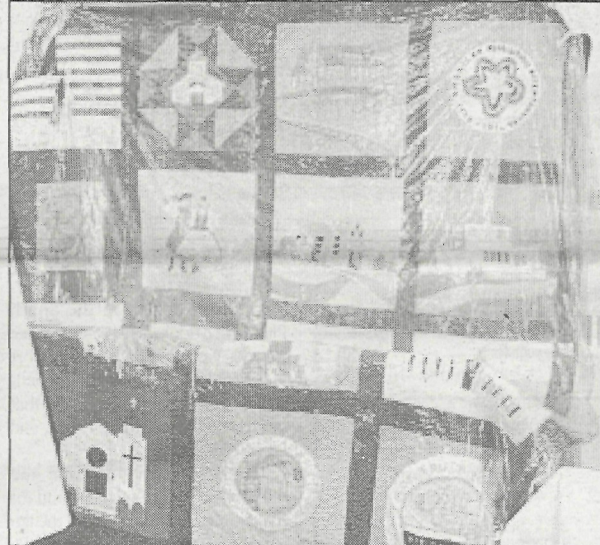
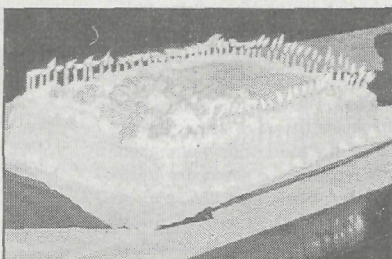
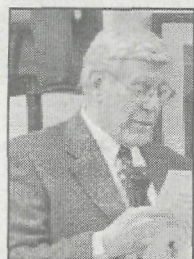
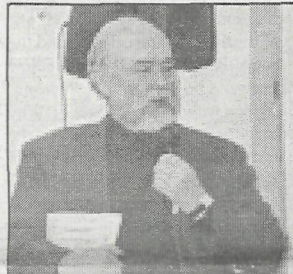


South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 4, NO. 29

50 CENTS

MARCH 23, 2001



Pictured at Monday's 75th Birthday Party are (top left to right), Borough Council members waiting to reenact the first meeting, the crowd helping themselves to the buffet; (left middle) Middlesex County Freeholder and former Council Member John Pulomena, who presented South Plainfield with a certificate and former Mayor Joe Coughlin; (left bottom), former Mayor Harry Gaynor, the birthday cake and (right) the quilt that has taken over 20 years to finish. Each square was done by an organization or group in town. It even has the seal of South Plainfield sewn on one of the squares.

75TH BIRTHDAY PARTY A SUCCESS

Monday night's celebration of South Plainfield's 75th birthday was a standing room only affair. Residents began arriving early to get a good seat and well before the festivities started, every seat was taken and the hall outside the council chambers was bursting with people. If you missed this, you missed a great evening of history and memories.

This 75th birthday celebration was planned by the South Plainfield Celebrations Committee and chaired by Borough Administrator Pat Vargo. All the hard work paid off when the huge crowd of enthusiastic residents turned out to hear a re-enactment of the first council meeting and a short history of South Plainfield presented by the Historical Society members. They even got to meet some of our past officials who also attended the party. Everyone got a souvenir book to remember the occasion.

Present day council members had a name card in front of their seat with the name of a member of the first council. They acted out what the first mayor and coun-

cil said at the very first meeting. The 1926 Council consisted of Mayor William Hamilton, Charles H. Thornton, Jr. (Police and Public Safety), Robert Ritter (Fire and Water), Albert J. Dellavalle (Finance Committee), Henry Brentnall (Administration Committee), Milton Mendel (Street Committee), Michael Pomponio (Street Lighting). The most interesting part of the first meeting was the request to pay Piscataway \$1,600 to buy our freedom.

Three past mayors were in attendance, along with many other past and present South Plainfield dignitaries. Natasha Kurilew, a student at SPHS started the festivities by singing the National Anthem and the entire room of guests sang right along with her. Many scouts and school children were in the audience and learned a lot about the early days of South Plainfield.

Rev. Dennis O'Neil, Pastor of First Baptist Church said the opening prayer. The First Baptist Church is the oldest church in town.

The mayor asked anyone who

was over 75 to raise their hands and well over a dozen people did so. They were also invited to come up to blow out the candles on the birthday cake.

Former Mayor Harry Gaynor (1967-1968) had the crowd on the edge of their seats with some of the stories he recalled. He was mayor when Englehard Ind. purchased 1,572 parcels of land from the town which they found out they did not own. These parcels were prizes in a raffle and the owners lived all over the country. The Mafia even became involved by attempting to buy some of the parcels dirt cheap and reselling them at inflated prices. Gaynor recalled that then Governor Hughes had to enact state legislation to prevent the parcels being bought and sold at higher prices. Gaynor also recalled that while he was mayor, the riots in Plainfield occurred.

Former Mayor Joseph P. Coughlin (1974-1978) said he had attended South Plainfield's 50th Birthday and hopes he will be invited to the 100th Anniversary Celebration. He added that even

though he no longer lives in South Plainfield, his daughter is still a resident here.

Former Mayor Mike English (1983-1986), a lifelong resident, is now Recreation Director and still lives in town. He said much has happened in the 75 years' in terms of growth. He added that South Plainfield is more than just a group of houses, it is filled with homes and families and most families tend to stay here generation after generation.

Four members of the South Plainfield Historical Society, Mary Mazepa, Bill Tuthill, Arline Anthony and Scott Culver all gave a small history of our town. In future issues of the *Observer*, we will feature this history in the next few issues.

The evening concluded with a birthday cake with 75 candles, which were blown out by several of our older residents. A buffet, catered by Michael's Kitchen topped off a great birthday party. The cost of the party was sponsored by Century 21 Moretti Realty, McCriskin Funeral Home and Patrick Diegnan, Jr.

Quick Chek Robbed at Gun Point; Employee Attacked

On Sunday night at approximately 9:15 the Quick Chek Store located on Sampton Avenue was robbed at gunpoint.

The robber walked into the store holding a 9mm. handgun. He demanded the money while pointing the gun at three employees. He then pulled back the slide on the gun ejecting a bullet and chambering another bullet into the gun.

Meanwhile another employee, a 63 year old female South Plainfield resident, approached the gunman and told him to leave the store. She did not realize that he was in the act of robbing the store. The suspect turned and struck the employee on the left side of her head with the gun, knocking her to the floor.

The robber then fled the store on foot with an undetermined amount of cash. The injured employee was taken to Muhlenberg Hospital where she received seven stitches and remained there for observation. The suspect is described as a Hispanic male, thin build, wearing a red bandana over his face, a black baseball cap and a beige plaid jacket.

Patrol units checked the area, but failed to locate the suspect. Officer Mahoney responded to the scene. Det. Parker is heading the investigation of the incident.

Darlene Pinto Will Not Seek Re-election

Councilwoman Darlene Pinto announced during last week's Democratic Committee meeting that she will not be seeking a second term on the council.

Pinto said she plans to continue to be active in the Democratic Party and she will stay on as a member of the Planning Board.

Pinto said she needs to take some time off to be with her family. She did however, leave open the possibility of running again in the future.

Pinto has been Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, a member of the Business Advisory Committee and has served on several other committees.

mark your calendars

council meetings

Meets twice a month on the first and third Thursday.

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

AGENDA MEETING

Monday, April 2 Thursday, April 5

Monday, April 16 Thursday, April 19

Monday, May 7 Thursday, May 10

Monday, May 21 Thursday, May 24

All meetings of the Governing Body are held in accordance with New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 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

March 27, April 10, April 24, May 8, May 22, June 12, June 26, July 10, July 24, August 14, August 28, Sept. 11, Sept. 25, Oct. 9, Oct. 23, Nov. 13, Nov. 27, Dec. 11 and Dec. 25 (no meeting).

zoning board of adjustment

Meets first, third and fifth Tuesday of the month

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

April 3, April 17, May 1, May 15, May 29, June 5, June 19, July 3, July 17, July 31, August 7, August 21, Sept. 4 (no meeting), Sept. 18, Oct. 2, Oct. 16, Oct. 30, Nov. 6 (no meeting), Nov. 20, Dec. 4 and Dec. 18.

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.

site place sub-committee

The fourth Thursday of the month as follows:

April 26, May 24, June 28, July 26, August 23, September 27, October 25, November 22 (no meeting), December 27.

recreation commission

Meets once a month on the second Monday of the month, except July and August

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

April 9, May 14, June 11, September 10,

October 8, November 12, December 10

environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)

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

April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, August 8, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 12 and Jan. 9, 2002

board of education meetings

Grant School Gymnasium on Cromwell Place unless otherwise noted

Formal Budget Hearing, Tuesday, March 27, 2001

Committee of the Whole, Apr. 3, 7 p.m., Regular Board Mtg., Apr. 10, 8 p.m.

Committee of the Whole, May 8, 7 p.m., Regular Board Mtg., May 15, 8 p.m.

