

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 4, NO. 31

50 CENTS

APRIL 6, 2001

This Weekend in South Plainfield

Senior Citizens Meeting

April 6

The South Plainfield Senior Citizens (formerly the Adult School Seniors) will hold their monthly meeting on Friday, April 6 at 11 a.m. at the PAL Building.

Coffee and cake will be served. For information and transportation, call (908) 754-1047.

Girl Scouts Flea Market/Craft Show

April 7

South Plainfield Junior Girl Scout Troop #14 will be sponsoring a Flea Market/Craft Show on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. outside at J.F. Kennedy School. For information, contact Robyn at (908) 769-7395.

Easter Egg Hunt at PAL Recreation

April 7

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

Jo-Ann's Benefit for Autism Awareness

April 7

Jo-Ann's Dance and Feigley's School of Gymnastics are teaming up to present a dance and gymnastic performance to benefit autism awareness on Saturday, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. More than two dozen performers will be participating, including the entire ensemble for Le Centre Dance Ensemble and the Bridgettes.

There will be drawings, food, refreshments and prizes for the kids.

Donation is \$5. Tickets are available at the door. For further information call (908) 561-5094.

Lions Annual Palm Sunday Breakfast

April 8

On Sunday, the South Plainfield Lions Club will be holding their Annual Gourmet Breakfast at the high school cafeteria from 8 a.m. to noon.

The cost of the breakfast is \$5.

Cultural Arts Presents Classical Program

April 8

The Cultural Arts Commission will present the Westfield Concerto/Solo Chamber Orchestra, a program of classical music, at the Wesley United Methodist Church Hall, located on Plainfield Ave., on Sunday, at 4 p.m.

Admission is free.

For further information on any of these programs, see page 4



Bobcat/Wolves from Pack 205 at Roosevelt School recently visited the Community Policing Building. Officer Joe Pappa, pictured above, talked to them about making the right decisions. Scouts who attended are Lou Espisito, Eric Carrasca, Jesse Englert, Michael Eckhardt, Joseph Ifrach and Edward Sullivan.

Community Policing Station Extends Hours

South Plainfield's Community Policing Station, located on the corner of Hamilton Blvd. and New Market, is becoming an extension of the regular police station and is open some evenings.

When the building was first opened a few years ago, police were there at different hours during the week. In order to make it easier for residents to use the facility, the police department has set evening hours when they will be open. Some services, such as fingerprinting and dispensing of trigger locks will now be available at the building during evening hours. The new hours for the satellite station are Tuesdays and Thursdays 5 to 7:30 p.m.

Residents can pick up free trig-

ger locks, which are available for just the asking. The only requirement is that you are over 18 years of age. They can also get fingerprinted there, which is sometimes required by an employer. Many residents who work have found it difficult to get to the police station during the day. All they need to do now is call (908) 226-7670 and set up a time to come to the Community Policing Station.

The station is also being used for talking to students and scouts about peer pressure, getting along with each other and the dangers of drug use.

For more information and hours, call Officer Al LaMonda.

Congratulations To Melissa Jamieson



Melissa Jamieson was selected by the *Star Ledger* to their First Team All-State Bowling Squad. With a 198+ season average and the GMC Individual Championship, Melissa is one of just five girls in the entire state to receive this honor. Melissa was also selected as the All-Area Central Jersey Bowler of the Year. Congratulations Melissa!

17 Roads are Scheduled For Milling and Paving

South Plainfield will once again be using the Middlesex County Roads Department to mill and repave 17 roads in town. By using Middlesex County employees and equipment, the Borough has saved thousands of dollars over the past few years. The roads have been paid for on a pay-as-you-go basis.

According to Councilman Bob Cusick, after these 17 roads are completed, a total of over 100 roads will have been repaved with the help of the Middlesex County Roads Department.

Roads due to be milled and paved are Adams Ave. (Norwood Ave. to Park Ave.), Carol Place (Audubon Ave. to Holly Ave.), DeScipio Dr. (Joan St. to Oak

Tree Rd.), Manning and Morris avenues (Chambers St. to end), Morton Ave. (Melrose Ave. to Dumas Ave.), Somerset St. (Hamilton Blvd. to end), Sterling Ave. (Norwood Ave. to Park Ave.), Thomas St. (Plainfield Ave. to So. Central Ave.), Vakarich Pl. (May Ave. to Schindler Dr.), West Ave. (Hamilton Blvd. to end), West Golf Ave. (Park Ave. to end) and the entire length of Dumas Ave., Leeds Drive, Moose Ave. and Yurgel Drive.

The estimated cost to South Plainfield for labor, equipment and asphalt is \$276,460.29. Funds for these roads will come from capital funding, part of the pay-as-you-go policy the Borough instituted in the past few years.

Jr. Baseball and Ponytail Softball Kicks Off on Saturday

The Junior Baseball Club officially kicks off their 2001 season on Saturday morning with a parade to the Junior Baseball Complex, where the opening day ceremonies will take place, including the naming of this year's 2001 Little Miss Baseball. Games will start after the ceremonies.

Ponytail Softball will also begin their 2001 season with ceremonies at Pitt Street Park, starting at about 11:45 a.m. More than 252 girls are participating this year. Games start at 9:30 a.m.

Members from both Junior Baseball and Ponytail Softball have been busy getting their fields in playing condition and all they need now is some warm dry weather.

The mayor, members of the council and special guests are expected to attend both ceremonies. Many parents will also be attending both events, since they have children in both leagues. This will mean precise timing and planning in order to get from one field to the other.

After both of those ceremonies, Recreation will hold their Annual Easter Egg Hunt behind the PAL building. Easter Bunny will be on hand, as well as hundreds of anxious kids, ready to collect as many eggs as they can. Make sure your child brings something to put their eggs in as they are collected. Children are grouped according to their age and sex and parents are not allowed to help them.

House Fire Leaves Home Inhabitable



It's unknown where the tenants have relocated to. Two cats perished in the fire. There were no reported injuries.

The cause of the fire is unde-

termined. Officer Kevin LoMonte responded to the fire initially. The cause and origin are being investigated by the fire department and Det. Gene Baraille.

In My Opinion

Letter to the Editor:

I am writing to support Pat DeSantis for the South Plainfield Board of Education. As a former board member, I had the distinct pleasure of working with her for three years. She is an honest, hard-working individual who served the students and taxpayers well during her three years on the board.

People are always talking about the "hidden agendas" of those running for office. I can tell you Pat has agendas, but none are hidden. Her agendas are to make the schools a better place for our children, to see that they have what they need to succeed in life, and to ensure that the taxpayers are getting the most for their tax dollars without being overwhelmed by their tax bill.

Pat and her husband have two children in the district schools and they are involved in their children's lives and what's happening in the schools.

She keeps abreast of what's going on and what is needed, not only for her children, but for all the children.

When you go out to the polls to vote, remember to pick the best candidate you can. In this case, it's Pat DeSantis. You will not be disappointed.

DORIS HALEY

Letter to the Editor:

I am writing this in response to Mr. Pisaniello and Mrs. Bauer's letters which were published in the last few weeks. I feel compelled to correct many false claims by these two residents. First of all, if either of them have ever bothered to attend Board of Education meetings, they would have had their questions answered.

We do need a new school. The south side of town, where Roosevelt School is located, is where 252 apartment units have been completed (which include 2 and 3 bedroom apartments), and another complex containing over 300 units of condominiums and townhouses are being built on Coppola's farmland. As if that is not enough, on Belmont Ave.,

there are numerous houses going up that are also three and four bedrooms each. Do you really believe that the majority of people moving into these large homes and apartments don't have children? There is a formula used to gauge the number of children expected from the number of houses, condos, townhouses, and apartments which are in the process of being built. That is where the estimate of 851 new students is derived.

Since September, we have received over 100 new students. That is only in the last six months. Coppola's farm is not even completed yet. And let's not forget the senior citizen housing complex that is being completed on Morris Avenue. That will have approximately 100 units of housing for our senior citizens. When they sell their homes to move into this complex, who do you think will buy their homes?

The comparison to eating at McDonald's is the breakdown of a house assessed at \$115,000. The tax increase based on that is \$88 per year. Divide that by 365 days per year and it equals 24 cents per day.

I can appreciate living on a fixed income. Those of us that are still working, are also receiving the same amount per week, or do you believe that we are getting weekly raises?

Also, the question of surplus keeps getting asked and I know that Mr. Mikorski has answered this question before for you; but I will again. The \$1.9 million that is in our surplus falls in the low end of the 3-5% range that the State Department of Education requires all school districts in the State of New Jersey to keep in their surplus accounts. Boards of Education cannot borrow money without asking for voter approval, unlike the municipal government. So, if we have an emergency situation with our facilities that requires monies to be spent, this is the only place we can go to fund that emergency.

Also, the Board of Education has not caused overcrowding in our schools. We try very hard to keep the number of students in a class to 25,

but when you have more students coming into buildings that we built over 40 years ago, when the town was smaller, that is increasingly harder to do.

You have also stated that the Middle School will get air conditioning — **NOT TRUE!** The boilers will be replaced for heat only. And, oh by the way, they are the original boilers that were installed when the middle school (that used to be the high school) was built in 1949. The track replacement is in our regular budget this year. Also, this year's budget has **NO TAX INCREASE!** But the contingency for the track is that it will be replaced, providing that the budget and the referendum pass. If they do not pass, the money allocated for the track will be used to replace the boilers.

You can contact the State Department of Education or whoever else you want to contact, but we have done everything within our power to ensure that things are done correctly with the funds we have available. If you want copies of our audits, they are available in our Business Administrator's office.

Finally, Mrs. Bauer, how dare you refer to the taxpayers money being used for a vacation fund! Board of Education members do not receive any money for being an elected official. We attend all of board meetings and we spend many hours doing board business and it is all without pay — for FREE! I have been a board member for nine years. And while I am not seeking re-election this year, I still have enjoyed my time serving my community. I have three children — my oldest is a sophomore in college, my second child will graduate this year and will be attending college next year, and my youngest will be entering the high school in September. I have always been interested in the schools in this town, which is why my husband and I moved here when we were married. Because the better your schools are, the better your property values will remain. We are not a bunch of vagabonds running rampant with your tax money. We pay taxes, too. I hope that instead of ranting and raving in the paper, in the future, you might attend one Board of Education meeting per month and your questions will be answered immediately, instead of misleading the public of South Plainfield.

