

# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 4, NO. 34

50 CENTS

APRIL 27, 2001

## Last Year's Yardwaste Sticker No Longer Valid

For the past few years, residents were allowed to show the same stickers to use the South Plainfield yardwaste site. This year your old stickers are no longer valid.

Every resident must get a new window sticker, which is available at the Borough Clerk's Office. It's the only way you'll be allowed to use the yardwaste site after May 18. Your car will be turned away if you have an old sticker; no exceptions.

To be eligible for a sticker, you must show proof that you are a South Plainfield homeowner, occupant or renter and you must bring your yard waste in a private, non-commercial vehicle. No commercial firm or landscaper is allowed to use the facility.

If you are not using your own vehicle or a have a vehicle with commercial plates, you must obtain a one day pass from the Borough Clerk's Office in order to utilize the yardwaste site.

Borough Ordinance #1563, which is up for a final vote at next week's council meeting, imposes fines of up to \$1,500 for violators.

The clerk's office is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. If you need more information or have any questions, call 226-7606.

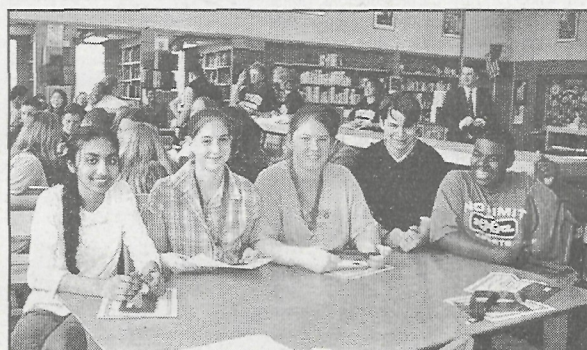
## Council is Updated on Hamilton Industrial Site

Representatives of two former owners of the Hamilton Industrial Park gave an update at last week's Borough Council meeting. They reported that they and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) are working together to speed up environmental studies that will precede redevelopment of the Hamilton Park Industrial Site. Last summer, the Borough Council passed a resolution supporting redevelopment of the 27-acre property that the USEPA named a Superfund site in 1998. The two companies are Cornell-Dubilier Electronics, Inc. and Dana Corporation.

"We are pleased that the USEPA understood and responded to the community's interest in redevelopment of the site," said Monica Conyngham, an attorney representing Cornell-Dubilier Electronics, Inc. According to a USEPA document describing its Superfund Redevelopment Initiative, USEPA has made a commitment to "an early and thorough consideration of the anticipated future use of sites, wherever possible, so that cleanups can be consistent with that use." Conyngham continued, "We welcome the opportunity to work with USEPA in applying the principles

Continued on page 12

## First Place Contestants Get Perfect Score In the "Battle of The Books" Competition



First Place Winners in the 'Battle of the Books' Contest held last Friday, were Eileen Cameron, Denise Scavone, Jake Levine, Shirani Itwaru and Mackie Pittman. These seventh graders answered all 10 questions correctly, for a perfect score of 80. They will now compete in the state finals, held in Englishtown on May 4.



Second place winners were Kendall Green, Justin Buendia, Adam Bianchi, Abby Papa, Sara Sukenik and Mike Capella. These eighth graders only missed one question, for a score of 72. They will also be competing in the finals held in Englishtown.



The third place winners only missed two questions, for a score of 64. They were Heather Palitto, Toni-Lynn Maiorino, Samuel Mootoo, A.J. Romano and Jeff Seesselberg.

## SPHS Co-Operative Ed. Students Awarded \$92,975 in Scholarships

The 29th Annual CE Scholarship Competition was held on Friday, March 30. This year, as in the past, South Plainfield High School Students did themselves proud, receiving \$92,975 in scholarships. Last year more \$1.8 million in scholarships were awarded to 205 SPHS graduating students.

The following won scholarships: Devon Sobers, \$8,500 from Cititone Institute for Electronics Tech-

nology.

Anthony Pipolo, \$8,500 from Cititone for Electronics Technology.

Lezette Shillingform, \$1,975 from Central Career School for Medical Billing.

Jessica Dietzold, \$2,375 from Center Career School for Dental Assistant.

Robert Deschaine, \$6,750 from Engine City Technology.

Continued on page 6

Last Friday, the Middle School Library was filled with tension, in anticipation of the finals of the "Battle of the Books" Competition. The final eight groups of students from both seventh and eighth grades were nervously waiting for the competition to begin. Each group consisted of six students from different reading periods. This is the 19th year South Plain-

field has competed in this program.

This year's contest was one of the best ever, with students scoring very high at each level of the competition. It was the same in the finals. Each group well prepared. They all had to read 15 books over a certain period of time. Questions, which began with 'In what book...' were asked pertaining to something that occurred in one of those books. After each question, the group leader had to give the name of the book and the author in an allotted time period.

The finals were attended by parents as well as school officials, including Superintendent of Schools Dr. John Krewer, Curriculum Coordinator Dr. Janet Munger and Middle School Principal John Oberkehr. Everyone there could feel the tension and suspense as each question was asked.

This years first place winners had a

perfect score of 80, answering every question correctly, the second and third place students were right behind, with scores of 72 and 64. The top seventh and eighth graders now move on to compete in the state finals held May 4 in Englishtown.

The 'Battle of the Books' began with a radio program sponsored by the Chicago Public Library in the

early 1940's. A student participant in that radio show became a school librarian in Urbana, Illinois and reconstructed her memory of the radio show for use in her library.

About ten years later, another Chicago area school librarian found her way to Kodiak, Alaska and took the 'Battle of the Books' idea with her. She used it in Kodiak and word of the program spread. In 1983, fourteen school districts around Alaska participated in the program. The first statewide tournament was held via audioconference in April 1984. By 1965, 26 districts were involved. In 1986 New Jersey began its own 'Battle of the Books' program.

All winners were awarded gift certificates compliments of Menlo Park Mall. Each first place winner received \$25, second place received \$20 and third place received \$15.

## Democrats Nominate Attorney Patrick Diegnan for Assembly Seat

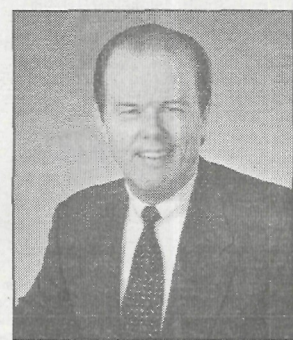
South Plainfield resident Patrick Diegnan, Jr. has been nominated to run on the Democratic line for the 18th District Assembly.

Diegnan will join incumbent Assemblyperson Peter Barnes Jr. on the November ballot. A convention was held last Wednesday April 21 at the Pines Manor in Edison, during which members of the Democratic Committee endorsed the Barnes/Diegnan ticket.

Patrick Diegnan will be running for the Assembly seat being vacated by Barbara Buono, who was unanimously endorsed as the Democratic candidate for State Senate.

If elected, Patrick Diegnan will be the first member of the New Jersey General Assembly from South Plainfield. He resides on Smith St. with his wife of 25 years, Anita and their daughters, Heather and Tara. Diegnan has a private law practice in the Borough and also serves as South Plainfield Borough Attorney and the Democratic Municipal Chair.

In commenting upon his nomination, Patrick said, "I am humbled not only for the honor of being given the opportunity to run for the Assembly, but also because I will have the chance of becoming the first Assemblyperson from South Plainfield. We are a great town and I can't wait to put into practice the same approach to government



Borough Attorney Patrick Diegnan

that has worked so well in our borough. When you see the wasted opportunity of the last eight years in Trenton and compare it with what has been accomplished in South Plainfield during the same period of time, the difference is astounding. If I am fortunate enough to be elected, my first priority will be to push for real property tax relief for our residents and to bring fiscal sanity to state government. I am particularly fortunate to run with Barbara Buono and Peter Barnes. They are two of the most respected legislators in New Jersey. It will be a thrill to serve with them. I look forward to the campaign and I welcome the input of all of the residents of the 18th District, especially those who live in my home town."



## mark your calendars

Log on to  
southplainfieldnj.com  
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, 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

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:

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

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

## South Plainfield Observer

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### SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in *South Plainfield Observer*:

1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
2. Mail, fax or drop it at: Editorial Department  
South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or drop it in the box at Mohn's Flowers on Plainfield Ave. or 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.

### To The Editor,

Well the School Bond Referendum has passed! I can't begin to say how happy and proud I am at this time. So many people put a lot of hard work and effort into making this moment a reality.

I would just like to say thank you to all of them, because without their help this referendum might not have passed. All of the committees; Architecture, Curriculum, Technology, and Public Relations. All of these people worked so hard to make this dream a reality. Mr. Ferri and Mrs. Johnson were always there and answered my questions and allowed us to hold the Special Presentations in each of the schools.

To all the board members that came out to the presentations and so diligently spoke out and supported this referendum, I thank you. All the school principals who allowed us to come into your schools and give the presentations, you stayed and listened and even supported the referendum. Pam Mocharski and her family who helped me put up signs for the March 6 referendum and then helped to take them down. She helped me do all the "Did you vote" and "Remember to vote" signs, all 100 or more and put them up with me, thank you so much.

To all the voters who came out and supported the referendum, Thank you! To all the PTA and PTSO's, thank you for your support. To the editor of the *Observer*, thank you for always putting the information in the paper and keeping it in the news. Thank you.

Lastly, to my family who never really complained as the phone rang constantly for me; the meetings, the presentations, the "hurry and do the homework, mommy has to go out tonight"—you were always there for me and supporting me. I did this for you, Meghan and William. This referendum passing is for all the children of South Plainfield. It will be a great day in South Plainfield when the doors open to all the new schools, and the Central 5 & 6.

Thank you all who supported and voted for this. Thank you to everyone!

**TRACEY A. HARTMANN,**  
CHAIRPERSON OF CITIZENS  
PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

### Residents of South Plainfield,

I wish to thank everyone in South Plainfield who offered such wonderful support to me during and after the Board of Education election. The process of an election is a tense situation for all the candidates and it does help when people are so kind. I truly enjoyed meeting and speaking with everyone, as it taught me to value the intricate details that surround decisions and policies of the educational process.

April 17, 2001 is also a date that will remain a historical event for South Plainfield with the overwhelming success of the referendum. The citizens of our community achieved the goal of meeting the educational needs of our children. Sometimes, in doing what is right, sacrifices must be made. And it is important to note, that with this referendum we are giving future generations the ability to succeed in a world that changes at a rapid pace. We should

### 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.

## In My Opinion

be proud of the fact that this community is making a difference and can become an example of what can happen when people listen and respect diverse ideas. But, we can't stop here. Every citizen should continue to advocate for the children by volunteering in our schools, attending Board of Education meetings, and giving of our time and talents to make South Plainfield a good place for families.

**CHRIS SIENKIEWSKI**

### To The Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Pio Pennisi, Steve Bohn and Dawn Jeffries on their successful election to the Board of Education. I wish you well.

Thank you to all who supported me in my effort, posted signs on your lawns and offered me encouragement during the campaign. Although unsuccessful in my bid for a seat on the board, I still feel like a winner because the referendum that I, and so many others, worked so hard for passed with such a large margin. We will now be able to give all of our children the families, equipment and technology they will need to ensure their future success.

**TIMOTHY I. MORGAN**

### To the Editor,

On Monday, March 12, a very special friend was laid to rest. She was 47 years old. My friend's illness began as lung cancer and yes, she was a smoker. So was my Dad whom I lost almost 5½ years ago, also to lung cancer. He was 67. I know of several others who have experienced similar losses. I have been told that I don't understand and that I never will because I don't smoke. I happen to agree that I don't understand. I don't understand how we continue to lose people close to us, to this horrific disease and yet there are others, perhaps just as close to us who continue to smoke. If this letter will encourage ONE person to stop smoking, then something positive can come out of these tragic deaths.