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

School Board Elections Tuesday, April 17

business advisory group

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 5 p.m. • Questions? 908-757-8100

traffic safety advisory commission

Meetings, held at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room, Borough Hall

Mar. 28, Apr. 25, May 23, June 27, July 25, Sept. 26, Oct. 24, Nov. 28 and Dec. 26.

Log on to
southplainfieldnj.com
for the latest
meeting agenda

In My Opinion

Dear Editor,

On February 9, Kennedy School held their annual Father-Daughter Dance. The event was run by the Fourth Grade Parents' Stokes Committee and the profits will be used to help defray the cost of the fifth grade Stokes trip in the fall of 2001.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank several local merchants for their generosity and thoughtfulness. These merchants made very generous donations to our dance, particularly to our fame table, which brought in a considerable amount of our profit.

Those merchants are: 1-800-FLOWERS, SCOOPS, SUBWAY, ATCACHUNAS INSURANCE, ZANY BRAINY and GRAND SLAM.

We know that local business people are asked often for donations to school and community events, so we appreciate even more the fact that these business people were kind and caring enough to help us make this event a success.

We ask that the Kennedy School families in particular — and all local families — help us show our appreciation by patronizing these merchants. It is a small way that we can help say Thank you for some very big favors!

KENNEDY SCHOOL FOURTH GRADE PARENTS' STOKES COMMITTEE

To the Editor,

Thank you from the Robert Horne family.

Thanks to everyone who had any part in making the March 9, "Hoops for Horne" benefit at the South Plainfield Middle School an absolute success. We appreciate all the effort that went into organizing the benefit and making it work, especially that of Debbie Bishop, Mike Lanza, and Linda Lanza.

Thanks to all the "coaches" and "cops" that played the game and for the cheerleaders that cheered the latter on to victory.

We are also grateful to those who were not able to attend the game that made donations. To the local businesses that donated items for the raffles (Cranford Bike Shop and Stern's) and to B & B Productions for donating the "Hoops for Horne" T-shirts.

Most importantly, we are thankful to all for their thoughts and prayers.

THE HORNE FAMILY-DEBBIE, BOB, NICOLE AND KAYLEE

Dear Editor,

What I read in last week's paper really opened my eyes and I hope it opened the eyes of others also. The Board of Education has 1.9 million dollars on hand and has not used any of this money to make repairs to the school or rebuild the running track or replace heaters? What is this money

for — vacation funds?

I am a senior citizen on Medicare and they do not pay for all my medication. Why should I have to pay high taxes for a school we do not need. We have gone through this twice and now a third time? The Board of Education has no regard for the senior citizens of South Plainfield or those on fixed incomes!

What about the families that send their children to private or Catholic schools? Is this high tax increase fair to them? Now the teachers want back pay for in between contracts. Enough is enough with these people.

Mr. Pisaniello was right; how do they come up with a figure of 851 new students? And how many people in town live in a home worth \$115,000?

Do you see how many homes are for sale in town? More people are moving out then in and the major building is finished. We have no more land to sell. I heard even the Mayor is moving out of South Plainfield.

We all will be taxed more then \$88 — much more! I urge all the senior citizens and people on fixed incomes to get out on April 17 and vote NO! We have more then enough space and money. Why don't they just use the \$1.9 million on hand and the money they get from the State of New Jersey and be done with it. Nothing is wrong with Roosevelt School. Why don't they make class sizes like the State calls for, not what the Board of Education calls for to cause this mess.

What got me was the photo of the Board of Education in the paper, they looked like a bunch of vagabonds. They are going to control my taxes, when it looks like they don't have their own lives under control. I do not have any children and my grandchildren go to school in another town where the education is better. Why should I pay for it and the other senior citizens? Does the Board of Ed worry about my medicine, some costing up to \$150 per bottle. I am afraid not.

I urge all citizens of South Plainfield to get out and vote on April 17 and VOTE NO TO SAVE US MONEY! We are all going to be taxed out of this town! Just ride around and see the for sale signs on lawns. I have lived in this town nearly 80 years and this is the worse it has been.

HELEN BAUER

Dear Editor,

Last week the South Plainfield High School PTA held an Auction/Raffle to support Project Graduation for this year's graduating seniors. The event was a huge success!! We had over 400 people come to this event, mostly from our community.

To name all the people or businesses that contributed to the evening would be too numerous to mention.

Nearly every business in our town, contributed a gift. We would like to offer special thanks to The South Plainfield Ponytail Association, SPHS Music Boosters, SP Middle School Student Council, SP Middle School PTA, Summer Drama, South Plainfield Junioriettes, South Plainfield Girl Scout Community and the SPHS Business Clubs for their gifts.

The High School PTA feels strongly about keeping Project Graduation a free event for the graduating seniors, but this may not be possible each year if we don't have the support of our families. We had 20% of this year's graduating class donate an item or attend the Auction/Raffle. Some donated grand prizes — others smaller gifts. No matter the size, it helped the Auction/Raffle raise the money to give all of this year's graduating seniors the Project Graduation evening that they deserve. We appreciate the support and generosity of these families. We hope that each year more high school families will become involved with the PTA and support our efforts to raise funds for Project Graduation.

Please join the PTA every third Thursday at 7 p.m. in the high school for our meetings. Thank you to everyone who donated, worked or came to our Auction/Raffle!

PAT ANDERSON AND ELLEN MELANSON, AUCTION/RAFFLE CHAIRPERSONS

Dear Editor,

(In a letter published in last week's Observer, the last few paragraphs were inadvertently cut off. Below is the last paragraph of the letter. The letter was addressed to "whoever stole the 'Deaf Cat' sign from her lawn.")

No pet guardian would EVER stoop so low as to steal a sign like that. I would hate to think of someone like you being a caretaker of a pet. I can only imagine how the poor thing would be treated. Or, shall I say, MIS-treated!

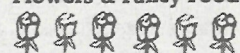
Are you proud of yourself? If anything happens to this cat due to your cold, unfeeling actions, I will again write to the Observer; so you will know. And I will hope that you feel remorse for what you did and guilt that haunts you for the rest of your days.

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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 in 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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be submitted by mail to South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Dept., 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email at our website at spobserver.com or faxed to 908-668-8819. Letters should not exceed 400 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. It is the editor's discretion to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject. The opinions expressed in "Letters" do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Observer.

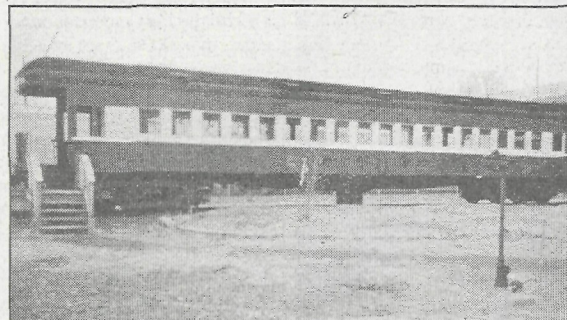
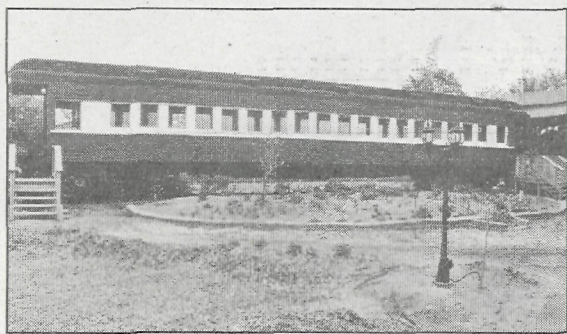
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We want to hear from you concerning what is going on around town. We will omit your name by request, but you must give us your name and phone number when you submit your letter. Send your letter/opinion to: The South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield 07080. You can email us at GGNAN@aol.com or fax to 908-668-8819.

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Railcar, Before and After!

Last summer, the railcar (above) wore a fresh coat of paint for its official ribbon cutting ceremony. Trees and flowers were planted and a lighted path was put in place. After sitting vacant during the winter months, the railcar (below) looks deserted. The landscaping is gone, windows are broken and graffiti is painted on its side. The railcar has been broken into several times. Even the lamp post is broken and hanging over. According to Councilwoman Darlene Pinto, the lease for the railcar is up at the end of the year and then the council will review their options on what to do with the car.

Timber Creek Landscaping Adopts Clinton Ave. Extension Again

Brian Mazellan, President of Timber Creek Landscaping, has renewed his adoption of the stream crossing at the Clinton Ave. Extension, including the railroad tracks. Brian and Don Mazellan have been maintaining this heavily-littered stretch of road for the last eight years. In addition to picking up trash, they trim weeds and mow the turf at the roadside.

Mazellan was a charter member of the South Plainfield Clean Business Association's (CBA) Adopt-A-Spot program. In fact, he began the program in 1993 when he approached

the CBA and offered to keep the stream crossing clean on a regular basis. CBA President Joe Diegnan did some research into the New Jersey Adopt-A-Highway Program. He used it as a model and developed a local program for the Borough. Mr. Mazellan signed the first contract with the CBA and took over his spot that spring. He has renewed each year, and the improvement has been noticeable.

