

# South Plainfield Observer

FILE

VOL. 4, NO. 33

50 CENTS

APRIL 20, 2001

## VOTERS SAY YES TO BUDGET AND BOND REFERENDUM; PIO PENNESI, DAWN JEFFERYS, STEVE BOHN WINNERS

### Let the Games Finally Begin!

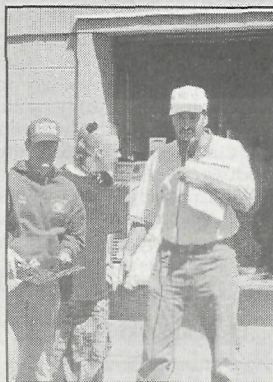
By Sharon Miller

Coaches, players and parents all breathed a sigh of relief as the weather cooperated and the Girl's Ponytail softball season finally began on Saturday. It was a fun and exciting day and everyone had a great time. There was a large crowd on hand for the Opening Day ceremonies. Members of the Council and Recreation Director Mike English attended the ceremonies. The festivities began with Vice President Mike DiMeglio, honoring coaches Kevin Schweers and Scot Bishop with an award from the Ponytail Parents' Association for their many years of dedication to Ponytail softball.

Councilman Ray Petronko thanked parents for their support of the softball program and reminded everyone that teaching kids how to have fun is what is really important.

Also, honored was Wes Perrine for his generous donation of soil for our A league field. Wes was chosen to throw out the first pitch of the season to Allison DiMeglio. The surprise of the day came from Wes when he made another generous donation to Ponytail softball. This time the donation was corporate box tickets for an upcoming Mets game. Dana Chepulius was the lucky player who won the tickets.

Thanks again Wes for your contributions to our softball program. We're off to a great start of another wonderful season of softball.



Mike DiMeglio presents plaques to Kevin Schweers and Scot Bishop, who were honored for their many years of dedication.



Wes Perrine threw out the first ball to officially begin softball season.

Board members, along with interested residents, gathered at Grant School Tuesday evening waiting to hear if the third time would be a charm for the bond referendum. Everyone was very happy and relieved when they received word that both the school budget and the bond referendum had passed. No one wanted to even discuss the possibility that the referendum might go down again.

This time the votes seemed to get the message and voted yes. The vote for the referendum passed by 1,770 for and 1,048 against. The public relations committee, headed by Terry Hartmann, have worked day and night, visiting schools and any group or organization that would listen to them, explaining how important this referendum was to the students and residents of South Plainfield.

Voters also approved the school budget by a vote of 1,966 to 1,130. This year's budget saw no increase in taxes. The \$19.2 million bond referendum includes \$6.6 million in state aid, but will increase taxes by \$88 per year for a house assessed at \$115,000.

Winning seats on the Board of Education for three year terms were Pio Pennesi, the high vote getter, with 1,563, Dawn Jefferys 1,311 and Steve Bohn 1,229. Both Jefferys and Bohn were seeking re-election, Pennesi has served previously on the Board. Pat DeSantis who is a former Board member lost by only three votes, receiving 1,226. Christine Sienkiewski got 1,215 and Tim Morgan received 1,104 votes.

The turnout for this school board election was 12,426, a little higher than last year's 11,848. 2

### Vision 2001 Annual Art Auction Friday Night

Vision 2001 will be holding their Sixth Annual Art Auction on Friday evening, April 20 at South Plainfield High School. Previewing begins at 6 p.m. and the auction starts at 7 p.m.

This annual fundraiser is one of the ways the Vision 2001 Education Foundation raises money to support South Plainfield's students. The annual auction offers art in all media by a variety of artists. Refreshments will be served and a door prize will be awarded. Major credit cards for purchases are accepted. Tickets are \$5.

Former Police Chief Steven Merkler has been chosen as this year's Honorary Chairman.

any Chairman.

Vision 2001 is a non-profit organization created to seek financial support of the business community for scholarships and other motivational programs for South Plainfield students. Founded in 1991, the fifteen member group is comprised of nine business leaders, five educators and one PTA/PTSO representative. Among the Vision 2001 projects are the Gold Card program at the high school, Tiger Gold at the middle school, endowment funds for scholarships and co-operative work opportunities for high school students.

### Giving is the "Postal Way"

## South Plainfield Postal Employees Honored

Over the years, the employees at the US Postal Service have been referred to in many different ways. In South Plainfield, they can also be referred to as "philanthropists."

The employees at the South Plainfield Post Office were recently awarded the Silver Award by the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) of New Jersey, an organization that solicits contributions for a myriad of charitable organizations from federal employees. The silver Award recognizes offices that average \$75-\$100 per capita.

"Our office raised \$3,770 during the past year, about three times as much as in 1998," said Ernestine Price, a business mail entry clerk and CFC Coordinator at the South Plainfield Post Office. "Some of the beneficiaries of our contributions include the American Cancer Society, Make a Wish Foundation, United Negro Col-

lege Fund, AIDS Research, and many more."

Making generous contributions to international, national and local charities is nothing new to postal employees. Since the CFC was first signed into law by President Kennedy in 1962, the Postal Service have been willing and able participants in the program, responsible annually for millions of employee contributions. In 1999, CFC collected over \$207 million from 383 federal agencies.

This geographical region does particularly well compared to others nationwide, according to Jeff Sobel, Director of CFC, Northern New Jersey. "This region is consistently in the top three in the country every year in terms of total contributions," he says. "The Postal Service always comes through for us, and we're lucky to be involved with so many caring individuals."



In the South Plainfield Post Office, contributors were Clerks Bernado Aurellado, Kristine Beltz, Supervisor George Caswell, Supervisor Gabriel Garcia, Ernestine Price, John Sanpore, Tracy Thomas, Rick Villane, Sabrina Williams, Supervisor Michelle Wilson; Carriers Reynaldo Aurelio, Kathy Bolden, Martino Chizzonti, Leona Crawford, Joe DiCanto, Sandy Doyle, Fred Eustice, Ann Garelick, Mike Minlionica, Kelly Pompey, Romeo Ramirez, Pierre Montez, Robert Ruscus, Brian Timm, and Brian Wooley. Donators but not pictured are Postmaster Michael Deigan, Mina Patel, Carriers Yunisa Alharazim, Dan Dzyrilla, Abir Girgis, Shawn Henderson, Jermaine Knight, Maurice Pierce and Fred Rodriguez.



## mark your calendars

Log on to  
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for the latest  
meeting agenda

### council meetings

Meets twice a month on the first and third Thursday.

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

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

Monday, April 16 ..... Thursday, April 19

Monday, May 7 ..... Thursday, May 10

Monday, May 21 ..... Thursday, May 24

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

### planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month

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

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

### zoning board of adjustment

Meets first, third and fifth Tuesday of the month

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

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

### taxpayers advisory group

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

### site places sub-committee

The fourth Thursday of the month as follows:

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

### recreation commission

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

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

May 14, June 11, September 10,

October 8, November 12, December 10

### environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)

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

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

### board of education meetings

Grant School Gymnasium on Cromwell Place unless otherwise noted

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

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

### business advisory group

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)

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

### traffic safety advisory commission

Meetings, held at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room, Borough Hall  
Apr. 25, May 23, June 27, July 25, Sept. 26, Oct. 24, Nov. 28 and Dec. 26.

## South Plainfield Observer

The South Plainfield Observer is  
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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 sposerver.com or ggnan@aol.com or ngrennie@ix.netcom.com. Include your name, address, telephone number.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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### To The Editor:

In celebration of April being Autism Awareness month, we were privileged to witness first hand how our town pulls together and supports it's own.

On Saturday, April 7, a program celebrating the art of dance and gymnastics was presented by Jo-Ann's Dance Studio - The Performing Arts Centre. The purpose was to promote autism awareness. It gives us great pleasure to announce that, through the generous contributions and donations of the people in South Plainfield and of the people from Jo-Ann's Dance Studio, we raised \$3000 for COSAC (NJ) Center for Outreach and Services for the Autism Community).

We would like to gratefully acknowledge the following people:

Nancy Grennier, Editor and Publisher of The South Plainfield Observer, for the beautiful front page article about autism and about the reasons for our dedication to this cause; Trish Surphen for donating the use of Feigley's School of Gymnastics for the performance; the parents of the students of Le Centre Dance Ensemble for volunteering their time, expertise and whole hearted support for this project; the members of Le Centre Dance Ensemble and the members of The Bridgettes for their talent and their dedication to this project; and all the businesses in town who donated funds and services.

Lastly, we would like to thank the people who came out to support our efforts and to be entertained on April 7; and to those who could not attend, but who made contributions anyway.

We are overwhelmed by your good wishes and your generosity.

**SINCERELY,**  
**JO-ANN FAULKNER AND TARA FAULKNER-CATALINA, DIRECTOR AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, JO-ANN'S DANCE STUDIO**

### To The Editor,

Approximately one year ago, Mr. Ferri formally advised the members of the Board of his intent to retire on June 30, 2001. Almost immediately, the district started buzzing. Almost immediately, my phone started ringing and invariably, the question posed to me was the same, "What are you going to do when Mr. Ferri leaves?" Now that his time in the district is drawing to a close, I will take a few minutes to respond to the question asked so often.

When Mr. Ferri, recommended that the Board hire me as Business Administrator, I was more than slightly apprehensive. He presented a facade that I didn't quite understand.

As we began working together as part of the superintendency, those initial apprehensions began to fade. It wasn't too long before I pegged him for what he really represents... he is a man of impeccable ethics who has dedicated his life to children; a man who wants only the very best for ev-

ery child in his charge. With that discovery, the rest was easy. I had happened upon a mentor; someone from whom I could truly learn done things that cannot be found in books. By choice, I spent as much time as possible watching, listening and learning.

I watched Mr. Ferri in his role as "head teacher." I saw him handle emergent situations with style. I have seen him fight for a principle... or, for that matter, a principal. My most important lesson was the realization that every success attained is a direct result of how well one listens and reacts to what it was that they heard.

