

\$15.00 September 22, 2000

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

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

Ordinance #1548 entitled: **AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE EXCHANGE OF LANDS BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD AND LAWRENCE J. MASSARO, PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF NEW JERSEY STATUTE 40A:12-16 et. seq.** be adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, September 22, 2000 and that a public hearing be held Thursday, October 12, 2000 at 8:00 PM in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey.

Approved September 18, 2000

Daniel J. Gallagher/Mayor

ATTEST:
Mary Blue/Deputy Municipal Clerk

ORDINANCE NO. 1548

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE EXCHANGE OF LANDS BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD AND LAWRENCE J. MASSARO, PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF NEW JERSEY STATUTE 40A: 12-16 et seq.

WHEREAS, the Borough of South Plainfield is the owner of property known as Block 367, part of Lot 2 as set forth in Appendix A attached hereto, and

WHEREAS, Lawrence J. Massaro is the owner of property known as Block 372, Lot 1.01 which property is shown on the tax and assessment map of the Borough of South Plainfield currently in use, and

WHEREAS, the Borough of South Plainfield by its Mayor and Council, deems it is in the public interest that the Borough of South Plainfield to acquire title to Block 372, Lot 1.01 in exchange for Block 367, part of Lot 2 and the payment of \$93,500.00 to equalize the value of the exchange, and

WHEREAS, it is further deemed that the land to be exchanged by the Borough of South Plainfield is not needed for public purpose or use and that the land to be acquired by the Borough of South Plainfield is more advantageous to the Borough of South Plainfield for public use, and

WHEREAS, it is further deemed that the property of the Borough of South Plainfield and the property of Lawrence J. Massaro in addition to a payment of \$93,500.00 by Lawrence J. Massaro will be of equal value, and

WHEREAS it is proposed that Lawrence J. Massaro convey the aforesaid property to the Borough of South Plainfield in exchange for Block 367, part of Lot 2 as shown on the tax and assessment maps currently in use by the Borough of South Plainfield, and;

WHEREAS, it is further deemed that it is in the public interest that said exchange be consummated.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, THAT

SECTION 1. The Mayor and Borough Clerk be authorized to execute and deliver to Lawrence J. Massaro, a bargain and sale deed, conveying Block 357, part of Lot 2 without covenants and without representations as to marketability of title. In the event Lawrence J. Massaro shall determine that title to the property in question shall not be good and marketable, any questions relating to the marketability of title shall be submitted to the Borough of South Plainfield through the Borough Clerk's Office within 45 days from the date of this ordinance. In the event that questions have not been raised within said 45 day period, then and in that event all questions relating to the marketability of title shall be deemed waived and this matter shall proceed to closing of title within 90 days of the date of adoption of this ordinance.

SECTION 2. The conveyance of Block 367, part of Lot 2 shall be made subject to easements both of record and not of record, restrictions of record, the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield as presently constituted without any representations as to the use which said property can be put, receipt from Lawrence J. Massaro of a deed conveying good and marketable title to Block 372, Lot 1.01 free and clear of all encumbrances and taxes paid to the date of closing.

SECTION 3. Good and marketable title to the property to be conveyed to the Borough of South Plainfield shall be evidenced by a title insurance policy issued by a duly licensed and qualified title insurance company of the State of New Jersey.

SECTION 4. Prior to adoption of this Ordinance, Lawrence J. Massaro will obtain a Letter of Interpretation for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection verifying the absence of wetlands, wetland transition areas and/or State Open Waters on the property known as Block 372, Lot 1.01.

SECTION 5. This conveyance shall be subject to the conditions of sale attached hereto as Appendix B.

SECTION 6. This ordinance shall take effect immediately after publication in the manner provided by law.