For more information about the Adopt-A-Spot program, contact the Clean Communities Coordinator at (908) 226-7621.

Free Trigger Locks

Available

The South Plainfield Police Department has received Master Brand fire-arm trigger locks from the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office to be distributed to South Plainfield residents, age 18 and older upon request. There is a limit of one per household. They

will be available starting March 20.

The trigger locks can be obtained free of charge at the South Plainfield Community Policing Building located at Hamilton Blvd. and New Market Ave. The building is open on Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and 5 to 7:30 p.m.

For further details, call Police Officer LaMonda at 908-226-7716.

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Sue Ashnault Chosen to be Honored as "New Jersey Official of the Year"

By Patricia Abbott

South Plainfield resident Sue Ashnault has been selected as the New Jersey Official of the Year by the National Federation Officials Association (NFOA). She will receive her award at a luncheon at the Pines Manor in Edison on March 25. The NFOA annually recognizes officials in each state for the great work they do for the young people in our country.

As an official, Sue works with gymnastics in a variety of positions. Since 1984 she has served as a New Jersey Interscholastic Athletic Association Official/Judge and a New Jersey Gymnastic Official. In 1998, Sue added NJSIAA Girls Gymnastic Rules Interpreter to her list. Sue represents New Jersey Girls Gymnastics at State and National levels. She attends all meetings at the state level and the National Federation Officials Association level and assists with rules interpretations and special committees at the National meetings. She is a judge at girls gymnastics competitions in New Jersey at varsity high school level and acts as a Meet Referee at county and state meets and tournaments.

Sue was very surprised and honored to be selected for this award. "I enjoy judging the sport of gymnastics and I feel that my experience as 'Rules Interpreter' helps me as an official, as well as benefiting the sport in representing New Jersey Girls Gymnastics," she explained.

During gymnastic season, Sept. through Nov., officials are kept busy. Sue judges two to three times a week, officiates at tournaments and also goes to monthly meetings for the Central Jersey chapter and state meetings at the NJSIAA building in Robinsville.

The owner of Creative Kids Academy located on Clinton Ave., Sue has a degree in elementary education and is certified from preschool through eighth grade, along with graduate studies in early childhood education and special education.

Sue's husband, Bill, is a member of the South Plainfield Recreation Commission. Sue and Bill have three children, Billy, 12, Carly, 7 and Anthony, 5.

Sue has been involved in gymnastics for many years prior to becoming an official. She became interested in the sport in elementary school and took a number of gymnastic classes.

Hall of Fame Committee Seeking 2001 Nominees

The South Plainfield Hall of Fame Committee has started their search for candidates for induction into the Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame was established at South Plainfield High School to recognize outstanding graduates as leaders in their fields who could serve as role models for current and future students.

To be eligible, all Hall of Fame candidates must have graduated SPHS at least 15 years prior to nomination, and they must have achieved a prominent position in their careers or made a significant contribution to the world/community.

Candidates selected will be honored at a luncheon and inducted into the Hall of Fame at the High School's annual Academic Awards Program in June, 2001. Nominees will also have their photos and biographies displayed on a "Wall of Fame" at the high school.

To nominate someone, call Mr. Massaro at (908) 754-4620. The application deadline is April 6, 2001.



Sue Ashnault to be honored as New Jersey Official of the Year

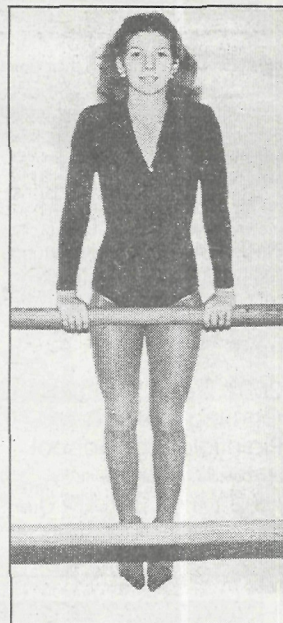


Pictured is the 1991 gymnastic team photo. Kneeling left to right is Jami Stein and Leanne Roudi. Standing is Coach Al Hook, Cara Gallo, Teresa Calderone, Amy Stracensky, Erin Shevlin and Coach Sue Ashnault.

In her sophomore year of high school, the first SPHS gymnastics team was formed.

Sue recalls the team's simple beginning: "In 1977 a few of the girls got together and asked for a team. Mrs. Meeker was the coach of the team." From 1984 to 1991 Sue served as the SPHS Varsity Coach for the girl's gymnastics team. One of her former students, Lori Dress, is now the coach of the team. Sue stated; "I am very proud of her, she is doing an excellent job with the team and is very dedicated."

As a parent, official and former coach, Sue is a strong believer in the benefits of sports and teamwork. Sue explained; "I always suggest that young children get involved with sports or the arts. I feel this helps them focus and it strengthens their self discipline skills, along with keeping them active. As a team member, kids learn many skills in getting along and working together. On an individual level, children need to be encouraged to explore many activities. It builds confidence and character in each and every one of them."



Sue (Cassio) Ashnault competed in gymnastics as a junior in 1979 at South Plainfield High School.

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Events

Lenten Fish Dinners at Sacred Heart Church

March 23, 30; April 6

Back by popular demand, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of the Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield, will again be hosting their famous Lenten Fish Dinners on March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6.

Dinners will be served in the Sacred Heart School cafeteria, 149 So. Plainfield Ave., from 5 to 7 p.m.

The menu will feature fillet of fish (fried, broiled, parmigiana) or pizza, fresh garden salad, french fries or macaroni and cheese, cole slaw, coffee, tea or cold drink, plus dessert. Take out orders are also available.

Admission is \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors and \$4 for children. Pay at the door.

Stations of the Cross will be held in the Church at 7 p.m.

Franklin School PTA Hosts Annual Auction

March 24

The Franklin School PTA will be holding their Fifth Annual Auction/Raffle Night. The event will be held on Saturday, Mar. 24, at 6:30 p.m. in the South Plainfield High School Gym.

Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. For tickets call (908) 753-7117 or (908) 753-2864.

Ponytail Softball Association Meeting

March 27

The South Plainfield Parent Ponytail Association will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, Mar. 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the South Plainfield Middle School Library. We would appreciate the attendance of all current members as the softball season is readily approaching and we have a great deal to accomplish. If you are interested in becoming a member and being involved in Girl's Ponytail Softball, please join us on Mar. 27. New members are always welcomed.

2001 Golden Gloves Coming to South Plainfield High School

March 31

The 2001 Golden Glove Quarter finals will be held on March 31 at South Plainfield High School on

Lake Street. Last year this PBA sponsored event drew such a large crowd at the Middle School that it was moved this year to the high school, which has a larger gym area.

All bouts are sanctioned by the New Jersey Association of USA Boxing Inc.

Doors open at 7 p.m. and bouts will start at 8 p.m.

St. Stephens Church Hosts All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti Dinner

March 31

St. Stephens Lutheran Church will host an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner on Saturday, Mar. 31, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., at St. Stephens Lutheran Church, 3145 Park Ave.

Price is \$3 per person, and includes dinner, beverage and dessert. No advance tickets will be sold.

Columbiettes To Host Lunch with Easter Bunny

April 1

The South Plainfield Columbiettes will host their second annual Lunch with the Easter Bunny, on Sunday, Apr. 1 at the K of C Hall, 334 Hamilton Blvd.

The luncheon will feature a hot and cold buffet. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. and the cost is \$10 per person.

All children seven and under will receive an Easter basket. There will be door prizes and the Easter Bunny will have gifts for all who attend.

Reservations must be made in advance by calling Mary Ann at (908) 226-1222. The deadline is Mar. 15.

Girl Scouts Sponsor Flea Market/Craft Show

April 7

South Plainfield Junior Girl Scout Troop #14 will be sponsoring a Flea Market/Craft Show on Saturday, Apr. 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will be held outside at J.E. Kennedy School, 2900 Norwood Ave.

Vendors are currently being sought. Spaces are being sold for \$20 and you will need to bring your own table and chairs. All proceeds from this event will go toward a troop trip this summer to Hershey Park.

For information or a vendor reservation form, contact Robyn at (908) 769-7395.



Pictured are just a few of the gift baskets that are waiting for a winner to be announced at this Saturday's Franklin School PTAA Auction held at South Plainfield High School. See story on this page for more information.

Recreation Announces Annual Easter Egg Hunt

April 7

The South Plainfield Recreation Department will hold their Annual Easter Egg Hunt, on Saturday, April 7, at 1 p.m.

All South Plainfield children, ages newborn to 9 years old, are invited to attend the hunt behind the PAL building. Parents are asked to bring baskets. Harvey the Bunny will be present.

Vision 2001 Annual Art Auction to be Held

April 20

The South Plainfield Vision 2001 Education Foundation's Sixth Annual Art Auction will be held on Friday, Apr. 20, at 7 p.m. in the South Plainfield High School Cafeteria.

This year former Police Chief Steven Merkler will be the Honorary Chairperson for this annual Vision 2001 fundraiser.