**SINCERELY,
MARJORIE M. REEDY**

Dear Editor,

As a current office manager of a surgical practice, I would like to inform your readers and the public about an HMO who mistreated one of our patients.

Recently, a patient came into our office whose sister had died of breast cancer and now had had an abnormal mammogram and a breast lump. Understandably, the patient was extremely anxious and wanted the breast lump removed and biopsied as soon as possible. Her insurance is

To the Voters of South Plainfield,

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Tim Morgan and I am a candidate for the South Plainfield Board of Education. My wife Ann and I have lived on Lafayette Place for the past 16 years. Our two children are both enrolled in the South Plainfield school system. Tim Jr. is a junior at South Plainfield High School and Kathleen is an eighth grader at the Middle School. I have been employed as a licensed funeral director with the Flynn and Son Funeral Home in Fords and Perth Amboy for the past 26 years. I am a member of Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, where I serve as an usher and Eucharist Minister. I have also worked on the finance committee at the feast of St. Anthony for the past five years and many other capacities at the Feast for many years before that. I am a member of the South Plainfield Parents' Ponytail Softball Assn., an active member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment and previously served on the Land Management Committee.

Over the past 12 years, I have been very active in my children's education, both in the classroom and outside, at the various sporting activities that they have participated in. I have been to every "Back to School Night" since kindergarten and have personally met every one of the teachers that my children have had. I have also had a meaningful conversation with each of the administrators at the different school that they have attended. I was fortunate to be a chaperone for the Roosevelt School fifth grade trip to Stokes State Forest twice and for the eighth grade trip to Washington, DC three years ago. I enjoyed these opportunities tremendously.

This past Summer and Fall, I was a member of the architecture committee that was created to obtain citizen input and recommendations as to how to deal with the two failed bond referendums. There were many nights and many many hours of discussion and debate, all centering on what was best for the education of our children. When all was said and done, our proposal was submitted to the board and accepted in its entirety. This proposal is some \$3.2 million less than the original referendum and still gives our children all the facilities, equipment and technology that they will need to succeed today and in the future. Was all this time and effort worth it? You bet it was! It proved to me that what we were working so hard for was what was right for the children and the taxpayers.

I believe in keeping the lines of communication open, by listening to what the citizens, teachers and administrators have to say. By getting everyone's input, we can come to a conclusion by determining what is best and most important for our children. They are our community's most valuable asset.

I am asking you for the opportunity to represent you and our children on the Board of Education for the next three years by voting line 2. Thank You.

TIM MORGAN



Tim Morgan

HMO Blue, and then the nightmare began.

According to BCBS rules, most patients cannot go to Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center. John E. Kennedy as an in-network hospital with BCBS. The two hospitals emerged nearly two years ago. Muhlenberg is still considered a non-participating facility. The two hospitals are called Solaris.

Her doctor wanted me to schedule a surgical procedure that involves both radiology and the OR, as soon as I could. However, JFK had no openings for several weeks. In instances like this, I called the Solaris billing supervisor, who in turn wrote a letter stating that our patient, who is covered by HMO Blue, can have surgery at Muhlenberg. The letter states that Muhlenberg will take the par reimbursement from HMO Blue and that the patient would have no financial obligation other than if they went to a participating facility. In other words, Muhlenberg will not balance bill the patient or the insurance company. Therefore, all financial obligations have been removed. I have done this before for HMO Blue patients and have had no problems. We do this to help the patient.

The next step was to pre-certify the surgery. After several attempts to call HMO Blue and after being put on terminal hold several times, I decided to fax over the form for pre-certification on March 9, 2001. Therefore, HMO Blue was made aware of the surgical procedure scheduled at Muhlenberg Hospital for March 22 on March 9. HMO Blue was made aware of the patient's referral to come see us, the Solaris billing letter and the patient's medical history.

On March 21, I called the BCBS pre-certification department to inquire about getting an answer for the surgery scheduled for March 22. At 4:20 p.m. on March 21, I received a phone call from a pre-certification supervisor. The details of the patient's case history were discussed. I made sure they had a copy of the Solaris billing letter and they understood that I had removed any financial objections by providing them with the Solaris billing letter. We also discussed the patient's family history of breast cancer.

At 5:05 p.m., Sherry Romano, the pre-certification supervisor called back to tell me that the surgery scheduled for the next morning would not

Continued on page 12

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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 at (908) 668-8819 or e-mail us on our web page at spobserver.com or ngnan@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.

OBSERVER OFFICE HOURS!

We will be taking a Long
Needed Vacation The
Week of April 9-13, 2001

Our offices will be open 9:30 to noon, but Closed Good Friday
All Copy/Letters submitted after
Friday April 6 will appear in the
April 20th Issue.



Thank you for
your
cooperation
Any
questions,
Call 668-0010

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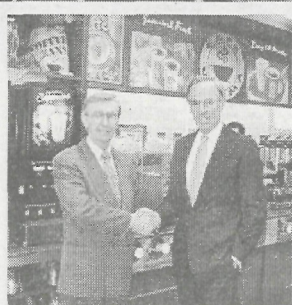
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Quick Chek Opens New Store on Durham Ave.



With a smile and a pair of scissors, Mayor Dan Gallagher, Councilwoman Darlene Pinto, Councilman Ed Kubala and Police Chief Robert Merkle, participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the opening of a new Quick Chek Store last Friday. Located at 317 Durham Road, this new store features the new 'Sub-makers Oven Toasted Sub Menu' in addition to Quick Chek's usual departments. This is the second Quick Chek in town. Their other store, located on Sampton Rd., opened in April of 1976.

As a token of Quick Chek's ongoing commitment to give back to its surrounding community, Quick Chek will be donating 25 cents to the South



Mayor Dan Gallagher with Quick Chek Chairman, Dean Durling.

Plainfield Rescue Squad for each sub and sandwich purchased at the new store during their grand opening sale.

"We are pleased to be a greater part of the South Plainfield community," commented Robert N. Page, president of Quick Chek Food Stores.

"And we are happy to be able to serve the people who live and work here."

South Plainfield local officials were welcomed to the new store by Store Leader Patricia Meier, District Leader Jim Coleman, Regional Directors John Schaniger and Bob Delia, along with Quick Chek team members participating in the ribbon cutting. The ceremony was followed by a lunch of sandwiches and samples from the store's new menu.

Quick Chek is a New Jersey wide convenience store chain that has been in business for over 30 years, with corporate headquarters in Whitehouse Station in Hunterdon County. The entire Quick Chek Team invites everyone to visit their newest addition.

Car Hits Utility Pole and Tree on Park Ave.

On March 22, at approximately 4:30 in the morning, a Park Ave. resident was rudely awakened from the sound of a crash in front of her house. She jumped out of bed and noticed a car across the street in her neighbors yard. She immediately called 911, then proceeded to run outside to see if anyone was hurt.

The resident saw a man get out of the car, then get back in and try to start his car and apparently leave. But because of the extensive damage to his car, he could not go anywhere. He put a light on inside the car and when the resident turned on her porch light and yelled to ask him if he was OK, he turned off the interior light.

The resident began to feel uncomfortable about approaching the car

and stepped back in the house and waited until police arrived. She explained that even though you want to help people who have been hurt, at 4:30 in the morning and with no response from the accident victim, she didn't want to take any chances.

The driver of the car, Thomas C. Hacit, is a resident of Edison. He told officers that he fell asleep just before the accident. His car was traveling southbound on Park Ave. and struck

a utility pole in front of 2704 Park Ave. The vehicle then slid on the lawn, did a half-spin and struck a tree in front of the house, damaging the utility pole, the lawn and the tree. There were no other passengers in the car.

Hacit was charged with Drunk Driving, Driving with an Open Container in his car, and Reckless Driving. He tested 0.17-0.18 percent on the breath test police administered.

Recycling Center Holiday Hours

The South Plainfield drop off center on Kenneth Ave. will be closed on Friday, April 13, which is Good Friday. The Recycling Center will be open instead on April 12, from 8 a.m.

to 3 p.m. The Recycling Center will also be open as usual on Saturday, April 14, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Yard Waste Site will be open on Tuesday, April 10, from 12 noon to 7 p.m., and on Saturday, April 14, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For updates, call the Recycling Hotline at (908) 226-7620, or contact the Recycling Coordinator at atempel@southplainfieldnj.com.

Volunteers Still Needed For Clean-Up Week, April 21-28

Are you bitter about litter? Welcome spring by cleaning away winter's grime! The Clean Communities Advisory Board will sponsor a Borough-wide cleanup at the end of April.

The main clean-up event will be on Saturday, April 21. Volunteers will meet from 9 to 10 a.m. in the Borough Hall parking lot to collect equipment and clean-up assignments.

We will target roadsides, parks, streams and vacant lots. Volunteers will be invited back to Borough Hall at noon for a Pizza Pickup Picnic, complete with environmentally friendly door prizes.

Call Alice Tempel, the Clean Communities Coordinator, at (908) 226-7621 for more information.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

With snowstorms and rumors of snowstorms behind us (we hope) and spring weather on the horizon (we hope), here's news from the South Plainfield Library:

The Library will be open normal hours on Palm Sunday, April 8. However, we'll be closed on Good Friday, April 13 and on Easter Sunday, April 15.

We're going to stick with our usual schedule of children's Storytime programs next week. That means the programs will be held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. The programs each last about an hour and feature stories, music and a craft activity. They're for children ages three and over; there's no need to sign up in advance. If you'd like more information, please check with Children's Librarian Linda Hansen.

The Library Board of Trustees will hold their next meeting on Tuesday night at 7:30. The public is welcome to attend what promises to be an informative meeting.

It's been quite a while since we abandoned our old "card" catalog and switched to online PAC terminals for catalog access. But there are still people who can't seem to get the hang of how to use the computers. For the benefit of these patrons, we'll be holding a training session on how to use the online catalog. It'll be held on Wednesday from 10-10:30 a.m. Space is limited for this program, so you must pre-register. Depending time and staff availability, we may be conducting more of these sessions in the future. We'll let you know what develops.

