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# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 4, NO. 5

50 CENTS

SEPTEMBER 29, 2000

## Borough Notes

### Council Notes

■ Demolition of the vacant houses located on the corner of Park and Oak Tree Avenues is scheduled to begin next week. The houses were purchased with a \$1 million grant from Middlesex County. The property from the homes will be used to expand Putnam Park. Some of the preliminary plans for the park call for the installation of two volleyball courts. The demolition work will be done by the borough's Department of Public Works.

■ The Shell Station on Lake and Maple will be demolished next Monday to make way for the new Senior Citizen Recreation Center.

■ Two ordinances were introduced to fill two new positions that will be created in borough hall. One is for a secretarial position in the clerk's office and the other is a records clerk in the police department.

### Planning Board

■ Abor Interiors, Inc. on South Clinton Ave. was granted several variances and waivers to construct a second story to their building.

■ AA&G Builders was approved for a minor subdivision with conditions. They plan to build two, two-family houses, consisting of a one-car garage and three bedrooms on Hillside and Perth Place.

■ Interstate Catering, on Parker Ave. appeared before the board asking to operate a catering business out of their location. Because the business also stores vehicles on the premises, they were directed to transfer their case to the Zoning Board of Adjustment.



Last Sunday's Annual Fire Department Open House was a huge success attended by many residents. The super 50/50 grew to a total of \$3,470. Winner Rose Sterling, pictured left, accepts a check for \$1,735 from Chief Joe Abbruzzese. See page 12 for more photos.



Photos by Patricia Abbott

## Student Activity Committee Gives High School Students a Voice

By Carrie Reilly

Year after year, students at South Plainfield High School have been told to "get involved." Of course, there have been many ways for them to do so, through sports, academics, fine arts and community service.

But still, a direct link was missing. While the Board of Education has been the role leader in making decisions for our school system, the students have been in the dark as to what is going on around them.

In recent years, students began taking a stand on this issue. If students are affected by the Board's decisions, shouldn't they know about these issues? To answer this question, Student Representatives to the Board of Education were created.

To become a Student Represen-

tative, students in the high school were asked to fill out an application and then were accepted through the Board of Education. Each month students were invited to attend the Board of Education meetings and listen to what was going on in the town and schools and to voice a student's opinion. However, at times these meetings would last too long and get tiring for a student to sit through.

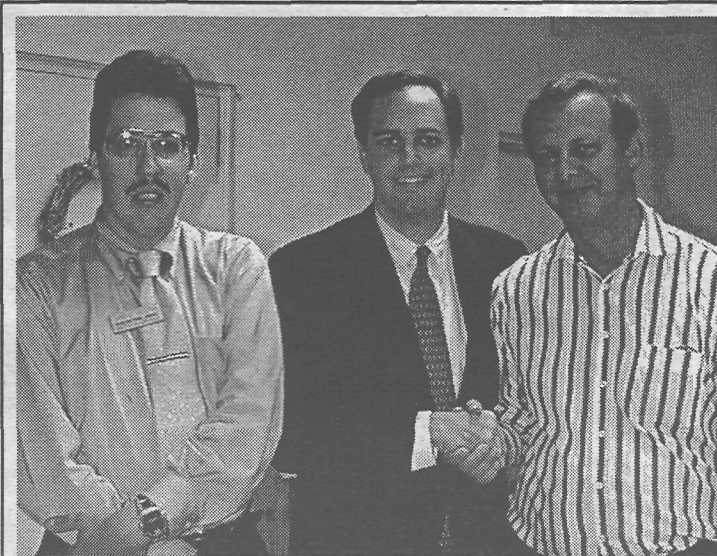
The current student body of South Plainfield High School is looking to change that. SPHS Assistant Vice Principal Dr. Kenneth May has come up with an idea that better suits the students and provides them with a louder voice, so to speak.

New for the 2000-2001 school year will be the Student Activities Committee. This committee is a group of students from South Plainfield High School who will serve as student representatives to the Board of Education. Each month, selected students will attend Board meetings and address their concerns as to what is happening throughout the school system in all areas, including academics, sports, clubs, fine arts and community.

Both Dr. May and the students feel that this will serve a better purpose in voicing the students' perspective and allow more involvement to the students in the Board of Education.

The following students will be taking part in the Board of Education monthly meetings: seniors Alison Butrico, Kristyn Ciariariello, Tommy Doyan, Josh English, John Foscolo, Emma Fulton, Rich Gebauer, Cathy

Nguyen, Joe Nicolay, Erin Mackey, Matt Pulomena, Carrie Reilly and Alison Tietjen; juniors Brielle Anderson, Gina D'Urso, Billie Jean Sarullo and Michelle Socha; sophomores Tiffany Boyle, Jimmy Curcio, Steve Johnston and Brian Publik and freshman Joe Bundy. Other freshman representatives will be determined after their class officer elections.



Mike Ferguson, Republican candidate for the 7th District, was the guest speaker at last week's Republican meeting. He is pictured with Borough Council candidates Dave Guoth, left, and Ed Lyons.

## No Debates This Year?

The South Plainfield Business Association, which has sponsored a candidates' debate for the past seven years, has announced they will not sponsor a debate this year.

The Business Association has not held a meeting since last spring and no one has had a chance to organize a debate.

No debates means the only way to actually meet a candidate for council will be if you are home when they canvas your neighborhood shaking hands. Some residents aren't even sure who the candidates are this year. There will be no opportunity to address questions directly to both candidates.

If any organization or group in town would like to invite the candidates to an informal discussion, the *Observer* would be happy to promote and cover it. An informed electorate will allow voters to make an educated

and informed choice. We have asked both the republicans and democrats if they are willing to debate or have an informal coffee and both sides have said if we can find a place, they will be there.

## Donation to Benefit Ponytail Softball Field Renovation

Councilman Ray Petronko announced that because of a generous donation by Wes and Pattie Perrine, the softball A field at Pitt Street Park will be reconstructed.

Petronko explained that he met Perrine while playing volleyball and they struck up a friendship. Perrine works for a turf management company. As they continued to play volleyball together, Petronko related several things that were in need of

renovating around town. This ultimately led to Perrine offering to supply the soil needed to reconstruct the softball field in Pitt Street Park and to also supply the trucks to deliver the soil. The soil and trucking may save the borough as much as \$20,000.

The actual reconstruction of the field will be done by volunteers, some

"The A League (Pitt Street Park) field is in need of reconstruction because it is too low and suffers from flooding when heavy rain falls."

from the Ponytail Softball League. Wes will also be on hand to help out.

Wes Perrine, a life-long resident

of South Plainfield and his wife Pattie have three children, Melissa 6, John 2 and Kevin 1. Melissa has been play-

ing T-ball and hopes to someday play Ponytail Softball at Pitt Street Park.

The A League field is in need of reconstruction because it is too low and suffers from flooding when heavy rain falls. Last year's opening day had to be cancelled because of flooding. The reconstruction should alleviate these problems.

Work should be completed this fall, so the earth and soil can settle before next spring's softball season starts.



## mark your calendars

Log on to  
[southplainfieldnj.com](http://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**  
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

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:

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

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.

Committee of the Whole, Nov. 14, 7 p.m.; Regular Board Mtg. 8 p.m., Nov. 21, 8 p.m.

Committee of the Whole, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.; Regular Board Mtg. 8 p.m., Dec. 19, 8 p.m.

## South Plainfield Observer

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### SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in South Plainfield Observer:

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



## Sopranos Entertain at Wesley Methodist

The South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission recently sponsored "A September for Sopranos" with Florence Lazzeri and Lisa Daltirus. The event was held at Wesley Methodist Church in Fellowship Hall. The Cultural Arts Commission has been bringing these talented professionals to entertain the community for a number of years.



## In My Opinion Letters

### To the Editor:

Labor Day 2000—a day my family and I will never forget. Being selected Honorary Grand Marshal of the South Plainfield Labor Day Parade was one of the greatest moments of my life!

I want to thank everyone in the Borough of South Plainfield who made the day possible. The memories obtained on Labor Day will always be remembered, especially the waving and smiling faces on the parade route.

In closing, we must practice this year's theme: "South Plainfield Celebrates Family, Fun, and Community." The children are our greatest asset, and we must always remember that.

I salute the people of South Plainfield. Thank you again from the bottom of my heart.

**SINCERELY,  
CHARLES L. DECKER, SR.**

### Dear Editor:

I would like to respond to Ms. Patricia McLaughlin's letter last week regarding letters written by a gentleman concerning the educational system in South Plainfield. If you read on to Mr. Peluso's letter you were probably even more infuriated as he reiterated what Mr. Pisaniello and many other letter writers have been saying. It's freedom of speech, just as you are entitled to be annoyed. However, all of these people do write very informative letters to the residents of South Plainfield.

### Submit Letters to the Editor:

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

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

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

Also, in the letter Mr. Pat Crilley outlined figures showing exactly how much it would cost per classroom, much less than the 22 million now being requested. It seems these people are not just sitting back doing nothing, but taking time to call the county and state and requesting information concerning our schools and any finances available to us. They should be applauded not criticized. Did you ever call Trenton and ask why South Plainfield cannot receive educa-

tional funding to help build a school? Probably not. People on fixed incomes find it hard enough to pay for medication needed. Not everyone is lucky enough to have insurance or extra income per month. These letters must be doing some good as the budget was defeated twice. Maybe when the figures are more acceptable, the citizens will respond with a better attitude.

**SINCERELY,  
MRS. JULIA SAPIO**

## Recycling Center and Yard Waste Site Closed for Columbus Holiday Winter Hours Start October 1

The Columbus Day holiday weekend schedule for the South Plainfield Recycling Center on Kenneth Avenue will be:

- Saturday, October 7 - Open 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 10 - Closed.
- Wednesday, October 12 - Open 12 noon to 7 p.m.