**KIM M. MCMAHON**

### To the editor

*A Real Booster Success!*

The South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club **THANKS** the residents, business owners, players, coaches and parents of the community for their participation and generous contributions to our annual canning booster held March 29-31. **TOGETHER**, all contributed to a very successful fundraiser which will be used to subsidize the cost of uniforms, equipment and maintaining the playing facilities for the youth of South Plainfield.....the real winners of this fundraiser!

**JOHN A. STALLONE**  
CHAIRMAN - BOOSTER COM.  
SP JR. BASEBALL CLUB

### Letter to The Editor,

**HOW MUCH DOES A "FREE" SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER COST?**

Every time I read an article in the paper about South Plainfield's new "State of the Art" senior citizen center that will be built "FREE", to South Plainfield taxpayers, I become more infuriated by the total arrogance of our town councilmen who think that the taxpayers are so naive as to believe such a thing.

First, we have lost tax revenue on this property, so that is costing us something. Second, who will be paying for maintenance, utilities, insurance liability, etc.? Third, the town is taking over the old senior building; revenue is lost there. Fourth, how much money was spent to acquire this property?

When will it stop costing us money, is one of my many questions? I am not against the seniors having a center, but I am against bad planning. What price are we paying as taxpayers when we are in need of a new school and mechanical upgrades to our existing schools? Do you think that the resale value on our homes will be there if we have good and adequate schools or if we have a senior center? Where are our town councilmen's priorities? Why couldn't the senior center be included with the new senior housing that is being built?

Our town has made a deal with a developer that has put a burden on the residents that live in this town, by agreeing to allow this man to build a senior center "FREE." In reality, we all know that nothing is free and the taxpayer will bear the burden of additional taxes. We are in such desperate need of a new school, why didn't our town councilmen make a deal with the developer to help subsidize our school system that is now overcrowded, thanks to his building. We should make these developers responsible for helping correct the population impact that they cause on a community, not just to make a profit and run leaving the existing residents to take up the slack. I feel that our councilmen have sold us out.

Do you think that the seniors voted "YES" to the new school referendum? I doubt it, they didn't want their taxes raised. Well I don't want mine raised either, but if I had to choose between a new school and a new senior center my priorities would lie with the future of our children.

I would like to know where the money is going to come from to accommodate the senior center after it is built and the developer walks away. Maybe we should have had a senior center referendum vote!

Most nonprofit organizations have to beg for a meeting place in town. If the town is going to be responsible to maintain this building, then this building should be for the use of all the town's residents, not just a special group.

**NEVA JANKOSKI**

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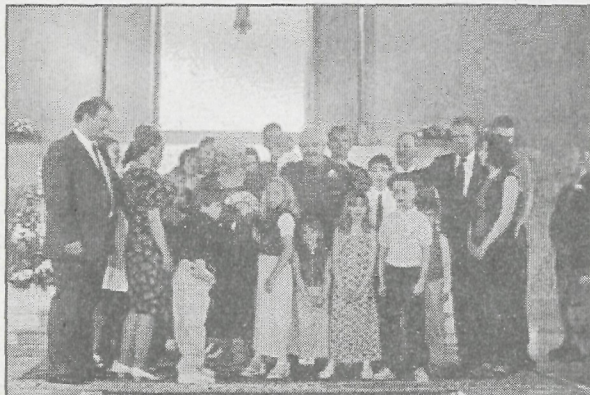
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## southplainfieldpeople

### Milestones

#### Stanley & Nancy Pauls Celebrate Their 50th Wedding Anniversary



Pictured above are the Pauls' with their children and grandchildren.

Last Saturday, Stanley and Nancy Pauls celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. The celebration began with them renewing their vows at Sacred Heart Church in the presence of their 10 children and 21 grandchildren, along with many other friends and relatives.

The entire wedding celebration was planned by the Pauls' children, Kathleen (Augustine), Robert, Connie (Wilcox), Steven, Samuel, Jeffrey, Anthony, Joanne, Judith (Blaha) and Jennifer (Bucey).

Their best man and maid of honor were the same as their wedding 50 years ago. They were Don and Alice Rita Schreffler.



Nancy and Stanley Pauls at their 50th anniversary celebration.

A wedding reception was held at the Willows. Music was provided by DJ, Mark Alcaro.

#### Costantino-Baskiewicz Announce Their Engagement

Karen and Vincent Costantino of South Plainfield, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Kimberly Dawn, to Jesse Anthony Baskiewicz of Piscataway. Mr. Baskiewicz is the son of Paula Baskiewicz also of Piscataway.

Kimberly Costantino is a graduate of South Plainfield High School and attended Middlesex County College. She is a customer service representative with Midco Residential Services in South Plainfield.

Anthony Baskiewicz is a graduate of Piscataway High School and earned a commercial drivers license from Smith & Solomon in Edison. He is a commercial driver with Midco Residential Services.



Kimberly Costantino and Anthony Baskiewicz.

A September 2002 wedding is planned at Sacred Heart Church.

#### Melissa Franzon Claims State Dance Championship

Melissa Franzon, a resident of South Plainfield is a New Jersey State Dance Champion. She is a student at Grant Central Sixth and has been dancing since age three.

On April 7, Melissa competed in the NJ State Dance Championship, held in Notre Dame High School in Lawrenceville. Melissa won the State Championship for her age by scoring High Score Platinum First Place for her Acro Dance *Dreams* and for her Duet/Trio dance *Cirque Calliope*. She earned High Score Gold First Place for her solo Lyrical Dance *The Sky Above the Roof*, small Junior Group *Castle Walls*, and Super Group *The Typewriter Song*. She won Platinum for Large Group *Look At the Freaks* and Small Group dances *Friendship Company* and *Scarborough Fair*.

On March 24, she participated in her first competition held at Monmouth University. She took

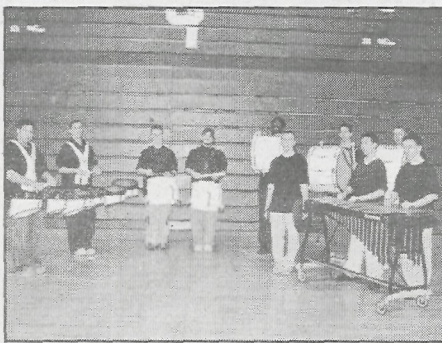


Melissa Franzon

High Score First Place and placed second with the Junior Lyrical Group.

Melissa dances with the Center for Creative Arts Studio located in Carteret, under the direction and teaching of Alicia Gastgeber and Michele Holowatch.

#### Colorguard and Percussion Place at Triton



The SPHS Winter Color Guard and Indoor Percussion recently entered the Triton Regional High School Indoor Percussion Ensemble and Free Spirit Color Guard Competition on Sunday, April 1.

The Winter Color Guard placed second in the Scholastic "A" division, with a score of 68.9, four points

higher than their previous score at Henderson High School. The 15 member color guard performed to "Limp" by Fiona Apple to a cheering audience, under the direction of Kathy Petrocelli and Mark Tweed.

The recently launched 11 member indoor percussion group placed second in their division of Standing Per-



cussion with a score of 71.4.

The squad is made up of three base drummers, three snare drummers, two quad players and three pit members and hopes to increase its membership for next year. The high school drum line is under the direction of Bob Publik and Charles Bubenick.

Submitted by Patricia Publik

#### Time to Build a Deck? Before You Begin—Read This!

By Wayne Grennier

Now that the weather is getting warmer and the odor of your neighbor's steak on the grill is drifting into your open screen door, you are beginning to think that maybe this is the year to build a deck.

In cooperation with South Plainfield's Building Department, the following may make this an enjoyable event, rather than one of frustration.

Before you start to order the lumber, the earth moving equipment and arrange for a deck building party (unfortunately), several items require your attention. Does the word PERMIT ring a bell—here is where the old proverb pays off, *Pay Now or Pay Later*. When you attempt to sell your home, about 30 days prior to closing, your home will be inspected by someone from the Borough and if the proper permits, inspections or variances were not obtained, I'll let your imagination take over as to what happens.

The following will help you achieve your goal sooner and you will have a safe deck for your family and friends to enjoy. It will be legal and you won't

encounter frustrations you don't need when you sell your home.

This summary is not intended to detail all the specifications which need to be met. Rather, it is intended to help you with the scope and planning of your deck. A visit to the Building Department at Borough Hall is time well spent. They will be happy to guide you through your project and avoid any hidden surprises. However, they will not design a deck for you.

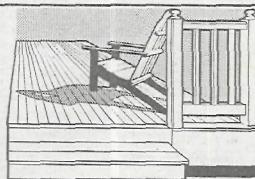
##### Deck Building Guidelines

###### A. Zoning

1. Provide a completed zoning application, along with a to-scale copy of your survey. (Be prepared to show proposed location of new deck)
2. Provide a completed Building Subcode application.
3. Two (2) sets of detailed drawings.
4. Utility reference number prior to digging. It is the homeowner/contractors responsibility to obtain this number by calling 1-800-272-1000.

###### B. Drawing Details

1. Show deck size: Length, width and height of deck above grade. Provide type of lumber.
2. Provide footing layout for deck



3. Provide column size and spacing. (4x4) Up to 6 feet and (6x6) over 6 feet.
4. Show size, length and direction of main girder over column support.
5. Show ledger attachment to house (If using ledger).
6. Show size, length and attachment of floor joists.
7. Show type of decking.
8. Guardrails: 36" minimum height above finished floor and less than 4" opening between balusters.
9. Graspable Handrails: 34" to 38" above leading edge of tread. Two handrails for stairways wider than 44".
10. Stairs Minimum width 36". Minimum tread depth 9". Maximum riser height 8 1/4". Minimum riser height is 4".
11. Estimated costs of deck \$10 per square foot.

##### C) Required Inspections (Call Building Inspector for each inspection before the next step.)

1. Footing Inspection
2. Framing Inspection
3. Final Inspection

Please note that if you are going to install electrical outlets on the deck another permit and inspection may be required.

#### Lynch Announces Property Tax Relief for So. Plainfield

Senator John A. Lynch has announced that under recently enacted legislation, residents of South Plainfield and neighboring towns will be receiving much-needed property tax relief.

"Property taxes are one of the most important issues facing New Jersey families and I was proud to vote in favor of this measure," said Senator Lynch (D-Middlesex). "The new law provides \$271,890 in property tax relief for South Plainfield."

The new law (P.L.2001, c.44) reduces the pension payments by government employers to the Police and Firemen's Retirement System this year from \$225 million to \$75 mil-

lion through a re-evaluation of the system's assets.

"The most impressive thing about this legislation is that the money must be spent on property tax relief," said Senator Lynch. "This means more money in resident's pockets. Property taxes are a long-term problem in New Jersey, but this measure provides some short-term relief while we look into the larger problem."

#### Affordable Housing Meeting Notice

There will be a meeting of the affordable Housing Agency of South Plainfield on Monday, April 30, 2001. This meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building, located at 2480 Plainfield Ave.

This is an open meeting and the public is invited to attend.

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# Around Town

## 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, (908) 757-9432 or Sharon Snogan, (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.

## 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 can not be donated. Anyone willing to bake for the sale is asked to sign up at the circulation desk.

## SP Business Association Looking for Golfers

May 1

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

The entry fee includes green fees and cart, continental breakfast, open bar, BBQ luncheon, and prizes.

If you would like to sign up to golf, contact Bob Longo at (908) 753-7004.

## Fund Raiser Pampered Chef Kitchen Show

May 7

On May 7, at 7:30 the Future Star Preschool Parents Group is Hosting a Pampered Chef Cooking With Kids Kitchen Show at Grant School on Cromwell Place South Plainfield.

For additional information, please call Pampered Chef Consultant Marie Markey at 908-755-3213.

## 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 The Lion King

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: spdeon@aol.com or racobb@epix.net.