There have been a couple of changes in our Circuit collections. The latest group from the Video Circuit is now in place and ready to circulate. Titles in this group include *Chasing Amy*, *South Park: Bigger, Longer & Uncut*, *The Joy Luck Club*, *Tea & Sympathy*, *Babe: Pig in the City* and, on DVD, *The Waterboy*. Videos and DVDs may be borrowed, four at a time, for two days. However, we're

between groups on the Audiobook Circuit. New items from that Circuit will be available later on in the month.

We're in the midst of updating areas of our website. We're revising and expanding the list of website links in the Reference section and we've added a language translation capability. And, of course, we're always updating our list of upcoming Library events and featured websites of the month. Be our guest to try out the site and let us know what you think of it. Our homepage is located at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

It's time for another reminder regarding library cards; to be more specific, it regards who can use them. We at the Library frown upon patrons allowing their cards to be used by others. This can involve people using other people's Internet privileges, or letting someone borrow an item on their card. However, we do not prohibit this sort of thing, provided that the cardholder understands that they (the cardholder) are responsible if the borrower owes overdue fines or costs, or if equipment is damaged while being used under their barcode number. As long as you accept that notion and are prepared to abide by it, we'll allow your loaning out your card.

That's about all for this week. As always, please pass along your questions and comments. See you next time.

South Plainfield Rescue Squad Seeking New Volunteers

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad is seeking new volunteers.

No experience is necessary.

Training and uniforms are provided, free of charge. Start today, help save a life!

For information or to become a member, call
(908) 754-2343

908-754-1199



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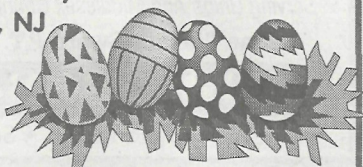
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Where: 4475 South Clinton Avenue, South Plainfield

Jo-Ann's Dance Studio • Feigley's School of Gymnastics
(908) 561-5094 (908) 561-8888

When: (Two three-week sessions available)

Session 1 - July 9-July 27

Session 2 - July 30-August 17

9 am-12 noon / Monday-Friday

Early drop off service available (\$5/half hour)

DON'T FORGET TO BRING SNACKS!

Ages: 5-9 years / 10-14 years

Fee: Each three-week session.....\$299

Price includes costuming and materials.

Take 10% off if you register before May 15/\$75 deposit will hold a place in class and will be applied toward your tuition)

Events

Lenten Fish Dinners at Sacred Heart Church April 6

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of the Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield, will hold their last Lenten Fish Dinner on Friday, April 6.

Dinner is served in the Sacred Heart cafeteria, from 5 to 7 p.m.

The menu features 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.

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

Jo-Ann's Benefit for Autism Awareness April 7

Jo-Ann's Dance and Feigley's School of Gymnastics are teaming up to present a dance and gymnastic performance to benefit autism awareness on Saturday, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. More than two dozen performers will be participating, including the entire ensemble for Le Centre Dance Ensemble and the Birdgettes.

The will be drawings, food and refreshments and prizes for the kids.

Donation is \$5. Tickets are available at the door. For further information call (908) 561-5094.

Lions Annual Breakfast Sunday, Apr. 8

On Sunday, April 8, the South Plainfield Lions Club will be holding their Annual Gourmet Breakfast at the high school cafeteria from 8 a.m. to noon.

The Palm Sunday Breakfast is known for its many gourmet items which include french toast, pancakes and made-to-order omelettes, all dished up by members of the South Plainfield Lions Club. This year the Lions will also create cholesterol free omelettes for the health conscious person.

The South Plainfield Lions Club is known for helping the visually and hearing impaired. The cost of the breakfast is only \$5 and it's a great way to start the day on Palm Sunday. See you there!

Cultural Arts to Present Classical Program April 8

The South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission will present the Westfield Concerto/Solo Chamber Orchestra in a program of classical music at the Wesley United Methodist Church Hall, located on Plainfield Ave., on Sunday, April 8, 2001 at 4 p.m. This 15-piece orchestra, comprised of teenage violinists and pianists of exceptional ability and led by violin maestro and teacher Steve Wolosonovich of Westfield, will perform excerpts from concert by such famous composers as Bach, Mozart and Vivaldi.

Also on the program will be a performance by clarinetist Robert Romano and a selection of beautiful songs by lyric tenor Bernard Ruth of Newark. Special on the program will be a violin duo entitled *As Time Goes By*, composed by 16-year old Oliver Eng, a member of the orchestra.

Comprising the orchestra are: violin, Oliver Eng, Jean Namkung, Henry Namkung, Robert Won, Tom Yip, David Louie, Cassandra Lambros, David Hsieh, Jennifer Hsieh, Averil Kuo, Jaime Yang; on viola is Katja Gruening; cello is Carl Baron and on bass is Dan Jaeger.

Admission to the program is free and the general public is cordially invited to attend the performance.

Historical Society To Hold Meeting April 10

The Historical Society will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the high school library. Everyone is invited to attend.

Workshop on How to Deal With Chronic Pain

Dr. Patrick Aiello has announced that he will be holding a workshop entitled "How to Deal With Chronic Pain and Arthritis by Natural Means." The workshop will be held at Aiello Chiropractic Center, located at 2201 South Clinton Ave., on Tuesday, April 17 and starts at 7 p.m.

Unfortunately, all too many people suffer from chronic pain and arthritis. With degenerative and chronic conditions, it is important to educate the people who are suffering from these problems as to the best ways to deal with these problems naturally. This informative one-hour workshop will deal with just this topic.

Please RSVP by Tuesday, April 16 to reserve your seat in this valuable workshop. For more information call Dr. Aiello at 755-2289 or email SoPlfdDoc@aol.com.

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.

AARP Chapter #4144 Meeting April 20

The next meeting of AARP Chapter #4144 will be held on Friday, April 20 at 12:30 p.m. in the PAL Building on Maple Ave.

The speaker for the April meeting is Richard Miller, a Certified Elder Law Attorney, from Parsippany, who will discuss the benefits of planning with your children your Power of Attorney, wills, etc., and other matters they should know if you become incapacitated. He will take questions from the audience.

The AARP is also offering a six day, five night trip from July 15 to 20 to Montreal, Quebec City and Lake George to all who are interested. Cost is \$560 double and \$710 single occupancy.

Call Lee at (732) 968-6613 or Mary at (732) 752-3764 for information and reservations. Be prepared to leave a message.

VFW 55th Anniversary Celebration April 21

Memorial Post #6763 will celebrate their 55th anniversary with a dinner dance on Saturday, April 21 at the Post located on Front street.

The evening will start off with a cocktail hour from 6 to 7 p.m., followed by a hot and cold buffet. There will be an open bar and music by "The Show-Offs," and more. Donations are \$20 per person.

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

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.

SP Business Association Hosting 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.

—Out of Town—

Alliance Bible Church To perform Passion Play April 12, 13, 14

A Day To Remember...A Passion Play, will be performed at Alliance Bible Church in Warren, on April 12, 13 and 14 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for all performances are free and can be obtained by contacting the church office at (732) 469-1425.

The church is located at 52 Mount Horeb Road in Warren, N.J. just minutes off Interstate 78.

For additional information or directions, contact the church office at 732-469-1425.

KISMET To Host 'Singles Event' April 18

"The Basics of Investing: Surviving Market Volatility", a singles event being hosted by KISMET, invites all to attend this event on Wednesday, Apr. 18, from 7:30 to 10 p.m.

The event will be held at 109 North Avenue, Westfield, on the third floor. Please be advised that there is ample parking. \$10 at the door includes interactive presentation, refreshments and an opportunity to mingle.

For more information, contact KISMET at (908) 232-8827, or visit www.thatskismet.com.

Lions Palm Sunday Breakfast

Sponsored by the South Plainfield Lions Club
Helping the Visually & Hearing Impaired Since 1947....

When: **Palm Sunday, April 8, 2001**

Where: **South Plainfield High School Cafeteria**

Time: **8:00 am to 12:00 noon**

Ticket Price: **\$5.00**

Tickets may be purchased at the door or through a Lions member.
For information, please call 755-2289.



OBSERVER

Office Hours!

We will be taking a Long Needed Vacation The Week of April 9-13, 2001

Offices will be open 9:30 to noon

We will be closed Good Friday

All Copy/letters submitted after

Friday April 6 will appear in the

April 20th Issue.

Thank you for your cooperation

Any questions,

Call 668-0010



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Durham Deli Grand Re-Opening

Durham Deli, which recently relocated to South Plainfield Ave., celebrated their Grand Re-Opening last Saturday. Pictured (l to r) are Councilwoman Darlene Pinto, Nicholas Alyssa, Kathy Louie and Louis DiGirolamo, Mayor Dan Gallagher, Mary Martin and Chief Robert Merkler.

Ferguson-Kennedy Bill To Fulfill Special Education Promise

In an effort to ensure that no child is left behind, Rep. Mike Ferguson introduced legislation to more than double federal funding for students with special needs and require Congress to live up to their promise made a quarter century ago.

The bill's chief Democratic cosponsor is Rep. Patrick Kennedy. The National Education Association, the American Federation of Teachers, Easter Seals and the United Cerebral Palsy Association were among numerous advocacy groups that have endorsed the Ferguson-Kennedy bill.

In 1975, Congress approved the "Individuals with Disabilities Education Act" (IDEA), which opened the doors of education to millions of students by mandating that children with special needs receive the same educational opportunities as other American children. When lawmakers enacted that measure, they pledged to fund up to 40 % of the costs of IDEA, which can be twice that of educating other children.

Summer Drama Workshop Kids Dance to the Music

Photos by Patricia Abbott



South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop (SDW) kicked off the 2001 season with a dance. Over 70 teenagers danced to music provided by "A" Team FX, new DJ duo Steve and Eric Ambielli. The dance was held at Wesley Methodist Church. SDW Board members were on hand to help with the refreshments and act as chaperones. SDW is celebrating their 30th season and will present *Bye Birdie* in August.



Friends of the Woods...