Regular hours of operation at the Recycling Center are:

- Tuesdays, 12 to 7 p.m.; Fridays, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.,
- Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The schedule for the Yard Waste Site at the end of Kenneth Avenue will be:

- Saturday, October 7 - Open 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Note that the Yard Waste Site starts winter Hours on October 1. From October 1 through March 15, the Yard Waste Site will be open only on Saturdays from 8 to 3.

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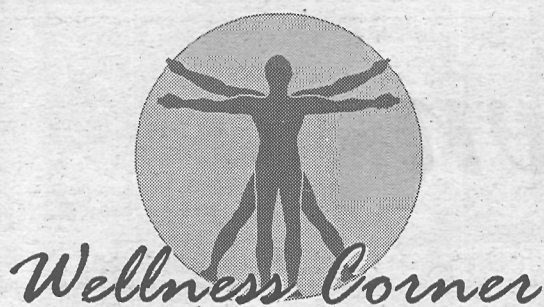
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## Football Season & Game Plans

With football season upon us, now is a good time to draw on some analogies from sports that we can use to help guide, and yes, even motivate us in improving, maintaining, and more importantly, optimizing our health.



Dr. Patrick Aiello, DC

No matter what the sport, generally speaking, it is a good idea to have what is called a "game plan" or a guide to how you want your team or individual to perform. When watching a football game, you'll see the coaches on the sideline carrying around these big laminated pieces of paper. Essentially, that's all the plays, or rather, their best plays, they might use during the course of the game. The game plan can also consist of strategy, or even an assessment of your opponent's strengths and weaknesses. Having the gameplan written down and close at hand helps the team achieve their goals—winning.

With health, it's important to have a guide, preferably a written one. In dealing with health issues and gameplans, it's important to have a set of goals, guides and outlines. Defining these further and how they fit into your daily life will allow you to prioritize and better fit these into your daily schedule. Done consistently, you'll take better control over your health.

So, what should go on this gameplan? In breaking down wellness, or rather the aspects of wellness, we come up with five aspects. Rest, nutrition, exercise, stress management, and a properly functioning nervous system. Your gameplan for health can build off of each of these five components.

**Rest:** Outline your leisure activities; schedule things that you like to do, and most importantly, commit the time to do it. These can include doing leisure activities with your

family or just setting time aside for yourself. Sometimes, we're so busy taking care and worrying about others, we forget to take care of ourselves.

**Nutrition:** Are you aware of what's actually going into your body or are you just shoving things down? Are you eating a lot of fatty and fried foods and can't understand why your cholesterol is too high or you are twenty pounds overweight? Take a few moments at the beginning of the day and map out what you'll be eating. Chances are, if you plan out your day, you'll be more likely to eat a healthier variety of foods.

**Exercise:** Are you going to the gym regularly? Perhaps you might consider a walk or a bicycle ride? Whatever activity you choose, remember, our bodies were meant to move, not be stationary. Too often, inactive and sedentary lives set us up for future health problems down the road.

**Stress Management:** Trying to soar like an eagle and surrounded by turkeys? One good recommendation is to manage the first three; stress will then be easier to deal with. There are other aspects to look at, though, such as yoga, meditation, and other mind-relaxing types of exercise.

**Properly functioning nervous system:** When was the last time you were adjusted? Is it done on a regular basis?

While we can spend significantly more time on each of these issues, hopefully this article will make you think of ways to improve upon daily health habits. After all, I probably didn't write anything above that you didn't already know. We just need to maintain consistency on a daily basis. Doesn't that make sense?

## Tigers March to Third Place in Scotch Plains

On Sunday, September 24, the South Plainfield High School Marching Band Tigers performed in their first competition of the season at the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Second Annual Marching Band Festival.

With six bands competing during the festival, the Marching Tigers placed third in their Group II Division with a resplendent rendition of the music from the box office smash *Gladiator*.

The Tiger Drum line placed second in their division and third overall for the day.

Best Music Award overall was awarded to J.P. Stevens High School and Best Overall Effect was awarded to Old Bridge High School.

The Tigers march on to their next competition this Saturday, Sept. 30 at Triton, NJ.

Submitted by Patricia Publik



## Woman's Club Plans Antiques and Appraiser Speaker at Annual Guests Dinner

The Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield will hold its annual guests/husbands buffet dinner, with guest speaker Alan G. Snyder, on Thursday, Oct. 5, at the American Legion Hall on Oak Tree Road.

Snyder is president of Alan G. Snyder Associates, Certified Antiques and Estate Appraisers. His topic for the 6:30 p.m. dinner meeting will be "An Appraisal Treasure Hunt" and club members will be invited to bring any antiques or heirlooms for appraisal. Lois Traphagen is vice president and program chairperson for the Suburban Women and was instrumental in obtaining the evening's speaker.

A cocktail hour will precede the buffet dinner and members will be preparing their food specialties for the evening. Chairperson is Margaret Reidy, assisted by committee members Loretta Conroy, Rose Cucurello, June Flannery and Jean

Popik, who will create the floral arrangements.

Future meetings will include speakers, holiday programs and preparations for a flea market.

Members will also be collecting and donating foods for Thanksgiving and

Christmas baskets, as they do each year. Baskets will include appetizers, entrees, desserts and beverages, as well as handmade decorations for both indoor and outdoor displays. Jeanine Kimmel is chairperson of Home Life and Social Services for the club.

## News From Terra Nova Garden Club

The Terra Nova Garden Club has resumed their meetings on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the North Edison branch of the Public Library on Grove Ave. All meetings are open to the public. The next meeting will be held on Oct. 25.

An exciting year is planned by the club, including diverse programs at our meetings and classes on gardening. Related subjects will be taught at Edison Adult School by members.

The first class, which will be taught by Sue Nuzzo at Edison

High School, is entitled "Herbal Cooking and You." To enroll, contact the Edison Adult School.

In celebration of the club's 50th anniversary, a cookbook of garden related favorite recipes has been published and is now available from members. By mail, send request to President Gail Sulinski, 1024 Clinton Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

The books will also be available at the Terra Nova booth at the Metuchen Country Fair held on Oct. 7.

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**South Plainfield Observer**

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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.

### John E. Riley Fall Flower Sale

**September 29**

John E. Riley School will hold its annual sale of Fall flowers on Friday, Sept. 29. Sale hours at the main entrance at 100 Morris Ave. will be 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 to 6 p.m.

The sale will include mums, pansies and perennials in 2 gallon size pots. Prices for flowers are from \$4 to \$10. All proceeds will benefit the children attending John E. Riley School.

### Order of the Cootie Country Breakfast

**October 1**

Pup Tent 41, Military Order of the Cootie will sponsor a Country Breakfast on Sunday, Oct. 1 at VFW Post 6763 on Front St. from 8 to 11 a.m.

The menu will be varied; a children's menu will also be available. Donation is \$5 for adults, \$2.50 for children up to and including 12 years of age.

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

### Senior Citizens Monthly Meeting Set

**October 6**

The South Plainfield Senior Citizens (formerly the Adult School Seniors) will hold their monthly meeting at 11 a.m., at the PAL building on Maple Ave. on Oct. 6.

After the meeting, coffee and cake will be served. Please call 754-1047 for further information and transportation.

### Columbiettes Sponsoring Chinese Auction

**October 6**

South Plainfield Columbiettes are sponsoring a Chinese auction on Friday, Oct. 6 in Sacred Heart School cafeteria. Doors open at 6 p.m. Drawings start at 7:30 p.m.

The \$6 admission includes a sheet of auction tickets and a door prize for all who attend.

Prizes include a shopping spree, TV/VCR, espresso/cappuccino coffee bar, bake and broil toaster oven, Kitchen Aid mixer with accessories and much more.

An added table this year is a boy's and girl's Christmas stocking, valued at over \$75 each. Proceeds from this table will benefit the Children's Specialized Hospital.

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

Upcoming events include:

- Shopping trip to Reading, Pa. on Nov. 4. Cost is \$18.
- Country Western Dinner Dance on Nov. 18 at Bobby & Mary's in Piscataway.
- Christmas Show and Dinner at the Spinning Wheel in Conn. on Dec. 2. Cost is \$50.

All events are open to the public. For information, call Mary Ann (908) 226-1222.

### The Big Scoop Dinner

**October 12**

SPHS Project Graduation will hold a Big Scoop Dinner on Thursday, Oct. 12 in the South Plainfield High School Cafeteria. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. for senior citizens, 5 p.m. for general admission.

The cost is 50 cents per scoop, complimentary beverage ticket for senior citizens. Eat in or take home.

All proceeds to benefit SPHS Project Graduation.

### Summer Drama Workshop Kickoff Meeting

**October 16**

The Summer Drama Workshop will be selecting new officers and committee people for the upcoming 2001 summer production. Anyone interested in becoming an officer or committee chairperson should attend the Oct. 16 meeting at the South Plainfield High School cafeteria at 7 p.m. If you have any questions please call Bob Publik at (908) 755-2709.

### Music Booster Festival

**October 22**

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.

### 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.

### Polish Home Trip to Atlantic City

**October 22**

The Polish National Home, 312 New Market Ave., will be sponsoring a bus trip to Show Boat Casino in Atlantic City on Sunday, Oct. 22.

Bus tickets are \$18 and \$20 with coin return. The bus will leave the Polish Home parking lot at 12 noon.

For reservations and information, call (908) 757-3428.

### 3rd Annual Octoberfest At St. Stephen's Church

**October 28**

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church Third Annual Octoberfest will be held on Saturday, Oct. 28. Two sittings at 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. will feature all-you-can-eat authentic German food. Tickets for adults are \$11 and children 5-12 are \$6. Take out dinners will also be available.