Daniel J. Gallagher/Mayor

ATTEST:
Mary Blue/Deputy Municipal Clerk

CONDITIONS OF SALE LAND EXCHANGE

1. Conveyance by the Borough of South Plainfield shall be by Bargain and Sale Deed, without covenants and without representations as to the marketability of title. In the event that the purchaser shall determine that title of the property in question shall not be good and marketable, any questions as to the marketability of title shall be submitted to the Borough Clerk's office within forty-five (45) days of the date of sale. In the event said questions have not been raised within said forty-five (45) day period, then and in that event all questions relating to the marketability of title shall be deemed waived and this matter shall proceed to closing of title within ninety (90) days of the date of sale.

2. Easements, both of record and not of record.

3. Restrictions of record

4. Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield as presently constituted without representations as to the use to which said property can be put.

5. In the event that the purchaser is unable to close title within ninety (90) days of the date of the sale, they shall forward to the Borough of South Plainfield a check representing the balance of the purchase price, if any, to be placed in the general fund of the Borough.

6. In the event that the purchaser fails or refuses to close title and/or pay the consideration therefore within the ninety (90) day period, then in that event, the Borough of South Plainfield, may, by resolution of the Mayor and Council, declare the transaction null and void.

7. Prior to or at the time of adoption of the Ordinance authorizing the exchange by the Mayor and Council (second reading), ten percent (10%) of the difference in value, if any, plus \$1,000.00 shall be paid by the purchasers representing the cost of appraisal, legal fees, advertising and associated costs incurred by the Borough. In the event that the appraisal has been previously paid by the purchaser that cost shall be credited from the \$1,000.00. In the event the appraisal exceeds \$1,000.00 the purchaser shall pay the difference.

8. The purchaser shall make prompt application for any required approvals, including but not limited to subdivision approval on-site and off-site improvements as required by appropriate Borough Boards, Agencies and Officers, and all costs shall be paid by the purchaser. In the event said approvals are not received within ninety (90) days of the date of sale, the purchaser shall forward the balance of the purchase price in conformance with paragraph five (5) above.

9. It is expressly agreed by the purchaser that if the subject parcel does not require Planning Board or Board of Adjustment review, then in that event, the purchaser will make all required improvements as determined by the Borough Engineer. The necessary performance guarantees shall be posted for same prior to the issuance of any building permits.

10. Purchaser recognizes that the sale is subject to development standards to be set by the Planning Board, Board of Adjustment and/or the Borough Engineer in addition to the Middlesex County Planning Board if applicable. This sale is made without representation as to same and is subject to same.

11. Purchaser will take any action required by the Borough Engineer and/or the Borough Environmental Officer to protect any designated wetlands or flood plain existing on the subject parcel.

12. Certain properties within the Borough of South Plainfield may be designated as contaminated sites by the Environmental Protection Agency and/or the Department of Environmental Protection. One such property is the "Cornell Dubilier" facility now known as the "Hamilton Blvd. Industrial Complex" located at the intersection of Hamilton Blvd. and New Market Avenue which has been designated as a Super Fund site. The purchaser acknowledges knowledge of such locations and the existence of same will not be a basis for avoidance of buyer's obligations.

\$191.00 1T September 22, 2000

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by Robert Hunter

TAKING FLIGHT

Englishman St. Bede used the following metaphor to describe Life, "As if, when you are sitting at dinner with your chiefs and ministers in wintertime,... one of the sparrows from outside flew very quickly through the hall; as if it came in one door and soon flew out through another. In that actual time it is indoors it is not touched by the winter's storm; but yet the tiny period of calm is over in a moment, and having come out of the winter it soon returns to the winter and slips out of your sight. Man's life appears to be more or less like this; and of what may follow it, or what preceded it, we are absolutely ignorant."

How do you view the span of time allotted to each of us? As a brief interlude between eternities? As a testing ground of our abilities and judgment? Perhaps life is what we choose to make of it; a blank canvas for our creative efforts. We, at the JAMES W. CONROY FUNERAL HOME, have been helping area families and individuals to pay tribute to the earthly existence of their loved ones for over fifty years. To schedule a private consultation at our facilities, located at 2456 Plainfield Avenue in South Plainfield, please call 756-2800. Cremation services available.