Arbor Day Weekend Festivities

By Dorothy Miele

Spring has always been my favorite time of year. After a cold, snowy winter, the first signs of spring energize both the body and mind. The grackles, starlings and red-wing blackbirds and cowbirds have been back for several weeks. Robins are singing around 4:30 a.m. every morning and the busy little sparrows are taking up residence in birdhouses everywhere. Like the dark-eyed juncos (often referred to as Snowbirds), the crocus have come and gone, but left cherry daffodils and regal tulips to sway in the spring breeze. The trees above are ready to burst forth with displays of flowers and leaves. It's April, and life seems new all over again.

On the last Friday in April (27), New Jersey observes National Arbor Day. It was conceived in 1872 by a Nebraska newspaper editor and politician, Julius Sterling Morton. A native of Michigan, Morton adopted the treeless plains state of Nebraska as his home. He and other pioneers in the region began planting trees to beautify the state, to provide shade and windbreaks, and to prevent soil erosion. As a member of the Nebraska Board of Agriculture, Morton (who later served as Secretary of Agriculture under President Grover Cleveland) proposed a state tree-

planting day to be held on April 10, 1872. The event proved to be overwhelmingly successful, with an estimated 1 million trees planted across the plains. In the following years, the special tree planting day became so popular in Nebraska that Arbor Day was declared an official annual holiday by the state's governor, Robert W. Fumas in 1884. Its popularity grew beyond the state's boundaries. Today, all 50 states celebrate Arbor Day as does Australia, Japan, Korea, Yugoslavia, Iceland and India.

Trees play an important, multi-functional role in our environment and economy. They shade and cool our homes, beautify our communities, conserve energy, help protect rivers and streams, reduce soil erosion, and most importantly — they clean the air we breathe. Trees are a renewable natural resource and are remarkable in many ways. Here are some cool facts about trees.

OLDER THAN THE HILLS: the oldest living tree is a bristlecone pine growing on Wheeler Peak in east Nevada, believed to be more than 4600 years old.

HOLY DINOSAUR: the oldest species of flowering plant is the ginkgo or maidenhair tree, which appeared during the Jurassic period 180,000,000 years ago.

PAUL BUNYON-SIZE: the tallest tree in the world is the coast redwood,

Sequoia sempervirens, which is recorded at 385 feet. It is found in Humboldt Redwoods State Park in California.

MOMMAMA! the world record for the tree with the greatest girth (fattest!) goes to a sweet chestnut that stands at the foot of Mt. Etna in Sicily. It measures 167 feet around.

LOST AND FOUND, AGAIN: the dawn redwood, thought to be extinct since the time of the dinosaurs, was rediscovered alive and well after World War II in China. A specimen of this rare tree grows in South Plainfield.

If you would like to know more about trees, bring the family or scouting group to Highland Avenue Woods Environmental Education Reserve on Sunday, April 29 at 2 p.m. The Friends of the Woods are sponsoring a free Walks and Talks Program presented by Mary Ferraro, a forester with the Department of Environmental Protection. Ms. Ferraro is a former high school biology teacher, and Shade Tree Commissioner in Bound Brook. She recently completed her masters degree in forestry from the University of Maine. Join her for an informative and enjoyable spring walk through the 36 acre reserve and learn about trees in our environment. The Friends are giving away free tubing trees, publications and coloring books on a first come-first serve basis.

The reserve is located on Sylvania Place, off South Clinton Avenue in South Plainfield. For more information, call Dr. Alice Tempel at (908) 226-7621 or Dorothy Miele at (908) 754-3073. You can also email questions to SPNatureTrails@cs.com or visit our website at <http://community.nj.com/cc/friendsofthewoods>.

Dorothy Miele is President of the Friends of the Woods, Inc. and an Associate Member of the South Plainfield Environmental Commission.

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Roman Catholic Church

807 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield

Tel. (908) 756-1333 Fax: (908) 756-4501

Fr. John invites you to worship with him this Easter

Schedule of Services

Saturday, April 7..... Palms blessed & distributed at 5:30 p.m.

Palm Sunday April 8..... Palms blessed & distributed 8 and 11 a.m.

Holy Thursday, April 12.... 7 p.m. — Liturgy of the Holy Eucharist.
Church will be open until 10 p.m. for adoration.

Good Friday, April 13..... 3 p.m.—Liturgy of the Word, Veneration of the Cross & Communion Service

7 p.m. — Stations of the Cross and Tenebrae Service

Holy Saturday, April 14.... Blessing of Easter Food: 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m. at entrance of the church
7 p.m. — Easter Vigil Mass & Services

Easter Sunday, April 15.... 8 a.m. — Easter Sunrise Mass
11 a.m. — Easter Day High Mass

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All District Music Festival — Showcases Our Students Talents



By Patricia Abbott

South Plainfield youths from the elementary schools and the Middle School, many carrying instruments, hurried through the halls searching for their assigned meeting place. Parents rushed to straighten a tie or fix a bow. High school chorus and band members greeted family and friends before heading off to warm up, gather instruments or don choir robes.

Last Friday evening, the SPHS gym was filled with enthusiastic fans. The standing-room only crowd was there to experience the long-anticipated, much-rehearsed 32nd Annual All District Music Festival and Art Exhibition. The hallway was filled with panels that displayed varied and creative artwork from each of the schools. The Senior class offered a large table filled with an array of baked goods for sale.

The three-hour program was the end result of months of work on the part of the South Plainfield District music staff and selected students. The show featured the musical talents of grades 4-12. Students in grades 4-5 auditioned for a spot in the All District Elementary Festival Chorus, which also included students from Grant Central Sixth School. The All District Elementary Band and String Ensemble were also chosen through an audition process. The Middle School presented their stage and concert bands, orchestra, chorus, and select vocal group, the *Gems*. The *Gems* sang a Scottish Tribute, featuring eighth grade student Katie Mott in a solo: *My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean*. The evening concluded with the high school jazz band, orchestra, chorus and concert band.

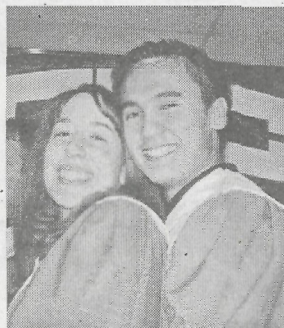
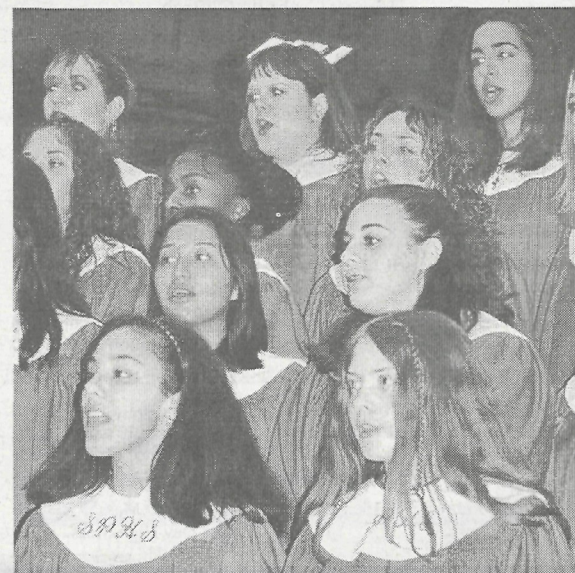
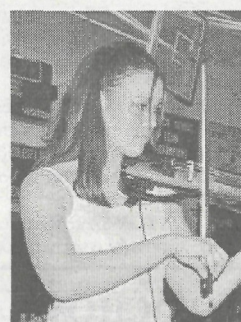
How it All Began....

The All-District Music Festival and Art Exhibition is a South Plainfield tradition that spans 32 years and two generations of students. Many in the audience Friday night relived their own All-District festivals, as they watched the youngsters perform. The tradition began over three decades ago in 1969 when High School Choral Director Peter Franks and Band Director David Haining arranged a concert for the combined junior and senior high schools. In 1970, select students from the elementary schools were chosen to appear, forming the first All-District Elementary Chorus and Band. Three hundred and forty-nine youths sang and played together. The performance took place March 14, 1970 and named the So. Plainfield District Music Festival.

In the early years of the festival, performances took place the Middle School, or as it is often referred to "the old high school." The new high school opened to students in Sept. of 1974. The 1975 concert was moved to a Friday night and held in the high school's Joseph A. Mondoro Auditorium in 1975. Elementary string ensembles were added to the program.

Early in the 1980's, the Music Educators' National Conference instituted Music in Our Schools Month. The established South Plainfield All District concert fit the bill perfectly by celebrating all forms of music and the impact it had on the lives of the students.

After 11 years of packing both performers and the audience into the huge auditorium, the 1986 concert was moved to the high school gym. The move was of necessity as more and more people arrived to enjoy the event. In 1991, student's foray in to the world of art was added to the tradition and became the All-District Art Exhibition. The artwork includes all grade levels. The tradition continues and each year with the younger students eagerly awaiting the next concert.