Tickets are available from the church office by calling (908) 757-4474. Reservations are encouraged. Proceeds will benefit local charities.

### McCriskin's to Sponsor Balloon Release for National War Memorial

**November 11**

Hundreds of red, white and blue balloons will be released over South Plainfield on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. The event is being coordinated by McCriskin Home For Funerals. A nationwide release will occur at the same time (2 p.m. EST) as a part of a nationwide effort to raise money to build a National World War II Memorial in Washington D.C.

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.

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

### 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.

### 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.

#### 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.

#### Flea Market in North Plainfield

**September 30**

Jacoba Circle of Trinity Reformed Church in North Plainfield will hold an indoor/outdoor flea market to benefit various charities on Saturday, Sept. 30 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the church on Greenbrook Rd.

For further information, call (908) 756-2125.

### 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.

### Family Fun Day Planned

**October 28**

The Hydewood Park Baptist Church on the corner of Manning and Norwood Aves. in North Plainfield will be hold a Family Fun Day on Saturday, Oct. 28 from 1-5 p.m., 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.

Scheduled speaker is Adam Bloom, psychologist, specializing in 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

## Submit your Events for Around Town:

To the South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax (908) 668-8819; email ggnan@aol.com or ngrennie@ix.netcom.net

Log on to the  
**Borough of South Plainfield's  
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southplainfieldnj.com**

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- Planning Board & Board of Adjustment Agendas
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From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

We've got another couple of days before October rolls around, so here's just a little more September news from the South Plainfield Library:

Seeing as how we've made a few changes, let's review our operating hours. We're open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Tuesday and Friday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 1:30 to 5 p.m. Watch this column for any changes.

Speaking of changes, we've made some changes in our Circuit collections. A new group from the Video Circuit should be fully available by Monday. On the other hand, Monday is the last day of availability for the current group from the Audiobook Circuit. On the other, other hand (assuming you have three hands), a new group from the Large Print Circuit is in place. This group includes works by WEB Griffin, Jonathan Kellerman, Belva Plain, Danielle Steel and Dick Francis. Books from the Large Print Circuit can be borrowed for two weeks.

The Friends of the Library will hold their next meeting on Tuesday. Please note: Meetings will now be held at 10 a.m. Members and non-members are welcome to attend this meeting. Also, the Friends will be holding another "I a bag" book sale. It'll be held on Saturday, Oct. 7, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; don't be late.

It's been a long month of hiatus, but the children's Storytime programs are back. We'll be staying with our usual schedule: Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednes-

day evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. The programs are for children age 3 and over; no pre-registration is needed. If you'd like more information, please check with Children's Librarian Linda Hansen.

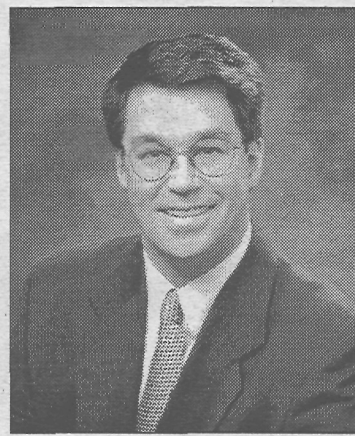
Recently, things have been starting to pile up in our Lost & Found. So, if you'd recently misplaced something and you were at the library, stop by the main desk and check. We can't guarantee it'll be there, but you never know.

How's this for an odd coincidence? Monday, Oct. 2, marks the anniversary of both the first appearance of Charles Schulz's classic comic strip "Peanuts" and the premiere of Rod Serling's "Twilight Zone" series. Both of them are well represented in our video collection. Our juvenile section features several tapes featuring Charlie Brown, Snoopy and their friends. Titles include *He's Your Dog, Charlie Brown; It's a Mystery, Charlie Brown; It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown* and their first and best special, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. Over in the adult section, we have three tapes of *Twilight Zone* stories, including three of the best episodes, *Nightmare at 20,000 Feet* with William Shatner, *Time Enough at Last* with Burgess Meredith and a classic twist ending, and the sensitive time travel story, *Walking Distance*. Videos can be borrowed, four at a time, for two days. And we'll keep our eyes open for any other odd coincidences *Chase's Annual Events* happen to list.

That'll close out the column, week and month for us. See you next column, week and month for more.

From the Democratic Council Candidates....

## Democrats Keep Pledge to South Plainfield Seniors



Raymond Petronko

Councilperson Ray Petronko and his running mate Bob Cusick made these comments regarding the groundbreaking for Senior Citizen Housing which took place last Tuesday. "No group has given more to South Plainfield than our seniors." Councilperson Petronko said, "It's particularly gratifying to finally see senior housing come to fruition. It's been over 20 years since the promise of senior housing was first made. It's high time that the promise has become reality. A project such as this shows how your mayor and council work together to get tough jobs done. Literally every member of the governing body participated in the process to find the right developer and put in place the funding so that our seniors would not again be disappointed."

Bob Cusick expanded on his running mate's comments, "Although I have served on the Planning Board and Environmental Commission, I was never really associated with one political party. When I started to think about running for office, I evaluated the



Robert Cusick

achievements of both parties in South Plainfield. After doing so, the decision was easy. Mayor Dan Gallagher and the Democratic Council have done an outstanding job in South Plainfield. Senior Housing is just one in a long list of accomplishments which have taken place over the last six years. Just drive around town and you will see our P.A.L. addition, our parks improved and at last count over 80 roads repaved while at the same time keeping spending, borrowing and taxes under control."

Ray Petronko continued, "As the expression goes, 'You ain't seen nothing yet.' In the next couple of weeks the old Shell Station on Lakeview Ave. will be demolished and construction on our new 10,000 square foot senior rec center will begin. At about the same time, the houses on the corner of Oak Tree Avenue and Park Avenue will be torn down to double the size of Putnam Park and permanently preserve that intersection for open space. When you see the nightmare Edison is going through trying to preserve the intersection right up the street, its easy to appreciate the farsightedness of South Plainfield in acquiring this property."

Bob Cusick summed up the Democrats' position saying, "Our campaign slogan is 'Keep A Good Thing Going.' If I am fortunate enough to be elected, I will be honored to work with the mayor and council to keep South Plainfield the best community in Middlesex County."

## Calling All Candidates...

The South Plainfield Observer extends an invitation to all candidates running for local elections to submit copy for publication in upcoming issues.



## 2000 ELECTION Update

## Republican Organization Sponsoring "Pasta Nite"

The South Plainfield Republican Organization will be holding a 'Pasta Nite' fundraiser on Wednesday, Oct. 11. It will be held at the Willows Restaurant on North Washington Ave. in Green Brook.

The evening will feature several types of pastas and sauces and will be all you can eat. The time is from 5:30 until 9:30 p.m., so you may come at any time during those hours. Tickets are \$12 per person and may be purchased in advance by calling Maryellen at (908) 755-4014 or Linda at (908) 756-6519.

## Democratic Candidates to Meet, Public Invited

The South Plainfield Democratic Organization will be holding a meeting on Monday, Oct. 2 at 7:30 p.m. in the lower level of Sherban's Diner. The public is invited to attend.

In addition to local council candidates, Ray Petronko and Bob Cusick, Freeholder John Pulomena and James Polos, and County Clerk Elaine Flynn will be available for questions, schedule permitting.

Congressional candidate Maryann Connelly will also be attending the meeting.

Mayor Dan Gallagher is urging South Plainfield residents to attend. "Democracy is all about participation of the voters. This is an opportunity to let those who will represent you know what you think needs to be done on all levels of government."

If anyone needs any information about the meeting they can contact municipal chair, Patrick Diegnan at (908) 753-7200.

## Blood Donors Needed, Drives Scheduled

American Red Cross/Tri-County Chapter is working hard to help increase the two percent of the eligible area population who donate blood. Unfortunately, the 98 percent who don't donate, don't know that by the age of 72, 95 percent of all the population will need a blood transfusion.

Giving blood means saving lives. Many people do not know that when they donate a pint of blood, they are helping to save five lives. This occurs because at the laboratories, blood is broken down in five different compo-

nents: plasma, platelets, red cell, gamma globulin and factor 8 (for hemophiliacs).

If you would like to become a blood donor, sign up to donate, or to sponsor a blood drive in your community group, business, church or school, please call (908) 353-2500, ext. 22.

The following are the blood drives schedule for October in the Plainfield area:

- Oct. 2 at The Wine Barrel, 2261 South Ave., Scotch Plains, 4:30-8:30 p.m.;
- Oct. 6 at Knights of Colum-

bus, Grove and South Ave., Dunellen, 3-8:30 p.m.;

- Oct. 8 at Wilson Memorial Union Church, 7 Valley Road, Watchung, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.;

- Oct. 9 at St. Bernard's Church, 368 Sumner Ave., Plainfield, 3-8:30 p.m.;

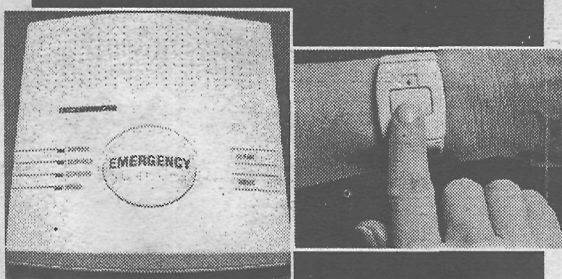
- Oct. 11 at Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield, 3-8:30 p.m.;

- Oct. 16 at United Church of Christ in Plainfield, 3-8:30 p.m.;

- Oct. 22 at Immaculate Heart of Mary, 1571 Martine Ave., Scotch Plains, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

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## 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)

**Copy deadline for the Observer is Monday, 5 p.m. for the following Friday's publication.**

Please mail, fax or email your copy, (preferably typed in upper and lower case and double spaced). Send to South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Fax to (908) 668-8819, email us at ggnan@aol.com, ngrennie@ix.netcom.com or on our web page at spobserver.com.