Vision 2001 recognizes residents who have made an impact on the children of South Plainfield and felt that Chief Merkler's services to the residents of South Plainfield have definitely made such that impact.

Recreation Plans Trip to Atlantic City

April 22

The South Plainfield Recreation Department is planning a trip to Atlantic City on Sunday, April 22. The bus leaves the PAL at 11 a.m. Price is \$15 per person with a return of \$14 in coins.

Tickets can be purchased at the PAL Building, located on Maple Ave.

Vendors Sought for Flea Market/Fair

April 28

The South Plainfield Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Girl Scout Council are seeking vendors for their

Family Fair and Flea Market to be held on Saturday, April 28 (rain date is May 5). The event takes place at the South Plainfield Middle School from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Set up 7:30 to 9 a.m. Clean up is 4 to 5 p.m.

Registration fee is \$15 for a 15x5 ft. area. Each additional space is \$10. You must supply your own table. Sorry, no food vendors!

For further information, call Debra Krawiec at (908) 757-9432 or Sharon Snogan at (908) 755-7481.

Elks Planning Annual Comedy Show

April 28

The Elks will be holding their Annual Comedy Show, with a hypnotist on Saturday, April 28 from 7 to 11 p.m.

Food and beverages are included in the price of \$30 per person. Only 100 tickets will be sold for this event.

For more information call (908) 668-9750.

Business Asso. To Host Golf Outing

May 1

On Tuesday, May 1, the South Plainfield Business Association will host a golf outing, at the Cranbury Golf Club in West Windsor.

The event will include green fees and cart, continental breakfast, open bar, BBQ luncheon, and prizes.

For additional information, contact Bob Longo at (908) 753-7004.

Rec Announces Trip to Papermill Playhouse

May 9

The South Plainfield Recreation Department is sponsoring a trip to the Papermill Playhouse to see *Funny Girl*.

The bus leaves the PAL at 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$35 per person. Register at the PAL.

Trip To See Mets Vs. Braves Planned

June 23

Sacred Heart Church has planned a trip to the Mets vs. Braves on Saturday, Jun. 23. Seats are located in the downstairs loge.

Cost for the trip is \$43, which includes game ticket, transportation and driver gratuity. The trip is open to everyone. Reservations can be made by calling the parish center at (908) 756-0633, ext. 11, or Mary Ann at (908) 226-1222.

Trip to See The Lion King Planned

July 5

The Rec Department is sponsoring a trip to Broadway to see *The Lion King* on July 5, 2001.

The cost is \$95 per person and includes your ticket and the bus. Purchase your ticket at the PAL. The bus leaves at 4 p.m.

The PAL is open weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Multi-Class Reunion Planned

May, 2001

An invitation is 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 reunion coordinators, sufficient number of alumni or both.

In view of this interest, the Class of 1969 is inviting all SPHS alumni. The 60's Boardwalk theme will celebrate all those who once walked the halls of South Plainfield High School.

Pass the word to all alumni you have contact with. If they have an interest, contact either Sandy Spisso Connelly or Bobby Cobb at the following email addresses: spdcon@aol.com or racobb@epix.neto

Trip to Cape Cod, Taking Reservations

September 10-14

The PAL 5-day, 4-night trip to Cape Cod has been sold out, but according to Mike English, a second bus is being hired. The trip is Sept. 10-14, 2001.

The package includes four night accommodations, four breakfasts, four dinners, including a lobster bake, fully escorted tours of the Hyannis area, the historic Massachusetts towns of Sandwich, Boston, Quincy Market, Plymouth and Provincetown and the Hyannis Harbor Cruise even evening of entertainment, a welcome reception, baggage handling, all taxes and standard gratuities.

Prices are \$325 per person double, triple and quad occupancy. Single supplement is \$78. For more information and reservations, contact Mike English at (908) 226-7714.



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32nd Annual All-District Music and Art Festival

The South Plainfield Public Schools' Fine Art Department will hold its 32nd Annual All-District Music and Art Festival on Friday, March 30 at South Plainfield High School, starting at 7 p.m. The festival will feature music performed by instrumental and vocal ensembles, as well as displays of art work by the many talented art students from each of the town's schools.

The music program will feature performances by the Elementary String Ensemble under the direction of Carleen Cunningham-Tedeschi and Bruce Mikolon; the Elementary District Chorus, directed by Joanne Gursky, Barbara Habeeb, Glenn Parisi, Sharon Perez and Joan Stasio; and the Elementary District Band under the direction of Tobie Baldwin, Jessica Schimpf and Paul Sturm. These young musicians will be followed by the Middle School Orchestra, directed by Mrs. Tedeschi. The Gems, an all-girl chorus from our middle school and the Middle School Festival Chorus, under the direction of Doris Younkun will then perform followed by the Middle School Concert Band and Middle School Jazz Band, led by Andrew Veiss and Paul Sturm. Tracy Murray will direct the High School Chorus. The concert will conclude with performances by the High School Stage Band and the High School Concert Band, under the direction of Mark Tweed.

The art display will be a delightful

combination of styles and techniques. All grade levels will be represented to show the artistic development and interests of students both young and older. The works on display are done in oils, acrylics, pen and ink, watercolor, temperas, markers and crayons.

Denise Timinski, high school art teacher, Diane Kardos, middle school art teacher, Barbara Harris, Mary Ellen Kopf, and Glenda Posey, elementary art teachers, thank all their students who have made the display possible for the festival.

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

The elementary groups (band, orchestra and chorus) are comprised of students from each of the five elementary schools. Selection to these groups is by audition. These students get bused to either the middle school or the high school one day each week for four weeks to rehearse together in preparation for the festival. The remaining rehearsal will take place on Monday, Mar. 26, from 12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. The Elementary Chorus and Orchestra practice at the high school, the Elementary Band practices at the middle school. On Friday, Mar. 30, there will be a dress rehearsal for all performing groups at the high school, starting at 9:15.

Friends of the Library to Host Author Loren Schmidtberger

On Tuesday, April 3, the Friends of the South Plainfield Library will present a program by Dr. Loren Schmidtberger, a professor from St. Peter's College in Jersey City, called "Irish, Blacks and Ladies" in William Faulkner's *Absalom Absalom*. The program will be held in the library and

will start at 7 p.m. A synopsis of the book can be found at the South Plainfield Library. Refreshments will be served.

Loren Schmidtberger grew up on a wheat and cattle farm in western Kansas. Just before graduating from Fort Hays Kansas State, he was drafted into the United States Army at the beginning of the Korean War. After returning to civilian life, he earned a Ph.D. in English and American literature at Fordham University.

Dr. Schmidtberger's scholarship on the works of William Faulkner and other American authors has appeared in various journals, including *American Literature*, *Thought* and *Cross Currents*. His reflections on subjects of general interest have appeared in such publications as *The New York Times* and *The New Yorker*.

Dr. Schmidtberger is on the faculty of Saint Peter's College, where he served as chairman of the English Department from 1971 to 1984. In 1991, he was appointed Will and Ariel Durant Professor of Humanities.

This program is sponsored by the NJ Council for the Humanities.

Terra Nova Garden Club Meeting

The March monthly meeting of the Terra Nova Garden Club will be held on Wednesday, March 28 at 7:30 p.m. at the North Edison Library, 777 Grove Avenue, Edison.

Mark you calendars! The Terra Nova Garden Club's 50th Anniversary Luncheon Celebration is slated for Thursday, Nov. 15. Price for the luncheon is \$30 per person.

The Terra Nova Garden Club is also selling a savory cookbook of tried and true recipes of our members. The cost is \$10 and may be purchased from any member.

Stephanie Tackach, Amanda Hermann, and Cindy Prybella Presented Silver Awards

Stephanie Tackach, Amanda Hermann and Cindy Prybella, from Troop 772 in South Plainfield, were awarded the Silver Award at a ceremony held at Wesley United Church on Sunday, March 11. Angela Prybella their Troop Leader beamed during the ceremonies, one of the awardees was her daughter.

Ceremonies were lead by Gina Zarra, Girl Scout Cadette/Senior Consultant. Also speaking were Joanne Otlowski, Girls Scout Service Unit Manager, Troop Leader Angela Prybella, Barbara Lindner, Washington Rock Girl Scout Council and Carrie George, leader of Troop 819. Brownies from Girl Scout Troop 232 performed the flag ceremony and Father Tom Ganley, of Sacred Heart Church, gave the invocation.

Part of their project included planning, purchasing, and cooking an entire meal for their leaders.

The Silver Award is Girl Scouting's second highest award. It recognizes a girl's effort in a wide range of Girl Scout experiences, as well as her commitment to working to better her life and the lives of others.

There are four requirements to be completed before a girl can start her project. In all of the requirements, the girl works closely with her Troop leader and other partners and advisors towards the completion of her Silver Award.

The first of these requirements is to earn three interest patches. The purposes of these patches is to improve the skills the girl already possesses. The interest project patches should be related to the final Silver Award project the girl has in mind.

The second requirement is to earn the "From Dreams to Reality Patch" or the Career Exploration Interest Project Patch. Whichever one of these the girl chooses to complete, the purpose is to explore and learn about the career possibilities open to women.