He taught me to disregard the concept of fear. I watched as he shouldered the additional responsibilities left by vacated positions and I saw the district continue to move forward without missing so much as a beat. I watched as he led the district in their attempt to expand and improve facilities. From him I learned the art of handling grievances and I fine tuned my negotiating skills. I learned to rely on the expertise of those whose experience exceeds my own. I learned that the only way to be effective is to set goals for levels that are lofty... those goals that, because of their very nature, require you to strive to meet that goal. I learned that when you work hard to reach a goal, the success is that much sweeter.

Will I miss my mentor and my friend? You bet. And I will take the lessons that he so painstakingly taught and continue to represent this district in a manner that will make him proud.

Guy, thank you.

**ELLEN B. JOHNSON**

### To The Editor:

April 2001 has been designated National Card and Letter Writing Month by the U.S. Postal Service. This is an opportunity to raise awareness of the importance and historical significance of hard-copy letter writing.

Writing, sending and receiving letters, postcards and greeting cards is a tradition that has preserved our nation's history and changed lives - particularly in times of war and times of personal triumph and tragedy. Unlike other communications, card and letter writing is timeless, personal and immediately tangible.

I am sure you and many readers of your newspaper appreciate letter writing. Your "letters to the editor" section and others like it, remain a popular forum for the public voice and have done much to enhance this fine art.

Card and letter writing, however, also helps improve literacy and promotes creativity among our youth. That is why, starting April 1, students at South Plainfield Schools will be joining hundreds of students at other

elementary schools across the country in a special postal service project called "Birthday Wishes To America," which is a celebration of the nation's 225th birthday on July 4, 2001. The students are designing and writing birthday cards that reveal their personal feelings and hopes for their country.

Your readers and their friends and families are welcome to join the fun by sending their own birthday wishes to America. All wishes should be sent to The Smithsonian's National Postal Museum, P.O. Box 44100, Washington, DC 20026-4100. All birthday wishes must be postmarked by July 4, 2001.

Participants will also help establish a possible world record. The postal service is attempting to set a world record for "the most birthday wishes ever received by one addressee." Once the deadline has been reached and all the birthday wishes have been counted, the postal service is planning on randomly drawing some of the more interesting, creative and well-written birthday wishes and publicizing them. The National Postal Museum will display some of the letters during the project also.

Help us ensure that the art of card and letter writing continues to have a place of honor in American culture. Thank you for supporting National Card and Letter Writing Month.

**SINCERELY,**  
**GEORGE CASWELL, JR.**  
**U.S. POSTAL SERVICE**

### To The Editor,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club for the honor of "Lifetime Member" we each received on Opening Day. Our combined love of baseball has made this an enjoyable experience for us and our family. We have made so many friendships at our "home away from home" and are thankful for those. Again, thank you to each and every person involved for this honor, we truly appreciate our efforts being recognized.

**DAVE & CINDY EICHLER**

## Taxpayers Advisory Group Needs Members

Councilwoman Darlene Pinto is asking residents who would like to volunteer and serve on the Taxpayers Advisory Group (TAG) to contact Mayor Dan Gallagher at 226-7601.

The group meets once a month on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

## Send us Your Letters/Opinions

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



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## "As The Twig is Bent, So Grows the Tree..."

Dr. Patrick M. Aiello, D.C.

School nurses check for it and doctors hate announcing its presence. It's been a bogeyman to parents with young children for decades.

Its name? Scoliosis. Even seeing it written here can take you back to standing on line at school—wondering whether you'll hear "positive" or "negative" when the doctor examines you.

The condition, though, while admittedly scary and dangerous, is often misunderstood. Like many other maladies, early detection generally leads to a more favorable outcome. That's why our school systems check for it.

But what exactly is this dread problem?

Scoliosis generally refers to spinal curvatures—or, rather, *abnormal* spinal curvatures. Though scoliosis can be present at any age, it is most dangerous when seen in children and adolescents. That's because the potential for growth is still there and with that potential for growth comes the potential for the scoliosis to worsen more drastically during this period. The saying "as the twig is bent, so grows the tree..." might as well have been invented to describe scoliosis. Most diagnosed cases are what we call *idiopathic* scoliosis. That's just a fancy word to say "We don't know why the scoliosis came about." Labeling a mysterious disease or condition in Latin or Greek is a time-honored healing tradition—not that it does the patient any good.

If you break scoliosis down to its simplest component, it really is just a spinal misalignment [Ahhhh, you knew I'd come to that, didn't you?]. It's another example of what we chiropractors call Spinal Subluxations or Vertebral Subluxation Complex (VSC). Since chiropractic is designed to correcting these misalignments of the spine, it can be an effective weapon in combating it.

Depending upon the stage or severity of the scoliosis, there are several other treatment options available, ranging from strengthening exercises and physical therapy to more drastic measures, such as bracing and surgery. Here are a few things that you as a parent can look for in trying to detect scoliosis:

1. Have your child stand up straight, but relaxed, with the back toward you. As you observe the ear lobes, the head should be level and centered over the body.
2. Shoulder blades should be level and an equal distance from the spine.
3. Hips should be level.
4. Is there a greater distance between the arm and the body on one side more than the other? Is one arm longer?
5. Does the child seem to be leaning toward one side?
6. Observe the child from a side position: Does he/she have a sway-back, humpback or rounded shoulders?
7. With the child lying on his/her back, measure the leg length with shoes on. Does one leg appear to be shorter than the other?

This can be done periodically, every few months. However, annual checks by health professionals are *strongly* recommended. If any of the abnormal postures are noticed, they may indicate early signs of scoliosis.

If your child does have this condition, though, don't panic. Chiropractic will certainly be able to help.

## Volunteers Needed for Litter Cleanup

Mayor Dan Gallagher issued a proclamation at Thursday's Council meeting, naming the Week of April 21-28 as "Volunteer Litter Cleanup Week." He is asking all sectors of the Borough to participate in this annual spring cleaning. Cleanup week is sponsored by the Clean Communities Program, and funded by a grant from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection.

Volunteers are still needed to help pick up litter in the parks, along roadsides and from streams. Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops, Cub Scout Packs, the High School National Honor Society, the Sacred Heart Confirmation class, the Keystone Community Residence and a group from the Wesley Methodist Church have already signed up to work at various locations. Individual residents have also volunteered to organize their neighborhoods, or to come on their own to join the big clean-up day, Saturday, April 21. Even the Mayor and the governing body will be out on the roads, bagging the winter's accumulation of litter and trash. Participants are invited to come back to Borough Hall after the cleanup for a Pickup Picnic of free pizza from Domino's, soda from A&P (cooled by ice from Angelo's Ice), and environmentally-friendly door prizes.

Volunteers should meet at Borough Hall to collect gloves, bags, rakes and brooms before dispersing to their assigned cleanup locations: Willow Ave. Park, Putnam Park, South Clinton Ave., Veterans Park, Cedar Brook, Franklin School, Belmont Ave., Tyler Place and Garfield Ave. Other locations will be cleaned on other dates or assigned as volunteers arrive.

Volunteers are asked to meet from 9-9:30 a.m. for equipment distribution, 10 a.m. to 12 noon for cleanup, and 12 noon for the pickup picnic.

## 71-Year-Old Homeowner Burglarized

Last Saturday evening, the home of a seventy-one-year-old resident was burglarized. The home is located on Clifford Street. The homeowner arrived home and saw a man inside his residence. He attempted to grab him as he tried to exit a rear window. A neighbor who saw what was happening began to chase the suspect, but lost sight of him after several blocks.

Plainfield Police Officers Lamont Mack and Michael Black, along with South Plainfield Officer Joseph Campagna located the suspect behind a house on Parkside Place in Plainfield and placed him under arrest. The suspect, 44-year-old Bernard Jennings, Jr., of Jersey City, was found to be in possession of jewelry, money and other items taken from the home. He was arrested and charged with burglary, theft and hindering apprehension. Bail was set at \$10,000, with no 10% option. A second suspect was also seen at the residence, but was not apprehended.

### Specialty Gift Baskets

Gourmet coffee, tea, popcorn, crackers and cheeses.



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## southplainfieldpeople Milestones

### Slicner's Celebrating Their 60th Wedding Anniversary



Mary Stankowitz and Edward Slicner were married 60 years ago on April 21, 1941 at St. John the Baptist Eastern Orthodox Church, Perth Amboy, where they have been lifelong parishioners. Mary and Ed were both born in Perth Amboy, but moved to South Plainfield with their three children in 1956.

Their children, Carol Dripps of West Chester, Pa., Nancy Slicner of Piscataway, Md. and Keith Slicner of South Plainfield, along with their three grandchildren, Carol Lea Houck, Carin Burkhardt and Michael Dripps and their three great grandchildren, Kelly and Lauren Burkhardt and James Martin were all there to celebrate this extraordinary event held at the West Chester, Pa. Country Club.

Carol is a geriatric psychiatric nurse at a Veteran's Hospital in Pennsylvania, Keith is a research scientist with

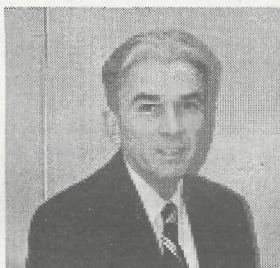


the Colgate Palmolive Co. and Nancy is a forensic psychologist with the Office of Special Investigations, U.S. Air Force.

After a full and active life of work and travel, Ed and Mary enjoy their retirement time visiting with their family, gardening and as active members of the South Plainfield Senior Center.

Their children are enormously grateful for having such wonderful parents and role models.

## Superintendent of Schools Dr. John Krewer Takes the Reins



Dr. John A. Krewer

As we reported in the *Observer* recently, the Board of Education appointed Dr. John A. Krewer as the new Superintendent of Schools, effective April 15 at a salary of \$128,390.