# What's Ahead? Autumn 2000

## OCTOBER

- 2 Franklin: PTA Meeting  
Middle School: PTA Meeting 7:30
- 3 High School: HSPT Grade 11  
Roosevelt: PTA Executive Board Meeting
- 4 Grant School: Back to School Night  
High School: HSPT Grade 11
- 5 High School: Back to School Night  
High School: HSPT Grade 11
- 6 Franklin: School pictures
- 7 Franklin: Harvest Festival
- 9 Schools/Offices Closed: Columbus Day/Yom Kippur  
Kennedy: 5th Grade Stokes Trip
- 10 Curriculum Half Day: Early Student Dismissal  
High School: HSPT Make-up  
Board of Ed. (COW) Meeting. 8 p.m.  
Kennedy: 5th Grade Stokes Trip
- 11 Franklin: Book Fair  
High School: HSPT Make-up  
Kennedy: 5th Grade Stokes Trip
- 12 Franklin: Book Fair  
High School: HSPT Make-up  
High School: Scoop Dinner
- 13 Franklin: Book Fair  
High School: Homecoming: vs. Monroe
- 14 High School: SATs Administered
- 16 Kennedy: PTO Meeting.
- 17 Regular Board of Ed. Meeting: 8 p.m.
- 21 High School: PSATs Administered
- 26 Kennedy: Pumpkin Sale
- 27 Kennedy: Pumpkin Sale  
Middle School: Halloween Dance: 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Riley: Halloween Dance  
Roosevelt: Halloween Pumpkin Patch
- 31 Franklin: Halloween Parade and parties  
Kennedy: Halloween Parade

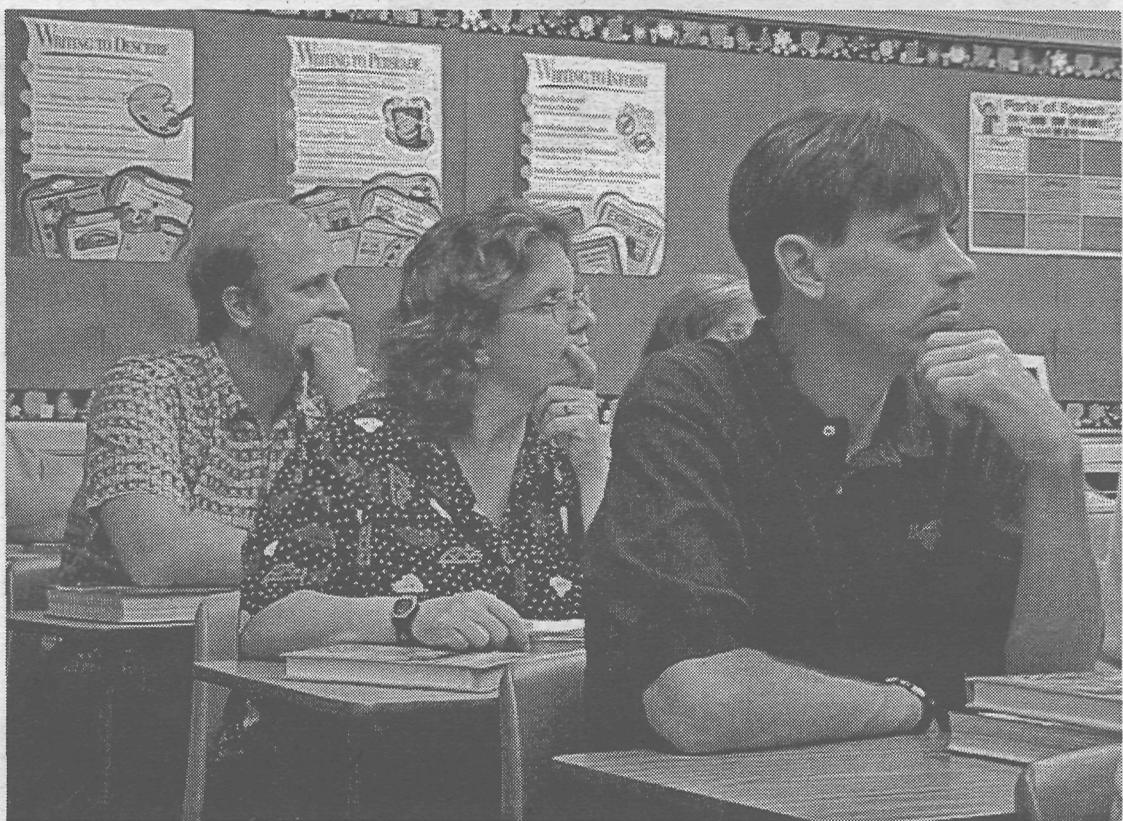
## Students Commended in 2001 Merit Scholarship Program

South Plainfield High School Principal Anthony Massaro announced that David J. Cupo, Allison C. Kalman, Gregory R. Ogonowski and Julie L. Palmer have been named 'Commended Students in the 2001 National Merit Scholarship Program.' A letter of commendation from the school and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which conducts the program, will be presented to these four scholastically talented seniors.

Some 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the competition for Merit Scholarship awards to be offered next spring, Commended Students placed among the five top five percent of

more than one million students who entered the 2001 Merit Program by taking the 1999 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

A spokesman for National Merit Scholarship Corporation commented, "The young men and women named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding academic potential by their performance in the very competitive Merit Program. In a nation that values excellence, it is important to publicly recognize the attainments of scholastically talented young people and the schools that nurture their development. We hope this recognition will help broaden the educational opportunities of Commended Students and serve as encouragement to all students to develop their abilities to the fullest."



## Middle School Parents Attend Back to School Night

By Patricia Abbott

With school just two weeks into the 2000-01 year and the issues of overcrowding, surveys and referendums on everyone's minds, Middle School students are amongst the two groups most affected. They lost one-third of their student body, classrooms have been rearranged and some teachers have moved to Grant Central Sixth Grade. Some of the students noted that it felt odd to have just two grades occupy the building instead of three.

The Middle School Back to School Night was filled with the parents of seventh and eighth grade students, looking to gain some insight into the teachers and courses that make up their child's new school year. Missing were the sixth grade parents and the tension of the previous year's contract dilemma.

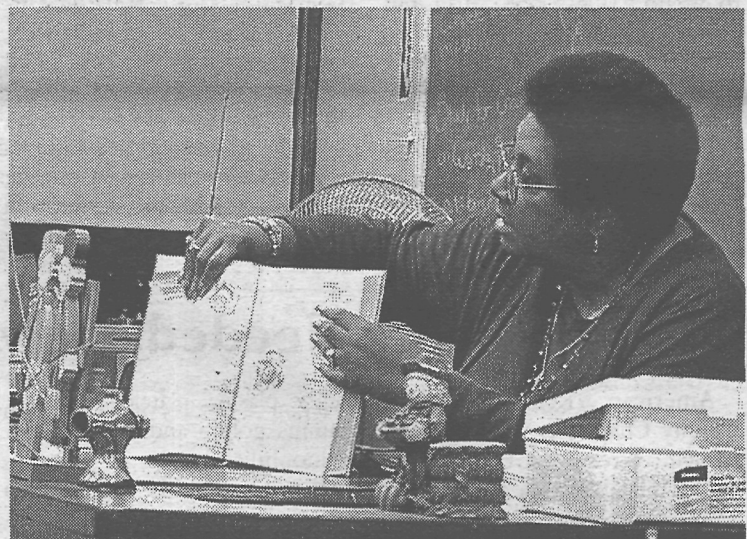
As they entered the building, many parents stopped to join the PTA and buy 50-50 tickets before heading into the gym for a brief overview of the evening. The mood in the hallway was light, as parents greeted one another and moved

with much the same confusion as their children may have on the first day of school. They traveled from one room to another for mini-classes with each teacher. Rows of desks were filled by adults, most with their hands neatly folded in front of them. A parent or two stood outside and listened in rather than "be late to class." The courtyard held excess desks and chairs and classrooms sported new paint jobs. More than one person, as well as a teacher or two, noted that the

blinding yellow paint in a few rooms was a bit distracting.

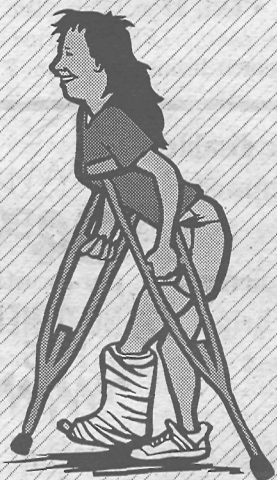
Each hallway had a station selling soda, snacks and well-dressed Tigers with proceeds benefiting field hockey and other activities. Lunch sessions allowed the parents to relax with baked goods and a beverage. Some students returned to school with their parents to help guide them.

The evening provided parents with a look at the upcoming year and demonstrated parental support.