South Plainfield High School Spring Sports Schedule



VARSITY & JUNIOR VARSITY BASEBALL

Fri., April 6	Sayreville	Home	3:45
Tues., April 10	J. F. Kennedy	Home	3:45
Thurs., April 12	North Brunswick	Away	3:45
Sat., April 14	North Plainfield @ Watchung Hills		2:00
Mon., April 16	Colonia	Home	3:45
Wed., April 18	Bishop Ahr	Home	3:45
Fri., April 20	Somerville	Home	3:45
Sat., April 21	Tournament @ North Plainfield		4/7:30
Tues., April 24	Perth Amboy	Away	7:00 V
Tues., April 24	Perth Amboy	Away	3:45 JV
Thurs., April 26	Sayreville	Away	3:45
Sat., April 28	Carteret	Home	11am
Mon., April 30	J. F. Kennedy	Away	3:45
Wed., May 2	North Brunswick	Home	3:45
Fri., May 4	Colonia	Away	3:45
Mon., May 7	J. P. Stevens	Home	3:45
Tues., May 8	Bishop Ahr	Away	3:45
Thurs., May 10	Old Bridge	Home	3:45
Fri., May 11	Ridge	Home	3:45
Sat., May 12	GMC Tournament		
Mon., May 14	Woodbridge	Away	3:45
State Tournament			

FRESHMEN BASEBALL

Fri., April 6	Sayreville	Away	3:45
Tues., April 10	J. F. Kennedy	Away	3:45
Thurs., April 12	North Brunswick	Home	3:45
Mon., April 16	Colonia	Away	3:45
Wed., April 18	Bishop Ahr	Away	3:45
Fri., April 20	North Plainfield	Away	3:45
Tues., April 24	Perth Amboy	Home	3:45
Thurs., April 26	Sayreville	Home	3:45
Sat., April 28	Carteret	Away	11 am
Mon., April 30	J. F. Kennedy	Home	3:45
Wed., May 2	North Brunswick	Away	3:45
Fri., May 4	Colonia	Home	3:45
Mon., May 7	J. P. Stevens	Away	3:45
Tues., May 8	Bishop Ahr	Home	3:45
Thurs., May 10	Old Bridge	Away	3:45
Fri., May 11	Ridge	Away	3:45
Mon., May 14	Woodbridge	Home	3:45

VARSITY & JUNIOR VARSITY SOFTBALL

Fri., April 6	Sayreville	Away	3:45
Sat., April 7	Watchung Hills	Away	11 am
Tues., April 10	J. F. Kennedy	Away	3:45
Thurs., April 12	North Brunswick	Home	11 am
Sat., April 14	North Plainfield	Away	11 am
Mon., April 16	Colonia	Away	3:45
Wed., April 18	Bishop Ahr	Away	3:45
Fri., April 20	Carteret	Away	3:45
Mon., April 23	Piscataway	Home	3:45
Tues., April 24	Perth Amboy	Home	3:45
Thurs., April 26	Sayreville	Home	3:45
Sat., April 28	Bishop Eustace/Union/ Bound Brook	Home	11/1
Mon., April 30	J. F. Kennedy	Home	3:45
Wed., May 2	North Brunswick	Away	3:45
Fri., May 4	Colonia	Home	3:45
Mon., May 7	Woodbridge	Home	3:45
Tues., May 8	Bishop Ahr	Home	3:45
Wed., May 9	Bridgewater	Home	3:45
Fri., May 11	J. P. Stevens	Home	3:45
Mon., May 14	Old Bridge	Home	3:45
Wed., May 16	GMC Tournament		
State Tournament			

FRESHMEN SOFTBALL

Fri., April 6	Sayreville	Home	3:45
Sat., April 7	Watchung Hills	Home	11 am
Tues., April 10	J. F. Kennedy	Home	3:45
Wed., April 11	Middlesex	Away	3:45
Thurs., April 12	North Brunswick	Away	11 am
Mon., April 16	Colonia	Home	3:45
Wed., April 18	Bishop Ahr	Home	3:45
Fri., April 20	Carteret	Home	3:45
Mon., April 23	Piscataway	Away	3:45
Tues., April 24	Perth Amboy	Away	3:45
Thurs., April 26	Sayreville	Away	3:45
Mon., April 30	J. F. Kennedy	Away	3:45
Tues., May 1	Middlesex	Home	3:45
Wed., May 2	North Brunswick	Home	3:45
Fri., May 4	Colonia	Away	3:45
Mon., May 7	Woodbridge	Away	3:45
Tues., May 8	Bishop Ahr	Away	3:45
Wed., May 9	Bridgewater	Away	3:45
Fri., May 11	J. P. Stevens	Away	3:45
Mon., May 14	Old Bridge	Away	3:45

GOLF

Fri., April 6	Bishop Ahr @ West-9	3:30
Mon., April 16	Old Bridge @ Glenwood	3:30
Wed., April 18	Watchung Hills @ Quailbrook	3:30
Fri., April 20	Union @ West-9	3:30
Tues., April 24	Colonia @ Colonia CC	3:30
Wed., April 25	South Brunswick @ Bunker Hill	3:30
Thurs., April 26	Perth Amboy @ Raritan Landing	3:30
Tues., May 1	Old Bridge @ West-9	3:30
Wed., May 2	Sayreville @ West-9	3:30
Thurs., May 3	Woodbridge @ Colonia CC	3:30
Fri., May 4	North Brunswick @ West-9	3:30
Mon., May 7	Ridge @ Basking Ridge	3:30
Tues., May 8	Bishop Ahr @ Ashbrook	3:30
Wed., May 9	Clark @ Oak Ridge	3:30
Thurs., May 10	Sayreville/North Brunswick @ Tamarack	3:30
Mon., May 14	Sectionals @ Sand Barrens CC (Cape May)	
Wed., May 16	Colonia @ West-9	3:30
Thurs., May 17	GMC Tournament Prelims	3:30
Fri., May 18	Watchung Hills @ West-9	3:30
Mon., May 21	State Groups/Tournament of Champions	
Tues., May 22	GMC Tournament (1st round)	
Thurs., May 24	GMC Tournament	7 am
Wed., May 30	Union @ Suburban	3:30

BOYS TRACK

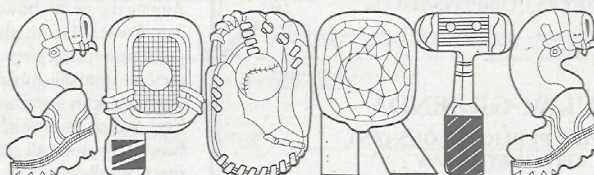
Tues., April 10	Perth Amboy	Away	3:45
Wed., April 18	J. F. Kennedy	Away	3:45
Wed., April 25	Bishop Ahr	Away	3:45
Tues., May 1	GMC Relays		
Wed., May 2	GMC Relays		
Tues., May 8	Carteret	Away	3:45
Sat., May 12	GMC Championships		
Wed., May 16	Sayreville	Away	3:45
Wed., May 23	North Brunswick	Away	3:45
Fri., May 25	Sectional Meet		
Sat., May 26	Sectional Meet		
Fri., June 1	Group Championships		
Sat., June 2	Group Championships		
Wed., June 6	State Championships		
Holmdel Relays			
Penn Relays			
Millburn Relays			
Matawan Relays			
Monmouth Invitational			

GIRLS TRACK

Tues., April 10	Perth Amboy	Away	3:45
Wed., April 18	J. F. Kennedy	Away	3:45
Wed., April 25	Bishop Ahr	Away	3:45
Tues., May 1	GMC Relays		
Wed., May 2	GMC Relays		
Tues., May 8	Carteret	Away	3:45
Sat., May 12	GMC Championships		
Wed., May 16	Sayreville	Away	3:45
Wed., May 23	North Brunswick	Away	3:45
Fri., May 25	Sectional Meet		
Sat., May 26	Sectional Meet		
Fri., June 1	Group Championships		
Sat., June 2	Group Championships		
Wed., June 6	State Championships		
Blue Devil Classic			
Holmdel Relays			
Penn Relays			

BOYS TENNIS

Fri., April 6	Bishop Ahr	Away	3:45
Mon., April 9	South Amboy	Home	3:45
Wed., April 18	J.F. Kennedy	Home	3:45
Mon., April 23	Monroe Township	Home	3:45
Wed., April 25	Colonia	Away	3:45
Thurs., April 26	St. Joseph's	Home	3:45
Fri., April 27	GMC Tournament	9:00 a.m.	
Sat., April 28	GMC Tournament	9:00 a.m.	
Wed., May 2	North Brunswick	Home	3:45
Fri., May 4	Perth Amboy	Away	3:45
Mon., May 7	Bishop Ahr	Home	3:45
Wed., May 9	St. Joseph's	Away	3:45
Fri., May 11	Colonia	Home	3:45
Wed., May 16	J.F. Kennedy	Away	3:45
Fri., May 18	Monroe Township	Away	3:45
Mon., May 21	Bound Brook	Home	4:00
State Tournament			



Send us Your Sports

We want to hear from you concerning what is going on in sports. Send your sports 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.

Sports



Ponytail Softball Batters Box

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 will begin at 9:30 a.m. Opening Day ceremonies will start at 11:45 a.m. In the event of rain, Opening Day will be held on Saturday, April 14.

Softball Jackets-Ordering Deadline - April 15—Sportworld

is offering a light lined nylon jacket in green with the players name on the front and the ponytail logo on the back. There are two styles available, zip-down and pullover. The jackets are available in both adult and youth sizes. Don't forget to use your discount coupon supplied by the Ponytail Parents' Association. The coupon must be presented to Sportworld at the time you place your order. Please see your coach if you have not yet received your coupon. The last day to place orders is April 15.

Ponytail Softball Pictures - April 21—All individual and team pictures will be taken on April 21 at the Pitt Street Park complex. Order forms will be distributed by the coaches. In the event of rain, pictures will be taken indoors at the PAL Building. Additional info, will be provided in upcoming publications of the Batters Box.

College Scholarships - Filing Deadlines—May 4—The Ponytail Parents' Association is sponsoring two \$500 college scholarships. Applications are currently being accepted and can be obtained from the South Plainfield High School guidance office. To qualify for the scholarships, the applicant must be a high school senior graduating this June, a current resident of South Plainfield, and have played for a minimum of three years in the South Plainfield Recreation Department's Ponytail Softball League. The filing deadline is May 4, 2001. All completed applications should be returned to SPPPA, PO Box 441, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

All-Star Try-outs - May 6—Try-outs for the summer All-Star teams will be held on Sunday, May 6 at 1 p.m. 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.

Age Requirements—C League Team - Girls must be 10 & under as of 12/31/00. Tryouts will take place on field C.

B League Team—Girls must be 12 & under as of 12/31/00. Tryouts will take place on field B.

A League Team—Girls must be 14 & under as of 12/31/00. Tryouts will take place on field A.

Pool Party - June 8—The Ponytail Parents' Assoc. will be sponsoring an end of season pool party. This event is open to all Recreation Ponytail softball so please join us on June 8 at the South Plainfield Community pool. Additional info, will be provided in upcoming publications of the Batters Box.

Girls Softball Wins Season Opener

The South Plainfield High School girls varsity softball team took home a 1-0 victory over Carteret on Monday, their first game of the 2001 season. Sophomore Christine Strani pitched a two hitter and struck out

six and Junior Danielle Schweers singled twice and scored on a groundout by Junior Kelly Ritchey in the first inning for South Plainfield. The Lady Tiger's record stands at 1-0.