Dr. Krewer has been serving as an Assistant Superintendent in Point Pleasant since 1995. His past experience includes, two years as Superintendent in Woodstock, Conn.; five years as assistant superintendent in Fallsington, Pa. and two years as Assistant Superintendent

for Curriculum and Instruction in Roxbury Township.

Dawn Jefferys, Vice President of the Board of Education headed the search committee for the new superintendent. During the past few months, the Board has been meeting and interviewing prospective candidates. Dr. Krewer was one of 28 who applied for the position.

Dr. Krewer holds a Doctor of Education Degree from Northern Illinois University, a master and bachelor degree from the Illinois State University.

He has published several books and articles in the past ten years. He received an 'Award for Excellence for Educational Communication' from the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education; 'Curriculum and Supervision Merit Award' from Northern Illinois University and 'Gabel Award for Significant Research and Outstanding Practice in Education' from Phi Delta Kappa.

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# Events

## 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.

Former Police Chief Steven Merkler will be 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.

## Girl Scouts Fun Fair and Flea Market

April 28

The South Plainfield Girl Scouts will sponsor its annual Fun Fair and Flea Market at the South Plainfield Middle School, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be games to play, flea market tables, crafts to do and food to buy. There will also be pony rides and a moon walk for the younger crowd.

Funds raised from this event will be used for programs for the girls, including the upcoming encampment. The raindate is May 5.

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.

## Friends of the Library Book Sale

May 5

On May 5, the Friends of the South Plainfield Public Library will sponsor its annual Book Sale. It will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in front of the library. Book donations are being accepted for the sale starting April 23 at the library. We are asking that textbooks, encyclopedias, Reader's Digest Condensed Books or books damaged by mold or mildew not be donated. Anyone willing to bake for the sale is asked to

sign up at the circulation desk.

## 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.

## GFWC Flea Market is Looking for Vendors

May 12

The GFWC Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield will sponsor a flea market on May 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, Oak Tree Road. The club is seeking vendors.

Vendors are needed to make the market a success. Cost is \$10 for one space and vendors must supply their own tables. It will be possible to set up prior to the 9 a.m. opening for the public. Raindate will be the following Saturday, May 19.

Money raising activities are contributed to scholarships, donations and other charitable works supported by the club throughout the year.

If interested, or for further information, call Grace at 908-753-5753.

## Columbiettes Plan Trip to Bingo World in Baltimore

June 2

The South Plainfield Columbiettes are sponsoring a bus trip to Bingo World in Baltimore on Saturday, June 2.

The bus will leave the Knights of Columbus Hall on Hamilton Blvd. at 7:30 a.m. and return after the last game of the afternoon session.

Cost is \$55 and includes driver gratuity and admission pack for the main session. We will arrive in time to purchase discount early bird packs.

For information and reservations, call Mary Ann at (908) 226-1222.

This trip is open to Bingo lovers.

## Trip to See The Lion King Planned

July 5

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

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

## Multi-Class Reunion Planned

May, 2001

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

The 1969 alumni are planning a special "Golden 50th Birthday" Class Reunion for May of 2001, to be held as an all day outdoor event at Forest Lodge in Warren.

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

## Trip to Cape Cod, Taking Reservations

September 10-14

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

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

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

## 9th Annual "Shotman" Basketball Camp

July 30 - August 3

The 9th Annual "Shotman" Basketball Camp will be run from July 30 through August 3, at the South Plainfield High School.

For information, call Mike "Shotman" Lanza at (908) 754-2692.

—Out of Town—

## Children's Health and Wellness Fair

April 21

A Children's Health and Wellness fair will be held on Saturday, April

21, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Plainfield Public Library, located at Park Ave. and W. 8th St.

This free event is sponsored by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc, Plainfield Chapter. For more information call Veronica at (908) 412-0555

## Oak Tree Presbyterian Trash & Treasure Sale

April 21

The Women's Association of Oak Tree Presbyterian Church will hold its annual "Trash & Treasure" Sale on Saturday, April 21, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Items for sale include household goods, small appliances, toys, games, books, jewelry, sports items, infant/children's items, holiday decor and baked goods. All proceeds will go to the church. No early birds!

## CHATS To Hold Meeting

April 23

CHATS (Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support), will meet 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. on Monday, April 23, at Watchung Ave. Presbyterian Church, 170 Watchung Ave., North Plainfield. Featured guest will be Betsy Forrest, "I Was a Happy Adoptee—and Then I Was 'Found'!" Open sharing of adoption-related stories and light refreshments will be provided.

For information, call Alyce at (732) 227-0607 or visit their website at <http://community/nj.com/cc/chats>.

## Sweet Adelines Performing

April 24

Somerset Valley Chorus of Sweet Adelines will be presenting a half-hour performance open to the public at no charge on Tuesday, April 24 at 8 p.m.

Join us at Pheasant's Landing, 311 Amwell Rd. in Belle Mead and cheer us on to our regional competition, held in Harrisburg, Pa. on April 28!

## WOWs To Sponsor Fundraiser Social

April 29

The Woodbridge WOWs will sponsor its fifth Sunday fundraiser social on Sunday, April 29. Festivities will be held at the Elks Lodge, 665 Rahway Ave., Woodbridge, from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Admission is \$7 and includes light refreshments. This social is opened to friends and family and everyone is welcomed.

For more information, call Dot at (732) 634-0059 or Carol at (732) 634-0297.

## Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Ave.  
South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul  
Alvarado, Pastor

### Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.

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

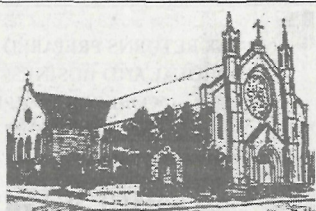
Weekdays 9:00 a.m. (church)

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

Holy Days 7 p.m. (Vigil); 7 and 9 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**SUBSCRIBE.** It's \$25. (in town) for one year!!



## Friends of the Woods...

## 2001 Spring Event Calendar

By Dorothy Miele

The Friends of the Woods, Inc. and the South Plainfield Environmental Commission invites everyone to participate in the 2001 Walks 'n' Talks programs. All the programs are free, and only need preregistration if noted. Two of the events are held at Highland Avenue Woods Environmental Education Reserve located on Sylvania Place off South Clinton Ave. in South Plainfield. Please note in the description where and when to meet.

**APRIL 21—Spring Trail Maintenance.** This spring we are doing a restoration project on Carmine Ave. Native shrubs and wildflowers will be planted at the Carmine Ave. entrance to the Highland Woods Reserve. Please bring a shovel and a rake. Time: 9 a.m. - 12 noon. Meet at Carmine Avenue. Free pizza and soda at Borough Hall at noon. CCD seventh graders! This is counted as community service. Join us.

**APRIL 27—Historic Tree Planting.** To recognize Arbor Day, the Friends and the Environmental Commission have donated an Edgar Allen Poe Hackberry tree to be planted between the Library and the rescue squad buildings. This is the first tree in what will be a historic grove that will provide beauty and shade for the library budding. Time: 3:30 p.m. South Plainfield Public Library, between the rescue squad and library buildings. Free "tubling" trees, handouts. Take a peek in the library and check out Mary Ferraro's display cases about forestry products.

**APRIL 29—Seeing the Forest for the Trees.** Local resident Mary Ferraro, a forester with the Department of Environmental Protection in Trenton, will present a tree education program. You and the kids will learn lots of good stuff. And, the woods are a beautiful, quiet and relaxing place to spend an hour learning new things. Time: 2 p.m. Meet at Highland Ave. Woods, Sylvania Pl. gate. Free tree coloring books for the kids, "tubling" trees, first come basis.

**MAY 6—The Birds and Wildflowers at Highland Woods.** Take time out and enjoy a walk with naturalists who will show you the incredible biodiversity that exists right here in South Plainfield's nature reserve. Perfect for the kids, too. Bring a camera, wear comfortable walking shoes. Time: 9:30 a.m. Meet at Sylvania Place gate.

**MAY 13—The Great Bird Car Caravan!** We've never done this before, but it sure looks like fun. Join us for a car-

caravan to several good birdwatching spots in South Plainfield. Did you know that a 101 species of birds have been identified in South Plainfield? While not all the birds are residents, they pass through on spring migration, and this is the weekend they come in droves. Let's see if we can find the cormorants at Spring Lake Park, the sweet-singing wood thrush near Middlesex Water Company, check out the flaming red tanagers and belted kingfishers at Veterans Park, look for egrets and herons near Dismal Swamp, and if you've got any energy left, a short hike in Highland Woods to see or hear that elusive yellow-billed cuckoo. Whew! Wear comfortable shoes, and bring a water bottle and binoculars. We have lots of field guides for reference. Time: 7:30 a.m. Meet in the parking lot off Maple Ave. in Spring Lake Park. Yes, it is Mother's Day, but the birds don't know that and will come anyway. So get up, come on down, and take Mom and Grandma out for breakfast after we've checked off the birds we've seen!

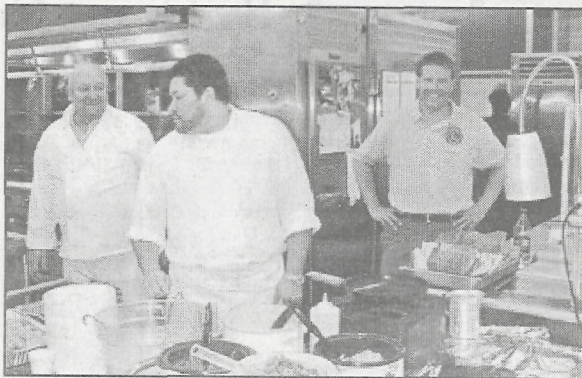
**JUNE 19—A History of South Plainfield.** Historian, archaeologist, and South Plainfield Environmental Commission Chairman Larry Randolph will deliver a terrific program on our town's history. The slide program lasts about 45 minutes, with a question and answer period following. Larry's ancestral roots go back to the founding of Piscataway Township in 1666. South Plainfield was part of that tract of land until 1926. His vast knowledge of the town will give you an appreciation of the past. Time: 7 p.m. South Plainfield Library.