# ???

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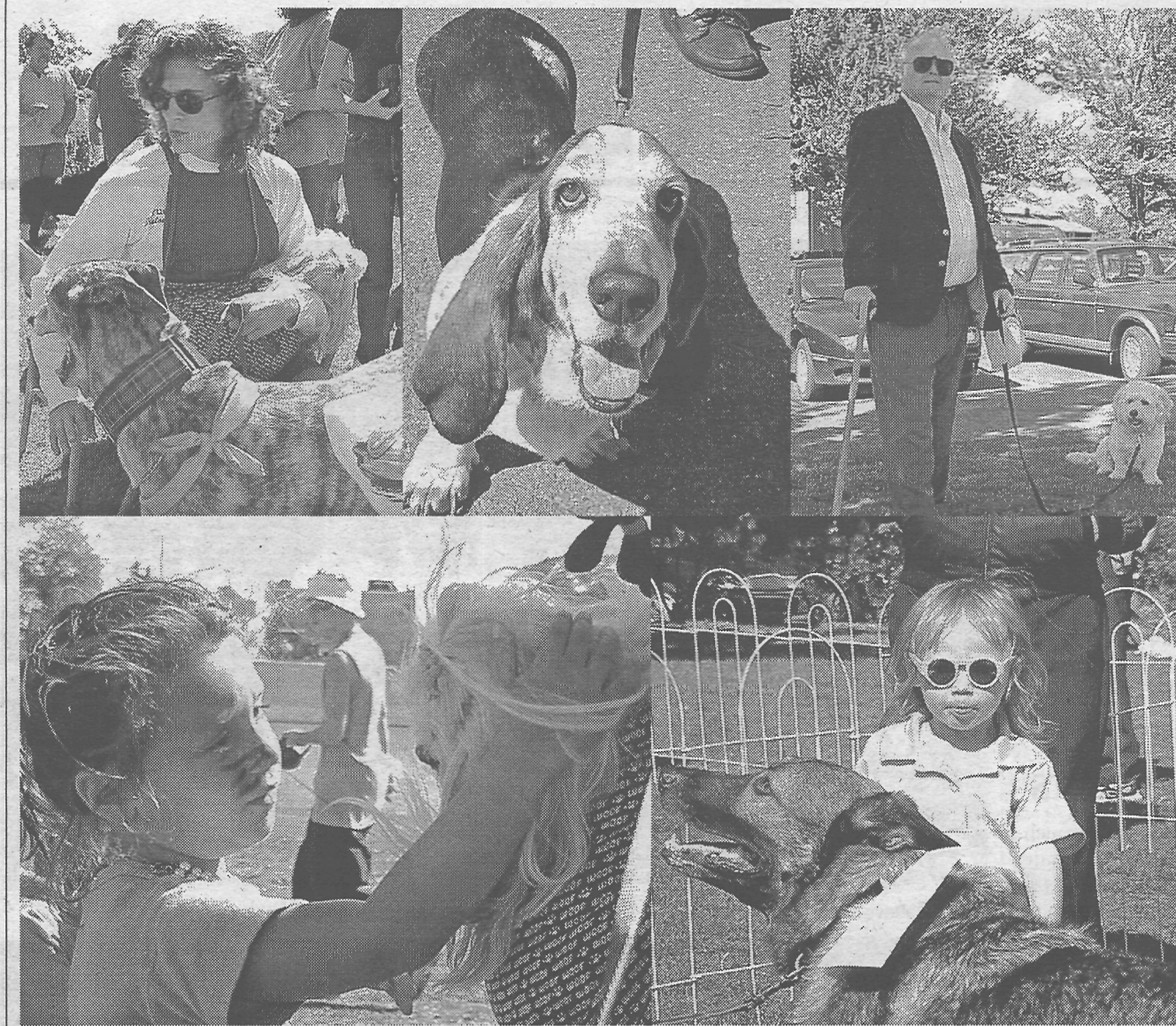
## Humane Society Celebrates Alumni Day

By Patricia Abbott

A recent Sunday afternoon saw Spring Lake Park go to the dogs... literally. The event was the annual Alumni Day sponsored by the Plainfield Humane Society. Residents brought their canine companions to the park to participate in an afternoon of fun. The dogs were as varied as their owners; from a toddler attempting to walk a dog twice her size, an elderly gentleman with the tiny ball of fluff sitting by his side, to the couple with three huskies or the family with three kids and three mutts. Long time shelter volunteer Melodie Petrone had a stately grey hound named Justice on a leash and a pampered pup named Foo Foo lounging in a carrier secured to her shoulder.

Some dogs clearly displayed who was in charge as they walked their owners around the park. A series of tables offering numerous services lined the sidewalk leading to the gazebo. One station allowed visitors to sign up for the shelter's newsletter and offered face painting for youngsters. Another sold soda, snacks, T shirts and mugs, all to benefit the shelter. Dog biscuits were dispensed freely to the delight of the four footed guests. There was even a rather mysterious looking young woman offering psychic pet readings.

Families made a day of it, lounging in the sun with blankets spread on the grass. Pets who had been adopted from the shelter were registered and given name tags. Older alumni each had a moment in the spotlight as their names and owners were announced along with their date of adoption.



## Pattie Abbott Returns to Haunted Village

Halloween fast approaches and it's time once again for The Haunted Village of Somerset. This year's theme is one of a tale of unspeakable horror, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*.

Three South Plainfield residents will be part of the *Sleepy Hollow* story. Watch for Christopher Abbott, a SPHS freshman in his third year with the village, Pam Cianfrocca, a SPHS junior who makes her first appearance and *Observer* staff writer Patricia Abbott, who once again joins the gang to provide a scare and a laugh for the brave and willing.

The Haunted Village, a New Jersey tradition for Halloween, offers laughs and horrors and much more for kids of all ages. The village is located on the grounds of the New Jersey Renaissance Kingdom, Davidson Ave. in Somerset.

The Haunted Village has become famous for its detailed village scenery, elaborate make-up, and breathtaking special effects.

The village is unique in that the audience becomes one with the show. No need to find a good seat for this show, just a watchful eye on the shadows that lurk in the dark. Each step into the forest leads the audience further into the Halloween ad-

venture called The Haunted Village. Each encounter brings a hair-raising moment or two. Fearless guides, often fighting terror, manage to lead innocent groups back to the safety of the village.

Risk your soul to the beckoning forest. Now is the time to consider joining the adventure by crossing the bridge to the tiny village. If you survive your trek into the Haunted Forest, you can return to the Village where you may purchase refreshments and hot cider. Free candy is distributed throughout the evening to children who arrive in costume. While the atmosphere may be frightening for young children unaccompanied by an adult, the Haunted Village is an exciting

event geared towards the entire family. And while the sights you behold may chill your very bones, rest assured that the only one who will be physically contacted by the ghosts, demons and assorted evils will be your brave-hearted Guide. So bring your family to the Haunted Village and experience the terror of a lifetime!

The Seventh Annual Haunted Village runs Fridays and Saturdays, Oct. 13-28 and Sunday, Oct. 29, 6:30 p.m.-10 p.m. Take exit 10 off I-287 to Davidson Ave., Somerset, New Jersey. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$6 for children under 12. For information, directions, pre-sales and group discounts, call (732) 271-1119.

## VFW Offers Free Membership

VFW Memorial Post #6763 is offering free membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, to honor those who have served their country. Membership includes those currently in active duty military, all reserve forces and Army or National Guard personnel.

### Eligibility Requirements:

- Anyone who is serving on Active duty, Army or Air National Guard and all Reserve Forces;
- Whose services in the armed forces of the United States in Korea (1949-present) Vietnam, Lebanon, Panama, Liberia, Rwanda, Libya, Grenada, Somalia, Haiti, El Salvador, Bosnia, Persian Gulf, Kosovo is recognized as campaign medal service and governed by the authorization of the issuance of a campaign badge (medal) by the

Government of the United States; and

- Who is a citizen of the United States.

### The documents required for Proof of Eligibility are:

1. Active Duty Service Record Awards or
2. DD-214 Discharge or;
3. Some type of document showing APO address of current assignment.

Those individuals who are interested and think they may be eligible for membership in the VFW are urged to contact Rudy Poczak at (908) 668-9751 after 3 p.m. daily or after 12 noon on weekends, or stop at the VFW Post on 155 Front Street after 3 p.m. daily or 12 noon on weekends.

Do you remember these "teams" in the entertainment world? See how many you can match up. Fill in last names. —Submitted by Bill Tuthill

George _____	and Gracie _____
Edgar _____	and Charlie _____
Amos _____	and Andy _____
Tonto _____	and _____
Silver _____	and The _____
Bud _____	and Lou _____
Ralph _____	and 'Ed _____
"Archie" _____	and "Edith" _____
"Lucy" _____	and "Ricky" _____

Those were the days! Many of these shows are still running.

Answers: George Burns and Gracie Allen; Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy; Amos Jones and Andrew H. Brown; Tonto and Scout; Silver and The Lone Ranger; Bud Abbott and Lou Costello; Ralph Cramden and Ed Norton; Archie and Edith Bunker; Lucy and Ricky Ricardo

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# Sports

## High School Tigers Fall to New Brunswick 29-12

By Brian Cochrane

The South Plainfield Tigers Football team dropped its third straight game last week, losing on the road to the Zebras of New Brunswick 29-12.

One of the few bright spots for the Tigers that night was workhorse fullback Andrew Fyffe, who once again eclipsed the 100-yard rushing mark by grinding out 121

in the losing effort.

Jason Bataille also looked smooth, hooking up with five different receivers while tallying 104 yards through the air, including an 18-yard scoring strike to John Foscolo in the second quarter. The other South Plainfield score came in the third quarter as Andrew punched it in from six yards out.

Next up is powerhouse North Brunswick at home on Thursday.

## Pop Warner Football Results

Results from Pop Warner football games played last Sunday:

**Mitey Mites**—South Plainfield won 6-0 over Montgomery. Ryan Sacco (23) had the only touchdown. Standouts were Vincent Appello (90), Patrick Millard (80), William Whitefleet (77), Frank DeBiase (46) and Corey Hay (57).

**Junior Pee Wee**—South Plainfield lost 6-7. Mark Wagner (18) scored the only South Plainfield touchdown. Standouts were Danny Pompillo (98), Peter Adorna (95), Jonathan Conroy (94), Rocco Severni (81), Matthew Sender (72) and Garrett Lake (77).