SPPPA Offering College Scholarships

The South Plainfield Ponytail Parents' Association is sponsoring two \$500 college scholarships. Applications are currently being accepted and can be obtained from the South Plainfield High School Guidance Office. To qualify for the scholarships, the applicant must be a high school senior graduating this June, a current resident of South Plainfield, and have played for a minimum of three years in the South Plainfield Recreation

Department's Ponytail Softball League. The filing deadline is May 4, 2001. All completed applications should be returned to SPPPA, PO. Box 441, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

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Typoons Crush the Comets

The Boys U11 Typhoons demonstrated their ability to put up big numbers as they completely dominated the Milburn Comets 8-1. In a total team effort, the Typhoons turned a tight first seven minutes into a runaway as six different players scored to improve their record to 2-0.

The scoring began when John Christ sent a deflected Brendan O'Shea shot into the goal for his first score of the year and a 1-0 lead. Brian Fabino followed that up with his first two goals of the season, as he first took a crossing pass from Matt Helgesen and placed it in the far corner of the net and then followed up a shot off the post from Steven Guevara, as the rout began. O'Shea was next to cash in with his fourth goal of the year, as he sent in a shot from the end line and then was followed by two goals from Grey Coppi, one by David Alston and finally a shared goal by Helgesen and Keith Heckel.

Aside from a late goal by the Bonnets, goalies Coppi and Chris Pennisi, along with a strong defense, including J. R. Licato and Greg Watts stopped every other offensive threat. In addition, strong performances and some near misses by John Polizzano, Jonathan Marcoux, Brandot Ullom and Eric Ravayo contributed heavily to the victory.

Submitted by Jeff Marcoux

Plainfield's Jason Williams Leads Duke Blue Devils To Victory

Jason Williams, an All-American basketball player for Duke University - helped with Duke's 82-72 NCAA National Championship victory over Arizona on Monday night.

The top-ranked Duke Blue Devils won the national title Monday night under the leadership of Jason Williams. The 6'2" point guard has been one of the Duke's biggest offensive weapons all season. After scoring 16 points in the win over the University of Arizona Wildcat's, the All-American guard has scored 154 points in six tournaments (ninth of all time). A pass from Williams enabled Shane Battier to score a slam-dunk, making the score 77-72 with 2:31 left on the clock. Then Williams clinched the Blue Devil's victory with a 3 point shot with 1:45 left, giving the Blue Devils an eight point lead.

A graduate of South Plainfield's Sacred Heart School and St. Joseph's High School in Metuchen, Williams lettered in basketball all four years. Among the awards he won; the Morgan Wooten Award, given annually to the nation's top prep school player, the first team All-America selection as a high school senior by USA Today, Street & Smith, and Hoop Scoop, two time all state selection, first team all-county, all area, and all-Parochial accolades during his career. As a two-time team captain, he set school records for most points scored in one game with 43 and the most total points with 1,993 high school career points, averaging 24.0 points, 8.0 assists, 4.0 rebounds and 3.0 steals.

By Tony Cassano



juniorbaseballclubnotes

RECORD BREAKING \$\$ BOOSTER WEEKEND - Although the results are not official, it appears that this past weekends fundraising efforts broke the record set last year. Thanks to John Stallone-Booster Weekend Director and his staff of volunteers, the SPJBC annual 'Booster Weekend' efforts were a success. Players and parents from Small Fry 'A', 'B', and 'C' leagues spent this past Thursday, Friday and Saturday throughout the town at local stores and businesses fundraising on behalf of the club. I wish to thank our business community and everyone that contributed their time and effort and certainly those that donated money. Thank you again for making this year the best ever.

OPENING DAY FINAL PREPARATION - FRIDAY APRIL 6 & SATURDAY APRIL 7—Today and tonight is our annual Opening Day set up. Volunteers are needed and certainly encouraged to help out. This will be our last opportunity to prepare for tomorrow's Opening Day festivities and games that will follow. Volunteers are welcomed and encouraged to help out.

OPENING DAY 2001 PARADE AND FESTIVITIES SET FOR TOMORROW - SATURDAY APRIL 7—Tomorrow marks the start of the 2001 Season at the SPJBC. Opening Day parade will start at 10am at Borough Hall and will be followed by our annual Opening Day Ceremonies which will be held this year on Field 3. Our proud community will celebrate the 55th season @ the SPJBC. Multiple games on Fields 1, 3 and 4 will follow starting at 12 noon. Please come out and join us to support youth baseball in South Plainfield and the start of a new year.

Hunter Places 4th at National Wrestling Tournament

By Bob Hunter

Patrick Hunter, a fifth grade student at Franklin School, placed fourth in the 65-pound weight class at the AAU Elementary National Wrestling Championships in Cary, North Carolina.

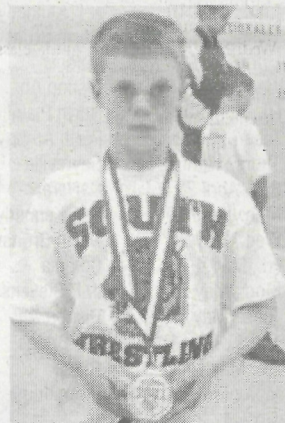
The tournament had wrestlers from 20 states in this first annual national tournament.

Hunter wrestled in the fifth grade division made up of a twenty-man bracket.

In the opening round, Hunter scored a tech fall 16-0 over Ethan Brown of Ramseur, NC. In the quarter final round, he faced national champion Bryan Rickard of Davison, Michigan and lost 16-2. Rickard went on to win the tournament.

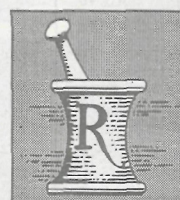
In the wrestle back round, Hunter defeated Justin McDonald of Savannah GA 7-2, then defeated Scott Norris of Morrisville, NC 2-0.

In the wrestle back semi-final round Hunter defeated two time Illi-



nois state champion Dillion Pousson, of Round Lake, IL, 4-1. In the consolation finals Hunter faced three time Georgia state champion Sam Squeglia of St. Mary, GA.

With the scored tied 4-4 in the third period, Hunter got turned to his back and lost by decision, 7-4, for fourth place.



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Franklin's Homework Club A Learning Experience!



Homework Club members Taryn Billich, Chris Pennisi, Theresa Huber, Jessie Brandes, Sammy Hogan, Caryn Butrico, Sydney Gentile, Jasmine Silas.

By Patricia Abbott

A simple idea at Franklin School has turned into an exceptional club. Principal Nancy Erickson voiced a query, wondering if fifth grade students might like to help younger children with their homework. Fifth grader Taryn Billich took the question to her friends and with the help of Sam Smith and Kerri Siedenbuck they formed the Homework Club.

Fifteen members strong, the group quickly elected officers and selected meeting days. Taryn Billich is President, Chris Pennisi is Vice President, they also have corresponding and recording secretaries. The group meets for 30 minutes on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the fifth grade classroom of teacher Mary Rodgers. The club is run efficiently, members take attendance and stand ready to help any student. They often begin their

own homework during club sessions.

The successful club has helped with more than homework. It has students of all ages interacting and has taught the fifth grade helpers a few lessons. Members of the club began with a heavy hand in discipline, insisting on quiet and threatening to separate their young charges. After a talk with some teachers they learned to handle being in a position of responsibility.

The fifth grade members talked about why they liked the club and what they were learning. Samantha Smith said, "I like the club because when you help the kids it makes you feel more important." Chris Pennisi noted, "I'm learning how to deal with kids." Words of wisdom from Samantha Hogan, "I think I am learning that no matter how much trouble they cause, they always have trouble and you need to help them." Taryn found many advantages to the club, "I like helping the kids and being in charge. I also enjoy talking to them and trying to help them with homework." All agreed that running the club had taught them responsibility and it was just plain fun.

Average attendance is about 20 students in grades 1-5, although on the day the *Observer* visited there were only six younger students present. The club members who were on-hand noted that Wednesdays are usually a smaller group.

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Custom Creations & Gifts Celebrate Grand Opening

Custom Creations & Gifts, located on South Plainfield Ave., started off a week-long grand opening celebration with a ribbon cutting. Pictured are Laura Maino with children Courtney and Victoria, owners Donna and Bob Siepmann, Mayor Dan Gallagher, Councilwoman Darlene Pinto and Police Chief Robert Merkler.

Community Technology Advisory Committee Meeting Planned

Russ Mattoon, the District Technology Coordinator For the South Plainfield Public Schools, will be holding a re-organization meeting of the Community Technology Advisory Committee on Wednesday, April 18 in the High School Information Center.

The committee has not been active this year due to the Technology Coordinators position being vacant. Mr. Mattoon joined the school district in March and would like the community to become active in the planned for implementation of Educational Technology.

The immediate task before the

committee is to make recommendations for revisions to the District's five War Technology Plan. Each year a revised plan is submitted to the State Department of Education and is the foundation for funding from grants and state aid. In addition, Mr.

Manoon would like to discuss coordination of the School District's web site, the Council's web site and any links that would be appropriate for the community and the school district. All interested community members are invited to attend.

Holly Park Mower Plans Second Open House

Holly Park Mower, located at 2720 Park Ave. will be holding their 2nd Annual Open House on Saturday, April 7 from 1 to 4 p.m. There will be refreshments and something for the kids.

While you are there you can also

take a look at the newest lawn equipment for commercial or residential use.

They also repair lawn equipment or have new and used parts, so bring along whatever may need a tune-up for the coming Spring season!



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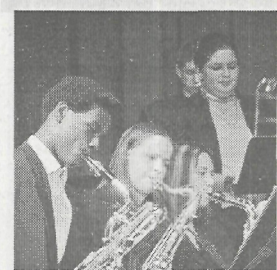
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Obituaries

Marven May (Levi) Michalewsky, 72

Marven May (Levi) Michalewsky died on Thursday, March 29, at the Sun Coast Hospital in Largo, Fla.

Mrs. Michalewsky was born in Maywood, NJ. She had resided in Bayonne and in Bloomfield before moving to South Plainfield, where she had lived for over 30 years. She moved to Clearwater nine years ago.

She had worked for the Plainfield Board of Education, where she was a teachers aide in the Evergreen School. She then held the position of attendance secretary, for 15 years, in the Plainfield High School. She retired in 1986.