**JUNE 23—Summer Solstice Program.** Who can resist Dave Streeb's charming stories and great delivery that keeps the kid's mesmerized? Afterwards, join us for a nighttime woods walk. We may hear the hoot of an owl, or some strange rustlings in the woods as the night creatures come out. Bring a flashlight, sit-upons and bug repellent. Time: 7 p.m. Highland Ave. Woods main gate on Sylvania Place.

Questions may be addressed to Dr. Alice Tempel at (908) 226-7621, or Dorothy Miele at (908) 754-3073. Visit the Friends of the Woods website at: <http://community.nj.com/cc/friends/thewoods> or e-mail us at [SPNatureTrails@cs.com](mailto:SPNatureTrails@cs.com) for more information.

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

## Weather Didn't Dampen on Lions Breakfast



By Patricia Abbott

A torrent of spring rain did little to deter residents from attending the annual Lion's Club Palm Sunday Breakfast. The 30-plus-year tradition served a wide array of breakfast fare to a steady flow of hungry people. The extensive menu included eggs, bacon, French toast, sausage, pancakes, Belgian waffles, made-to-order omelets, as well as juice, coffee and more. The variety insured that there was something for everyone. For many residents, the breakfast is a yearly social event, enjoyed by families coming from church services, senior citizen regulars, and toddlers sticky with pancake syrup.

Over 400 people attended this year's breakfast. Lion Club president Bob Desch noted that attendance was down a bit from last year. The large crowd the previous year caught the busy staff by surprise, but this year the Lions were ready with additional help and an extra omelet station. Tables were cleared by youngsters in Lion's tee shirts. They were children and grandchildren of club members and they all worked diligently clearing trash, wiping tables and replacing placemats and utensils.

The Lion's Club Palm Sunday breakfast tradition began over 30 years ago. At first it was held at the Arbor Firehouse in Piscataway, then the American Legion. In the mid 70's they moved to the SPHS cafeteria.



## Local Women Attend State Fed. Program

Members of the New Jersey Federation of Women's Clubs (NJSFWC) sponsored a very successful Public Affairs Day recently at the Battleground Country Club in Tennent, N.J. and several local women were in attendance.

Members of the South Plainfield chapter of the Suburban Woman's Club who attended were Dorothy Berney, MaryAnn Iannitto and Margaret Reedy, who were greeted along with other attendees from around the

state by NJSFWC President, Mary Ellen Brock of Kinnelon.

Morning session speakers were Mayor McGreevey of Woodbridge and Mayor Schundler of Jersey City, who were welcomed by the public affairs chairperson, Mildred Leonard of Cranford.

Todd Bennett of US English, located in Washington, D.C., was the afternoon speaker. He discussed the importance of making English the official language of our government and reforming bilingual education. A question and answer period followed this presentation.

Linda Bowker, Director of the New Jersey Division on Women, was honored for her work on behalf of women in New Jersey.

The NJSFWC is headquartered in the campus of Douglass College in New Brunswick. It is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, one of the largest international volunteer service organizations, and

is based in Washington, D.C. For additional information, call 1-800-4-NJSFWC or visit us on the web at [www.njsfwc.org](http://www.njsfwc.org).

## John E. Riley Kindergarten Orientation

Sign-ups for Kindergarten orientation for John E. Riley School will take place on Wednesday, April 25, from 9 - 11 a.m. and 12 noon - 2 p.m. in the main lobby.

The orientation program will be held on Monday, May 14 and Monday, May 21. The A.M. Session will be held from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and the P.M. session will be 12 noon to 2 p.m. The program will include meeting the staff at John E. Riley, a tour of the school, activities, story time and a brief school bus ride.

For additional information, please contact Paula at (908) 668-7845.

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From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Time for some news from the South Plainfield Library:

We'll start this column off with our schedule of children's programs. At present, there's still space available for this afternoon's Kidcraft program. The program is for children ages six and older; all craft materials are provided. Space is limited, though, so call (908) 754-7885 to reserve a spot. Turning to our Storytime schedule, we'll only be holding two programs this week. Those are the Tuesday program at 10:30 a.m. and the Wednesday program at 6:30 p.m. Our Thursday Storytime has been replaced by the program *Afraid of Clowns?*, featuring Moogie the Clown, starting at 1:15 p.m. Our Storytime programs are for children ages three and over; no pre-registration is required. For more information, check with Children's Librarian Linda Hansen.

Next Friday is the last day of availability for this month's group from the Video Circuit. We do, however, now have a new group from the Audiobook Circuit. Titles in this group include *The Secret of Shambhala* by James Redfield, *Personal Injuries* by Scott Turow, *Where You Belong* by Barbara Taylor Bradford, *The Trench* by Steve Alten and, on CD, *The House on Hope Street* by Danielle Steel. Audiobooks may be borrowed, four at a time, for two weeks.

As we hope you remembered, last Monday was the deadline for your state and federal tax returns. If you filed your return in time, well done. If you didn't, we still have state and federal forms available, as well as recent tax publications. Check with a Reference Librarian for more information.

We're now accepting donations for

the Friends of the Library Book and Bake Sale, which is scheduled for Saturday, May 5, from 10 a.m. til 4 p.m. They're looking for slightly used, undamaged books, audiocassettes, videos, CDs and record albums. If you're interested in donating baked goods, you can sign up at the main desk.

It's time we reminded you about what the A/V permission forms actually mean. When a parent gets their child a Library card, they have the option of signing a form that grants the child A/V permission. This means that said child may borrow A/V items (videos, CDs, etc.) without parental supervision. Given our wide open lending policies, as well as the fact that some items in the A/V collection (like R-rated movies) are not meant for children, this can be a problem for some. If you'd rather your child didn't take out A/V items on their own, don't sign the form. Our system will notify us to check out A/V items to your child only if you're present; if you wish to reconsider your decision, just let us know.

And here's another item for clarification: You'll note that some A/V items have a sticker marked, "Do Not Put in Bookdrop". This sticker is correct; we'd rather that you didn't put A/V stuff in with the books, where they might end up crushed under some 1,000-page Tom Clancy novel. When you return A/V items after hours, put them in the A/V drop, right next to the bookdrop. If they won't fit in the slot, then you can use the bookdrop. If they won't fit in either drop, don't panic. Just call us and let us know the situation. We'll take the problem into account.

That's all for this week. Thanks for your attention. And, since Sunday is Earth Day, remember to recycle this paper when you're finished with it.

## School House Rock is First Production By Grant Central Sixth Graders

By Patricia Abbott

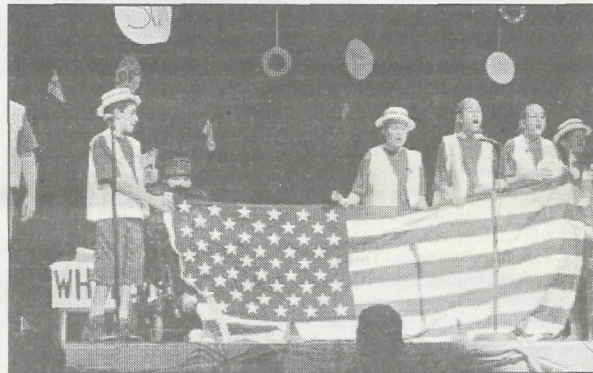
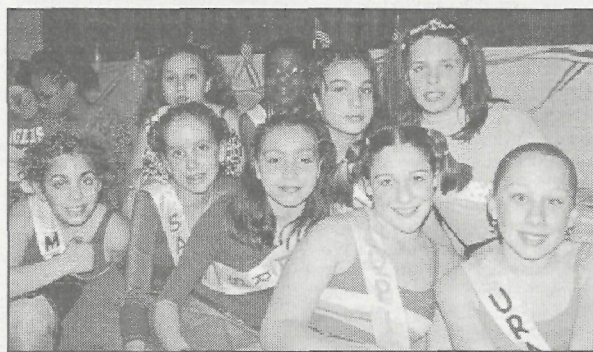
Grant Central Sixth Grade recently presented the town with one of many 'firsts' for the new school. The Grant Central Sixth Drama Club offered *School House Rock* as their first theatrical presentation. The School house did indeed rock as Grant Central students sang and danced while offering lessons in everything from grammar and math to US history. The musical, based on the TV series *School House Rock*, took place on the Middle School stage. Seventy-seven students worked with directors Charisse Miglis and Grant language teacher, Lori Kowalski to perfect the fast-paced show.

The script called for one adult character. Grant Central Sixth Principal Mr. Bob Doggett came to the rescue. He joined the cast on stage and filled the role of "Tom" a new teacher who was nervous about his first day. The action begins when, much to Tom's surprise *School House Rock* students enter his den and his life through his TV set on the morning of his first day. The TV characters make short work of calming his fears and showing him that he can make teaching fun as they guide him through the subjects he is to teach. Musical numbers such as *Unpack Your Adjectives*, *The Preamble*, *Conjunction Junction*, *Do the Circulation* and *Interplanet Janet* are just a few of the songs that teach as well as entertain. The show had an array of colorful and eye-catching costumes and sets that complemented the songs and the talents of the cast. Director Charisse noted that the show's success was the joint effort of the cast, Grant school teachers and the many 'drama parents'. The cast's hard work was rewarded

with an enthusiastic full house.

When asked about his experience with the show, Mr. Doggett noted, "I want to say it was a wonderful opportunity for me to be able to work with the children on this play and for

them to be able to see me in a different light. I am extremely glad that I had the chance to do it and delighted that I had the chance to do it! I wouldn't trade that experience for anything."



## New Parents Invited to Join Grant Central PTO

Although September may seem a long way off, it's time to start thinking about your children's new venture into Grant Central Six Elementary School. The P.T.O. which was formed this school year would like to assist you in your transition and give you an opportunity to have time to plan and make this upcoming school year what ever you want it to be for your children.