The third requirement is to earn the Cadette Girl Scout Leadership Award or the Leadership Interest Project patch. The purpose of this requirement is to strengthen the girl's leadership abilities and skills. She must spend at least 25 hours in a given leadership role.

The fourth requirement for earning the Silver Award is to complete the Cadette Girl Scout Challenge. This is a challenge to become the best possible person that the girl can be and involves knowing yourself, developing values, contributing to your community and knowing about Girl Scouting.

After completing these four requirements, the girl is ready to begin her Silver Award Project. She must design the project, implement the project and carry it out to its conclusion. This project is a personal action plan for helping others, which builds upon accomplishments made in Girl Scouting, in addition to all that was learned by completing the first four requirements for the Silver Award.

The project itself has four steps: First is to decide what talents and abilities the girl would like to put into action through a project that will im-



Troop Leader Angela Prybella with Silver Award recipients, Amanda Hermann, Stephanie Tackach and Cindy Prybella.



Councilmen Jim Vokral and Ed Kubala presented certificates from the mayor and council to each Silver Award Girl Scout.



Brownies from Girl Scout troop 232 performed the flag ceremonies.

prove the lives of others.


Second, is to think about her values, what she cares about and how she would like to make something better. She must develop a plan that will use her personal strengths to help others. This may involve school, the community, a religious group, or Girl Scouting.

Third, is to identify the people with whom she will work. Those who will

help and guide her as well as those whom she hopes to help and those who will benefit from her project.

The final step is to carry out her plan. This final step should take at least seven hours.

When completed, the project is something the Girl Scout can be proud of and take pride in having come so far in Girl Scouting.





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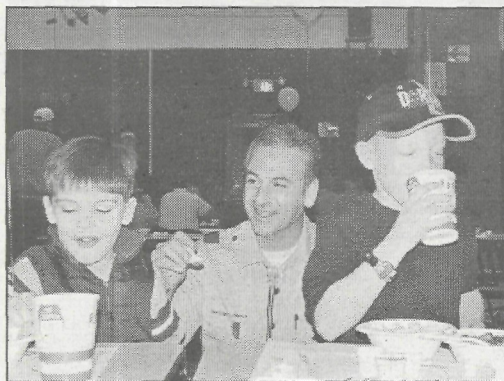
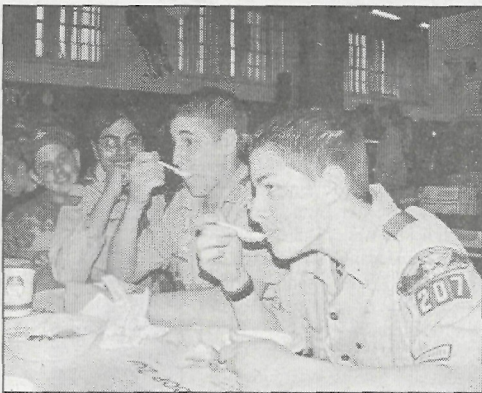
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Chilifest Dishes Out 55 Gallons

By Patricia Abbott

Kennedy School recently played host to the 'Chilifest 2001' sponsored by Boy Scout Troop 207. The unique family oriented fund-raiser served an all-you-can eat chili dinner. Scout Master Randy Gemenen noted, "We dished out approximately 350 bowls

of chili, (55 gallons), served 40 heads of lettuce, 40 cucumbers, and 40 tomatoes, as salad of course, 450 12 oz. cans of soda, and 20 gallons of ice cream." Optional jalapeno peppers, sour cream and cheese were available to season chili to suit individual tastes.

The second annual Chili Fest Chairperson was Angela Uffer. Super-

vised by their leader Randy Gemenen and assisted by parents, 18 boys were kept busy serving food and clearing tables. The boys managed to sneak in a few minutes in between duties to enjoy the chili and fixings themselves. Local businesses offered goods and services for the ChiliFest in exchange for advertising.

Many people purchased tickets that were donated to the Keystone Community, allowing residents of the facility to enjoy a complete chili dinner. Proceeds from the successful event will go towards the purchase of camping equipment. The scouts of troop 207 participate in camping trips ten months out of the year. The troop meets at the Knights of Columbus every Thursday from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

The Chilifest fund-raiser began with a troop in Missoula, Montana and has become widely used by scouts throughout the country. Gemenen added, "The chili recipe we use is from Troop 6 in Missoula, Montana. All of the left over food (25 gallons of chili), rolls, salad, and soda were donated to the residents at Keystone. We are already planning for next year's Third annual Chilifest!"

John E. Riley P.T.S.O. Accepting Scholarship Applications

The John E. Riley P.T.S.O. is accepting applications for their annual college scholarships. The P.T.S.O. offers two scholarships for \$500 each.

Applicants must be residents of South Plainfield graduating from high school (private or public) this June and must have been promoted from fifth grade at Riley School. The filing deadline for these scholarships is April 27, 2001.

Applications are available at South Plainfield High School, Riley School, or by calling (732) 926-0427.

Knights of Columbus Looking for New Members

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus is looking for new members, if interested please call 908-756-6203 for more information.

Middle School Health Contest Poster Winners



Students of Grant Central Six Elementary were invited to enter a Health Contest sponsored by the School Nurse, Dawn Wallis. Mrs. Wallis taught Health to the sixth graders and ran the contest as a way of reinforcing what was learned during class.

The students also had the option of choosing any health topic they felt was important to them. The projects

included disease control, nutrition, drugs, dental care and general hygiene. The entries included posters, paintings essays and even a song.

There were three Grand Prize winners; Tina Bijlani, Peter Yeung, and Gina Butrico. The runners-up were Daniel Becker, Jessica Monituri, Brian Wieckowski, Ryan Miller and Anthony Valle.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Time for some more news from the South Plainfield Library:

First, let's look at our upcoming children's programs. At present, there's still space available for this afternoon's Kidcraft program at 4:00. The program is for children ages six and over; all craft materials are provided by the Library. Please call (908) 754-7885 to reserve a spot. Also, we'll follow our usual schedule of children's Storytime programs next week. Those programs are for children ages three and over; no pre-registration is required. The programs last about an hour and are held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. For more information, check with Children's Librarian Linda Hansen.

Monday will be the last day of availability for this month's group of Circuit videos. Titles in this group include *The Peacemaker*, *Boys Don't Cry*, *Restoration*, *Entrapment*, *Monkey Trouble* and, on DVD, *Mission: Impossible 2*. Videos and DVDs may be borrowed, four at a time, for two days.

Mark your calendars for this upcoming program. On Tuesday, April 3, the Friends of the Library will host a literary lecture and discussion, "Irish, Blacks and Ladies in William Faulkner's *Absalom, Absalom*." The program will be led by Dr. Loren Schmidberger, Professor of English at St. Peter's College. The program will get started at 7 p.m.; refreshments will be served. The program is made possible by a grant from the NJ Council for the Humanities.

Next week will be the last time you can see this month's displays. Our display cabinets feature Indian items provided by South Plainfield resident

David Joshi. Meanwhile, our display wall features artwork by South Plainfield High School student Sarah Miele. The works feature several mediums, including gel pen, acrylic paint and pastels.

At the risk of confusing you, we've made another change in our internal arrangement. After some consideration, we've decided to move our English as a Second Language (ESL) and Adult Basic Reading (ABR) materials back to where they had been previously located, back near our periodical section. If you have trouble finding them, or any other item, just ask a staff member for help.

It's time we reminded you all again about the parking situation at the Library. At times, the parking lot at the Municipal Complex can get pretty full, especially on Wednesday, which is court day. Even so, we ask that you refrain from parking in spots marked "Library Staff Only." Not only will it prevent unneeded hassles for our staff, it will save you trouble, as well. Unauthorized vehicles left in Library spots will be ticketed. We're not kidding on this, folks.

And one other reminder: Be advised that, while we accept cards from other libraries for borrowing privileges, those cards will not work with some of our resources. Specifically, we mean logging onto our Internet terminals and attempting to renew items via our website or the automated Elvis system. In those cases, you'll have to apply for a South Plainfield card or ask a staff member for assistance.

That'll do it for this week. See you next Friday for more news.

By the way, didn't spring start earlier this week? Why hasn't someone told the climate about this? It still feels like winter.

Library Director, Sundra Fenn to Speak at Women's Club

Mrs. Sundra "Sunnie" Fenn, director of the South Plainfield Library, will be the guest speaker at the GFWC Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield at their April 5 meeting, 2 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, Oak Tree Road.

Her presentation will be about Library Services and specifically those provided by the local library. Literature concerning the library will be made available to those attending the meeting.

Mrs. Fenn has mentioned that one of the most interesting parts of her job is chatting with the people who come into the library and getting to know about them through their selection of books, tapes and library materials. She feels that there has been a change in book selections recently, leaning more toward biographies than in the past.

Mrs. Fenn has been the library director for the past 10 years and previously was the director of the Dunellen library for two years. She graduated from Rutgers University with a Bachelor's degree in history and a Master's degree in library services.