## Elks to Hold Outdoor Chinese Auction

June 9

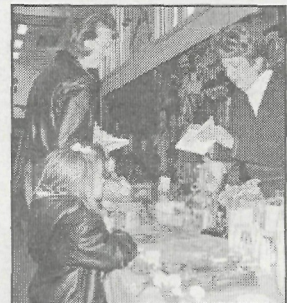
The South Plainfield Elks Club will be holding an outdoor Chinese



## Girls Scouts Flea Market Held Indoors

Kennedy Girl Scout Troop 14 recently held a flea market in the gym. The girls planned and organized the event with the help of their leaders.

The Flea Market was originally slated to be held outside, but wet weather forecasts for the entire weekend had the girls quickly rearrange plans. The flea market saw a steady flow of customers throughout the day.



## Auction on Saturday, June 9. Doors open at 1 p.m., auction starts at 3 p.m.

There will be plenty of food and refreshments available, including hot dogs and hamburgers cooked on the grill. Rain date is June 10.

Prizes include Diamond Club Mets, Yankee and Somerset Patriots tickets and many gift certificates. Admission is \$5. For ticket information call Lisa at (908) 668-9750.

## —Out of Town—

## 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.

## Philosophy and Theology Course

May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; June 7, 14, 21, 28

Searching for answers? Learn about philosophy and theology for ten weeks, starting April 26. This is a free event to be held at the Long Hill Chapel, 525 Shunpike Rd., Chatham. A buffet dinner and dessert will be served each night at 7 p.m., followed by a presentation and group discussion.

For more information, call (973) 377-2255, please reference course name of alpha.

## Rotary Club Sponsors "Taste of Piscataway"

May 7

The Piscataway Rotary Club invites everyone to participate in their First Annual "Taste of Piscataway" Fundraiser, to be held Monday, May 7, from 6-10 p.m., at the Embassy Suites in Piscataway.

## Tourettes Syndrome Support Group Meeting

May 10

The next meeting of the Tourette Syndrome Association Family Support Group of Middlesex/Union County will be held on Thursday, May 10, from 7:30-9:30 p.m., in the Neuroscience Institute of JFK Medical Center, 65 James St., Edison.

The topic "Using Multiple Intelligence to Help Children Learn" will be discussed. The speaker will be Suzanne Mouldovan of SPAN (Statewide Parent Advocacy Network, Inc.)

For more information, call Marilyn at (908) 757-5074, or Debbie after 6 p.m. at (732) 283-1439, or visit [www.tsanj.org](http://www.tsanj.org).

## Brainy Boro Antiques Show

May 12

The Metuchen Area Chamber of Commerce will be holding a Brainy Boro Antiques Show, on Saturday, May 10, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Presbyterian Church Social Center, Woodbridge Ave., Metuchen. Donations are \$3, and verbal appraisals are \$5 each, with a limit of 3 items. Food and beverage will be available, and the show features a variety of quality antiques. For more information, contact the Metuchen Area Chamber of Commerce at (732) 548-2964.

## McDonald's Presents Gospelfest 2001

May 20

McDonald's proudly presents McDonald's Gospelfest 2001: A Musical Odyssey, the 18th Annual celebration of one of African-American culture's greatest gifts to America. There will be a performance of this celebration on Sunday, May 20, at 4 p.m., held at the Union County Arts Center, 1601 Irving St., Rahway.

For ticket information and group scales, call toll free 1-877-771-7772 or visit the website at [www.mcdonaldsnymetro.com](http://www.mcdonaldsnymetro.com). Tickets can also be purchased by calling (732) 499-8226.

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**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.

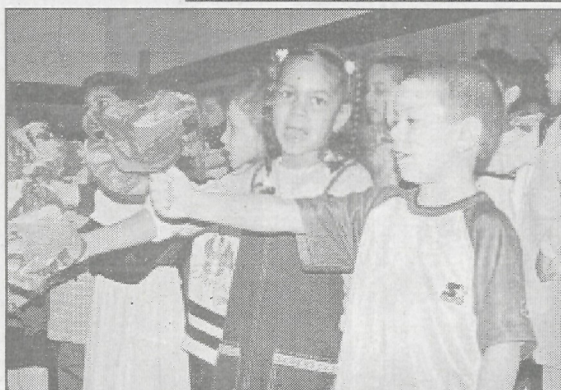
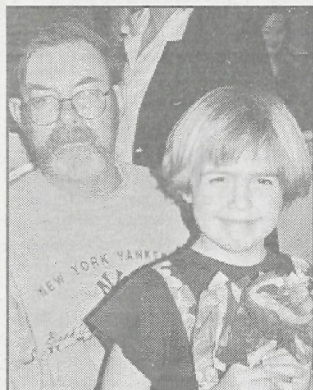
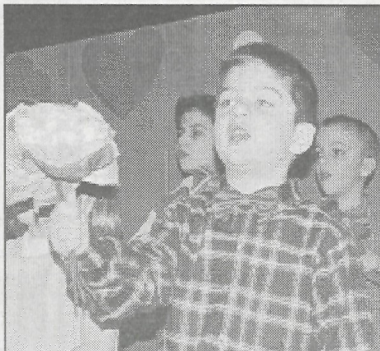
**SEND US YOUR PHOTOS.** If you have an event, take a photo, write a caption identifying the event and people and send it to us via mail. The best photos record action and don't include so many people that it is impossible to identify anyone. Please don't send us photocopies or laser prints. They don't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



## Grantparents Day Held at Roosevelt



From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

We've got another few days before April finishes up, so here's one last April column from the South Plainfield Library:

Here's a reminder about the Arbor Day program this afternoon at 3:30. The Friends of the Woods will be hosting a tree planting ceremony on the grounds between the Library and the Rescue Squad building. They'll also present information on trees and their conservation. Everyone is invited to attend.

Next week, we'll follow our normal schedule of children's Storytime programs. These programs are for children ages three and over; no pre-registration is required. Each Storytime lasts about an hour and features stories, music and a craft activity. They're held on Tuesday mornings at 10:30, Wednesday evenings at 6:30 and Thursday afternoons at 1:15. If you'd like more information, check with Children's Librarian Linda Hansen.

We've just added a whole bunch of new fiction books to our collection. The new titles include: *Stephen King, Sticks and Stones* by Diane Mott Davidson, *Looking Back* by Belva Plain, *On the Street Where You Live* by Mary Higgins Clark and *The Triumph of Katie Brown* by Barbara Taylor Bradford. There may be advance reserves on some of the new books, so be prepared to wait. We're also adding some new videos. New titles include *Gladiator*, the first season episodes of the hit series *The Sopranos*, the epic *Cleopatra* (on DVD) and, in the juvenile section, *Winning London* and *Or Lips Are Sealed*, both star-

ring the Olsen Twins. Videos and DVDs may be borrowed, four at a time, for two days.

Here's an advance word about a change in our schedule. At the last meeting of our Board of Trustees, they decided to change our summer hours on Saturdays. Starting in July, we'll be open normal hours (9 a.m.-5 p.m.) on Saturdays, rather than our half-day schedule of previous years. On the other hand, we'll still be closed on Sundays during the summer. Seasonal Sunday closings will begin on May 27.

Finally, here's an important announcement. There are two Public Access Computer (PAC) terminals installed in our Children's Room. They're set up to allow patrons to look up items in our catalog; one features the basic catalog display, while the other features the more colorful Kidcat program. Both terminals are very expensive and quite delicate. Now, we understand that children like to play with gadgets, but these computers are definitely NOT toys. If they want to play with toys, there's a large assortment of them in the Children's Room. Unless your children know how to use a computer, please keep them away from the terminals. And, even if they do, please keep a very close eye on them when they use it. Damage to these terminals could cause major problems with the rest of our computer system. This, in turn, will cause unnecessary headaches for our staff, followed by hefty fees for the youngsters' parents to cover repair costs. We really appreciate your help in this matter.

With that, we'll close things out for this week. Thanks for your attention. See you in May.

## Durham Ave. Widening is Slated to Begin

D.A. Spagna Construction has been awarded the contract to widen Durham Ave. from on Valley National Bank on Hamilton Blvd. to the Highlands apartment complex, at a cost of \$102,375. No South Plainfield contractors bid on this project.

The area to be widened is a heavily congested road, with vehicles trying to get to Route 287 and Hadley Blvd.

When completed Durham will have two lanes of traffic, instead of one, heading toward the entrance ramp to Rt. 287 at Hadley Blvd. That intersection was revamped a few years ago, but construction did not extend as far back as Hamilton Blvd.

## Parade Committee Accepting Grand Marshal Nominees

The Labor Day Committee is asking residents to send in nominations to this year's Labor Day Parade. The parade is scheduled for Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 3.

The festivities include a 5K run, a parade, activities and bands at Veterans Park all afternoon, and end with fireworks in Spring Lake Park.

If anyone knows an individual who they feel has contributed outstanding service to the community, they should send a letter stating the reason why this person should be considered for Grand Marshal.

Include the candidate's name, address and telephone number and send the nomination to John Sorrentino, 225 Hopkinson St., South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Email: jmsorrentino@home.com or fax (908) 753-4003.



Sitting from left are Arielle Armand, Meghan Murphy, Ernie Shallo, Ed Molina, Briant Colocho and Breeana Hatcher. Standing from left are Maria Munoz, Richard DeLeon, Mrs. Murphy, Tyler Walen, Mrs. Delvecchio holding Zachary, Danny Alligier, Wilfredo Rosado and Christopher Foulds.

## International Taste Fest is Held at Franklin School

An international taste fest was recently enjoyed by the children in Mrs. Stemmle's and Mrs. Furka's class in Franklin School. Culinary contributions prepared by the children's families included ravioli, tacos, kielbasa, appul kuchen, arpepas, turon, baked

ziti, and potato salad.

In preparation for the event the children had discussions about their native countries and made flags. Some multi-ethnic children were surprised to learn that four or five flags represented their roots.

## Middlesex Co. Sponsoring Free Backyard Composting Seminars

Middlesex County is sponsoring FREE Backyard Composting Seminars! Middlesex County residents will learn how to reduce waste and improve their soil by composting their yard waste and kitchen scraps right in their own backyards. The seminars will be held on Tuesday, May 15 at 7 p.m., Saturday, May 19 at 10 a.m., and Thursday, May 24 at 7 p.m.

Classes will run approximately 2 hours and will be held at the Cook College Agricultural Extension Education Conference Center on College Farm Road, Rutgers University. Pre-registration is required.

Through these classes, Middlesex County hopes to raise consumer awareness on the benefits of composting. Residents will learn the correct way to compost and how to prevent problems from occurring. Freeholder Camille Fenicola states, "By properly composting in their backyards, residents can help their environment and create a beneficial product for their

plants."

The Middlesex County Division of Solid Waste Management is sponsoring the Backyard Composting seminar. Virginia Lamb, former recycling coordinator for Monmouth County, will be the instructor. Ms. Lamb has extensive knowledge in composting and has taught numerous composting classes, including those for Monmouth and Ocean Counties.

Seminar attendees may also pick up pre-purchased compost bins at the seminar. Bins available for purchase include the Handy Composter (\$5 each), Earth Machine (\$25 each), and Home Composter (\$29.99 each). Purchase of a bin is optional. Again, there is no registration charge to just attend the classes.

To register for the classes or for further information about this opportunity, please call the Division of Solid Waste Management at 732-745-4170.

## Exchange Students Need Homes

Host families are being sought for 25 high school students from France, Germany, Belgium, Spain, Denmark and other foreign countries for the upcoming school year, in a program sponsored by the American International Youth Student Exchange Program (AIYSEP).

The students, age 15 through 18, will arrive late August, attend local high schools and return to their home country in June, next year.

The students, all fluent in English,

have been screened by school representatives in their home countries and will have spending money and medical insurance. Host families may deduct \$50 per month for income tax purposes.