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- Samuel Butler



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Police Arrest Man After Finding Weapon

Last Saturday morning, while conducting a motor vehicle stop on Hamilton Blvd., Officer Daryl Strother was informed that there was an active Middlesex County warrant for the operator of the vehicle. Once the vehicle was stopped, the operator, Danny Ray Channel of Grant Ave. of Plainfield, age 48, was arrested based upon the County warrant.

During a search of the vehicle, Officer Strother discovered a fully loaded BB handgun in the center console of the vehicle. Channel was charged with Unlawful Possession of a Weapon. He was released on his own recognizance on the weapons charge, but he was incarcerated at the Middlesex County Adult Correction Center on the County warrant, in lieu of \$891 bail.

Cell Phone Taken During Assault

Last Saturday morning, a 15-year-old juvenile from Piscataway reported he had been accosted and a cell phone was taken from him. The victim stated that he was traveling northbound on Plainfield Ave. in the area of the South Plainfield Middle School, when the suspect, who was also on a 26" black mountain bike, approached him from behind. The suspect then struck the victim in the head with an open hand, knocking a "Motorola Talk About" cell phone from his hand. The suspect then picked up the cell phone and fled northbound on Plainfield Ave. and then westbound on O'Donahue Ave. The suspect was described as a black male, 5'10" tall, approximately 170 lbs., with braided hair. He was last seen wearing a green shirt and blue jeans. Anyone who may have observed this incident or has information regarding this case should contact Det. Paul Wylarn at (908) 226-7662.

policereport

- A Days Inn, New World Way, employee reported a guest had left the hotel without paying for \$22.90 worth of phone calls. The guest also stole a window curtain valued at \$90. Hamed Mohney of Plfd. paid cash for the room.

- Pearl Vision Center, Stelton Rd., reported a former employee took cash deposits from customers and gave customers receipts. She altered register receipts and rang up fictitious transactions to give the appearance of business being conducted. Total cash missing is \$1,550. The owner of the franchise had to pay out \$1,389.80 in royalties to Pearl for all the fictitious sales. The suspect, Lissette Cruz of Woodbridge, resigned.

- Cardre Pigment Tech of Hamilton Blvd. reported theft of a steel platform from rear lot.

- An Elsie St. resident reported harassment from a neighbor. They share a driveway and have for eight years. The suspect recently obtained a rental car and parked it in the victim's spot. Victim stated she left a note for the suspect after which the suspect phoned her using profanities.

- A Home Depot employee reported her car keyed while at work.

- A Brennan Ct. resident reported the theft of two bikes from a locked storage area.

- A Merchants Ave. resident reported the theft of an overnight bag. The bag contained his cell phone, charger, extra battery and other items. The bag was left in the car while the resident was away on business.

- A S.10th reported someone had placed stickers on his car that damaged the paint.

- A Merchants Ave. resident reported the theft of a purse. The suspect, Eugene Salerno of Roselle Park, knocked on the victim's door. The victim let him in assuming he was his brother's friend. The victim saw the suspect run out of house with the purse and jump into a truck. Police talked to the suspect via a cell phone that had been in the purse. After 30 minutes the suspect returned to the house and gave police the location of the purse.

- A Yurgel Drive resident received six calls from an unknown male. The suspect used profanity.

Classifieds

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SOUTH PLAINFIELD DISTRIBUTION center seeking receptionist. Some computer exp. pref. but will train. Fax resume to (908) 753-6709. Attn. Liz

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The Brass Lantern in Metuchen, owned by South Plainfield residents Lois Anne and Jake Cataldo, offered free flower arranging when customers purchased the silk flowers at the shop last weekend. Ann Ferina (left) is pictured with Mr. Ray, the Brass Lantern's floral designer, and one of the wreaths Ray designed.

Three Residents Go Hollywood

Continued from page 1
tential crew members. In addition to production work Alison can add a film credit to her resume—she is playing the role of a 'crooked cop's wife'.