The South Plainfield library is staffed with four part-time librarians, in addition to Mrs. Fenn. It has experienced a great expansion of its facilities in recent years, offering audio books, CD's, programs, speakers, video tapes, crafts, library catalogs on computer and a Homebound program.

In addition, volunteers belonging to the organization, Friends of the Library, donate time working in the library and in raising funds for its use.

Anyone wishing to attend the April 5th meeting is welcome. For more information, call 757-6163.

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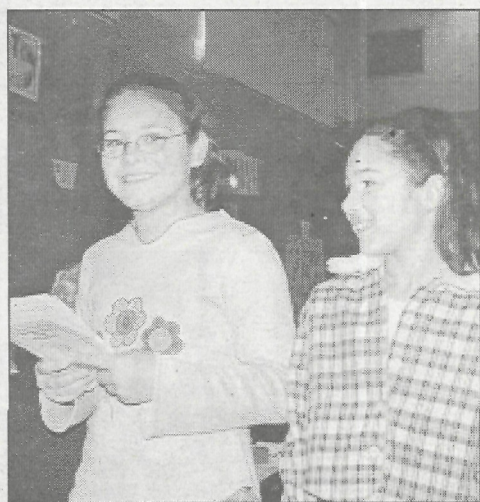
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St. Patrick's Day Celebrated in South Plainfield



Grandparents Breakfast at Riley



By Patricia Abbott

Celebrating St. Patrick's Day with grandparents is an old tradition at Riley School. For the past 18 years the grandparents of students in grades K-2 have gathered at Riley School to be treated to a luncheon or breakfast. The fact that St. Patrick's Day fell on a Saturday did not dampen the spirits of the guests or the children.

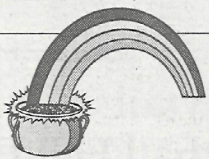
This year's celebration included a breakfast that served over 260 people. The guests of honor enjoyed fruit cups, bagels and pastries along with orange juice, coffee and tea. The room was a flurry of activity, as the breakfast committee headed by Tracey Hartmann hurried from table to table offering refills of coffee or tea. Committee members who were not busy helping guests were selling raffle tickets. The tables were decorated in green and white with floral centerpieces. Candies wrapped in green were scattered across the tables. Each place setting held bar of Irish Spring soap and a placemat made by a Riley student. Student Council members wearing green

hats and freckles handed programs to the guests.


The highlight of the morning, the entertainment, began with the kindergarten classes. Wearing assorted shades of green along with shamrock covered hats, the kindergarten students enthusiastically filled the air with song. As heads bobbed in time to the music, hats began to tumble to the floor, the misplaced hats were immediately snatched up by teachers or aides. Next the second grade students offered heartfelt songs and poems about grandparents. The students ended their segment of the show with large letters that spelled out "grandparents" and when turned over said "We Love You." A brief mix up of letters and an errant upside down letter brought smiles and chuckles from the appreciative audience. First grade students ended the show with still more songs celebrating the holiday.

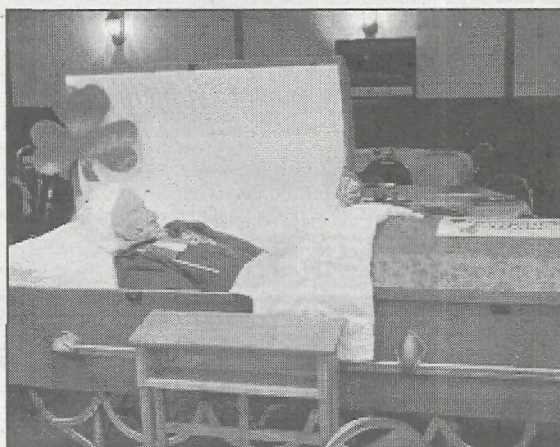
The flowers and greens were supplied by Mohn's and 1-800 Flowers. The soap was donated by Colgate. Food for the annual event was provided by the Riley School PTSO. Thirty committee members worked hard to give both the grandparents and the students a day to remember.





**Elks Club (left)
and the Knights of
Columbus (right)
Held Special
St. Patrick
Festivities**





Franklin Holds Lenahan Breakfast

On Thursday, March 15 Franklin School held their annual Thomas B. Lenahan Family Breakfast. The annual event is named for the former principal who began the tradition. It is held on St. Patrick's Day, a favorite holiday of Lenahan's, whenever possible. The PTA sponsored event was open to all Franklin School students and their families. Early morning diners were treated to doughnuts, fresh fruit, cereal, coffee, tea, milk and juice. A 50/50 raffle was held to benefit the current fifth grade class trip to Stokes State Forest. The morning came to a close as fifth grade student Meredith Ferguson read "The Irish Blessing" in memory of Lenahan.



Sports

Middle School Lady Tigers Basketball Team Takes Second in Tournament



The Middle School Girls Basketball Team finished their season with a second place win in the March of Dimes Tournament.

The Lady Tigers defeated Bedminster, 50-20, and Mary Mother of God 59-56 (OT), to advance to the finals in the Dunellen March of Dimes Tournament. The Tigers fell short on Saturday night, losing 83-75 in overtime against Mauger Middle School of Middlesex.

The Lady Tigers enjoyed a fine season, finishing with an 18-7-1 record.

The team consists of 15 eighth graders and six seventh graders. Eighth graders are Danielle Ardnt, Shakera Beverly, Erika Blaszk, Rachel Cupido, Amirah Chandler, Caitlin English, Melissa Hansen, Lauren Haus, Jessica Miller, Kathleen Morgan, Katie Kelliher, Silke Malone, Nicole Martinez, Kurtia Thomas and Coral Willis. Seventh graders are Shaunique Cisson, Nicole Cortese, Courtney Eustice, Lacey Santone, Amanda Veinott, and Krystal Williams.

By Tony Cassano



juniorbaseballclubnotes

2001 C-LEAGUE ORIENTATION - THIS SATURDAY, MARCH 24 AT 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.—Due to the rain last week, C- League Orientation has been rescheduled for this Saturday, March 24 at 9 a.m. As mentioned previously, this season we are inviting all C-League parents, coaches and players to join us on Field 1 as we hold our first annual 'Future Foundations' C-League Orientation. There will be 12 individual stations with instructions for both adults and players. We're confident that this will help you and your child with the transition into what is involved and what is expected. Stations will include, pitching, batting, fielding, Women's Aux., Boosters, Snack Stand and more.

PRE-SEASON WORK DETAIL EVERY REMAINING SATURDAY IN MARCH— In spite of the bad weather, we held our second work detail this past Saturday, March 17. Thanks to the many volunteers and contractors that showed up, a lot was accomplished but we still have a lot to do. Work detail will be held every Saturday in March. Any volunteer with a pick up truck or wheel barrel who can bring it along is encouraged. Work detail times will run from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. and/or 11 a.m. till 1 p.m.

UNIFORM PICKUP THIS TUESDAY, MARCH 27— Attention all Managers and Coaches. Uniform pick up is tentatively set for this upcoming Tuesday, March 27 at the Clubhouse. League Directors will be in contact with their respective managers regarding times for pickup.

BOOSTER WEEKEND — NEXT THURSDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY (March 29 - March 31)—The SPJBC annual 'Booster Weekend' is set for next weekend. Starting Thursday evening and concluding Saturday afternoon, players from Small Fry 'A', 'B', and 'C' leagues will be scattered throughout the town at local stores and will be fund raising on behalf of the club. Please lend your support.

CAST YOUR VOTE FOR LITTLE MISS BASEBALL—Voting boxes for Little Miss Baseball for the 2001 season are located at Ciccio's, Quick Check and B&C Deli. Pictures of the three girls nominated are currently on display. Please come out and vote. The winner will be announced during our Opening Day ceremonies on April 7th.

SPJBC COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE BY APRIL 1—The SPJBC is now accepting applications for our college scholarship. Applications can be picked up at the club or at the guidance department at the SPHS. Filing deadline is April 1st, 2001. Call club for further details @ 908-754-2090

Twin County Girl's Basketball Camp to be Held

The Fifteenth Annual Twin County Girls Basketball Camp will be held on July 23-27, and from August 6-10 at the Rutgers Prep high school

gym on Easton Ave. in Somerset. The age group for the camp is approximately 8 to 17.

For further information, contact coaches Ernie Vaida at (732) 249-8942, or Mary Klinger at (732) 821-8099.

Trip to World Champion Yankees Versus Red Sox

The South Plainfield Recreation department is sponsoring a trip to see the World Champion New York Yankees versus the Boston Red Sox on Wednesday, May 23. The bus leaves the PAL at 4:30 p.m. Cost is \$45 per person. Register at the PAL Building. Only 45 seats available.

ATTENTION SOCCER PLAYERS

South Plainfield Traveling Soccer Club is still looking for a few more children born between Aug. 1, 1991 through July 31, 1993. If you are interested contact Jan or Nick at (908) 755-8835.