If you are interested in hosting, contact the AIYSEP International Headquarters: Office of the Director, 200 Round Hill Rd., Tiburon, CA 94920; 1-800-347-7575. You may also visit our website: [www.aiysep.com](http://www.aiysep.com) or email [aiysep@aol.com](mailto:aiysep@aol.com).

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# Vision 2001 High School Business Education Forum Holds Two Sessions

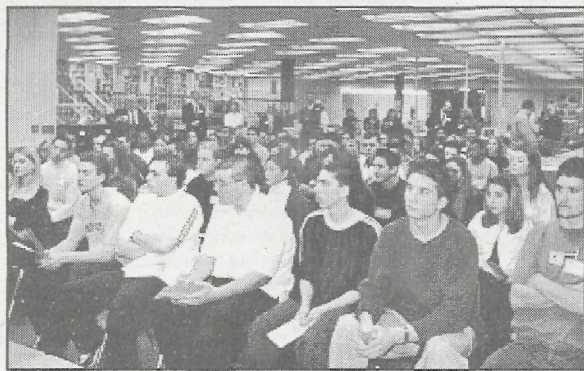


Every year for the past four years, the South Plainfield Vision 2001 Foundation, along with the South Plainfield High School Applied Technology and English Department have participated in a Business/Education Forum.

Businesses in South Plainfield send representatives to sit down and talk to the high school students and tell them what they want and need in employment. The students are also given an opportunity to ask business employers and women about their respective jobs.

This forum has become so popular that this year the morning session was not enough to handle all the students and employees who wanted to participate, so an afternoon session was added to the agenda. It also enabled some employers who were unable to attend a morning session to participate.

The morning group was attended by 19 business representatives and the afternoon session was attended by 15. The group represented a variety of occupations, such as chiropractor, architect, physical therapists, banking, real estate and funeral directors. Some owned their own business, others were the president or manager of their company. Each one had their own



prospective of what it takes to be successful in their field and explained what to look for when hiring or firing an employee.

The students were divided into groups, each had a group leader. They asked questions and were very interested to learn about the many diversified jobs out in the field.

The session was welcomed by Ken LaFreniere and Frank Mikorski, both serving as Vision 2001 Co-chairs.

Three students also gave a short welcome speech. (Pictured top left) During the morning session, Mike Lehman listed the scholarships, totaling over \$92,000, that the students

have already been awarded.

Christina DeStafano, who presently works at Central New Jersey cardiology as a medical records tech, explained how the cop-op program has helped her build an excellent resume, but to also ace her interviews. DeStafano will be attending a four year college for her bachelors degree of science. She also wants to get her masters in Sports Management.

David Penyak, who is employed at Twin City Pharmacy, explained how working helps students to further explore and choose a career. Penyak plans to attend New York University to pursue a career in film and broadcasting, after obtaining his associates degree at Brookdale Community College. Some of the examples he cited are Annette Papa, who wants to be an interior designer. She is already attending the Fashion Institute of Technology. Shannon Reagan is already training as a deaf education teacher and will be attending Kean University. Chris Paprcka is going to DeVry for electronics engineering technology and James Tanzola is going to Johnson & Wales to become a chef.

Afternoon session speakers were Kayo Daimo and Cathy Nguyen.

## Franklin School Plans Orientation

Franklin School will hold an orientation session for children and their parents on both Thursday, May 17 and Thursday, May 24 from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m.

Parents may register for one of the two dates during Kindergarten Registration on May 10 in the lobby at Franklin School. The program is open to students entering Franklin School Kindergarten in September, 2001.

If you have any questions, please call Suzanne Butrico at (908) 561-8128.

## Discounted Tickets Available at PAL

2001 discounted amusement park tickets are available at the PAL for Sesame Place, Hershey Park, Great Adventure-ThemePark, Great Adventure-WaterPark and Dorney Park. Purchase tickets at the PAL Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

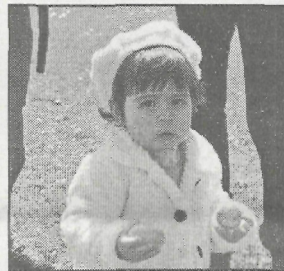


## Scenes From Annual PAL Easter Egg Hunt

By Patricia Abbott byline

Recreation's Annual Easter Egg hunt, coupled with a warm sunny day, brought a large crowd to the field behind the PAL. Parents and children lined the fence waiting for their age group to be called. The youngsters clutched bags and baskets as they impatiently eyed each group on the field. Some peered through the fencing while others had a bird's-eye view from their perch on dad's shoulders. While the youngest egg hunters had mom and dad to help them, age four and up had to make the dash alone.

Easter Bunny was on hand to greet children throughout the afternoon. Some children wore their Easter clothes, so mom and dad could snap a photo with the bunny. One enterprising child even made an Easter card for the bunny. Over 2,800 prizes were awarded to the nine age groups. Each child received a bag of candy, while those with special stickers on their eggs received a chocolate bunny. Each age group won a grand prize of a filled Easter basket.



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## Co-Operative Students Awarded \$92,975 in Scholarships

Continued from page 1

Aaron Blackwell, \$3,375 from Engine City Technology.

Tova Scott, \$1,000 from Somerset School of Massage Therapy.

Deseree McKernan, \$1,200 from European Academy of Cosmetology.

Shelly Jankowski, \$5,000 from Katherine Gibbs School.

Jesse Cortese, \$8,000 from Lincoln Tech-Architectural Mechanic Design.

Gary La Fontaine, \$8,000 from Lincoln Tech-Architectural Mechanic Design.

Brian Novajosky, \$7,000 from Lin-

coln Tech-Air Conditioning, Heating, Refrigeration Technology.

Paul Larish, \$5,300 from Teterboro School of Aeronautics.

Jeff Smith, \$2,500 from The Restaurant School of Philadelphia for Pastry Arts.

Ray Tomei, \$2,500 from The Restaurant School for Culinary Arts.

James Tanzola, \$2,500 The Restaurant School for Culinary Arts.

Chris Paprcka, \$18,500 from DeVry College of Technology for Electronic Engineering Technology.



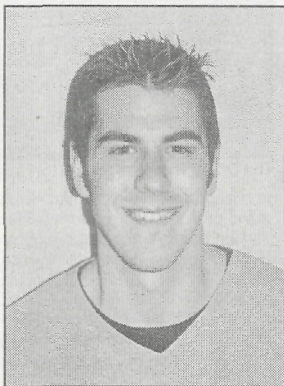
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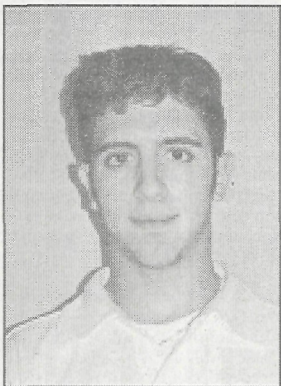
# Cast of Damn Yankees



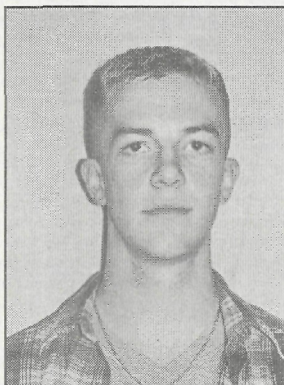
Joe Nicolay as Joe Boyd



Allison Provaire as Meg Boyd



Matt Pulomena as Joe Hardy



Tommy Doyon as Applegate



Kristyn Ciareliella as Lola



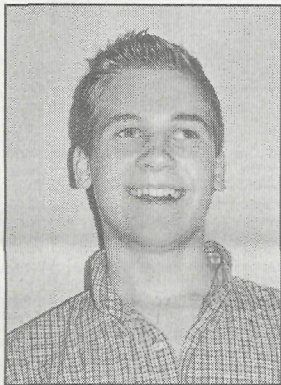
Mindy Kovascy as Sister Miller



Pam Cianfrocca as Doris Miller



Kristin Turner as Gloria Thorpe



Greg Publik as the Commissioner



WASHINGTON SENATORS: pictured standing are Danny Sierzega, Justin Woo, Dave Garatino, Chris Baron, Leo Campos, Wajdi Kanj, Chris Imbrosciano, Dave Allara; kneeling are Chris Abbott, Vinnie Carubia, Alex Tierney, Joe Rodriguez.

**SPHS Players production of Damn Yankees opens on Thursday, April 26 and runs until Saturday, April 28 at 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 (908) 754-4620**

## "Battle of the Books" Competition Held at SPMS

By Jeff Seesselberg

Over the past few months, SPMS students have been reading many books to prepare for the annual "Battle of the Books" competition. For those of you who haven't got a clue what the Battle of the Books is, it's a test of memory and speed. Participants read books from the list, and then answer questions about the books. Each team has 30 seconds to confer with each other and answer the question.

The school finals were last Friday. It was a tough race, but the winning team came through with flying colors, and a perfect score of 80 points. They will now be moving on to the state finals at Englishtown on May 4. We wish them much luck, and hope

that they bring home the gold.

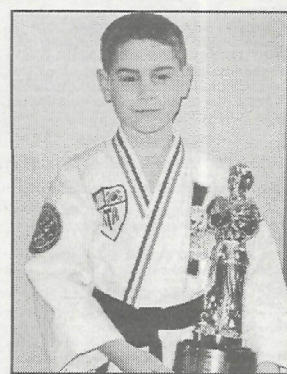
"Battle of the Books" first started as a program to encourage kids to read. Consequently, it worked. Kids these days love competition and being a student myself, I should know. Or maybe it's because the winners get a shopping spree at the Englishtown Mall.

Anyway, as I had mentioned before, the state finals are at Englishtown on May 4 and I hope that some of you will be able to be there to cheer on our South Plainfield teams. Until then, this is the guy with the scoop on what's happening at SPMS.

Jeff Seesselberg is not only a student at the Middle School, he was one of the students competing in the "battle of the Books." His team placed third in the competition. Great job Jeff!

## Michael McHugh Wins National Title in Las Vegas

On Saturday, April 7, Michael McHugh of South Plainfield competed in the American Tae Kwon Do Association's 2001 Spring Nationals in Las Vegas, Nevada. Michael competed against 14 other 8 year old first-degree black belts from all over the United States. Michael placed 4th in the Forms competition and 1st in the Sparring competition, winning all 5 of his matches. Michael has been studying Tae Kwon Do since he was four years old under the instruction of Mr. Vincent Raimondi, fifth-degree black belt and owner of "Park Karate for Kids" in Roselle Park, NJ. With this first place victory in Las Vegas, Michael hopes to get an invitation to the ATA's 2001 World



Championships held in June. Congratulations to Michael on his national accomplishment!

## South Plainfield Resident Will Perform This Sunday

South Plainfield resident Paul Di Dario will perform the Rachmaninoff Sonata #2 as part of Long Hill Music Center's Spring Concert Series. The concert, which showcases Di Dario and some of his former students who have gone on to become professional musicians, takes place at the Madison Baptist Church, 203 Green Ave. in Madison at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 29.

Di Dario's first CD, "Two-Part Creation: solo works for harpsichord and piano," was released last year. He received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in performance from the Juilliard School in New York City, studying under Sascha Gorodnitzki and Joseph Raieff. He has also taken additional studies under Harpsichordist's Kenneth Cooper and Charlotte Mattax. His solo performance highlights include appearances with the Summit Symphony,

Garden State Symphonic Band, and Metropolitan Opera Star Jerome Hines.

Di Dario is a certified teacher trainer in the Russian Technical Regimen for the Piano, a system of piano technique based on the Russian School, as well as a certified Suzuki piano instructor, receiving his Suzuki training at the School for Strings in New York City. He is the Executive Director of Long Hill Music Center, in Madison, New Jersey, a community school of the arts, which offers private lessons in various instruments to students of all ages, and Music Together®, a music and movement program for infants and toddlers.

Mr. Di Dario resides in South Plainfield with his wife, Linda and his daughter, Amylin. For more information about Di Dario's appearances or the Music Center, contact 973-377-7108.