According to our by-laws, the elections for the Executive Board will be held in May. All nominations must be received by our general meeting in April, which is scheduled for April 26, 2001 at 7:30 p.m. at the Grant School. The positions available are: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary.

In addition to our Executive Board, we have committees/clubs such as

Dance, Yearbook, Cultural Art/Assemblies, Refreshments, Fund-raising, Ski Club, and Drama Club. You can make your committees what you want them to be, it is up to you.

If you have any interest in a position, please contact Cathy Scarpitto, Co-President at 757-0686, or Sue Roth, Co-President at 561-8319.

## Kennedy School Plans Get Acquainted Program

John F. Kennedy School PTSO will be holding a "Get Acquainted" classes for all students who will be attending Kindergarten at JFK in September. The purpose of the class is to familiarize the students with the school and staff. Hopefully any anxieties the children may have about coming to a new school will be alleviated. Some of the activities during the program are visits to the school nurse, the principal and taking a mini-bus ride.

The sessions for "Get Acquainted" are as follows: Tuesdays, on May 8, 15, 22 from 9:30-11 a.m. and Tuesdays on May 8, 15, 22 from 12:30-2 p.m.

Parents may register for the program during the month of April in the Kennedy School main office between 9 and 11 a.m. or 1 and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. Registration must be completed by April 30.

If you have or need further information about Get Acquainted, please call Rosann Coppi or Kennedy School office at (908) 754 4620.

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## High School Students Busy Rehearsing for *Damn Yankees*

By Patricia Abbott

Baseball season and all it encompasses has returned to South Plainfield. Mets and Yankee fans eagerly renew their rivalry—baseball games rule weekend TV viewing and both Little League and Ponytail Softball are all in full swing. Those looking for still more baseball action can turn their attention to the SPHS Spring Musical, *Damn Yankees*.

The devilishly diverse characters of the hit musical *Damn Yankees* have not graced the SPHS stage since 1986. Director Gloria Naso, a Language teacher at SPHS, sought a show that had not been done in recent years, one that would appeal a wide range of people. With youth sports being a major part of South Plainfield's recreational and extracurricular activities, the choice was a sure bet for a spring musical.

The 2001 SPHS Players Drama Club have been working hard to present the town with show worthy of the favored musical. *Damn Yankees* lends a new twist to the Faust legend when Joe Boyd, a middle-aged fan of the Washington Senators, utters the words, "I'd sell my soul ...for a chance to play for the Washington Senators." A dream is about to come true for Boyd, played by Senior Joe Nocoley. Enduring seemingly endless ball games is Joe's long-suffering wife Meg Boyd played by Junior Allison Provair. Bringing the tale to life is the charismatic Mr. Applegate, the devil himself, played by Senior Tommy Doyon. Applegate grants Joe his wish by creating the baseball hero Joe Hardy played by Matt Pulomena. Hardy, the handsome alter-ego of Joe Boyd leads the team in both hitting and pitching.

With Joe's soul in the balance, Applegate needs a little insurance which appears in the form SPHS Senior Kristyn Ciarlariello portraying his sexy side-kick Lola. Senior Kristin Turner takes the stage as the snoop-

ing, scoop-hunting reporter Gloria Thorpe. The luckless team's manager, Benny Van Buren is played by Danny Sierzega. David Allara appears as Mr. Adam Welch the team's owner. Mindy Kovacs is Sister Miller a good friend of Joe's wife Meg. Pam Cianfrocca portrays another friend, Doris Miller and Greg Publik appears as the Commissioner of Baseball.

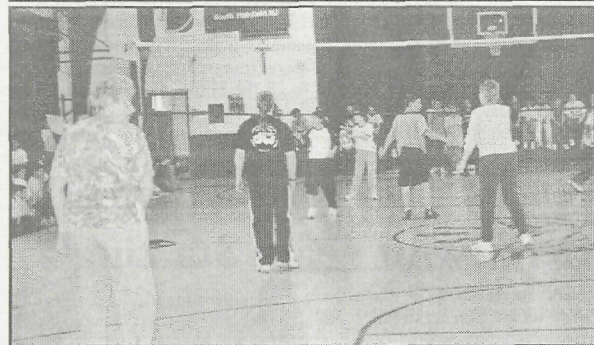
The team in need of a Miracle, the Washington Senators are played by: Leo Campos, Alex Tierney, Christopher Imbrosciano, Josef Rodriguez, Christopher Abbott, Wajdi Kanj, Chris Baron, Dave Garatino, Vinnie Carubia, and Justin Woo. The ensemble consists of Natasha Kurlew, Ricky Sullivan, Jamie Morris, Kristen Neitzer, Chrisann Zushma, Erin Wilson, Erin Walsh, Alison Buttrick, Angelique Ganiaris, Megan Walsh, Kim Arend, Tristan More, Rula Kanj, Danielle Servadio, Chelsea Falato and Kristie Buttrick.

Helping the cast create another hit is Vocal Director Larry Street, Choreographer Patti O'Brien, Music Director Mark Tweed, Assistant Director Miss Angela Gallagher and rehearsal accompanist Adam Toth. Producer is Maureen Imbrosciano.

*Damn Yankees* originally opened May 5, 1955, on Broadway at the 46th Street Theatre. It ran for 1,019 performances. The popular musical seemed legendary Gwen Verdon was rocketed to stardom by the original production. She reprised her role in the equally successful 1958 screen version. *Damn Yankees* was written by George Abbott and Douglass Wallop, based on Wallop's 'The Year the Yankees Lost the Pennant.'

SPHS Players production of *Damn Yankees* opens on Thursday, April 26 and runs until Saturday, April 28 in the SPHS auditorium, Lake St. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for students and senior citizens. Curtain time is 7 p.m. For more information call the school at (908) 754-4620.

## Sacred Heart School Festivities



Sacred Heart School recently held a jump-a-thon, Easter Egg Hunt and challenge volleyball game.

Last Tuesday, students in grades 4-8 participated in the American Heart Association jump-a-thon. Students formed teams of six and jumped rope for two hours. Money collected from sponsors will be sent to the American Heart Association.

The next day, the entire school en-

joyed an Easter Egg Hunt. Then they went to the gym to watch the eighth graders challenge the teachers to a volleyball game.

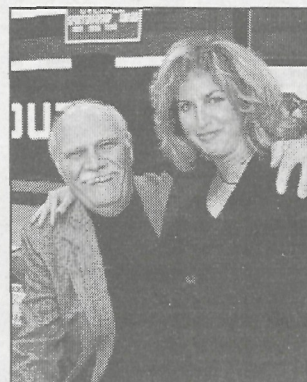
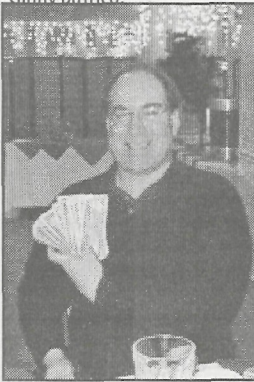
After the game, students were dismissed and reminded to participate in the Church services during the Holy Week especially on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday.

Submitted by Sister Cornelia, RVM

## Annual Golden Gloves 2001 Event



This year's Golden Gloves Event was co-sponsored by PBA Local 100 and the South Plainfield Athletic Booster Club. Pictured are Police Chief Robert Merlker, Detectives Gary Cassio and James Parker and Sergeant Paul Wylam with members from the Athletic Booster Club, Mickey Wrublewski, Janet Donnelly, Kathy Keller and Ginny Buttrick.



The Annual Golden Gloves event, held recently, was not only well attended, but a great financial success for both PBA 100 and the Athletic Booster Club.

The evening started out with over 70 Golden Ticket holders attending a dinner and cocktail hour at Piancone Restaurant. John Vargo, pictured left, won the 50-50 of \$300.

The event was held in the high school this year because last year's event held in the Middle School was too small.

Almost 18 bouts were fought, including two which were Golden Gloves finals.

There was something for everyone who attended, food music a 50-50 and an evening filled with boxing.



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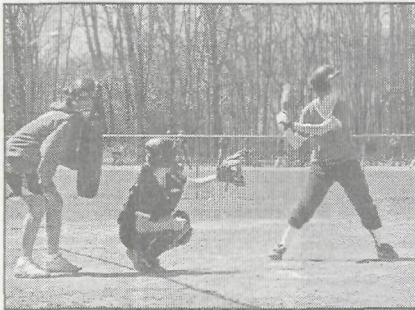
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# Sports

## Ponytail Softball Opening Day 2001



## Ponytail Softball Batters Box

By Sharon Miller

Ponytail  
Softball  
Pic-  
tures—

April 21—

There has been a revision to the location of pictures. All individual and team pictures will be taken indoors at the PAL Recreation Center on April 21. Order forms will be distributed by the coaches. Players and coaches need to arrive 15 minutes prior to your scheduled time. Ponytail Softball Association Meet-

ing—April 24—The South Plainfield Parent Ponytail Association will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, April 24 at 7:30 p.m. in the South Plainfield Middle School library. If you are interested a member and being involved in Girl's Ponytail softball please join us on April 24. New members are always welcomed.

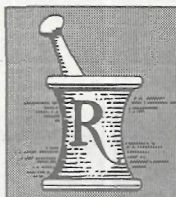
**College Scholarships - Filing Deadline—May 4**—The Ponytail Parents' Association is sponsoring two \$500 college scholarships. Applications are currently being accepted and can be obtained from the South Plainfield

High School guidance office. To qualify for the scholarships, the applicant must be a high schools 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, P.O. 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 for the 12 & under and 14 & under teams. There has been a revision to the try-out date for the 10 and under team. Tryouts will now be held on May 5 at 4:30 p.m. 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' Association will be sponsoring an end of season pool party. This event is open to all Recreation Ponytail softball players, so please join us on June 8, at the South Plainfield Community pool. In the event of rain, the end of season party will be held indoors at the PAL Recreation Center.