She was a long time member of the former Marconner Reformed Church in Edison, where she had been the superintendent of the Sunday School. Later, she became one of the early members of the newly reformed Oak Tree Presbyterian Church in Edison, where she had been very active for many years, and she was a past president of the Women's Association, a member of the choir, and served as an ordained Elder of the Church.

While in Florida, she was a member of the Ranch Mobile Home Park and had been a past president of the Hobby Club. She was also a member of the Ranch community's Dance Club, Bingo Club and the "Ranch Kitchen Band." As a member of the band, she took great pride in her ability to "play the teapot." She had also attended and participated in Vespers in the community.

Her husband, Ludwig Micha-

lewsky, died in 1998. She was also predeceased by her brother, Capt. Kenneth Levi.

Surviving are her two sons and daughters in law, David E. and Wendy Michalewsky of Hillsborough and Warren L. and Johanna Michalewsky of South Plainfield; and her brother, Arnold Levi of Bogota. Also surviving is one granddaughter, Allyson Michalewsky.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Scleroderma Research Foundation, PO Box 200, Columbus, NJ 08022, or to the Oak Tree Presbyterian Church.

Robert J. Perrucci, Sr., 76

Robert J. Perrucci, Sr. died on Wednesday, March 28 at the Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Bob was born in Scotch Plains and had lived in Westfield before moving to South Plainfield in 1952. He had worked as a mason contractor for Rutgers University maintenance department in New Brunswick for 15 years before he retired nine years ago. Before Rutgers, he had been self-employed, working as a mason contractor in the Middlesex and Union County areas.

He was an Army veteran of WWII and was part of the U.S. Army Rangers. He saw battle action in the European Theater and had been the winner of the Bronze Star.

Mr. Perrucci was a member of Our Lady of Czestochowa RC Church in South Plainfield.

He was predeceased by his grandson, Steven Perrucci.

Surviving are his wife, Rosemary Hoffman Perrucci, a daughter, Georgia Bartz of Vero Beach, Fla., two sons, Robert J. Jr., of South Plainfield, and John C. of Jersey City; two sisters, Anna Perrucci of South Plainfield and Edith Collucci of Clinton; three brothers, Mario of Forked River, Nick of South Plainfield and John of Somerville. Also surviving are seven grandchildren, Andrea and Robert N. Perrucci, John, Michael, Mark, Jillian, and TJ Hrusovsky, and by his great grandchildren, Lee Ann, Nanaleigh, Ryne and John Nicholas. He is also survived by a very dear family friend, Ron Mastrobuono.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Beauty

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

Hillside Cemetery

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Because We Care

by Robert Hunter

RELIGION AND HEALTH

Increasingly, the medical establishment is coming to accept the fact that religion influences health. A few years ago, only three medical schools in the U.S. taught courses on religious issues in patient care. Today, that number has increased more than tenfold. While no one is sure how religion exerts a healthful effect upon patients, it is thought that it plays a role in helping them cope with stress. It has been observed that praying or reading religious texts seems to help people maintain lower stress levels. And the sense of social connectedness and community that religion provides may also help minimize stress and its effects. Whatever the reason, religion appears to act as a buffer against mental and physical pain.

Sometimes being in charge leaves much to be desired. When one is ill, or in difficulty, it is comforting to believe that a benevolent higher power accompanies or watches over one. At the family-owned JAMES W. CONROY FUNERAL HOME, INC., we offer courteous assistance in arranging end-of-life services to members of all faiths and beliefs, and we are always open to new ideas. To schedule a preplanning consultation at our facilities, conveniently located at 2456 Plainfield Avenue in South Plainfield, please call 756-2800. Cremation services available.

"Man is by his constitution a religious animal."

—Edmund Burke

Two Sixth Graders Attend Special Program

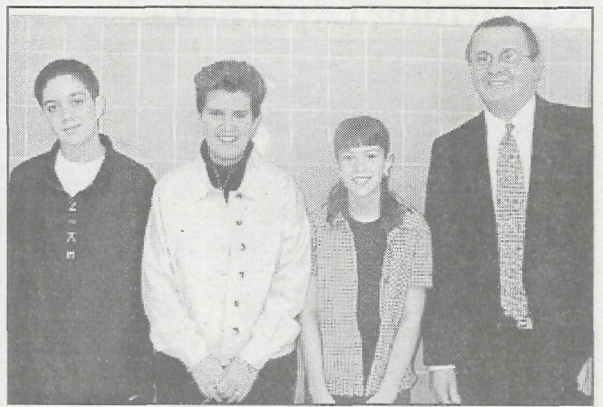
Nicole Benak and Nicholas Pasquale, both students at Grant Central Sixth Grade, along with teacher Judy Dias, attended a program entitled, "The Middlesex County Day of Respect—Sixth Graders Leading the Way."

The program, which took place at ATT&T in Piscataway, was a collaboration of the Middlesex County Child Assault Prevention Project and the Middlesex County Regional Chamber of Commerce.

This interactive day of learning and sharing was spent with students generating ideas on how to respect each other and how to better get along. The students then were asked to return to South Plainfield and share their experiences with other students.

They learned about bullying and how to cope with being bullied.

Both Nicole and Nicholas were

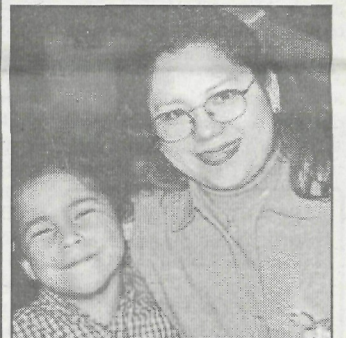
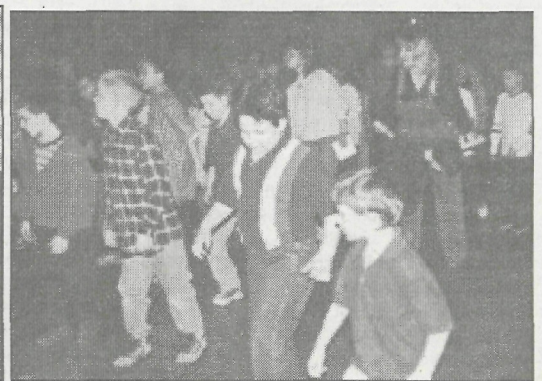


Pictured left to right are Nicholas Pasquale, Ms. Judy Dias, Nicole Benak and Grant Central Sixth Grade Principal Robert Doggett.

chosen to represent the sixth grade because they were good speakers and excellent students. They plan to talk

to their fellow sixth grade students about what they learned from this program.

Mother Son Dance Held at Riley School



The scenes pictured above are from the Riley School Mother/Son dance held recently. They are courtesy of Mary Markey.

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Michale Czarnik requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the erection of a 28' x 12' x 48' high above ground pool, proposed pool lacks required a 30' front setback from Norwood Ave., 4' being proposed, and other variances that may be required, said property being located on Block 211 Lot 10 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 May 1, 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 April 6, 2001

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

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

Ordinance #1440M entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #1440 ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD AND THE METHOD OF PAYMENT OF SUCH COMPENSATION FOR THE YEAR 2001; be adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, March 30, 2001 and that a public hearing be held Thursday, April 19, 2001 at 8:00 PM in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey.

ORDINANCE #1440M

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #1440 ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD AND THE METHOD OF PAYMENT OF SUCH COMPENSATION FOR THE YEAR 2001.

2001	
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COURT ADMINISTRATOR	75,167
RECREATION DIRECTOR	55,435
POOL ADMINISTRATOR	6,396
MAYOR	2,495
COUNCILPERSON	2,078
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PLANNING BD ATTORNEY	6,237

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT	2,354
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SECTION 2. INCONSISTENCY - All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE - This ordinance shall become effective and operative ten days after the publication thereof after final passage.

Approved March 22, 2001

Daniel J. Gallagher/Mayor

Attest:
Vincent Buttiglieri, Borough Clerk

\$72.00 1T April 6, 2001

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

March 28, 2001

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Planning Board at its meeting held on March 27, 2001.

A. Case #00-02/V-JWW, Inc.—Block 78; Lots 4, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18 & 21; Holly, Maple and Park Avenues.—Applicant's request for preliminary subdivision approval was hereby GRANTED, with conditions.

B. Case #631—Squire Corrugated Container Corp.—Block 225; Lot 28, 111 Somogyi Court.—Applicant's request for final site plan approval was hereby GRANTED, with conditions.

Janice J. Muccilli
Recording Secretary,
Planning Board

\$15.00 April 6, 2001

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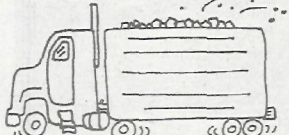
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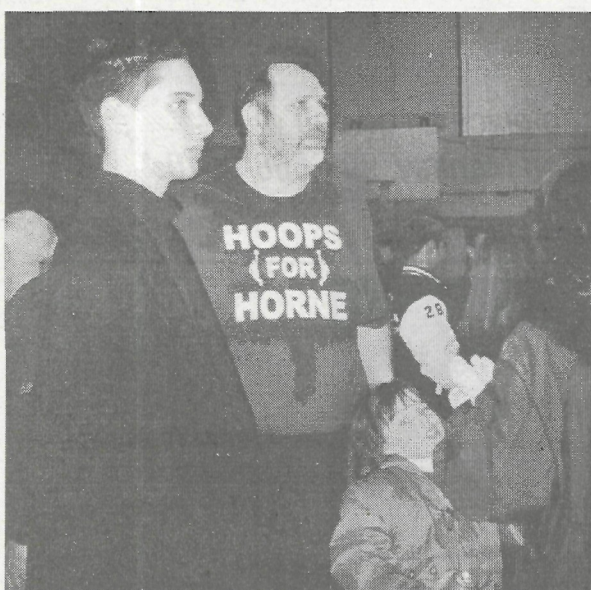
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Pictured above are Michael Allocco, with son Michael and daughter Courtney, at the "Hoops for Horne" benefit basketball game. Mr. Allocco's company, AKA, donated the team t-shirts for both the "Coaches Team" and the "Cops Team."