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which was estab-  
lished in 1960.  
We specialize in all  
type's of roofing,  
residential and  
commercial.  
Please do not  
hesitate to call us."*





George Gray (left), of South Plainfield was the winner of the 50/50 held by the Rescue Squad Cadet Corp. at their Annual Easter Flower Sale. Also pictured are squad members Carly Yulick and Randy Petronck.

# Samptown—A Piece of South Plainfield History

By Larry Randolph

The intersection of Sampton and Clinton Avenues is not unlike many other intersections in South Plainfield. It is burdened by traffic and given little consideration by residents who hurry through it on their daily routines. But it is different in one respect: at this intersection there was once a town. Its name was Samptown and while most of its two hundred year existence was non-descript, for a brief few months Samptown played a role in the founding of our nation.

No one is quite sure when Samptown was settled. Sometimes referred to in early records as Waterville, it was near here that two men, Benjamin Clarke and Daniel McDaniel were engaged in operating a sawmill by 1683. By 1690, two mills were said to be operating near Samptown, probably a sawmill and a gristmill.

It is uncertain where the name Samptown came from. Legend has it that a wagon load of ground corn meal, known by its Indian name "somp," broke down while passing through the town. The wagon spilled its load all over the road and, from that incident, the town received its name. While this may be true, what is known is that by the year 1776, Samptown contained, perhaps, eight to ten houses, a cemetery, and a tavern. Located on the main road from Elizabeth to New Brunswick, it was a regular rest stop on the route of the Swift-Sure Stage Line running between those two cities.

Like other residents of the colony, the people of Samptown followed the growing rift between Great Britain and her American colonies. Although the signing of the Declaration of Independence was a cause for celebration, the joy turned to concern when a British army landed on Staten Island and Samptown's men were among those called up for militia duty and ordered to Perth Amboy and Woodbridge to guard the coast.

But the war did not really strike home until that fall when the American army, badly defeated in the battles around New York, began its retreat across New Jersey. On Nov. 30, 1776, that army, beaten and demoralized, marched through Samptown in a cold rain. The next day, the British arrived. A column composed of the 2nd Battalion of Light Infantry and elements of the 16th Regiment of Dragoons and a company of Hessian Kessel Jagers marched into town. They did not stay long. Ordered to join the main body of the British army at New Brunswick, Major Maitland, their commander, hurried his men forward toward the sound of cannon fire coming from New Brunswick.

As Washington retreated toward Trenton, the local men, their militia enlistments having expired, returned home to protect their families. Although it appeared that the revolution might be over, Washington surprised the British at Trenton and Princeton and the Americans once more took heart.

From Princeton, Washington fled with his army to the safety of the mountains surrounding Morristown, while the British settled into Perth Amboy, New Brunswick, and the villages of Bonhamtown and Piscatawaytown. To protect the approaches to Morristown, General Washington saw the need to establish a defensive line on the flatlands before the Watchung Mountains. The Bound Brook, rising in the Dismal Swamp north of Metuchen, and flowing west to join the Green Brook and empty into the Raritan River at Bound Brook provided such a line. Along the length of these streams, the only bridges between Metuchen and Bound Brook were at Samptown and its neighboring village of Quibbletown (New Market) one mile to the west. Whoever controlled these bridges, controlled all movement through the area.

Although British patrols moved through the area during the first two weeks of Jan. 1777, no resistance was met by American troops who occupied Samptown and Quibbletown on Jan. 13. Composed of some six hundred infantry from the 1st Connecticut Militia and the 8th Virginia Continentals, these troops wasted no time in sending out patrols to harass the British outposts along the Raritan River. Their commander, Colonel Charles Scott, was a tough, no nonsense officer who had orders to strip all the farms between the mountains and the Raritan River of food, forage, livestock and wagons. The American army desperately needed these items and the British were determined to seize these items before the Americans could get them. On a daily basis, patrols from both armies moved through the area, exchanging gunfire.

But the Americans were successful in gathering supplies. Short of transport, the garrison began to stockpile them in and near the two villages.

On Jan. 27, 600 British infantry, 50 Cavalry, and the Hessian Grenadier Battalion Linsing, marched from Raritan Landing. Led by 50 Hessians from the Kessel Co. of Jagers, their orders were



The Drake House on Sampton Ave.

to seize supplies stored in the vicinity of Samptown. Under command of British Gen. Leslie and Hessian Col. von Donop, these troops looted farms along present day New Brunswick Ave. and New Market Rd. The Americans put up a strong defense but were unable to stop the British column. Gen. Leslie reported that several men were killed and wounded on both sides.

On Feb. 8, the British returned. Over 6,000 men, almost one quarter of all British troops in New Jersey, were ordered to attack Quibbletown and capture the supplies the Americans had gathered and stored there. Under the command of Lord Cornwallis, these troops fought their way into the village against heavy American resistance. To relieve pressure on the attackers, Cornwallis ordered British Gen. Grant to drive toward Samptown with two regiments. Although Scott's men fought bravely, the British destroyed or carried off all the supplies that the Americans had managed to gather. 30 British Soldiers were killed and 30 were wounded. The Americans lost six killed, 20 wounded and six captured.

With the farms in the area stripped bare, both sides turned their attention to harassing each other's outposts. With the coming of spring Gen. Washington issued orders for his army to regroup. On the 16th of May, Col. Warner's men abandoned Samptown and Quibbletown. A British patrol made up of troops from the 42nd Royal Highland Regiment (Black Watch) and the 52nd Regiment of Foot entered Samptown on June 1, 1777 only to find the village deserted, its houses abandoned.

In an effort to draw Washington out of the mountains and into battle, Gen. Howe thrust the British army west of New Brunswick. Realizing the danger to his flank, he ordered Samptown be occupied. This was done by a company of the Coldstream Guards on or sometime after June 10. On June 20, a company of the Hessian Kessel Jagers reinforced with a light cannon relieved the Guards. It was the misfortune of these German mercenaries that at the time that they were marching into Samptown, Washington was issuing orders for its capture.

On the 21st of June, the Germans came under fire from riflemen in the surrounding fields and woods. This sniping lasted all day and through the night. The next day Americans from the division of General William Alexander, Lord Sterling attacked. The Hessians, under the command of Captain Johann Ewald, fought them off at a cost of two men badly wounded. But orders had been issued for a withdrawal to Perth Amboy. At dawn on the 23rd the Hessians marched off to Bonhamtown.

Washington wasted little time in moving forward with his army. In the days that followed, the main body moved into camp north of Quibbletown while some 8,000 soldiers from the divisions of Lord Sterling and General John Sullivan, under the overall command of Lord Sterling, moved through Samptown to take up positions in the eastern part of what is now South Plainfield. Intent on harassing the British retreat to Staten Island, Washington ordered units toward Perth Amboy.

On June 28, 1777, 16,000 British soldiers emerged from Perth Amboy and began marching in the direction of Samptown. At the junction of the Oak Tree and New Dover Roads in present day Edison Township, they turned north and smashed into the American left flank. Orders were given for a general retreat to the safety of the mountains near Bound Brook. All through that afternoon American units marched through Samptown going west to new positions at Middlebrook.

They were never to return. Although the war would go on for another six years, events had passed Samptown by. Gunfire was occasionally heard in the distance and on one occasion the local militia fought British cavalry at Quibbletown, but the armies would never again fight over Samptown.

Continued on page 12

## LEGAL NOTICES

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

#### ORDINANCE NO. 1565

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

Ordinance 1565 entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 169 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD ENTITLED "SOIL DEPOSITS" be adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, April 27, 2001 and that a public hearing be held on Thursday, May 10, 2001 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey.

#### ORDINANCE NO. 1565

##### Chapter 169A

##### Soil Deposits and Stockpiling

- 169A-1 Permit required; soil defined.
- 169A-2 Application; map required.
- 169A-3 Fee
- 169A-4 Method of Deposit.
- 169A-5 Use of streets.

##### 169A-1. Permit required; soil defined.

No person, company, firm or corporation shall deposit, permit or cause to be deposited within the limits of the Borough of South Plainfield soil in excess of fifteen (15) cubic yards from any premises unless and until a permit therefor has been issued by the Borough Engineer. No permit shall be issued unless and until all municipal taxes on the premises upon which the soil is to be deposited are paid. Said permits shall become void twelve (12) months after date of issuance. The stockpiling of soil shall be prohibited.

Soil is hereby defined as all unconsolidated mineral and organic material of whatever origin that overlies bedrock and can be readily excavated, and includes biologically stable organic material such as humus or compost.

##### 169A-2 Application; map required.

Any person, company, firm or corporation desiring to deposit soil onto premises located in the Borough of South Plainfield from other premises inside or outside of the Borough in excess of fifteen (15) cubic yards within any 12 month period, shall first file with the Borough Clerk an application for such deposit. Said application shall be signed by the person, company, firm or corporation intending to perform such deposit, and by the owner of the premises to which the soil is to be deposited, and shall be accompanied by a map of the premises to which the soil is to be deposited, showing the proposed quantity of soil to be deposited and where on the parcel same shall be deposited. The Borough Engineer may require additional information including but not limited to the proposed grades and existing topography in order to assure that the proposed deposit will not negatively impact the property upon which the soil is to be deposited or contiguous properties.

##### 169A-3 Fee

The following fee shall be paid to the Borough Clerk by the applicant at the time of application:

Quantity Deposited (cubic yards)	Fee
Less than 100	\$100.00
101-500	\$200.00
501-1,500	\$300.00
1,501 and over	\$400.00

A properly approved and properly signed permit must be in the possession of the person, company, firm or corporation desiring to deposit soil onto premises located in the Borough of South Plainfield before any work is commenced. A separate permit to remove soil from premises located in the Borough of South Plainfield must also be obtained in accordance with Chapter 169 of the Ordinances of the Borough of South Plainfield.

##### 169A-4 Method of Deposit

Any such operation shall be conducted so that the area shall be properly leveled off, cleared of debris and graded to conform to the approved grades for proper drainage.

##### 169A-5 Use of Streets

In the deposit of soil, only such streets within the Borough of South Plainfield shall be used for such transportation as may be designated for that purpose by the Borough Engineer, and such streets shall be kept free from soil resulting from such soil deposit.

If necessary, the applicant will be responsible to have the streets cleaned of any soil resulting from its transport.

Approved April 19, 2001

Mayor Daniel Gallagher

ATTEST:

Vincent Buttiglieri, Municipal Clerk

\$100.00 Friday, April 27, 2001

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

#### ORDINANCE NO. 1567

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

Ordinance 1567 entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 67 OF THE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED "ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES" be adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, April 27, 2001 and that a public hearing be held on Thursday, May 10, 2001 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey.

#### ORDINANCE NO. 1567

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 67 OF THE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED "ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES".

CHAPTER 67 of the Code of the Borough of South Plainfield is hereby amended by the addition of a new section 67-16 entitled possession, consumption of alcoholic beverages by persons under the legal age on private property; penalty, to read as follows:

67-16.1 Purpose: the purpose of this section is to provide for the enforcement of PL. 2000 c.33.

67-16.2 Definitions as used in this section:

"Guardian" means a person who has qualified as a guardian of the underage person pursuant to testamentary or court appointment.

"Relative" means the underage person's grandparent, aunt or uncle, sibling or any other person related by blood or affinity.

67-16.3 Possession, consumption of alcoholic beverages by person legal age on private property; penalty: Any person under the legal age to purchase alcoholic beverages who knowingly possesses without legal authority or who knowingly consumes any alcoholic beverage on private property shall be punished by a fine of \$250.00 for the first offense and \$350.00 for any subsequent offense. The court may, in addition to the fine authorized for this offense, suspend or postpone for six months the driving privilege of the defendant.