**Junior Midgets**—South Plain-

field won 19-0. Scoring touchdowns were Anthony Costante (12) and Tommy Deshanine (8). Standouts were Fred Cummings (86), Steven Joaquim (98), Lamar Jackson (88), Kyle Smith (77) and Joe Attanagio (75).

**Midgets**—South Plainfield won 27-6 with touchdowns from Jamar Beverly (2), Marquis Jones (41) and Bill Merkle (4). Standouts were Charlie Leon (50), Chris Bojarski (12), Begant Draper (51) and Ryan Kenney (28).

**Flag**—Standouts were Nicholas Graves (29), Shawn Gorman (40), James Cianfrocca (4), Tyler Calderone (37) and Stuart Bucklew (6).

## Punt, Pass and Kick Contest Winners Announced

The winners of last Saturday's Punt, Pass and Kick contest, sponsored by the Pop Warner Club, have been announced.

The competition had a total of 39 participants, with 32 boys and seven girls in all age groups.

The winners are:

**Boys 8-9**—Jalil Williams  
Punt-57'4", Pass-67'8", Kick-55'3"

**Girls 8-9**—Elizabeth Martin  
Punt-28'6", Pass-39'3", Kick-57'2"

**Boys 10-11**—Anthony Cassano  
Punt-75'4", Pass-67' 11", Kick-50'

**Girls 10-11**—Tiffany Roth  
Punt-23', Pass-48'1", Kick-45'5"

**Boys 12-13**—Charles Leon  
Punt-80'4", Pass-106'9",  
Kick-86'1"

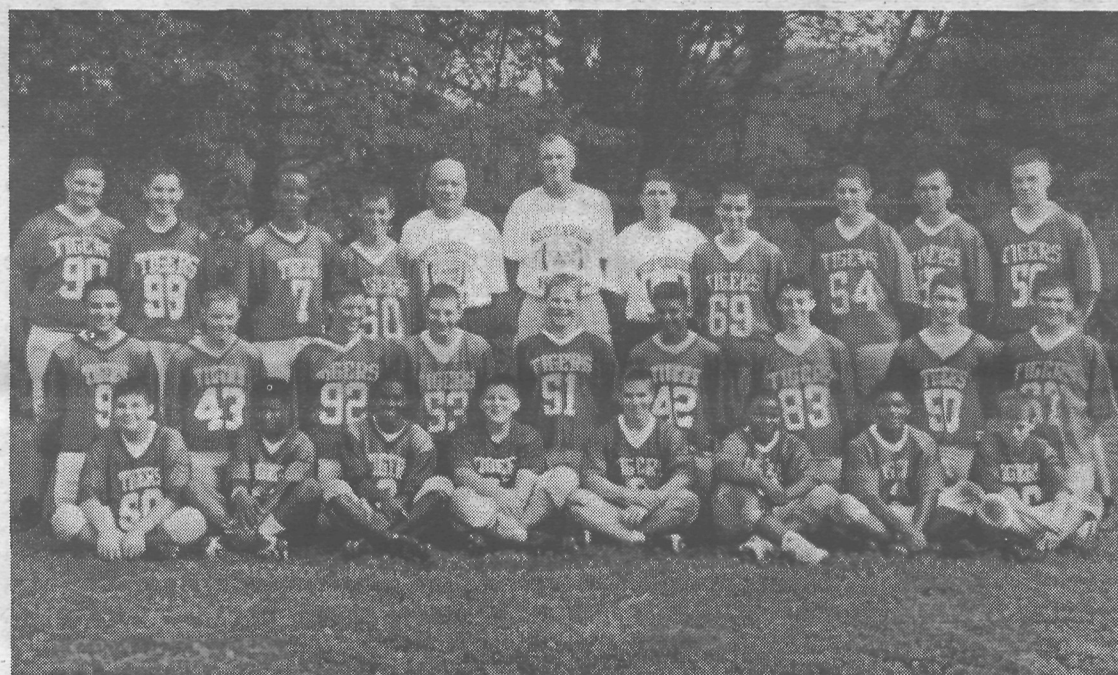
**Boys 14-15**—Guy Severini  
Punt-82'6", Pass-124'7",  
Kick-82'9"

All of these winners will advance to the sectionals, which will take place on Saturday, Oct. 14 at the South Plainfield Pop Warner Field on Kenneth Ave.

**Attention Schools**—We would like to include your sports stories in the Observer. Send us your information by fax (908) 668-8819, e-mail (ggnan@aol.com) or mail: 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.



Pictured above is the 2000 South Plainfield Football Team; below is the Freshman Team.



## South Plainfield Football 2000 Roster

### Seniors

Jason Bataille, Chris Cassio, John Foscolo, Bobby Freeman, Scott Gundersen, Matt Kurliew, James Reedy, Darren Tyson and Ken Wiczorek.

### Juniors

James Bender, Sal Carrano, Danny DeFalco, Rafael Diaz, Jonathan Fredericks, Andrew Fyffe, Chris Greivous, Sean Greivous, Chris Lamberti, Bobby Merkle, James Nguyen, Nick Ronzo, Frank Salerno, Joey Sierzega, Darnell Tyson, Matt Rennie and Thomas Toolan.

### Sophomores

Okle Annum, Gary Curcio, Phil DeRosa, Jared Dembia, Mike Espin, Eric Forde, Jerod Glover, James Hearne, Travis Hollis, Appy Iyengar, David Jacobs, Cedric Johnson, Steve Johnson, Tim Keller, Lawar Lawson, Jamaal McClintock, Dan Occhipinti, Chinedum Okparaek, Terry Paschall, Steve Porcelli, Kyle Prendergast, Michael Raynes, David Spayder, Ryan Vroom, Mike Wiczorek, Ervin Williams, Frank Wrublewski, Rodney Jones

and Brian DeStefano.

### Freshmen

Marcellus Abrams, Ramses Ali, Michael Alvarez, Jon Buggey, Chris Czaplinski, Kevin Frank Demarest, Joseph DeBiase, Ryan Elliot, Alex Ferraris, Michael Fry, Raj Jainarine, Greg Krylowski, Jason LaFontaine, Jay Leahy, Gary Levendusky, Michael Maher, Steven Mincevich, Jon Rodger, Michael Salerno, Guy Severini, Adam Tamzoke, Stephen Turrise and George Watkins.

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# Sports

## Blaze U-12 Girls Soccer Team Settles For 0-0 Tie

At home last Sunday, the South Plainfield Blaze faced the Middlesex Youth Mashers for the first time in what could be the toughest physical defensive battle of the season. The Blaze U-12 girls traveling soccer team had to settle for a 0-0 tie.

Continuing with defensive strategy, the keeper Becky Keller did an outstanding job stopping numerous shots on goal while producing her second shutout in a row.

Our middle defenders Elizabeth Flannery and Jackie Miller did a great job getting the ball outside to Ashleigh Gaspari, Tiffany Smith and Megan Boyle, who fought a tough battle in the full-back positions.

Outside mids Ashley Little and

Joy Maszczak, who shared the right side, and Lauren Fry and Katelyn Conrad on the left, handled the outside mid positions solidly. Jennifer Copeland and Jenna DeLillo did a fantastic job controlling the middle with Jenna DeLillo playing the center mid position for the first time and giving an outstanding performance.

Attackers Denise Lopez on the left and Kate Hardy on the right had numerous breakaways and shots on goal all stopped by an intimidating defense.

It was a gallant team effort and one we are all proud of. Great job girls!

Visit the South Plainfield Soccer Club web site at [www.soplfd.soccerclub.com](http://www.soplfd.soccerclub.com)

—Submitted by Tom Hardy

## United Boys Under 12 Win 5-0 Over Metuchen

The Boys Under 12 team took the field this past Sunday. And once again they did not disappoint onlookers. Still enjoying the taste of last week's win, they wanted to keep that taste alive. The defense was as solid and as strong as the Hoover Dam, with Nicky Baldassarre leading the way. This allowed goalkeeper Anthony Moretti to record his second shutout.

After a 1-0 lead at half-time, the whistle blew and the kids took

control with Diego Arroyo and Josue Llerena making the plays in the midfield. The second half was made a whole lot easier on the team as well as on the coaches.

The front line did its job by netting the ball five times into the Metuchen net, with striker Matt Fabino posting his first goal in this young season.

The team will be hosting Elizabeth this Friday night at Veterans Park at 7:30 p.m. in what could be a very physical test for the boys.

By Tony Cassano



### juniorbaseballclubnotes

**ANNUAL SPJBC PICNIC "A SLAM DUNK SUCCESS"**—On Saturday, Sept. 9, the SPJBC held its Annual Picnic. Once again, the baseball gods were smiling on us with beautiful weather and a great turnout. An estimated 500 people attended. As always, the food and drink was abundant with more than enough hamburgers, hot-dogs, corn, watermelon and ice cream for everyone. Thanks to all the volunteers that helped to set up the picnic and those that help work it during the day and for those that stayed late to clean up. No organization is successful without the help of its membership. The SPJBC is very fortunate to have so many people who get involved and stay involved. Thanks to each and every one of you!

**SPJBC COMPLEX TO BE CLOSED-OCTOBER 1 FOR IRRIGATION CONSTRUCTION**—As approved during the most recent General Membership Meeting held Sept. 12, the SPJBC has contracted an irrigation company to install a customized designed sprinkler system on Fields 1, 2, 3 and 4. In addition, dirt will be added and grading will be done. Construction is to start the first week of October.

As of Oct. 1, the complex will be closed until the spring time. All fields will be closed and no ball playing is allowed on any field.

**FALL REGISTRATION DATES SET FOR 2001 SEASON - OCTOBER 26, 27 AND 28**—The SPJBC will hold their Fall Registration for the 2001 season on Thursday, Oct. 26, between 6 and 9 p.m.; Friday, Oct. 27, between 6 and 9 p.m. and on Saturday, Oct. 28, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. in the Clubhouse. The SPJBC is located off Belmont Ave. and Kenneth Ave.