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**Come and See  
for Yourself!**

By Tony Cassano



## juniorbaseballclubnotes

**LET THE GAMES BEGIN**—We all know the saying 'April Showers bring May Flowers,' well enough already. In spite of on and off rain over the past two weeks, I am happy to report that we've been able to get a number of games in. Last Saturday was a perfect day and thanks to the efforts of the Saturday Morning Work Detail crew, all games scheduled were played. This included the first two games played on Field 2, which recently had sod put down throughout 75% of its outfield, along with Pony games on Field 4, which a day earlier was a swamp in right field. Lets hope that the rains are behind us and we can get back to playing baseball every night and every weekend from this point forward.

**REFLECTIONS OF OPENING DAY 2001**—It seems like it was just yesterday, but somehow some way, we were able to do it again. Whether it's the baseball Gods or just pure luck, the 2001 Opening Day Parade, Ceremonies and the first games of the 2001 season took place almost two weeks ago. The parade which was lead by the SPSHS Band and our Grand Marshall Bob Victor, was followed by Mayor Dan Gallagher and his Council, our SPJBC Executive Board & Trustees, Little Miss Baseball 2000 and this years contestants and winner, Elizabeth Gratta, along with all the Small Fry players from 31 teams, with each team caring their own team banner. The annual parade started behind Borough Hall. Ceremonies where held this year on Field 3. Harold Cox, former Commissioner from 1961 threw out the first ball. Several other former Commissioners where also present, along with new Police Chief Robert Merkle, Father Alvarado of Sacred Heart Church and Pastor Richard Kiesling of St. Stephens Evangelical Lutheran Church. Log on to our website [www.geocities.com/spjbcweb/](http://www.geocities.com/spjbcweb/) to view pictures from the day.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS, DAVE AND CINDY EICHLER**, along with this years recipients of the Commissioners Award, Andy Pinto and John Stallone. I would also like to acknowledge and thank Jeff Marcoux and Pio Pennisi for organizing and managing our Opening Day Ceremonies. Special thanks to Stacy Lake-President and her Women Auxiliary Executive Board for your on going support and organizing this years Opening Day annual bake sale and clothing sale. Hats off to our Snack Stand Director-Tom Curtis, Bob Golon and all of the volunteers and club members who gave so much of their personal time and business talents over the past month (and literally hours prior to) the first pitch to bring it all together. Once again, in spite of tremendous odds and bad weather, we did it and it was one of the greatest Opening Days in the history of the SPJBC. Last but not least, I want to personally thank my Executive Board-Tom McCreesh, Danny Wasnick, Kevin Lykes, my Trustees Kurt Ullom, Chris Hubner, Keith Heckel and Dennis Moskal. I will always be grateful for your loyalty and dedication to the SPJBC and the youth of South Plainfield.

**WORK DETAIL-COMPLETION OF PRE-SEASON PROJECT**—In addition to our standard weekend work details, volunteers are still needed to complete some of the pre-season projects that where started over the past month. Work Detail starts at 7 am on Saturdays and 7 am on Sunday.

**UPCOMING EVENTS / IMPORTANT DATES**—May 3 - Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 7:30 pm at the SPJBC Clubhouse; May 7 - General Membership Monthly Meeting, 8:30 pm at the SPJBC Clubhouse; May 7 - Raffle Distribution - ALL MANAGERS REQUIRED TO ATTEND MTG at 8:30 pm TO PICK UP RAFFLES; May 13 - SPJBC Complex closed for Mothers Day; May 19 - Casino Night Tickets are now on sale, \$45 per person-includes open bar, buffet dinner, entertainment, along with \$500 of play money-Contact Stacy Lake for tickets at 757-9531; May 21 - Bi-Monthly General Membership Meeting, 8:30 pm at the SPJBC Clubhouse; May 26 - COACHES Care Foundation - Softball Marathon Tournament-The SPJBC has established a 'Coaches Offering Assistance for Children's Health' (COACHES Care) Foundation. On May 26, the Coaches will be playing softball continuously for 12 hours, to help raise money for the Children's fund for the JFK Medical Center. In addition, there will be a Chinese auction and an authentic NASCAR Ward Burton #22 Carepillar Simulator. For a cost of \$250, teams can play for 1-1/2 hours against the coaches on the Small Fry B field. There are a few spots available, interested teams can contact Tom McCreesh at 755-8468. Letters have been sent out to local businesses and we hope that the community will rally around this most worthy cause. Log on to our website [www.geocities.com/spjbcweb/](http://www.geocities.com/spjbcweb/) for information. May 27 & 28 the SPJBC Complex Closed for Memorial Day; June 3 - All Star Sunday; June 3 - Raffle Drawing; June 8 - Tickets are on now on sale for our 'Annual Somerset Patriot' trip. Contact John Rayho at 754-8904 to purchase tickets.

## Rec. Swim Team Starting

The South Plainfield Recreation Swim Team season begins June 6, and ends July 28.

It is free to all children ages 4 to 18 whose family is a member of the pool. It is a great way to stay active over the summer and meet some great people as well.

Practices are available in the mornings and evenings and each swimmer must attend a minimum of two practices per week. Meets are held Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings. The season ends with a fun team picnic at the pool.

Registration and uniform measurements will be held on June 6, at 6:30 p.m. at the pool. If raining, we will meet in the PAL building.

Uniforms are not mandatory, but nice to have. This is the first year that a suit that will be used for the 2001 and 2002 seasons. The cost is \$42 for girls and \$23 for boys. Payment is due the day of measurement.

If you are new to swimming or have never been on a team, you are encouraged to give it a try. Some of our best swimmers never knew they could swim so well until they dove into the water!



# Sports

## American Martial Arts Wins New Jersey's Best School Trophy



On Sunday, April 1, the American Martial Arts, located on Oak Tree Rd., competed in the 2001 New Jersey State U.S.T.U. Tae Kwon Do Championship. Led by Master Kevin Vigneri, 33 Tae Kwon Do students had the opportunity to qualify for nationals by applying their skills in the ring with New Jersey's best. Not only did Master Vigneri proudly leave the tournament of over 1,000 competitors with 10 gold medals, 15 silver and 8 bronze, but American Martial Arts was awarded an 8 foot trophy for being New Jersey's Best Tae Kwon Do School for 2001.

Each medalist is given the opportunity to move on to the next level of competition. Children under 17 will compete in the 2001 Junior Olympics this July in Tampa, Fla. Adults will compete in the U.S. Tae Kwon Do Nationals held this May in Cleveland, Ohio.

Master Vigneri explained that his Tae Kwon Do Team made it to this

level through intense training, self-discipline, and most importantly, devotion to the sport.

The following is a list of all medalists: Michael Soriano, Danver Quintin, Richard Kazandzhidi, Juan Arrubla, Mario Flores, Connor McCarthy, Sarah Hoffman, Michelle Chen, Christopher Lee, Gaven Burton, Brittany Frazer, Denzel Mensah, Ayana Graham, Jessica Robbins, Alexandra Gubina, Alex Zeccardo, Ashley Zeccardo, Nicky Singh, Daniel Bayak, Nakita Patel, Andrew Cox, Benjamin Milstein, Bella Milstein, Lorenzo Graham, Bonnie Schoonover, Pat Vetrudo, Brandon Ventrudo, Hamza Khatri, Arpita Patel, Nicole Collins, Frank Stead, Sameh Farag.

The 2001 New Jersey States is the largest in the state of New Jersey. Only elite Tae Kwon Do schools sanctioned by the governing body of Tae Kwon Do (United States Tae Kwon Do Union), are invited to this prestigious event.

### WRESTLING

## Freestyle Wrestlers Win Titles

By Bob Hunter

The Freestyle and Greco Roman wrestling season is underway and the South Plainfield team is off to a good start with Patrick Hunter and Jimmy Conroy taking first place honors at the AAU Middle Atlantic Wrestling Association qualifying tournament held at Washington Twp. High School in Sewell this past weekend.

Patrick Hunter, Novice 66 pounds, claimed the freestyle title when he beat Ronald Cuff of Pittsgrove. Hunter was down in the match 10-7 when he scored near fall points to tie the score sending the match into overtime. Hunter scored the first takedown to win 11-10. In the semi final round, Hunter pinned Louis Pietrantuno of Summit at 3:28. In the Greco Roman finals, he came up short, losing 11-8 to Pietrantuno for second place.

Jimmy Conroy, this year's state scholastic champion at 75 pounds,

won the 80 pound freestyle championship with a tech-fall over Galloway Longonecher of Lititz Pa. 12-2. In the opening round Conroy scored a tech-fall over Kevin O'Connor of North Cape May 10-0. In the semi-finals he pinned Ben Altman of Wilmington Del. at 3:48 to reach the finals. In the Greco Roman competition Conroy won both his match's by fall.

Both will now advance to the Middle Atlantic AAU Freestyle Championships on June 2-3.

In other wrestling news, five South Plainfield wrestlers traveled to Salisbury, Md. and competed in the Southern Regional qualifier for the Eastern Nationals. Qualifying for South Plainfield were Anthony (the firecracker) Ashnault, Bantam 40 pounds, who finished in third place, while his older brother Billy, finished in second place in the Junior 78 pound weight class. Also winning matches but not placing were Mike Jakubik Junior-84 pounds, Billy Daly Junior-108 pounds and Kevin Criley-Junior heavyweight.

High school freestyle wrestlers will be competing this Sunday for chance to make 2001 Team New Jersey and travel to the Nationals in July.

Upcoming Greco Roman Championships will be held at Bergen Catholic and the Freestyle State Championships will be held in Rahway. Northeast Kids Regional Junior Olympic Tournament will be held in Allentown Pa.

### SOCCER

## Blaze Shuts Out Bloomfield Jags

Blaze vs. Bloomfield Jaguars

At home on April 8 and facing a tough Bloomfield Jaguars, the South Plainfield Blaze U-12 Girls traveling soccer team produced another shut out beating the Jags 2-nil. Our defense has been very impressive with ten games over the 2000-2001 fall and spring season resulting in a shut out.