Upon the conviction of any person and the suspension or postponement of that persons driver's license, the court shall forward a report to the Division of Motor Vehicles stating the first and last day of the suspension or postponement period imposed by the court pursuant to this section. If a person at the time of the imposition of a sentence is less than 17 years of age, the period of license postponement, including suspension or postponement of the privilege of operating a motorized bicycle, shall commence on the day the sentence is imposed and shall run for a period of six months after the person reaches the age of 17 years.

If a person at the time of the imposition of a sentence has a valid driver's license issued by the State, the court shall immediately collect the license and forward it to the division along with the report. If for any reason the license cannot be collected, the court shall include in the report the complete name, address, date of birth, eye color and sex of the person, as well as the first and last date of the license suspension period imposed by the court.

The Court shall inform the person orally and in writing that if the person is convicted of operating a motor vehicle during the period of license suspension or postponement, the person shall be subject to the penalties set forth in R.S.39:3-40. A person shall be required to acknowledge receipt of the written notice in writing. Failure to receive a written notice or failure to acknowledge in writing the receipt of a written notice shall not be a defense to a subsequent charge of a violation of R.S.39:3-40.

The Court shall, of any person convicted under this section who is not a New Jersey resident, suspend or postpone, as appropriate, the non-resident driving privilege of the person based on the age of the person and submit to the division the required report. The court shall not collect the license of a non-resident convicted under this section. Upon receipt of a report by the court, the division shall notify the appropriate officials in the licensing jurisdiction of the suspension or postponement.

This section does not prohibit an underage person from consuming or possessing an alcoholic beverage in connection with a religious observance, ceremony, or rite or consuming or possessing an alcoholic beverage in the presence of and with the permission of a parent, guardian or relative who has attained the legal age to purchase and consume alcoholic beverages.

This section does not prohibit possession of alcoholic beverages by any such person while actually engaged in the performance of employment by a person who is licensed under Title 33 of the Revised Statutes, or while actively engaged in the preparation of food while enrolled in a culinary arts or hotel management program at a county vocational school or post secondary educational institution; however, no ordinance enacted pursuant to this section shall be construed to preclude the imposition of a penalty under this section, R.S.33:1-81, or any other section of law against a person who is convicted of unlawful alcoholic beverage activity on or at premises licensed for the sale of

alcoholic beverages.

#### Section II

All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

#### Section III

If any word, phrase, clause, section or provision of this ordinance shall be found by any Court of competent jurisdiction to be unenforceable, illegal or unconstitutional, such word, phrase, clause, section or provision shall be severable from the balance of the ordinance and the remainder of the ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

#### Section IV

This ordinance shall take effect after final passage and publication in accordance with the law.

Approved April 19, 2001

Mayor Daniel Gallagher

ATTEST:

Vincent Buttiglieri, Municipal Clerk

\$128.00 Friday, April 27, 2001

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

#### ORDINANCE NO. 1568

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

Ordinance 1568 entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #801 ENTITLED "ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, 1978" be adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, April 27, 2001 and that a public hearing be held on Thursday, May 10, 2001 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey.

#### ORDINANCE NO. 1568

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #801 ENTITLED "ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, 1978"

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Municipal Council of the Borough of South Plainfield that the "ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, 1978" be amended as follows:

Section 1. Article II, Definitions, is amended to add the following:

##### "69. Truck Stop:

Any building, premises, or land, in which or upon which a business, service or industry, involving the maintenance, servicing, washing, storage or repair of commercial vehicles is conducted, or rendered, including the dispensing of motor fuel or other petroleum products directly into motor vehicles, and the sale of accessories or equipment for trucks and similar commercial vehicles. A truck stop also may include overnight accommodations and restaurant facilities primarily for the use of truck crews."

##### "70. Truck Terminal:

An area and/or building where trucks load and unload cargo or freight, and where the cargo or freight may be broken down or aggregated into smaller or larger loads for transfer to other vehicles or modes of transportation. A truck terminal also may include an area for the storage or parking of trucks or trailers awaiting cargo, as well as facilities for servicing of trucks."

Section 2. Article V, General Regulations, shall be amended by adding the following paragraph at the end of this Article:

##### 519. Prohibited Uses:

In addition to the uses not permitted by paragraph 501, truck stops and truck terminals are expressly prohibited in every zone in the zoning ordinance.

Section 3. Article VII, is amended to delete the following:

709.1(D) (3) is hereby deleted in its entirety, as this language is now surplusage.

Section 4 - Severability. In the event that any portion of this Ordinance is held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other valid portions of the Ordinance.

Section 5 - Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage and publication, as provided by law.

[BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that a copy of this Ordinance be forwarded to the Middlesex County Planning Board.]

Approved April 19, 2001

Mayor Daniel Gallagher

ATTEST:

Vincent Buttiglieri, Municipal Clerk

\$80.00 Friday, April 27, 2001

Larry Randolph is an historian, archaeologist and South Plainfield Environmental Commission Chairma. 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.



# Sports



## Ponytail Softball Batters Box

By Sharon Miller

College Scholarships-Filing Deadline is 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 on 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. Try-outs 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 on 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. 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.

## Ponytail Softball Game Highlights

### "A" League

**Quick Check Defeats Carpet Bazaar 4-3 -- April 16**—With the help of strong pitching by Kathleen Morgan and Allia Ghanim and outstanding defensive plays by Kendall Green, Jayne Merlo, and Veronica Konya, Quick Check defeated Carpet Bazaar. Jessica Kizmann, Stephanie Stellakis, Allia Ghanim and Kathleen Morgan further contributed with great hits. It was a terrific game played well by both teams.

### "B" League

**Sportworld Defeats J.R. Builders 9-8-- April 17**—After trailing most of the game, pitcher Dorothy Cameron was able to hold down and allow Sportworld to take the lead as she struck out 10 batters along the way. Tiffany Roth's five hits and Kimberly Arki's four hits were a big contribution to this exciting game.

**J.G. Lanza Builders Defeats Thatcher & Lanza 6-5 -- April 18**—J.G. Lanza Builders pulled out a victory against Thatcher & Lanza. Julie Bosse struck out the side in the first inning to start the game. Lanza was behind 5-2 going into the last inning. Brandee Brown hit a triple to start off the final inning. On a good hit by Sara Holbrook and Kate Reichert scored the winning run with a slide into home.

**J.G. Lanza Builders Ties Sportworld 7-7 -- April 20**—J.G. Lanza Builders and Sportworld played an exciting game, which ended in a 7-7 tie. Jackie Miller pitched a steady game for Lanza Builders. Ashley Woodel, Alyssa Roibal and Erica Bowden, played outstanding defense. In the seventh inning, Michelle Pielhau got her first hit of the season to load the bases for Lanza Builders, but an equally strong Sportworld was able to prevent Lanza from winning the game. Congratulations to all the girls for a well-played game.

### "C" League

**Transway vs. Mohn's Florist -- April 14**—Playing their first softball game ever, Kaitlyn Zielski and Amber Scott had three hits each. Danielle Arcachunas's long grand slam and Jennifer Disch's pitching debut made for an exciting game. Contributing to their good game for Mohn's was Paige Herriott, Caitlin Herriott and Morgan Betha.

**Transway vs. Central Jersey Trucking -- April 16**—Amber Miller's two clutch hits and her good defensive play of the game sparked Transway. Lisa Alfano and Kelly McCormack had key hits to back Stephanie Desindio's fine pitching in a game dominated by terrific defense and pitching by both teams.

## Pop Warner Scholarship Available

Pop Warner has announced they are accepting applications for scholarship from this year's seniors.

The \$500 scholarships will be awarded to one boy and one girl.

To be eligible you must be a graduating senior at South Plainfield High

School and have participated in the South Plainfield Pop Warner Eagles Football or Cheerleading Program.

Applications and information on mailing can be obtained at the South Plainfield Guidance Office.

## Gift Certificates to Cornucopia Princess

The South Plainfield Historical Society has two gift certificates, each good for two tickets on the Brunch-Cruise on the "Cornucopia Princess." Each certificate sells for \$90, tax and gratuities included.

These certificates make good wed-

ding or anniversary gifts or can be exchanged towards evening cruise tickets by paying the difference in price.

For information or tickets, call Bill Tuthill 908-756-9654. Or send check or money order to P.O. Box 11 So. Plainfield, N.J., 07080 Bon Voyage!

## Ashnault Brothers Place Seventh at Ohio Tournament of Champions

Billy and Anthony Ashnault wrestled in Ohio last Saturday, April 21. Billy wrestled in the junior division at 73 pounds. Anthony wrestled in the bantam division at 40 pounds. This year there were a record 3,187 entries. The talent represented at Columbus Convention Center in Ohio represents some of the finest young wrestlers in the United States.

Billy won his first match with a 6-0 decision against Cody Rector from Ohio. His second match, against Johnston from Pa. went into sudden death overtime and Ashnault won 6-4. Billy's third match, in the quarter finals set him back with a loss against Jeffrey Pelton from Ohio. He fought back against wrestlers from New York and Indiana, winning seventh place in the tournament. There were 64 wrestlers in Billy's bucket.

Anthony, who has become known as the 'Little Firecracker' wrestled in the seven-year-old and under division. He was the youngest in the tournament, but that didn't stop him from winning his first match, against OJ Warner from Ohio, with a 4-2 decision. In his second match, he was defeated by a Pennsylvania wrestler. Anthony wrestled his way back, beating kids from West Virginia and New York for a seventh place finish.

By Tony Cassano



## juniorbaseballclubnotes

**ATTN. ALL PARENTS - SPJBC COMPLEX SAFETY**—As you know, our season is under way and games are being played every night and throughout the weekend. The SPJBC offers a safe environment for our kids to play ball and enjoy themselves when they are there watching their friends. It's important that we don't overlook the responsibility we have as parents when leaving or bringing our kids to the complex. Bikes, skateboards, rollerblades etc. are not allowed around the third base dugout of Field 3 or in the Snack Stand area. In addition, let's not forget that games are being played, while the fans/kids are left to hang out and socialize. Please remind your children about their behavior and what is expected of them when they are at the complex. This is your club and all kids and fans should feel safe when visiting. Please keep this in mind and should you see or hear of a problem that might jeopardize the safety of your child or the SPJBC complex, please feel free to see the 'Board Member on Duty' or contact me directly at the club.

**WORK DETAIL - THIS SATURDAY at 7 a.m. and SUNDAY at 9 a.m.**—Our standard scheduled weekend work details start at 7 a.m. on Saturdays and 9 a.m. on Sundays. Where very close to finishing several pre-season projects and need volunteers to finish them. If you have an hour or two, please come by on either day.

### UPCOMING EVENTS / IMPORTANT DATES

- May 3 — Women's Aux. Meeting (7:30 p.m. at the SPJBC Clubhouse)
- May 7 — General Membership Meeting (8:30 p.m. at the Clubhouse)
- May 7 — Raffle Distribution - ALL MANAGERS REQUIRED TO ATTEND MTG (8:30 p.m.) TO PICK UP RAFFLES
- May 13 — SPJBC Complex closed for Mothers Day
- May 19 — Casino Night -- Tickets are now on sale at \$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 (8:30pm 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 Caterpillar Simulator. For a cost of \$250 teams can play for 1½ 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 <http://members.aol.com/spjbc/spjbc.html> for information
- May 27 & 28 — 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.



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a lot  
going on...



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## Obituaries

### John Kuzma, 80

John Kuzma of South Plainfield, died on Saturday April 22, at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Hutka, Czechoslovakia, he came to the United States at the age of six. He grew up in Elizabeth and later resided in North Edison and Honolulu, Hawaii before moving back to New Jersey and settling in South Plainfield six years ago.

He was a licensed master plumber in New Jersey and Hawaii, as the owner/operator of John Kuzma Plumbing and Heating Co. of North Edison.

Mr. Kuzma served in the United States Merchant Marine Corp. during WWII. He was stationed aboard numerous vessels that traveled the infamously dangerous Northern Atlantic Run known as the "Murmansk Run" which was a supply route from New York to Russia. He was awarded a medal for his courageous action in duty.