South Plainfield resident Gina Viola, a fourth grader at Kennedy School, is also in the cast. Several weeks ago there was one role yet to be filled, that of a young girl. Alison suggested Gina Viola, daughter of her friend Elaine Viola. She showed the director a photo of the child and her remarkable resemblance to the performer who plays the mother won Gina the role of "Francesca Torres."

Elaine explained in more detail how Gina became involved in the film. "Alison asked for a picture of Gina, so I gave her one. Then

I got a phone call, the director wanted to meet Gina!" There were two roles yet to be filled and the director cast Gina as Francesca Torres. It is uncanny how my daughter resembles the actors playing the mother and brother." Gina's big scene has not been shot yet, but she is looking forward to it. Her character gets caught in mob crossfire and she gets shot. Gina is very excited about this. Co-author Chris Rollings described the scene. "This scene defines an important element of the



Ellen Cusick plays Jean Day in the film, *Sins of the Father*.

film. An innocent child, a parishioner of Father Andrews church, is critically wounded as a result of mob violence in a small community. Father Andrew's search for justice dovetails with his need for personal redemption."

The South Plainfield contingent of the film grew when 11-year-old Ellen Cusick joined the cast. Ellen received a phone call from writer/actor Christopher Rollings, whom she had worked with on the Franklin Villager's production of *Hall-Mills Murder* performed at the Somerset County Courthouse. Ellen plays the part of Jean Day, mother of Father Andrew and slain Officer John Day. Ellen has been involved in local theater for 18 years.

The story was co-written by Larry Cardino of Pennsylvania and Christopher Rollings. The collaborators have been friends for over four years. Larry and Chris offered this synopsis of the film.

Sins of the Father is a harrowing drama about one man's struggle for redemption through a maze of betrayal, murder and revenge. Forgiveness covers a multitude of sins; and love heals them forever. The film, shot on weekends, began production in June. The goal is to finish shooting by October.

Christopher also plays the part of Father Andrew Day, the main character in the film. Kurt McKinney, formerly from the soap opera, *The Guiding Light*, plays the role of corrupt cop John Day, Father Andrew's brother. Most of the filming is being done at various locations in and around Bound Brook.

The film is the first work of the newly formed *Open Door Productions*, with Cardino and Rollings as co-producers. The script has been pitched for two years; HBO, Paramount and Universal have all had a chance to look the work. Thus far the script has received increased interest and positive feedback. Chris said, "I think it is more than a coincidence that so many people from the past, like Alison, have come together to support the project. I believe *Sins of the Father* will be very successful as an independent film." The film is still seeking volunteers who can help in the areas of sound and lighting. Investors are also being actively sought.

Make Sure You Obey Local Anti-Littering Laws

By Alice Tempel

A while ago, I noticed a white Taurus pull up to a red light, waiting to turn left from Carlton Ave. to New Brunswick Ave. While the driver was waiting, he rolled down his window and dropped a cigarette pack onto the ground.

How many times have you been driving behind someone when they threw a cigarette pack or candy wrapper out the window? Don't you feel frustrated because there's really nothing you can do about it? This time, we weren't both traveling at 60 mph. I rolled down my own window and heard myself call out, "Pick that up!" The other driver looked up, startled. "Pick that up," I repeated. He stared at me as if I had two heads. I pointed to the pack on the ground. "Pick it up! He opened the car door, bent down and retrieved the pack. I drove off, adrenaline pumping.

Well, I felt a bit ridiculous, but pretty self-righteous. It occurred to me, though, that the gentleman might not even have realized he was doing anything wrong. I have had conversations before with people who denied that they were littering. "I don't litter. If I threw anything out the car window," they say, "it was just a cigarette pack."