Additional information will be forthcoming through school distribution and in this paper. In the interim, please call club for any further details at (908) 754-2090.

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## Remember When...



**SPRING LAKE PARK IN 1920**—This picture shows Spring Lake when it was used for recreation, before it was made into Spring Lake Park. Jake Cataldo lent us this picture, however, we cannot identify the two boys.

## Early Morning Police Chase Ends in Arrest

South Plainfield Officer John McConville observed a 1988 Chrysler LeBaron go through a red light at Front St. and Maple Ave. last Thursday, Sept. 21, at about two in the morning. Officer McConville tried to stop the vehicle on Lane Ave., but the car increased its speed and the driver attempted to elude him.

Although the speeds never exceeded 35 mph, the operator was unable to maintain control of the vehicle as he navigated through a series of side streets and struck curbs on at least two occasions, causing his tires to blowout. He also struck a street sign. Because of this erratic behavior, the officer believed that the driver might be

under the influence of either alcohol, drugs or both.

Due to the blowouts, the vehicle eventually came to rest on Merchants Ave. at the intersection of Ritter Ave. Both the operator and the passenger of the car fled the scene on foot.

The passenger, a 15 year-old Edison resident, was uninjured and was apprehended a short time later. Officers lost sight of the operator for awhile. However, at approximately 6:30 a.m., an area resident phoned in a sighting of a white male in her yard.

Prior to the officers' arrival, the suspect fled on foot and was believed to have entered Spring Lake Park. After an extensive

search of the area, which involved a NJ State Police Helicopter and a Union County K-9, the suspect could not be located.

The operator of the car was wanted for traffic violations, eluding police, possession of a stolen vehicle and hindering apprehension.

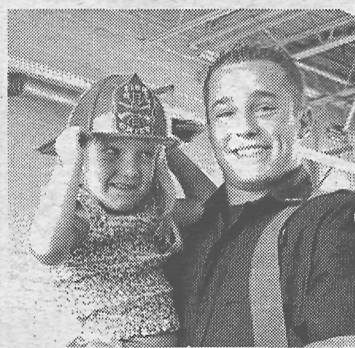
The police are investigating additional information in which the suspect may have attempted a burglary in the area of South Central Ave. Because of the investigation, the operator was identified as a 17 year-old Edison juvenile and he was taken into protective custody at his home. He was then placed in juvenile detention.



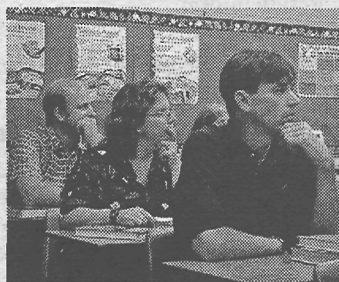
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## Obituaries

### Kathleen B. (Griffin) "Kathy" McCriskin, 48

Kathleen B. (Griffin) "Kathy" McCriskin died on Wednesday, Sept. 20 in JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Kathy was born in Manhattan, grew up in the Bronx and moved to Metuchen as a teenager. She attended Mother Butler High School in the Bronx and graduated from Metuchen High School in 1970. She attended Middlesex County College for two years and worked for Fedders Corp. in Edison for a few years. She was a past secretary in the South Plainfield Jayettes for many years. She was also a CCD teacher and a member of Sacred Heart Church RC South Plainfield. She was a long time member of the Sacred Heart Funstival, where she did the 50-50's and assisted on inventory. She was a former member of the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club, the South Plainfield Woman's Auxiliary and South Plainfield Wrestling Club. She was a "team mother" for her husband for many years in various leagues. Most recently, she was an assistant at the Holly Park Video in South Plainfield. She assisted her husband, Rich and her brother-in-law, Bill, in the formation and development of McCriskin Home For Funerals in South Plainfield.

Her father Patrick Joseph Griffin died in April of 1970.

Surviving are her beloved husband of 26 years, Richard W. and her son Richard II; her mother and stepfather Eileen (Sheehan Griffin) and Frank Pike of Lakewood, NJ; her sister Eileen P. and her husband Richard T. Magee of Metuchen; her brother Kevin P. Griffin and his wife Barbara of South Plainfield and her brother Keith G. Griffin of Metuchen. She is survived by her mother-in-law and father-in-law, Patricia and William R. McCriskin of Bayville, NJ; her brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Dr. James W. and Nancy McCriskin of Illinois, William C. and Patricia M. McCriskin of South Plainfield; and her sister-

in-law Maryellen Ashmead of Bayville, NJ. She was a wonderful aunt to Megan, Christine, Shannon, Colin, Deanna, Brenda, Katie, Melissa, Christine and Steven. She is also survived by numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Memorial contributions in her memory may be made to Kathy McCriskin, Cerebral Vascular Fund, c/o Neuroscience Institute at JFK Medical Center, 66 James Street, Edison, NJ 08818.

### Janet P. Perkins Egan, 70

Janet P. Perkins Egan of South Plainfield died on Wednesday, Sept. 20, at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in New Haven, Conn., she resided in Collingswood, (Camden Co.), NJ from 1954 to 1961 and Elizabeth for three years before moving here in 1968. Prior to retiring in December of 1995, she was employed as a waitress by the Plainfield Country Club in Edison.

A very avid bowler, Mrs. Egan was a member of the Tuesday Nighters League at Clark Lanes in Clark and the Mixed League at Brunswick Lanes in Edison on Thursday evenings. She and her husband bowled together in the Sunday Nighters League at Clark Lanes.

She was an accomplished seamstress who created her niece's wedding gown. She also did alterations for numerous people.

Mrs. Egan is survived by her husband Eugene J. Egan, Sr., with whom she celebrated her 47th wedding anniversary on Sept. 19, 2000; a son, Eugene, Jr. of South Plainfield; three daughters, Ellen Schaffer of New Hartford, Conn., Arlene Egan of Rahway and Deborah Egan O'Rourke of South Plainfield; three brothers, William and Peter Perkins, both of St. Petersburg, Fla. and Lewis Perkins of Ga.; one sister, Celia Savoy of St. Petersburg, Fla. and five grand-

children Brianne, Ryan, Brandon and Kelsey Schaffer and Kaitlin Mary O'Rourke.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### Delia DeFillipo, 84

Delia DeFillipo of South Plainfield, died on Tuesday, Sept. 19, at home.

She was born in South Plainfield and had been a life long resident.

Delia was a bookkeeper for Furino & Sons in North Plainfield for many years before retiring in 1986.

She was a member of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield, the South Plainfield Senior Citizens and the South Plainfield Seniors Adult School.

She is survived by her sisters, Mary Timko and Theresa Fallat, both of South Plainfield; her nieces, Genee High and Debbie Martin; her nephews, Robert DeFillipo, Carmen Cersoli, Robert Fallat and Joseph Timko, and several great nieces and nephews.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to Haven Hospice, 68 James St., Edison, NJ 08818.

### John J. Lehman, Sr., 70

John J. Lehman, Sr. of South Plainfield died on Tuesday, Sept. 22 at his home

He was born in Old Forge, Pa. and was a former resident of North Plainfield before moving to South Plainfield 40 years ago.

Mr. Lehman was a welder for the Ford Motor Company in Edison for 32 years before retiring in 1992. He was a member of the United Auto Workers Union Local 980 in Edison.

He served in the US Air Force as a corporal during the Korean War.

He was predeceased by his wife, Evelyn Frady Lehman, who died in 1995 and his daughter, JoAnne Lehman, who died in 1986.

He is survived by three daughters, Ruth Telanik of Middlesex, Dorothy Fleishman of Montclair and Denise Lehman of Somerset; two sons, John Lehman Jr. of Rock Hill S.C. and Steven Lehman of Kerrville, Texas; a brother, Chester of Hillsborough and two sisters Helen Drzewiecki of Germantown, Md. and Lorraine Johnson of Old Forge, Pa.; his grandchildren Michael and Alicia Lehman, both of South Plainfield. He is survived by seven other grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

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

## Keep Middlesex Moving Gearing for School Walk

On Wednesday, Oct. 4, students, parents and teachers from surrounding towns, along with Keep Middlesex Moving, Inc. (KMM), will join hundreds of mayors, city council members, school superintendents and other community leaders from around the world for a walk to school in celebration of International Walk Our Children to School Day.

The Partnership for a Walkable America established National Walk Our Children to School Day in 1997 to encourage parents to teach children about pedestrian safety and become aware of the difficulties and dangers children face on their trip each day. Since then, the event has grown considerably. In 1999, there were over two million walkers from 11,500 schools across the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Ireland, Australia and South America.

This year Keep Middlesex Moving, Inc. (KMM) plans to help increase that number by closely working with the various municipalities participating in the event with the development of their scheduled programs celebrating the day's events. Each municipality has activities geared towards their local elementary students involving teachers, public safety, officers and local politicians. Through funding from the NJ Department of Transportation the Federal Highway Administration

and a special donation from Telcordia Technologies, KMM is providing free book jackets, bookmarks, coloring books, t-shirts and reflectors to each municipality.

"Walk Our Children to School Day is one of KMM's favorite programs to coordinate. To see all the smiles, excitement and laughter from the children who participate, makes all of the hard work everyone puts into the program, all the more rewarding," said Cristina Cormio, Marketing Program Coordinator at KMM.

For more information about this, please call Cristina Cormio at 732-745-4318.

## Korean War Commemorative Dinner-Dance

The 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemorative Dinner Dance, sponsored by the Middlesex Chapter Korean War Veterans Association, will be held on Friday, Oct. 20 at VFW Post #6763, 155 Front St. from 7 p.m. to midnight. Cost of \$15 includes a catered buffet, beverages and music by the "Show-Offs."