He is predeceased by his son, Dr. Thomas J. Kuzma.

Surviving are his wife, Helen (Smarz); two daughters, Karen B. and her husband, Jim Baine of South Plainfield and Susan A. Kuzma of East Brunswick; a son, David P. of Hawaii and a brother, George of Georgia. Also surviving are his grandchildren, Emily Baine, Katherine Kuzma-Beck and Alexander Kuzma-Beck.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Memorial contributions may be made in his memory to Feed the Children c/o P.O. Box 36, Oklahoma City, OK, 73101-0036.

### Elsie M. Hipp, 84

Elsie M. Hipp, died on Friday April 20, at her home in South Bound Brook.

She was born and raised in Plainfield. She moved to South Plainfield where she raised her children, before later settling in South Bound Brook.

She had been employed by Somerset County where she worked in their Division of Records office.

Mrs. Hipp was a member of the South Bound Brook Senior Citizens Organization.

She is predeceased by her husband, Robert L. Hipp Sr., who died in 1963.

She is survived by a daughter, Nancy Gray; a son, Robert L. Hipp Jr.; three sisters; Lillian Battaglia, Catherine Hansen and Emma Bradson; a brother James Siegrist. She is also survived by her grandchildren Laura Hipp, Scott Harrington, Robert M. Hipp, Ryan Harrington, Rachael Gray and her great granddaughter Nicole Hipp. Also surviving are her many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### Irene C. (Golden) Indigo, 81

Irene C. (Golden) Indigo died on Monday, April 23, in Mt. Cannel Nursing Center, Mt. Carmel, Pa.

Born in Shamokin, Pa., she has resided in South Plainfield for most of her life.

Mrs. Indigo was employed as a payroll clerk for the Mayfair Supermarkets of Elizabeth for 37 years before retiring in 1985.

She was a member of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield.

Her husband, Louis Indigo, died in 1985.

Surviving are two brothers, William Golden of South Plainfield and Robert Golden of Shamokin, Pa. Also surviving are many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

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# Sports

## SPHS Lady Tigers are on the Prowl



The 2001 SPHS Varsity Girls Softball Team. Front row, Christine Strani, Mindy Kovacs, Kelly Eustice, Kelly Ritchey, Candace D'Aleo. Back row, Assistant Coach Laurie Matticola, Assistant Coach Leanne Roudi, Kimberly Bishop, Shannon Bishop, Meaghan Schweers, Danielle Schweers, Chiara Tomei and Head Coach Donald Panzarella.

By Debbie Bishop

When the Lady Tigers started their season April 2, 2001, it seemed that last year's Group II State Champions would have to do a lot of hard work to repeat their success. Much to everyone's delight, they have done just that! Their record, as of April 24, stands at 9-1.

Their first win was against Carteret by a score of 1-0. Kelly Ritchey had the winning RBI. Both teams played great defensive games, but South Plainfield came out on top.

Next they played Perth Amboy, and what a game it was. The score was 14-0. Hitting by the Lady Tigers was phenomenal. Kimberly Bishop had 3 hits and an RBI. Shannon Bishop and Danielle Schweers pitched in with 3 RBIs each. Kelly Ritchey and Candace D'Aleo contributed with 2 RBIs each. Christine Strani went 2 for 4. Mindy Kovacs and Meaghan Schweers also had key hits.

Watchung was next. They fell to South Plainfield by a score of 2-0. Both Kelly Ritchey and Meaghan Schweers had an RBI to clinch the win. Kelly Eustice went 2 for 3.

The first team to score a run against the Lady Tigers was J.F. Kennedy, but once again the Tigers, came out on top 6-3. Christine Strani, the team's pitcher, went 3 for 3 with 4 RBIs and 3 doubles. Shannon Bishop went 3 for 4, Kelly Ritchey went 2 for 3 and Chiara Tomei and Kimberly Bishop each contributed an RBI to secure the win for the team.

North Plainfield provided the Lady Tigers with another tight game, but they prevailed again with a 4-2 win. This game Danielle Schweers went 3 for 4 with an RBI. Kelly Eustice, Mindy Kovacs and Shannon Bishop each provided an RBI. It seemed as though the games were getting tougher and tougher, and the scores got tighter and tighter.

Then along came Colonia. Their starting pitcher got hurt prior to game day. Last year this was a hotly contested game, but this year it was a bit easier with a 12-2 victory. Kelly Eustice went 3 for 3 with an RBI. Danielle Schweers went 3 for 4 with 2 RBIs. Candace D'Aleo went 2 for 3 with 3 RBIs. Kimberly Bishop went 2 for 4 with 2 RBIs. Kelly Ritchey was 2 for 4. Chiara Tomei had 2 RBIs and Shannon Bishop and Meaghan Schweers each got an RBI.

One of South Plainfield's biggest rivals is Bishop Ahr. They provide some of the best competition in the county. This is always a game that can go either way with "real defense" playing a big part. Bishop Ahr scored a run in the first inning, but failed in other attempts, as the Tigers' great defense held them at each turn. A prime example was Kelly Eustice's diving catch in left field that saved the Tigers from impending doom. It seemed as though the Tigers were getting nowhere, when in the top of the fifth inning, Mindy Kovacs reached first on a single, followed by Shannon Bishop hitting a line drive up the middle, bringing home

Kavascy to tie the game at 1-1. A stalemate was in effect for the next two innings sending the game into extra innings. In the top of the eighth inning, South Plainfield was able to take the lead when Kelly Ritchey singled to right field, bringing Danielle Schweers home. The Tigers were able to keep their winning streak alive with a 2-1 win over Bishop Ahr.

The Tigers next had to face Carteret and this time luck was not on their side. Carteret always provides a great defense and it seemed that wherever the Tigers hit the ball, a Carteret player was there to field it. Chiara Tomei went 2 for 3 in this game. Carteret was able to shut out the Lady Tigers, handing them their first defeat with a 2-0 loss.

Playing Piscataway on Monday the Lady Tigers won 3-0. Christine Strani pitched a one hitter. Leading the hitters were Shannon Bishop who went 2 for 4, Kelly Ritchey who was 2 for 4 and Christine Strani who was 2 for 3.

Tuesday they won by 10-0 over Perth Amboy. Christine Strani pitched a one hitter and struck out seven. Leading the hitting were Kimberly Bishop who was 2 for 3, Kelly Eustice who was 1 for 2 with 2 RBIs and Christine Strani who went 2 for 3 with 2 RBIs.

The Tigers have a full week culminating this Saturday with a Tournament played home starting at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. They continue to have high expectations as they play a very competitive schedule.

## United Defeat Bridgewater in Tough Match

Soccer, as well as spring, got underway this past Sunday. With a three week break, the boys took on the visitors from Bridgewater. Suffering a bitter 1-0 loss to Watchung Hills at the Easter break. Bridgewater had the task of visiting a very well conditioned South Plainfield squad. It didn't take long for Chris Herbst to put South Plainfield ahead on free kick blast deep into the Bridgewater net. With Jared Jones also scoring on a corner kick. Closing up the first half was John Lopez on a breakaway. With a 3-0 half time score.

However Bridgewater wouldn't give up. Nevertheless, our defense once again proved to do what they had done the year before, and that was being tight and strong. With Anthony Moretti pulling balls out of the sky, Steve Dvorak making his outrageous slide tackles, veteran center back Trevor Rastelli leaving the Bridgewater strikers in his wake and the ever so calm Nick Baldassarre taking control.

The second half opened with a

Matt Fabino center down the right wing for the Lopez score. That opened the flood gates as Nick DiSimone led a pass to Lopez for another score. The show ended with Kevin Bolivar add-

ing two more goals and Lopez one more. Thus handing the visitors an 8-0 loss.

A FINE JOB WAS DONE BY ALL. GO UNITED!!!!

## Typhoons Continue to Roll

The Boys U11 Typhoon Soccer Team improved to a perfect 5-0 had another convincing victory on Sunday. The boys took their game on the road to the Montclair Vipers and came away with their third straight shutout 7-nil.

Six different players combined for the seven goals on a beautiful spring day in Northern Jersey. The defense once again held back the opposition with a combination of strength and speed. Halfbacks Dan Pompilio, Brandon Ullom and John Polizzano along with fullbacks J.R. Licato, Greg Watts and Keith Heckel kept the Vipers at bay, continuously thwarting any serious threats while Grey Coppi and Chris Pennisi split duty in the goal and prevented any shots from entering the net.

In what began as a quiet first half,

Brendan O'Shea scored the only two goals of the opening 35 minutes, off of assists from Brian Fabino and Eric Rovayo. However, the Typhoons came out in the second half and completely took over the game.

All cylinders were clicking as John Christ scored off another Fabino assist to go up 3-0. David Alston then assisted on the next two goals, one by Fabino and the other, a rocket off the foot of Matt Helgesen. Following a couple of near misses by Jonathan Marcoux and O'Shea, Steven Guevara got into the action, taking a John Christ pass for the sixth score and then Eric Rovayo finished the rout by scoring his first goal of the season and the 7-0 victory.

—Submitted by Jeff Marcoux



## Legal Notices

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

April 18, 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 17, 2001.

A. Case #6-01—Wesley United Methodist Church—Block 24; Lot 1; R-10 Zone, 1500 Plainfield Ave.—Applicant's request for a variance to replace their existing sign was hereby GRANTED.

B. Case #11-01—Patrick & Mary Muglia—Block 392; Lot 3, R-10 Zone; 199 Hopkinson St.—Applicant's request for a variance to install an above ground pool was hereby GRANTED.

C. Case #14-01—Phyllis Ortiz—Block 472; Lot 17; M-3 Zone, 322 Shevchenko Ave.—Applicant's request for a use variance and bulk variances to erect a second story addition, was hereby GRANTED.

D. Case #15-01—Alfred Adoma—Block 38, Lot 19, R7-5 Zone, 325 Clifford St.—Applicant's request for a variance to erect a second story addition was hereby GRANTED.

E. Case #17-01—Blaise McCarthy—Block 234; Lot 21; R7-5 Zone, 129 W. Nassau Ave.—Applicant's request for a variance to erect a wood deck was hereby GRANTED.

F. Case #37-00/S/V—Rescue House of Prayer—Block 296; Lot 1.01; M-3 Zone, 1921 Roosevelt Ave.—Applicant's request for use and bulk variances and site plan approval to erect an addition to their church was hereby GRANTED.

Janice J. Muccilli  
Secretary Zoning Board of Adjustment

\$38.00 1T April 27, 2001

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

#### ORDINANCE NO. 1566

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

Ordinance 1566 entitled: AN ORDINANCE REGULATING PARKING, STOPPING AND STANDING ON A PORTION OF GARDNER AVENUE IN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD be adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, April 27, 2001 and that a public hearing be held on Thursday, May 10, 2001 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey.

#### ORDINANCE NO. 1566

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING PARKING, STOPPING AND STANDING ON A PORTION OF GARDNER AVENUE IN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY,

- 1) It shall be unlawful for any person to park, stop or stand a vehicle at any time along either side of Gardner Avenue, from the intersection of the westerly side line of Clinton Avenue (80 feet wide) to its westerly terminus at Lot 36 of Block 472.

- 2) Appropriate signs will be posted indicating "No Stopping or Standing".

- 3) Any person or persons violating the provisions of this Ordinance shall upon conviction thereof, pay a fine of not more than fifty dollars (\$50.00).

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption and publication in accordance with New Jersey Law.