police report

- On March 31, at 3:39 a.m., the Exxon service station located at the corner of Park and Maple was robbed. Two men approached the lone attendant as he entered the office. One suspect pulled out a small silver handgun and held it to the attendant's back saying, "Give me all your money," while the other suspect waited outside. The attendant was asked to turn off the station lights while the robbery was in progress. The suspects fled on foot south on Park Ave. with an undetermined amount of cash. When Officer John Petriello arrived, he observed dollar bills on the ground that had been dropped by the suspects as they fled. Both suspects were described as dark skinned, Hispanic males, about 5'6". One was wearing a dark jacket, jeans, hat and black leather gloves. The other was said to have worn a hat that only exposed his eyes and nose. No one was injured. However, if you have any information please contact Det. Garrett Cassio.
- A Sherman Ave. resident reported that someone entered his rear porch by smashing a window next to the rear door. They had attempted to kick in the door leading to the garage, but were unable to gain entry. However, a mountain bike worth \$150 was taken from the rear porch.
- An employee of US Truck Parks, on St. Nicholas Ave. noticed his wallet missing after leaving it on top of a locker, while changing for work.
- On Friday, a Hamilton Blvd. resident let a friend borrow his car to drive to Lemmo's Liquors on South Clinton Ave. The car had been left running and unoccupied in front of the store when a white male, in his early 20's, with shoulder length hair, and wearing a Giants hat, drove off in the vehicle.
- Edgewood Properties on Coppola Dr. reported the theft of construction tools from one of its storage trailers. The lock had been cut on the trailer sometime between 5 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. Sunday.
- On Sunday three window panes had been found broken at Tri Star Trucking, located on Trinity St.
- An angry patron is suspected of breaking windshields and puncturing eight tires at Liquid Assets on Friday night.
- Able Metro, located on Hamilton Blvd. had two aluminum walkboard ramps stolen from two moving trucks.
- On Sunday, an employee of A J Jersey, located on St. Nicholas Ave., had his vehicle stolen from the company parking lot. The 1993 Dodge Shadow was locked and did not have an alarm.
- A Palmer Ave. resident reported jewelry missing from her bedroom. It is not clear yet how someone had entered the residence although a tenant, who was asleep downstairs did hear someone walking around above him which was normal.
- A Morton Ave. resident reported the theft of two kids bikes from her unlocked garage.
- An unknown gentleman had tried to purchase items from Staples with stolen checks. He fled the store when he was told that the police were being called.
- A Piscataway women was arrested at Stern's for concealing \$89 worth of jewelry and ladies underwear.

Sacred Heart Church

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Rev. John P. Alvarado, Pastor

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

HOLY WEEK MASSES

Palm Sunday Vigil—Saturday, April 7 at 5 p.m.

Palm Sunday—Sunday, April 8 at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., & 11:30 a.m.
(Solemn Blessing of Procession at 9:30 A.M. Mass)

Monday, April 9 7:30 p.m.

Chism Mass at The Cathedral, Metuchen

Tuesday, April 10 7:30 P.M.

Parish Lenten Penance Service

HOLY THURSDAY April 12 7:30 P.M.

Mass of the Lord's Supper

Eucharistic Procession and Adoration

11:30 p.m. - Closing Night Prayer

GOOD FRIDAY - April 13

9 a.m. - Morning Prayer

3 p.m. - Liturgy of the Lord's Passion & Death

7:30 p.m. - "The Way of the Cross"

HOLY SATURDAY April 14

Morning Prayer at 9 a.m.

Blessing of Easter Food at 12 Noon

Solemn Easter Vigil Ceremonies and Mass at 8 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY

Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord

April 15. 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

In My Opinion

Continued from page 2

be approved! I was shocked! I didn't think it was fair. I could not understand the reason for the denial and most importantly, I did not know how I was going to tell the patient this awful news. How could HMO Blue be so heartless? I expressed my outrage to Ms. Romano and told her that I was going to give her direct telephone number to the patient. She repeatedly warned me not to give her number to the patient. I didn't feel compelled to honor her request, so I gave her telephone number to the patient. Yet, despite an emotional conversation with the patient, Ms. Romano did not feel compelled to reverse the decision.

The only date I could get for this surgery at JFK is April 10, 2001 and when I called to pre-certify the surgery, I was told that "no pre-certification is required for this type of surgical procedure."

We recently received the denial of authorization letter from BCBS. This letter did not even make mention of the Solaris billing letter or the patient's family history of breast cancer. It simply stated the surgery was denied because Muhlenberg Hospital was a non-par facility. This was so unfair and I feel that BCBSA has really overstepped their bounds.

**ANN MARIE SEYFFERT,
PRACTICE MANAGER**

To the Editor:

I just wanted to let your readers know that they have a real friend in the South Plainfield school system. Her name is Dawn Jeffereys, Vice President of the South Plainfield Board of Education.

During the past month and a half, my daughter was being harassed by a group of children at the high school. I was dealing with the high school administration and received no results to stop the harassing. It escalated to a more serious incident.

I, being new to the public school system, didn't know where to turn to get help. Surprisingly I received a phone call one day from Dawn Jeffereys. She had found out about my daughter's school incidents and wanted to help. This lady got the ball rolling in some of the right directions.

Dawn, in my opinion, is one of us. She is honestly the salt of the earth. She cares about our children and will make every effort possible to resolve a problem and bring it to a closure. Dawn is also compassionate and supportive.

We need more people like this on our school board. I am asking all of the readers to vote for Dawn Jeffereys this April for re-election.

This lady is truly one of us!

**SINCERELY,
ROXANNE M. HARTMAN**

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter in hope that many of your readers will be reminded to get out and vote on April 17 for the board of education candidates. It is a very important vote that affects the children of our community, as well as residents young and old. In particular, I would like to voice my support for Pio Pennisi. He has numerous qualities that would make him an asset to the board. His qualities include, extensive experience as an educator which gives him a strong background and understanding of what is needed for a strong school system. He is a past member of the board. He has experience with decisions that have been made, what works and what does not. Experience is the key that makes any individual rise to a higher level and do things better or differently. He is a dedicated soccer and baseball coach and takes pride in working with kids to fulfill their potential. He is a lifelong resi-

dent of South Plainfield, grew up here and chose to raise his family here. These qualities and the fact that he is willing to give his time and dedication to a board seat, shows the great pride and concern he has for what happens to the future of the South Plainfield school system and our children.

**SINCERELY,
SHERRY MARCOUX**

Dear Editor,

Your headline in last weeks *Observer* was very deceiving in regards to the Board of Education Headline of "This Year's School Budget Will Have No Tax Increase!" That is just the annual budget!

The last paragraph describes the Bond Referendum for a new Roosevelt School, and calling for upgrades to other schools. That is going to raise taxes \$88 per home at \$115,000! So, there are going to be two questions on the ballot, one for the annual budget, which is not going to raise taxes and why should they as they have \$1.9 million in the slush fund already! The second question about building a new Roosevelt School and the "upgrades" is going to raise taxes and voting for new Board members.

So, the headline was very deceiving. This is a three-part vote. One vote will increase taxes! The other will not, plus the new board members, which doesn't matter in my eyes.

Why can't the Board of Education use the money they have, plus the money they are getting from the State of New Jersey to do "upgrades." We do not need a new Roosevelt School. With students moving out of town, students moving up and the proper class sizes, there will not be a problem. All of this was caused by the Board of Education and pressure from parents wanting a new Roosevelt School.

Again, I will repeat, with all the major building done in South Plainfield and with the changing of students, we will never be short of space. That problem was created.

This is sounding like Al Gore's campaign when he said a girl in a Florida school had to stand for 15 minutes, until a desk was brought in for her! We have no children sitting in the halls of any of the schools or standing in class. This town should not gain any taxes for things we don't need like a new Roosevelt School!

TONY PISANIELLO

Editor's Note: One headline was correct! There will be no increase in taxes with this year's school budget. I will also repeat once again that the state will not give South Plainfield the promised funding of \$6.6 million for upgrades and building unless the referendum passes.

If we vote no—no state aid for building. We only get the money if the bond passes. In fact, the state has promised so much money to other districts, if this referendum doesn't pass this time, there will probably not be another opportunity to get state-aid again.

To the Editor:

As the past president of the South Plainfield Board of Education, I worked with other members of the board to bring about the best solution possible for the overcrowding and future influx of students. As you know, the referendums were voted down. I read a lot of articles in the paper with misinformation and I kept quiet (maybe I shouldn't have). Many articles were written by those who never attended any meetings about the referendum and just chose to write with the lack of knowledge they had. As a board member, I was not allowed to encourage people to vote one way or the other.

I am no longer a board member and I can now exercise my right to speak out in favor of this referendum. The schools are overcrowded and have been for some time. This process started back when my 25-year-old was in the second grade.

People say we don't know how many new students are going to come from all the building taking place in our town. They are correct, but I can tell you for certain that in my neighborhood alone, with only seven new houses and three that have new owners, there are approximately 10 new children in our town. Some are school age and some have not started. If this is any indication of the growth pattern, the number of new children will increase rapidly.

We have received a promise of a large amount of money from the state. That money is not there forever. If this referendum goes down, that money will go to someone else. The state will not sit on it until we, as a community, come to realize how desperately we need larger schools in our town.

Fellow taxpayers, you can't wait until the children are in the schools and then decide to vote for the referendum. It takes time for the building process and, as I have already stated, our schools are overcrowded now. It is time for all of us to step up to the plate for our kids and ensure that they have what they need to compete for college placement, jobs, and a secure place in our society. Don't sit back and say that your one vote won't make a difference. Every vote is important as we have seen in the recent elections.

Don't let the children down again. Pay a little extra in taxes now to educate, or sit back and end up supporting them forever. Which would you rather do?

Vote YES when the referendum vote comes up!!!!

DORIS L. HALEY

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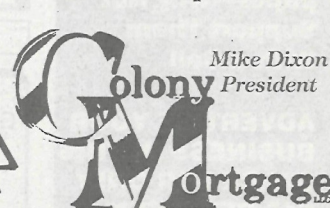
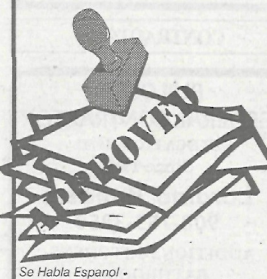
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