Leading the way with numerous saves our keeper Becky "Boomer" Keller preserved her shut out streak at nine in a row. Sweeper Elizabeth Flannery, stopper Jackie Miller and

Megan Boyle calmly handled threats in the middle forcing balls wide. Doing an outstanding job for us on the left was fullback Tiffany Smith while on the right, fullback Joy Maszczak shutdown the right side.

Marking up and shutting down a few key players Katelyn Conrad and Jenna DeLillo had a great game. Leading the mid-field attack center halfbacks Jennifer Copeland, Dorian Bishop, Denise Lopez and right and left wing Ashley Little and Lauren Fry are so reliable at controlling the tempo of the game.

With Megan Boyle and Denise Lopez sharing our left attacking position and Kate Hardy on the right our first score came in the 31st-minute when on a pass from Jennifer Copeland, Kate Hardy rolled in a shot from the eighteen. The second score happened in the 46th-minute, when the very aggressive play of Megan Boyle found the back of the net to put the game out of reach for Bloomfield.

Final score was South Plainfield Blaze 2, Bloomfield Jaguars 0. Great team work and well done girls!

## Blaze Explodes in Battle Against Aberdeen

SP Blaze vs. Aberdeen Chaos

Playing a make up game at home on Riley field this past Saturday, Blaze U-12 Girls traveling soccer team beat Aberdeen Chaos 7-nil.

Our defense again produced another shut out. Leading the way and playing so aggressively right and left fullback Tiffany Smith and Ashleigh Gaspari were outstanding, sweeper and stopper Elizabeth Flannery, Jenna DeLillo and Jackie Miller did a great job shutting down any threats in our defensive third. Mid-fielders Joy Maszczak, Dorian Bishop, Ashley Little, and Katelyn Conrad handle their positions effortlessly. While the intimidating left striker Megan Boyle

put pressure on what seemed like a hapless opposing defense.

Playing most of the first half in the attacking third Blaze's first strike of the game came in the 22nd-minute when center mid-fielder Jennifer Copeland hit the back of the net on a nice crossing feed from right striker Kate Hardy.

Making adjustments at halftime and again playing most of the game in the attacking third, Blaze dominated the second half by scoring six unanswered goals. Unleashing the razzle dazzle skills of and allowing her some time out of the net our keeper Becky Keller in the center mid position produced her first hat trick. Those three scores coming in the

57th, 62nd, and 73rd minutes. In the 45th-minute, Elizabeth Flannery coming up from the sweeper position took a penalty kick and nailed a beautiful ball to the back of the net. While in the 65th-minute, striker Denise Lopez scored her third goal of the season. Capping off the win and putting the game out of reach the very tough Lauren Fry played an outstanding game in the left mid-field position scoring her first goal of the season coming in the 70th-minute.

Good team effort girls and congratulations on a great game!

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

Submitted by Coach Hardy

## Typhoons Tame the Tornadoes

The Boys U11 Traveling Soccer Team traveled to New Providence on Good Friday to make up an earlier rain out and came away with their second shutout in a row 4-nil.

Once again, a strong defensive effort led by goalie Grey Coppi and fullbacks J. R. Licato, Keith Heckel, Matt Helgesen, Chris Pennisi and Greg Watts provided the Typhoons offense with the confidence to be aggressive on the attack knowing their backs were covered. Equally strong in the midfield throughout the game providing stops and advancing the

ball up field were Steven Guevara, Brandon Ullom, Dan Pompilio, John Polizzano, David Alston and Eric Rovayo.

The scoring started when Brian Fabino followed up a blocked shot off the foot of Brendan O'Shea and dropped it in the net for a 1-0 lead. The Brian and Brendan combination worked again a few minutes later when Fabino centered a pass to O'Shea who promptly deposited it in the goal and a halftime score of 2-0.

The Typhoons maintained control in the second half only to see a num-

ber of opportunities slip away close to the goal. Then with 20 minutes elapsed, Fabino once again centered a pass this time to Jonathan Marcoux who broke free from the defenders and sent the ball into the net for his first goal of the year. The exclamation point was then made when John Christ passed the ball to a streaking O'Shea who proceeded to out run everyone and chipped the ball over the goalie for the final score and matching record of 4-0.

Submitted by Jeff Marcoux

## Typhoons Squash the Scorpions

The South Plainfield Boys U11 Typhoon soccer team survived a 30 minute rain delay Sunday to beat the Piscataway Scorpions 4-0. Goalies Grey Coppi and Chris Pennisi shared duties in the net as they helped keep the Typhoons undefeated through three games this season.

A formidable opponent in the past, Piscataway was overmatched early and could not break through the stingy defense led by halfbacks Dan Pompilio and Brandon Ullom as well as fullbacks J.R. Licato, Greg Watts, Keith Heckel and Matt Helgesen.

With barely two minutes elapsed in the first half, the Typhoons scored when Brendan O'Shea released a rocket from outside the 18-foot box on the right side into the upper left corner of the net for a quick 1-0 lead.

Following the rain delay, South Plainfield got right back to work as O'Shea followed up a John Christ

shot off the post for his second goal of the game and a 2-0 lead. The attack didn't let up as Christ took a beautiful crossing pass from O'Shea on the next trip down and sent it into the goal for his second score of the year. Then to complete the first half barrage, O'Shea got his second Hat Trick of the year with an unassisted corner kick score, staking the Ty-

phoons to a lead they would never be in danger of losing.

The second half brought out a tougher Piscataway defense that didn't give up a score, however the Typhoons matched their energy and will now look forward to their next game at New Providence with a perfect 3-0 record.

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## Obituaries

### Helen (Skripko) DeFillipo, 76

Helen (Skripko) DeFillipo, of Sommers Point, died on Friday, April 6 at her daughters home in Northfield.

She was born in Woodbridge Twp. and was a former resident of Iselin, Bayville, and Egg Harbor City before moving to Sommers Point two years ago.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband of 53 years, Anthony R. DeFillipo, who died in December of 2000.

She is survived by her daughter, Linda Brangenberg of Northfield; her granddaughters, Anna Jean and Deana Lynn Brangenberg and her sister, Mary Bukowski of Perth Amboy. Also surviving are several nieces and a nephew.

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

Church in Colonia, and was an avid freshwater fisherman. Mr. Caglin loved woodworking in which he was constantly building or involved with various projects, from helping family and friends finish basements to repairing various things in need of repair.

He is predeceased by his daughter, Kyla, in 1988 and his mother, Leila, who died in 1995.

Surviving are his daughter, Tanisha Caglin of Metuchen, his father, Jack Caglin of Brooklyn, N.Y.; four sisters, Camille Mathias of Plainfield, Helen Lesy, Jacqueline Caglin, and Sabrina Dinalal, all of Brooklyn; and a brother, John of Florida.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### Henry Lawrence Morrison, Jr., 80

Henry Lawrence Morrison, Jr. died on Monday, April 16 at his home.

Born in Summit, he was raised in Springfield and resided in Kenilworth before moving to South Plainfield 41 years ago.

He was employed as a payroll accountant for the former Fedders Air Conditioning Company in Edison for 10 years before retiring in 1983. Previously, he was employed in the payroll department for the former American National Can Company in Newark.

Mr. Morrison was a member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Metuchen. He and his wife, Elizabeth, were avid stamp collectors. Mr. Morrison was also an avid golfer and bowler.

Surviving are his wife Elizabeth L. Morrison, two sons, Kenneth of South Plainfield, and Timothy and his wife, Lisa, of Glen Gardner and a sister, Dorothy M. Kruger of Clinton Twp. Also surviving are two grandsons, Brian and Steven Morrison.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, Northern NJ Chapter, c/o 299 Cherry Hill Road, Suite 201, Parsippany, NJ 07054, or to St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 17 Oak Ave. at Rt. 27, Metuchen, NJ 08840.

## Holly Park Celebrates It's First Birthday



Photos by Patricia Abbott

Holly Park Mower, located on Park Ave., celebrated their first year of operation with their second annual open house. The Saturday afternoon event offered free hot dogs, soda, juice and popcorn as well as a moon walk for the kids.

Adults were able to get a jump on the spring weather and view some of the new mowers and other lawn maintenance equipment.

Owners Brad and Kimberly Batcha were lucky, when the predicted bad weather and overcast sky did not bring the predicted rain to dampen their celebration.



## Police Arrest Two on Drug and Gun Possession

On April 10, at 7:40 p.m., two individuals were arrested for the possession of a handgun, marijuana and narcotic paraphernalia. They were identified as 23-year-old Brian Rhodes and 21-year-old Elijah Jason Bland, both of Plainfield. A third individual was detained, but not charged.

The two were arrested after detectives approached a 1993 black Lexus parked on West Eight Street, suspecting a narcotics transaction. A subsequent search resulted in the recovery of a loaded 22 caliber semi-automatic handgun, fifteen bags containing marijuana, a partially smoked marijuana cigarette, narcotic packaging materials and \$186 in cash.

Rhodes was charged with possession of a handgun, possession of a gun while committing a CDS of offense, possession of marijuana with the intent to distribute, possession of narcotic paraphernalia and possession of hollow point bullets.

Bland was charged with possession of a handgun, possession of

hollow point bullets, and possession of marijuana under 50 grams.

Both were arraigned in South Plainfield Municipal Court on April 11. Rhodes was the driver of the Lexus and Bland was the passenger. Both will be remanded to the Middlesex County Jail if they are unable to post bail.

able to post bail.

Detective Lt. Michael Lane, Det. Garrett Cassio, Det. James Parker, all members of the South Plainfield Police Department made the arrests and conducted the investigation with assistance from Plainfield Det. Frank Wilson.

## South Plainfield Kindergarten Registration

Registration of children for the September 2001 Kindergarten class will take place in the individual elementary schools of the South Plainfield Board of Education during the week of May 7-10, between the hours of 8:45 and 3:00. Please call 754-4620 Ext. 291 (Barbara) for an appointment. To be enrolled in Kindergarten this September, children must have been born on or before October 1, 1996. There are no exceptions to this registration.