Approved April 19, 2001

Mayor Daniel Gallagher

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri, Municipal Clerk

\$45.00 Friday, April 27, 2001

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

#### MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

##### LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Ken & Inex Cavanagh requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the 24' x 38' 11" first floor addition; proposed addition lacks the required 8' side setback, 5.9' being proposed—proposed addition being proposed for a mother/daughter home, a use not permitted in the zone; and any other variances that may be required, said property being located on Block 161 Lot 14 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 27, 2001

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

#### MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

##### LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Richard Romano requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the erection of a 28' x 30' 4" second story addition, with a 2' cantilever; proposed addition lacks the required 30' front setback, 28.7' being proposed from cantilever & 28' being proposed from roof over porch; and any other variances that may be required, said property being located on Block 112 Lot 87 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 27, 2001

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

#### MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

##### LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Arthur Collazo requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the erection of a 20' x 21' addition over garage, proposed addition lacks the required 8' side setback, 1.5' being proposed; and any other variances that may be required, said property being located on Block 426 Lot 10 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on May 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 27, 2001

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

#### ORDINANCE NO. 1440M

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 1440 entitled: AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD AND THE METHOD OF PAYMENT OF SUCH COMPENSATION FOR THE YEAR 2001 was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Borough Council on Thursday April 19, 2001 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

Vincent Buttiglieri, Municipal Clerk

\$15.00 Friday, April 27, 2001

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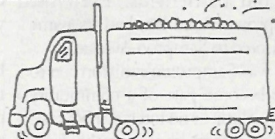
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## Autism Awareness Program Huge Success

By Patricia Abbott

In honor of Autism Awareness Month Jo-Ann's Dance Studio and Feigley's School of Gymnastics recently presented "Art of Dance and Gymnastics." The program featured Le Centre Dance Ensemble, the studio's elite dance company and members of the Bridgettes Gymnastics team. The goal was to raise awareness of autism by providing the public with information about autism and what can be done for children diagnosed with this disorder. The program exceeded expectations with close to 300 people in attendance.

The project was a labor of love for studio Artistic Director Tara Faulkner-Catalina. Tara's son Alexander, almost four-years-old, was diagnosed with autism at age two. Tara envisioned a program that would bring the community together for the purpose of learning about autism and supporting awareness of this disorder. Utilizing the talents of Le Centre Dance Ensemble and the Bridgettes, coupled with the informative video of autistic children in a learning environment, Terra opened many eyes to autism.

The evening opened with a film documentary presented by Rutgers Prep student Steve Montanino. Steve took his camera into Alexander's class of five autistic preschool children, taught by Linda DiDario. The resulting video footage shed light on a disorder that is confusing and often misunderstood. Jo-Ann described it as "A beautiful and very 'real' presentation on 'the faces of autism'." Teacher Linda DiDario was in attendance, along with Marion Crino, Alex's home tutor and the two teachers aids from his classroom, Sheri Butrico and Donna Rowlands. DiDario was presented with personalized trophies to distribute to the students in the autism class. These trophies were made and donated by Donna Hanley, Board of Ed President Frank Mikorski and BOE member Dawn Jefferys also attended and gave their whole hearted support to this project. Also on hand was BOE candidate Chris Sienkiewski.

Driven by first-hand knowledge of the faces of autism and the need to inform the public, Tara set to work. The event took five weeks to prepare. Tara noted that her parents helped her with a great many of the details such as flyers, permits and soliciting local businesses. They guided me in the right directions to make it a success. Tara spent a lot of time organizing, producing and directing, in addition to the choreographing. "The choreography was the easiest part, because that is what comes naturally to me. The girls in the company worked many hours to perfect their routines. The dancers and the gymnasts did not have a full run-through together until an hour before the show because they were at their state competition on the day of the dress rehearsal. That was probably the most nerve wracking for me! I was extremely proud of the results," she explained. Tara also performed in The Art of Dance and Gymnastics.

Supporting the project 100% was Jo-Ann Faulkner, Studio Director and doting grandmother to Alex. Jo-Ann spoke enthusiastically about the evening. "We will be sending a check to COSAC (Community Outreach and Services for the Autism Community) for \$3,000. I was so very happy with the turnout and with the contributions, but most important was the awareness that was brought to the community and the way the community came out in support of this cause that is so near and dear to my heart. Hopefully we can do it again next year with a goal of perhaps \$5,000!"

Dancers from Le Centre Dance Studio were: Melinda Agostino, Christina Amato, Cherilyn Biggins, Shannon Clegg, April Dever, Tammy Dombrowski, Melanie Foscolo, Christina Furka, Melissa Harrah, Cara Hinton, Stefanie Miller, Jillian Nemeth, Heather Pedersen, Michelle Puskas, Stephanie Prybella, Megan Pulomena, Jennifer Rayho, Shari Sangster, Samantha Staats, Amanda Stirling, Nicole Sutherland, Rachel Tambone, Jenae Washington.

Gymnasts from Feigley's School of Gymnastics were: Michael Colucci,

Sarah Brooks, Jessica Davidson, Megan Donnelly, Elizabeth Floyd, Valentina Gordon, Jenna Hamer, Lauren McMahon, Caitlin Miller, Lyndsey Nakonech, Valerie Ody, Elisa Salvemini, Megan Sattler, Jahni Stasil, Larissa Stuckey.

The program had a special visitor in the audience, a representative of the NJ Performing Arts Centre in Newark (NJPAC). Le Centre Dance Ensemble will be performing at the theater by special invitation. Along with two other student dance companies, they will present seven performances from May 9 through May 12, as part of NJPAC's student dance series. The program is called *Dance Jam* and is under the Artistic Direction of Tara Faulkner-Catalina. The NJPAC representative attended the benefit performance in support of this project.

## Dealing With a Child Who Has Autism

By Patricia Abbott

Autism is a much misunderstood disorder that afflicts affects 2 to 5 out of every 10,000 children. It's not a disease and not a form of mental retardation, there is no single defined list of symptoms. Autism is often referred to as a *spectrum disorder*, a disorder in which symptoms can occur in any combination and with varying degrees of severity. It is four to five times more common in males than in females and often appears before the age of three. Autism severely impairs development of a person's ability to communicate, interact with other people, and maintain normal contact with the outside world. What are normal sensory reactions to sights, sounds, smells and touch often become sensory overload to an autistic person causing explosive responses. Routine is often the only safe port from this sensory storm. The autistic child may remove themselves into a world where outside distractions do not seem to exist, where repetition is often a safety net.

Tara Faulkner-Catalina is the mother of two children, Drew, 6 and Alexander 3½. When Alex was 2½, he was diagnosed with Autism. Alex was the inspiration and the guiding force for a recent Autism Awareness Benefit, which was a combined effort between Jo-Ann's Dance Studio and Feigley's School of Gymnastics, to shed light into the world of autism. Alex's disorder is one that affects not just his life, but his family's and all those around him, including the young dancers under Tara's tutelage.

Tara's definition is hard to comprehend as a lifestyle, but her words make it a bit easier to understand. She explained, "We have had to learn how to always expect the unexpected. Alex can break into a fit at almost any time, anywhere. Since he has sensory difficulties as a result of the autism, any unfamiliar sound, flicker of light, or

## Council Receives Update On Hamilton Industrial Site

Continued from page 1

underlying the Superfund Redevelopment Initiative at Hamilton Industrial Park."

Over the next several months, redevelopment planning considerations will be incorporated into the environmental studies for the site so that the selected remedy is consistent with future commercial/industrial reuse.

In connection with these efforts, the Borough Council passed a resolution authorizing the South Plainfield Planning Board to begin studying the feasibility of creating a formal redevelopment plan for the

Hamilton Industrial Park area. The goal of the plan is to support the cleanup/redevelopment process by enabling the community to apply for grants and other forms of assistance that will enhance the surrounding area, including street and traffic improvements along Hamilton Boulevard. To support the process, Cornell-Dubilier Electronics, Inc. and Dana Corporation agreed to fund the redevelopment feasibility study.

With the resolution having been approved, the Borough's planner, Lester Nebenzahl, will be conducting the study.

## policereport

• On Monday a Cabray Ct. women reported checks missing from her checkbook. Upon relocating here from Texas, she remembers her purse being left unattended while the moving men were in both residences.

• John Coppola of JAFCO, So. Clinton Ave., was notified by the Fraud Review Dept. of First Union Bank regarding discrepancies on a check they received. The amount was \$1,400 and cashed at Household Bank in Illinois. First Union Bank refuses to pay out on the check.

• A Clinton Ave. resident reported a living room storm window had been pushed up. An unidentified man had been seen during the previous week in the backyard and smoked cigarettes were found underneath the window.

• On April 20, a Plainfield man was

arrested for shoplifting \$232 of assorted items from the A&P.

• A Somerset man was arrested for shoplifting batteries and razors from K-Mart.

• On April 19, Airborne Express on New Durham Rd. reported the theft of a Dell Computer. The computer was in the process of being shipped from Dell Computer in Texas to a business in Bridgewater. The computer made it into the building to be scanned in, but never made it to the intended driver for delivery.

• On April 19, an Avenel women reported her purse being stolen at McDonald's on Oak Tree Ave. After leaving the restaurant she realized she didn't have her purse and when she went back it was gone from the chair it was left on.



Tara and husband Michael with sons, Alexander and Drew.

distasteful food can send his senses into overload, causing either a tantrum, where he can hurt himself or someone else, or it could cause a seizure. We've had a few of these. I guess you can say that life is very "unpredictable" in our house and we try to go with the flow when we can."

Fate played a hand in the year since Alex was diagnosed. At one point, they realized they needed a private tutor for Alex. A parent of one of the studio's dancers heard and recommended a neighbor Marion Crino, who was a teacher of autistic children. Jo-Ann contacted her and she turned out to be a former student of Jo-Ann's from the early days of the studio. Both were amazed to be reunited.

Alex attends a class for autistic children 5 days a week. The class, housed at Grant School, is taught by Linda DiDario of South Plainfield. Marion Crino, also of South Plainfield, tutors Alex at home after school approximately three hours a week. During these sessions, Marion reinforces the things that Alex learns in school. She also works with him on everyday skills that come naturally to other children such as home behaviors and self-help skills. She brings big brother Drew into the picture on how to play with Alex under her supervision.

Most of Tara's Le Centre dancers

have been around both of her children since they were born. She has watched them form some very close bonds with the boys. Last year she told the company of Alex's diagnosis of Autism. Tara noted it was an emotional experience, "I watched as many of them broke into silent tears. This was a very defining moment in my life. I realized that these girls cared so much about me and my family, that what hurt me, affected them as well. They have all since learned how to deal with Alex when he is at the studio, and I even use two of the girls as my boy's babysitters. It amazes me to watch them pull together for such a cause. I have never been so proud of them. I hope they know that!"

Despite how much Tara and her husband Michael wish they could take Alex's autism away and give him the normal life of a preschool child. They see something special brought to the family. Tara said, "I do feel very blessed to have him in my life. My husband and I always say that God must have a special plan for Alex and our family because we have never experienced such fulfillment in life. With all the ups and downs, all the bad days and good days, we would not change a thing. We truly learn more from Alex than we could ever teach him. We truly live with the face of an angel."

## Samptown History

Continued from page 8

Residents returned, repaired the damage to their property, and life went on. By 1834 Samptown could boast of containing ten or twelve houses, a Baptist church, a tavern, and a general store.

It was not to last. The stage line stopped running in the early 1800's and the tavern and general store closed before the middle of the century. In 1872, the railroad by-passed Samptown and built its station in the neighboring village of New Brooklyn. In 1879, the Baptists did the same with their new church. As people moved away, houses were torn down. But the memory of the war was preserved in generations of South

Plainfield children who were put to bed with the admonition: "Close your eyes, lie real still, and you can hear the soldiers marching on the Samptown Road."

Today, all that remains of Samptown is the old tavern; now a dwelling, the cemetery, and the occasional musket ball found on one of the old battlefields. Even the Samptown Road has had its name corrupted to Sampson Avenue.

It was Samptown's misfortune to have become part of a community that has little or no interest in its past. For that reason, its memory has been consigned to a few pages in a dusty history book and the ghosts of the soldiers who fought and died there. Pity.