We all have littered at one time or another, and, like our friend the Taurus driver, we don't necessarily think of what we're doing as littering or illegal dumping. Those are things that anti-social bums do, not we—law-abiding citizens who care about maintaining our cars, homes and lawns in sparkling condition. Here are some illegal "disposal" methods often used by otherwise nice, respectable people:

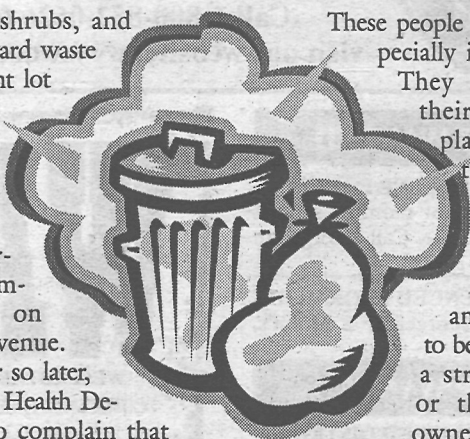
- You buy a quart of oil or some dry-gas at Drug Fair, add it to your car, and leave the empty container on the ground next to your parking space.
- You are waiting for a traffic light to change, and take this opportunity to empty the contents of your car ashtray onto the ground.
- You leave Quick Chek with some disappointing lottery tickets and drop them to the pavement.
- You and your friends are hanging out drinking sodas, and leave the empties standing neatly at the curb before moving on.
- You cut your grass or

trim your shrubs, and dump the yard waste in the vacant lot next door.

This is easier than driving over to the Borough's compost site on Kenneth Avenue. A month or so later, you call the Health Department to complain that rats are breeding in the brush piles and you call the Public Works Department to demand that they clean the vacant lot. (You continue to put your yard waste there after they clean up.)

• You stop paying for garbage services, because now that we have all this recycling, you don't have much garbage anymore and you can drop it in a public litter basket. Or maybe you take it with YOU to work and put it in your boss's Dumpster.

These are not fictitious examples. These are real actions, taken by real people in South Plainfield who would not dream of loading up a pickup truck with construction debris and dumping it on Metuchen Road; by people who know enough to give their old tires to the dealer when they buy new tires instead of tossing them out at the end of Hollywood Avenue to breed mosquitoes.



These people don't feel especially irresponsible.

They are putting their waste in a place where they think it will be collected:

the empty oil bottle and soda cans to be swept up by a street sweeper or the property owner, the yard waste to blend in with the natural forest plants and decompose, the garbage in the Dumpster to be taken to the landfill by a licensed solid waste hauler.

But more often than not, the litter is not swept up—it gets washed into a storm sewer instead, and ends up in Spring Lake, or it is blown into someone's shrubbery. The yard waste does not decompose quickly, and the grass piles go anaerobic and release toxic ammonia, smothering the life on the forest floor. The household garbage in the public litter cans creates a health nuisance; in the private Dumpster, it raises the cost of doing business. Many business owners have begun to lock their Dumpsters to prevent this theft of service.

The Borough Code, Chapter 108 Article II, requires each "responsible solid waste generator" (i.e., homeowner) to "enter into

a contract for regular solid waste collection service" with a licensed hauler, and to provide proof of having a collection service to the Health Officer if asked. Violations are punishable by fines of not more than \$500 per day.

Chapter 1.25, "Littering," states that, "It shall be unlawful for any person to throw, drop, discard or otherwise place litter of any nature upon any public or private property other than in a litter receptacle." "Litter" is defined as, "Any used or unconsumed substance or waste material that has been discarded, whether made of aluminum, glass, plastic, rubber, paper or other natural or synthetic material, including but not limited to any bottle, jar or can or any top, cap or detachable tab of any bottle, jar or can; any unlighted cigarette, cigar, match or any flaming or glowing material; any garbage, trash, refuse, other lawn or garden waste. . ." Violations are punishable by fines of up to \$1,000 or 30 days imprisonment in the county jail, or both.

Everyone has got to take responsibility for his own trash. You can't just leave it on the ground somewhere for someone else to take care of. You can't keep the inside of your shiny white Taurus neat and clean by throwing your trash out the window onto the roadway. You can't do it because it's inconsiderate, it's offensive and it's illegal!

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