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Ponytail Softball Field Clean-Up

The Spring Clean-Up of Pitt Street Park will take place on Saturday, Mar. 24. Volunteers are asked to meet at the snack bar area at 9 a.m. Much preparation is necessary in order to get the fields in playing condition for the 2001 softball season. With Opening Day just two weeks away, we will need the help of many volunteers. Please come out and join us in support of the Girls Ponytail Softball League. In the event of rain, the field cleanup will be held Saturday, Mar. 31.

Ponytail Softball Assoc. Meeting

The South Plainfield Parent Ponytail Association will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, Mar. 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the South Plainfield Middle School Library. We would appreciate the attendance of all current members as the softball season is readily approaching and we have a great deal to accomplish. If you are interested in becoming a member and being involved in Girl's Ponytail Softball, please join us on Mar. 27. New members are always welcomed.

Twin City Pharmacy

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Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Ave.
South Plainfield, NJ

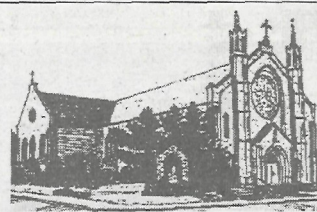
Rev. John Paul Alvarado, Pastor

Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 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. and 7 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 11 a.m.- 12 noon, 4:15-4:45 p.m.
and after 5 p.m. Vigil Mass



Sports

HIGH SCHOOL BOWLING



SPHS Girls Bowling Team

Final Results White Division Champions

Division (16-1-1) Overall (19-3-1)

| Grade | | Hi Game | Hi Set | #Games | Avg. |
|-------|---|---------|--------|--------|--------|
| 12 | Melissa Jamieson | 267 | 694 | 80 | 198.23 |
| | <i>GMC Individual Champion, All Division, All-Conference, GMC All-Time Hi Avg and Hi Set, SPHS All-Time Hi Avg and Hi Set, SPHS MVP (4 times), SPHS Most Improved +30.0, Co-Captain</i> | | | | |
| 9 | Vicky Boley | 245 | 566 | 76 | 157.6 |
| | <i>Rookie of the Year, (3) 200 + games</i> | | | | |
| 12 | Sabina Montenegro | 223 | 554 | 76 | 157.1 |
| | <i>Improved +23.0, (4) 200+ games</i> | | | | |
| 12 | Kristen Herzog | 216 | 565 | 82 | 148.9 |
| | <i>Co-Captain, (2) 200+ games, improved +12.4</i> | | | | |
| 10 | Meredith Cooper | 199 | 506 | 69 | 138.4 |
| 12 | Rachel Feller | 177 | 464 | 62 | 135.7 |
| 10 | Danielle Larisch | 190 | 462 | 17 | 133.0 |
| 10 | Alexis Montenegro | 179 | 411 | 32 | 130.4 |

Highlights of the 2000-2001 Season:

Team Average - 805 - Individual Average per game 161
Tenth Out of 26 teams - Bishop Ahr Holiday Tournament
Tenth Out of 30 teams - Central Jersey Winter Classic
Eleventh Out of 26 teams - Central Jersey Sectionals
Third Out of 10 teams - Joe Romer Memorial XXV
Lady Tigers Recorded 16 Shutout Victories
White Division Coach of the Year - Ralph Fech
GMC All-Conference Coach of the Year - Ralph Fech

Soccer News

This past windy Sunday afternoon the spring season got underway. The boys have a hard task ahead of them, and that is to repeat as flight champions. And it would seem as an impossible dream as they also moved two flights, which would mean tougher competition.

However that did not seem to affect them as much as the high winds on that day. They took the wind to their back in the first half against the Montgomery Storm and that seemed to be the extra little push we needed, not knowing what would happen later. The boys pressed hard in the first half with strong play from Chris Herbster, Vinnie Padula and Billy Hodge this would allow John Lopez to get the first goal of the season. And later closing out the half on header by Justin Basilone.

The wind, as mentioned, was the major factor, however the team put on a well orchestrated display of defense, and at the same time providing a few fast breaks of their own in the second half. Now with the opposition getting the help from Mother Nature, our defense held very well being led by Anthony Moretti, Steve Dvorak, Nick Baldassarre, and Trevor Rastelli. Allowing our visitors only one goal and pulling a 2-1 win. AWESOME JOB!



Ponytail Softball Batters Box

Field Clean-Up March 24

The date for spring cleanup of Pitt Street Park is Saturday, Mar. 24. We will meet at the snack bar area at 9 a.m. Much preparation is necessary in order to get the fields in playing condition for the 2001 softball season. With opening day just two weeks away, we will need the help of many volunteers. Please come out and join us in support of the Girls Ponytail Softball League. In the event of rain, the field cleanup will be held on Saturday, Mar. 31.

Parents Association Meeting March 27

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Mar. 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the South Plainfield Middle School Library. We would appreciate the attendance of all current members as the start of softball season is just a few weeks away and we have a great deal to accomplish. If you are interested in becoming a member and being involved in Ponytail softball, please join us on Mar. 27. New members are always welcomed.

Opening Day April 7

It is hard to believe, but after a long, cold, snow-filled winter, it is time once again for the fun and excitement of softball. Please join us at Pitt Street Park on Saturday, April 7 for Opening Day Festivities. Games begin at 9 a.m. Opening Day ceremonies will begin at 11:45 a.m. In the event of rain, Opening Day will be held on Saturday, April 14.

All-Star Tryouts - May 6

Tryouts for the summer All-Star teams will be held on Sunday, May 6 at Pitt Street Park. Players will be chosen for the 10 and under, 12 and under and 14 and under teams. One team per age group will be formed. Additional info will be provided in upcoming publications of the Batter's Box.

Submitted by Sharon Miller



There's
a lot
going on...



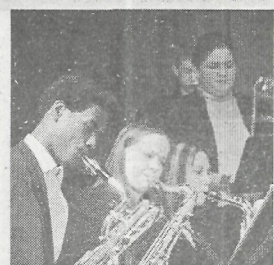
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908-668-0010



2001 GOLDEN GLOVE QUARTER FINALS



Doors Open at 7 pm
Bouts Start at 8 pm

Saturday ~ March 31, 2001

South Plainfield High School
200 Lake Street, South Plainfield, NJ

General Admission ~ \$ 8.00

GOLDEN RINGSIDE \$ 75.00

includes DINNER AT 5:00 PM

at Café Piancone Restaurant
2291 Hamilton Boulevard, South Plainfield, NJ

For Tickets or Reservations Call
(908) 226-7662 or (908) 561-0649

Tickets can be purchased at Sal's Spirit Shoppe on Park Ave.,
Durham Dell on South Plainfield Ave., at the Observer office on
Hamilton Blvd. and at the PAL Building on Maple Ave.

Send a check or money order for \$25/one year (out-of-town-\$30) payable to: South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Or order your subscription via email at nancyg@spobserver.com and send your check to the above address.

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NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

police report

- An Astor St. women reported that several vehicles had been following her since February 13. They would follow her from home until the time she returned.
- A new computer was stolen from Carrier Building Systems, 1111 Durham Ave. on March 14. An employee noticed it was missing from the unsecured Mechanical Room office.
- A Bayville, women had her Chevy Tahoe stolen from the parking lot of the Ramada Limited.
- A Selene Ave. resident reported that six "burnouts" had been left in his driveway over a period of 10

- months.
- A Plainfield women stated that while parking her car in the First Union Bank parking lot, she opened her car door and tapped the car next to her. A women became enraged, verbally abusive and even challenged her to a physical confrontation. The incident may have been racially motivated.
- On Thursday Laura Jensen, Purchasing Agent for Recycle Inc. on Harmich Rd., reported that between March 2 and March 5 a computer, shredder and an electric voltage meter were stolen. Also on the March 14, a portable phone was

- taken. Where the items were located could be opened with a screwdriver. There is a \$500 reward posted for the return of the computer.
- A Calderone Ave. couple were receiving harassing phone calls from a man posing as the owner of the their building. The man, in fact, is the general manager of the building and the residents are also employed by the company that owns the building. The suspect evidently wanted a "personal favor" from them. The couple are staying with family members due to the incident.
- On Friday a bicycle had been stolen from an closed but unlocked garage on Garden Dr.
- Billy Smith of Quest Diagnostics on Oak Tree Rd. complained of threats being left on their answering machine overnight. No one knows the voice and they are not aware of anyone with any problems.
- Monday a Plainfield man was arrested at the A & P for shoplifting \$90 worth of meat he had concealed.
- At Sterns a Piscataway women purchased clothes then re-entered the store, placed higher price tags on them and attempted to return them for a cash gain.
- On Monday a Maple Ave. resident reported receiving 14 dents in his car between 9 p.m. and 4 p.m. that day.
- A Delmore Ave. women reported that the hood of her car had been damaged due to an attempt to pry it open.



Obituaries

Patrick J. Crilley, 75

Patrick J. Crilley died on Thursday, Mar. 15, in his home.

Born in New York City, Mr. Crilley resided in Harrison before moving to South Plainfield in 1957.

He was employed as a mason for the Bricklayers Union Local #13 of Newark, for over 50 years, retiring in 1983.

Mr. Crilley served in the U.S. Navy during WWII in the Europe and Pacific Theaters.