Parents/guardians of prospective Kindergartners are required to submit the following documents when registering their children.

1. APPLICATION FOR ENROLLMENT - completed and SIGNED by the parent or legal guardian.
2. NOTE: Official CUSTODY documents win be required if child does not reside with both parents.
3. CHILD'S ORIGINAL BIRTH CERTIFICATE WITH RAISED SEAL.
4. CHILD'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER.
5. IMMUNIZATION RECORDS
6. MEDICAL RECORD FORM (Kindergarten/new USA residents only) with required immunization records - dates, stamped and SIGNED by child's doctors.
7. PROOFS OF RESIDENCY:

- a. Original deed or closing statement (or legal contact showing purchase of home) and
- b. Any two utility bills (i.e., PSEG, cable, water, sewer, or tax bill from South Plainfield tax office); or
- c. Original legal lease/rental agreement; and
- c. Any two utility bills (i.e., PSEG, cable, water, sewer, or tax bill from South Plainfield tax office)

### 8. COMPLETED 4506 TAX FORM

In order to expedite the registration process, parents are encouraged to assemble, complete, and bring the above documents with them at the time of registration.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS MUST OBTAIN BLANK ENROLLMENT AND MEDICAL FORMS PRIOR TO KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION WEEK (MAY 7-10) IN THE ENROLLMENT CENTER OR ROOM 3, SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL, 2201 PLAINFIELD AVENUE, SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NJ 07080 BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY.

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We  
Care

by Robert Hunter

### COMFORT FOR THE DYING

When visiting someone who is dying, remember that he or she is greatly comforted by the company you will provide. Any awkwardness you may feel is outweighed by the benefit. With this in mind, allow yourself to sit at eye level, do not be afraid to touch, and take your conversation cues from the dying person. Silence is fine, because the mere presence of a caring visitor is sometimes all that is needed. At the same time, do not contradict the patient who says that he or she is dying. Accept any emotion that may accompany the statement by empathizing and listening. Allow for talk about unfinished business. And, never pass up an opportunity to express love or say goodbye.

There is an element of intimidation in visiting someone who is near death; perhaps we fear offering words of comfort that will sound hollow, or feel that our conversation and concerns will appear trivial. Yet, despite the difficulty, few people regret visiting the death bed of a close friend or relative. In fact, such occasions generally number among our most profound memories. To discuss your needs in regards to end-of-life services, please call the family-owned JAMES W. CONROY FUNERAL HOME, INC., located at 2456 Plainfield Avenue in South Plainfield, at 756-2800.

"Silence is as full of potential wisdom and wit as the unwhim marble of great sculpture."

--Aldous Huxley

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### AARP Seeking Photographer

AARP Chapter 4144 is in need of a photographer who can volunteer his/her services at the May 18, 2001 meeting, which will be held at the PAL Building on Maple Ave., in South Plainfield, at 12 noon.

If you can help or know someone who can help, please call Mary at (732) 752-3764.



McCriskin

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## LEGAL NOTICES

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

An appeal has been filed by Frances Yurgel requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the 6' x 30' front porch, with roof, proposed porch lacks required a 30' front setback, 13.61' being proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located on Block 36 Lot 9 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 15, 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 20, 2001

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

An appeal has been filed by Walter Wojciechowski requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the erection of a 4' x 17' front porch, proposed porch lacks required a 30' front setback, 15.8' being proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located on Block 202 Lot 30 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 15, 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 20, 2001

### PLANNING BOARD BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

An application has been filed by Arbor Interiors, Inc. requesting preliminary and final approval of an amended site plan in accordance with the requirements of the ordinances of the Borough of South Plainfield.

In case No. 634/V, Arbor Interiors, Inc., the Applicant, was granted preliminary and final site plan approval and was granted variances regarding the property being located on Block 445 Lot 7 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said application, the South Plainfield Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 24, 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 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

By Arbor Interiors, Inc.  
Frank Coppola

\$35.00 1T April 20, 2001

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

April 17, 2001

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on April 3, 2001.

A. Case #5-01—Rodolfo Reyes—Block 167; Lot 26; R-7.5 Zone, 542 Franklin Ave.—Applicant's request for a side yard setback variance and lot coverage variance was hereby GRANTED.

B. Case #8-01—Vincent Raeliello—Block 122; Lot 25; R-7.5 zone; 138 Risoli Terrace—Applicant's request for side yard setback was hereby GRANTED.

Janice J. Mucilli  
Secretary Zoning Board of Adjustment

\$15.00 1T April 20, 2001

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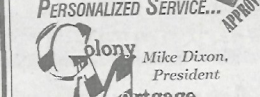
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## policereport

• On April 9, an E. Hendricks Blvd. resident discovered that someone had entered his garage via the unlocked front entry. Two radar detectors were taken from his car and a new circular saw and workbench were also taken.

• An employee of Edison Radiology, Oak Tree Rd., reported a friend had been harassing her several times a day by phone and was also showing up at her place of employment.

• On Monday a Conklin St. resident had their front screen door kicked in.

• On Tuesday two Sony Playstation 2 games were stolen from an unlocked display case at KB Toys on Stelton Rd.

• Tonsar Inc., Kenneth Ave. reported a charred window frame from some type of burned fireworks.

• A Fairmount Ave. resident reported that an attempt had been made to pry open his shed.

• An employee at the Mobil Station on Stelton Rd. found the tires on his car had been slashed. The suspect is believed to be an angry customer.

• A Rush St. resident reported that someone had thrown a glass bottle which was lit with a gasoline soaked rag, at her picture window. This is the third time in a year that her window has been broken.

• On Monday a Front St. man was punched in the head outside of his residence. An unknown man had called to him from across the street and when he had approached him, he was assaulted without provocation.

• On April 13, Seilino & Sons Landscaping, St. Nicholas Ave. stated two of his trailers had been broken into overnight. Numerous gas powered landscape tools were stolen.

• Alice Tempel, Recycling Coordinator, reported the theft of 110 dozen work gloves from the Kenneth Ave. trailer. The gloves were going to be used for the "Volunteer Litter Cleanup Week" next week.

• Aiello Carting of Westfield

had a dumpster stolen from 333 Hamilton Blvd.

• An employee of Paco's Manufacturing reported that the window of her car had been smashed and her CD player and pocketbook with \$200 had been removed.

• On April 11 K-Mart reported the theft of a CD player by two men, one of whom was apprehended.

• Paul Zensky, owner of Zensky Electrical Contractors, reported that a number of tools had been taken from inside his unlocked work van on No. Madison Dr.

• An unidentified woman fled Sal's Liquor store on Park Ave. with a bottle of Hennessy Liquor.

• A Parsippany woman reported that her front license plate, driver's license, registration and insurance card had been taken from her unlocked vehicle. The car had been parked on the corner of Merchant Ave. and Freed Pl.

## SDW Announces Production Staff For 30th Season

The South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop (SPSDW), marking its 30th season with the musical hit *Bye, Bye Birdie*, is proud to announce its staff for this summer's production.

Returning from last year's smash production of *42nd Street* will be director Eric Hafen. Hafen recently was named the artistic director of the Bickford Theatre in Morristown.

Also returning will be Patti O'Brien as choreographer. One of last year's highlights was the work O'Brien did with the cast, bringing them together for a rousing celebration of tap dancing. O'Brien is also the choreographer for the upcoming high school musical, *Damn Yankees*.

This year's orchestra director will be Paul McCullen. McCullen is no stranger to the Summer Drama Workshop, having performed as a musician in years past, along with his work as an assistant musical director. Paul is a member of the borough's Wesley Methodist Church congregation, where his musical talents are also showcased.

The cast this season will sing

such hits as *Kids, Put On A Happy Face*, *The Telephone Hour*, and *Let's Live To Do* all led by Joan Stasio as vocal director. Stasio has worked as orchestra director for past shows, and as a music teacher in the borough she has taught many instrumental students and worked on musical productions for the elementary students.

Roberta Leszczynski will be the costume coordinator for *Bye Bye Birdie*. Her talents were seen in the SPSPDW's production of *The Wizard of Oz*, along with other area theatres and dance companies.

A new position was created this year, giving an opportunity for a veteran of the program to help out the students in the rehearsal process. Steve Ambielli, who was in many shows on the SPSHS stage and is currently a student at the College of New Jersey, will be the Production Staff Assistant.

Adam Toth will also be returning as rehearsal pianist.

This year's production marks a milestone for this enthusiastic youth group. For thirty years, the South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop has taught hundreds,

even thousands of students the skills of live performance, while keeping them together in an enjoyable activity. The Summer Drama Workshop is a non-profit educational program that promotes the performing arts, providing the opportunity for borough youngsters to learn, perform and have fun, right here in South Plainfield.

The Summer Drama Workshop is also inviting anyone who has participated in past shows, in any capacity, to contact them with memories of their years on our stages. We hope that many of them can come watch us during one of this year's performances.

Auditions for "Bye Bye Birdie" will be held June 4, 5, & 6 at the South Plainfield Middle School from 6:30 to 9 p.m. The program is open to all students who will be completing the sixth grade through graduating high school seniors, who live in South Plainfield or go to a school in the borough.

For more information, please contact us through our website [www.spsdw.com](http://www.spsdw.com) or call (908) 561-5255 and leave a message.

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## CVS Store Is Robbed

Last Thursday evening, the CVS store on Oak Tree Road was robbed.

The suspect approached the cashier, a seventeen-year-old South Plainfield female and demanded one hundred dollars in cash. He displayed a plastic bag containing an item which appeared to be shaped like a handgun. The suspect stated, "If you want to live to see tomorrow, give me \$100 in cash."

The cashier gave the suspect the cash from the register and he fled the store. It is unknown if he had a vehicle and which direction he fled. An undetermined amount of cash was taken.

The suspect was described as a black male in his thirties, 6', heavy set 280 lbs., with black hair, wearing a light colored shirt and dark pants.

There were no injuries. Officers checked the area for the suspect with negative results.