For information, call (908) 668-9751, or stop by the VFW on Front St. after 3 p.m. daily and after 12 noon on weekends.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

September 26, 2000

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment of the Borough of South Plainfield at its meeting held on September 19, 2000.

Case No. 28-99/S & 29-99/S-Suburban Transit, d/b/a Central Jersey Transit-Applicant's request for use variances and site plan approval was hereby DENIED.

Case No. 40-00-Richard Fulton-Block 132; Lot 1; 1802 Kenyon Ave.-Applicant's request for a front yard setback variance from Kenyon Ave. was hereby GRANTED.

Case #39-00-Michael DeCarlo-Block 243; Lot 1; 204 DeSepio Ave.-Applicant's request for a side yard setback, variance was hereby GRANTED.

Case #22-00/S/V-Ramada Limited, d/b/a Madison Inn, LLC-Block 535; Lot 1.02; 2989 Hamilton Blvd.-Applicant's request for a rear yard setback variance, variance for parking spaces, lot coverage, preliminary and final site plan, is hereby GRANTED.

Janice Muccilli  
Secretary Zoning Board

\$27.00 September 29, 2000

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

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

Ordinance #1551 entitled: AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE THE POSITION OF RECORDS CLERK IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT be adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, September 29, 2000 and that a public hearing be held Tuesday, October 10, 2000 at 8:00 PM in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey.

ATTEST:  
Mary Blue/Deputy Municipal Clerk

### ORDINANCE NO. 1551

AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE THE POSITION OF RECORDS CLERK IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

WHEREAS, a need exists in the Police Department for the creation of a clerical position which does not presently exist.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, THAT the position of Police Records Clerk be and is hereby created within the Police Department. The job specifications shall be consistent with Job Specification 02735 of the Department of Personnel of the State of New Jersey. The initial salary will be \$21,753.00. The job title and salary will be incorporated in the salary ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield.

This Ordinance shall immediately become effective upon adoption and advertisement as required by Law.

Approved September 25, 2000

Daniel J. Gallagher/Mayor

ATTEST:  
Mary Blue/Deputy Municipal Clerk  
\$37.50 September 29, 2000

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

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

Ordinance #1550 entitled: AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE THE POSITION OF SECRETARIAL ASSISTANT IN THE MUNICIPAL CLERK'S OFFICE be adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, September 29, 2000 and that a public hearing be held Tuesday, October 10, 2000 at 8:00 PM in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey.

ATTEST:  
Mary Blue/Deputy Municipal Clerk

### ORDINANCE NO. 1550

AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE THE POSITION OF SECRETARIAL ASSISTANT IN THE BOROUGH CLERK'S OFFICE.

WHEREAS, a need exists in the Borough Clerk's Office for the creation of a clerical position which does not presently exist.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, THAT the position of Secretarial Assistant be and is hereby created within the Borough Clerk's Office. The job specifications shall be consistent with Job Specification 03127 of the Department of Personnel of the State of New Jersey. The position shall be considered confidential. The initial salary will be \$22,753.00. The job title and salary will be incorporated in the salary ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield.

This Ordinance shall immediately become effective upon adoption and advertisement as required by Law.

Approved September 25, 2000

Daniel J. Gallagher/Mayor

ATTEST:  
Mary Blue/Deputy Municipal Clerk

\$40.50 September 29, 2000

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

#### LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Kathleen and Timothy McGovern requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a 4'6" x 17' front porch and 21' x 20' attached garage. Proposed porch lacks the required 30' front setback, 25'6" being proposed. Proposed attached garage lacks the required 8' side setback, 6' being proposed; and any other such variances that may be needed, said property being located on Block 85 Lot 4 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 September 29, 2000



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## policereport

• A Fairview Ave. resident reported being harassed by a church congregation member. He received a message on his machine stating a "declaration of war" over an incident that happened at the church. The victim and suspect are Korean and the message left was in Korean. The answering machine tape was taken for evidence.

• A Stratford Ave. resident reported that his work truck has been pelted with eggs on four different occasions over several months.

• Tyrone Warfield Moore of Newark was arrested during a motor vehicle stop. He was found to have eight warrants for arrest, three in Newark, and five in Wayne. Outstanding warrants totaled \$1,445.

• Jose Gianfrancesco of Piscataway reported the theft of his bike. He stated he had arrived for work at Days Inn, New World Way, on his bike. He was confronted by Lisa and her boyfriend Omar, last names unknown. He had previously borrowed Lisa's daughter's bike and it had broken. Omar demanded money from him for the bike. Gianfrancesco stated that he had the part and would fix the bike. Omar then demanded Gianfrancesco's bike until other was repaired. When Gianfrancesco refused, Omar pushed him and took the bike. Witnesses confirmed Gianfrancesco's report of the incident.

• Airborne Express reported that Michael D. Harrison of Newark attempted to steal a Thinkpad laptop valued at \$3,000. The suspect had just been released from a group interview. He walked up

to the desk where the computer was located, unhooked it and attempted to walk out of the building. When the suspect was confronted by an employee, he told her he was instructed to take the computer to someone else in the building, but couldn't identify who gave him the instruction or where he was to take the computer.

• An E. Golf Ave. resident reported his front windshield was smashed. The car had been parked west of his driveway. There are no suspects and no evidence.

• A Woodland Ave. resident reported the rear windshield of his car was smashed. The car was parked on E. Golf Ave. near Woodland Ave. There are no suspects or evidence.

• An employee of the S.P. Recycling Center arrived at work and found the lock on the main gate broken and paint cans in an unlocked storage shed thrown around.

• A Somerset Ave. resident reported he had heard a noise and when he went to investigate he found the driver's side tail light of his car was smashed. The car had been legally parked on the road in front of his home.

• A So. Central Ave. resident reported someone had entered his locked car and removed items. Entry was gained by smashing the driver's side rear window and unlocking the door. The radio and CDs were removed and the registration and insurance card had been taken out of the glove box. The car alarm failed to go off.

• Andre C. Hyacinthe of Jamesburg reported the theft of

his cell phone from a picnic table in front of 224 Helen St. He stated that he left his clipboard, phone and jacket on the table and went inside for 15 minutes. When he returned the phone was missing.

• Melissa N. Johnson of Plainfield, a cashier at Bradlees, was arrested for underriding mer-

chandise and letting customers walk through her line without paying. Total value \$600.

• A Clinton Ave. resident notified police after finding two bags of household garbage and grass dumped on the sidewalk in front of his home. A bag had also been placed by her front door. A bag of grass had been left on the

sidewalk in front of home during a separate incident. A check of the contents showed two envelopes marked to someone at 1515 Clinton Ave. The suspect said she does not pay the garbage bill, her landlord pays it. She was issued a summons and informed to bring some type of bill from the landlord with her to court.

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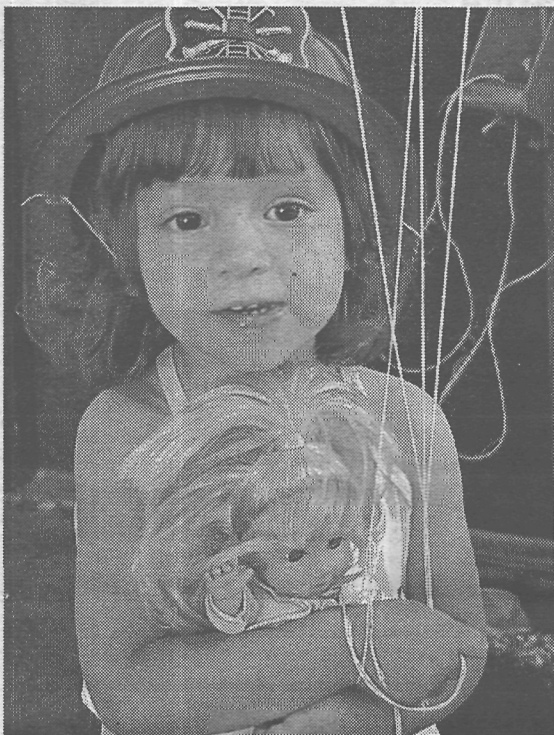
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## Kids Learn Fire Safety at Fire Dept.'s Annual Open House

The South Plainfield Fire Department held their annual open house on Sunday, Sept 23. Children were encouraged to climb aboard and explore the fire trucks. Wearing toy helmets, they scrambled about the trucks and took turns sitting in the driver's seat.

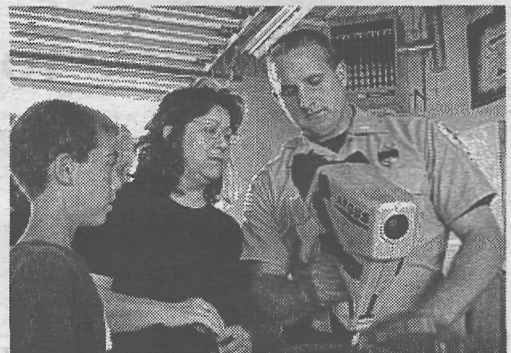
Inside the truck bays the fun continued. Visitors were treated to popcorn, balloons, Italian incs and red plastic fire helmets. Smokey the Bear was present to greet the kids. Children also got a chance to try on some fire gear; struggling with the oversized pants and coats. Parents

enjoyed the opportunity to snap photos.

PSE&G donated their time and an informative display. St. Barnabas Burn Hospital provided a trailer that simulated a burning house and taught children what to do in case of a fire. A popular display, the trailer has been a part of the open house for six years. Adding fun to education was former SP fire personnel Kim Tabor.

The Fire Department Open House event has its roots in the early 60s.

Photos and story by Patricia Abbott



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