He was a member of the South Plainfield VFW Post #6763 and the Knights of Columbus in Carteret.

Mr. Crilley served as a member of the South Plainfield Board of Education from 1970 to 1975, and as a coach to the South Plainfield Pop Warner Football team for many years. He was also a member of Sacred

Heart Church in South Plainfield and was a member of the South Plainfield Senior Citizens. He was an avid swimmer and was a member of the Metuchen YMCA. Pat dearly loved his 14 grandchildren, and the town in which he lived, the Borough of South Plainfield.

Surviving are his wife, Maureen (Quinn) Crilley; three daughters and son-in-laws, Maureen and Cliff Zackey, of Stuart, Fla., Kathleen and Michael Moschitta, Kelly and Larry Clementi, both of Kenilworth; two sons and daughters-in-laws, Patrick and Laurie Crilley of Mt. Horeb, Wisc. and Timothy and Kathy Crilley of South Plainfield. Also surviving are his son, Michael Crilley of Canaan, Conn. and his sister, Ann Robie, of North Arlington.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

"Damn Yankees" Will Open In April at High School

The SPHS Players Drama Club is currently in rehearsal for their 2001 spring musical, *Damn Yankees*. The talented cast and staff rehearse up to five nights a week in preparation for

their April opening.

The show takes the audience into the life of an overweight, aging baseball fan Joe Boyd. Joe is desperate to see his beloved Washington Senators win the pennant just once and will do anything to see his dream come true. Joe sells his soul to the devil and is transformed into a young power hitter for the Senators. Joe manages to overcome the pull of the devil and his luscious sidekick Lola and returns to his wife. *Damn Yankees* is a humorous modern retelling of a Faust tale.

Damn Yankees, directed by SPHS language teacher Mrs. Gloria Naso, opens on Thursday, April 26 at Joseph A. Mondoro Auditorium, SPHS. The show runs until April 28. Curtain time is 7 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for students and senior citizens.

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD NOTICE TO BIDDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids will be received by the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey on April 12, 2001 at 10:00 AM prevailing time in the Council Chambers of the municipal building 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield New Jersey at which time and place bids will be opened and read in public for:

ONE FORD 2001 EXPEDITION

Specifications and other bid information may be obtained at the Clerk's office in the municipal building at the above address during regular business hours 9:00 A. M. to 5:00 PM.

Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, c.127 (N.J.A.C. 17:27 et seq.), the New Jersey Prevailing Wage Act, N.J.S.A. 34:11.56-25, Employment on Public Works N.J.S.A. 10:2. EOE, ADA

Vincent Buttiglieri, Municipal Clerk

\$37.00 1T March 23, 2001

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Blaise McCarthy requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the erection of a 9' x 12' wood deck, proposed deck exceeds lot coverage by 98 s.f. or 1.5%, 1,638 sq. ft. allowed and 1,736 s.f. proposed and 8' side setback required and 7' being proposed and any other variances that may be required, said property being located on Block 234 Lot 21 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 April 3, 2001 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 March 35, 2001

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD March 16, 2001

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Planning Board at its meeting held on March 13, 2001.

A. Case #00-11—Maran Development, Inc.—Block 122; Lot 33;—Applicant's request for a minor two-lot subdivision was GRANTED, with conditions.

Janice J. Muccilli
Recording Secretary Planning Board

\$15.00 1T March 23, 2001

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Linda Nguyen requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a Salon for hair and nails, a use not permitted in the zone and any other variances that may be required, said property being located on Block 278 Lot 3 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 April 17, 2001 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 March 16, 2001

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD PUBLIC NOTICE

RETURN OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE TO JOHN AND LINDA SKELLY FOR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AT 411 Arlington Ave., South Plainfield New Jersey 07080 Lot #4.01 Block #364

A public meeting has been scheduled by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield to hear objections, if any, to the release of a Performance Guarantee posted by John and Linda Skelly for public improvements at 411 Arlington Ave., South Plainfield, New Jersey known as Lot #4.01, in Block #364 listed on the official tax maps of the Borough of South Plainfield. Said public hearing will be held 5:00 PM Thursday, April 5, 2001 in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

Linda & John Skelly
411 Arlington Ave.
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

\$35.00 March 23, 2001

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by Robert Hunter

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Each of us, if given the chance, could think of some aspect of the memorial or burial rite which we would wish to have done a certain way. Whether your idea of the perfect funeral is one which flouts convention, or follows a certain protocol down to the last detail, the staff at the JAMES W. CONROY FUNERAL HOME, will be glad to help you to create and choose from end-of-life services which meet your needs...and fit your budget. To schedule a preplanning consultation at our facilities, located at 2456 Plainfield Avenue in South Plainfield, please call 832-7056.

"We carved not a line, and we raised not a stone — But we left him alone with his glory."
—Charles Wolf

Stefan Z. Fortunka, 46

Stefan Z. Fortunka, died on Monday, Mar., 12, at his home in Cumming, GA.

Born in Plainfield, Mr. Fortunka had resided in the central New Jersey area for most of his life. He settled in Georgia about one year ago.

Surviving are a son, Christopher; two daughters, Renee and Lisa Fortunka, all of South Plainfield; a brother, Zbigniew W. Fortunka and his wife Teri of Georgia; and his former wife, Myra Fortunka, of South Plainfield.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

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NOTE: A job Task Analysis for this position is available at the South Plainfield Police Department, Communications Center, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

Any person interested in applying for this position should forward a resume to Acting Chief Robert Merkler.

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South Plainfield High School Announces Honor Roll

Grade 9: Elaine N. Alexander, David J. Allara, Jamaal E. Allen, Jonathan P. Alves, Arti J. Amin, Almasa Amini, David P. Amini, Jacqueline Arango, Danielle Aronowitz, Alex Barletta, Robert J. Barone, Jr., James D. Bataille, Victora Boley, Shannon Boyles, Jonathan Buggey, Kaitlin Bundy, Kelly Butrico, Kristie Butrico, Tarryn Carlton, Michael Carmon, Jonathan Chiang, Shade E. Coleman, Jason Cosma, Michael Robert Cupo, Lori Cushner, Christopher Czaplinski, Justin Czarnik, Kelly Daley, Daniel DeAndrea, Ryan Decker, Christinna Del Genio, Kevin Demarest, Brittany DeNizio, Christopher Dickerson, Frank Dietzold, Claire Dolling, Jence Douras and Brian Edwards.

Chelsea Falato, Catherine Flannery, Martina Ganiaris, Gregory Garbowski, Miguel Garcia, Dana Genova, Jacquelyn Graisser, Sarah Green, Christine Helbo, Christopher Horn, Janice Hussain, Jamie Irber, Tara Israel, Joshua Jackson, Galen Johnson, Marissa Judd, Katherine Kaczka, Wajdi Kanj, Kyle Kazimir, Angelica Keller, Christopher Kelly, Wendy Kollarik, Courtney Krajcik, Kristen Kunie, Daniel Lammi, Kristina Latonio, Britanny Lee, Pauline Lee, Heather Loenser and Jordan Lynch.

Charlyn Magat, Michael Maher, Stephanie Manuel, Earl-Joseph Marcello, Jennifer Martinez, Ashley Mazellen, David Miglis Jr., Tristan More, Danielle Nobile, John Okuszki, Ankit Patel, Anug Patel, Hardik Patel, Harsh Patel, Julie Patel, Miten Patel, Natalie Picciottoli, Bonnie Pornovets, Gregory Publik, Yorka Ralwins, Amanda Rastelli, Ashley Ritchey, Jessica Rodger, Josef Rodriguez, Michael Salerno, Shari-Liane Sangster, Matthew Santon, Andre Scott, Guy Severini, Daniel Sierzega, Susan Smela, Jenna Smith and Carly Stoekel.

Alexander Tierney, Chiara Tomci, Danielle Tonkin, Adam Toth, Stephen Turrisse, Erin Walsh, Jessaka Whitsitt, Meagan Wilson, Chrisann Zushma and Robin Zushma.

Grade 10: Christopher Addven-sky, Joseph Adorna, Alain Amazan, Christopher Baron, Heather Barrett, Milton Bravo Jr., Jenny Cai, Jenifer Castro, Jody Chepulis, Michael Chrysanthopoulos, Meredith Cooper, Gary Curcio, James Curcio, Jay Cusher, Nadia Deba, Christina DeMatos, Denise DiMeglio, Kimberly Dziomba, Abbalonia

Falato, Cathleen Fodor, Christina Furka, David Garantino, Janara Krista Garcia, Amanda George, Jamie Glowacki, Dale Goberdhan, Jennifer Goolsaran, Shelly Graziano, Francisco Guevara and Kristen Gumina.

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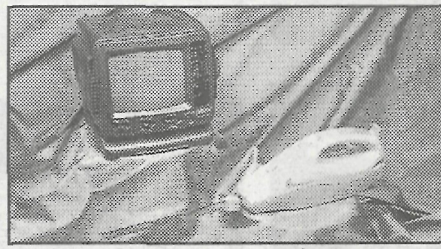


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