

# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 4, NO. 40

50 CENTS

JUNE 8, 2001

## So. 9th Street Property Cleaned-Up

The property on South 9th Street was quickly cleaned up as soon as the problem was brought to the attention of the homeowners. The *Observer* recently published a story on the rate problem after several neighbors asked the mayor and council's help in cleaning up the debris left on the side of the house. The debris was placed there by firefighters while fighting a fire, which destroyed their home.

According to the owners of the property, they were unaware that anyone was trying to get in touch with them and never knew there was a problem. They both were hospitalized for a short while after the fire, suffering from stress and heart problems.

The homeowners also expressed displeasure with our story that one reason the property had not been cleaned up, was that they were going through a divorce. Actually the wife was divorced many years ago, but is happily married at the present time.

Their insurance claim however, is presently under litigation and is delaying repairs to the home.

## Rescue Squad Open House Saturday

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad is planning an open house this Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the rescue building on Plainfield Ave.

This is a great opportunity for South Plainfield residents to find out just what a volunteer rescue squad is all about, including their training, the vehicles and equipment they use everyday when coming to the aid of those in need.

Demonstrations will be held on first aid, CPR, the automated external defibrillation and an extrication. During the demonstration a vehicle will be literally taken apart in order to extricate a victim after a car crash.

There will also be ambulance tours, a blood pressure screening and a child car seat safety check.

There will be plenty of hot dogs, popcorn and cotton candy for the visitors. Everyone is invited to come out and meet our all volunteer rescue squad members.

## OLC Feast of St. Anthony Runs Through Saturday

Our Lady of Czestochowa, located on Hamilton Blvd. is holding their Annual Feast of St. Anthony through Saturday evening.

This year's theme is "Rain or Shine, you can dine." Two large circus tents are in place to give relief from the sun and protection from the rain.



The 2001 Hall of Fame Candidates are: standing (l to r) Dr. Thomas G. Klukoski, Pio Pennisi, Philip J. Aiello, Sr. and John Patrick Santoro; sitting are Patricia Abbott and Al Ranger's wife, Audrea.

## Six Hall of Fame Candidates are Inducted

The six 2001 Hall of Fame candidates were honored on Wednesday with a lunch at the Holiday Inn and at ceremonies that even at the high school, during the academic awards. This year's Hall of Fame Candidates are Patricia Abbott, Philip J. Aiello, Sr., Dr. Thomas G. Klukoski, Pio Pennisi, John Patrick Santoro and the late Alfred H. Ranger.

The "Hall of Fame" was established at South Plainfield High School in 1995, to honor graduates for their achievements in business, government, academia, community service and the humanities. Acknowledging these successful graduates recognizes them as leaders in their field and also provides our current high school students with positive role models from their own community.

A plaque, with their name and picture will be placed on the wall at the entrance of South Plainfield High School, along with the many who received the honor in the past.

Patricia Abbott, has been the *Observer's* writer and photographer for more than three years. Pattie is also a 25-year member of the Summer Drama Workshop, and a combined eight years with the Franklin and Roosevelt Drama Clubs, teaching and directing productions with students. Pattie graduated SPHS in 1976 and lives in South Plainfield with her son Christopher.

Philip J. Aiello, Sr., was a postal employee for 32 years and while working there received numerous awards. Phil is a 27-year member of the South Plainfield Jr. Baseball Club, as coach, serving on committees and administrative positions. He was appointed a Life Member in 1992 and the baseball club is named after him. Phil, a 1963 SPHS graduate lives in South Plainfield. He is married and has two sons.

Dr. Thomas G. Klukoski has served as a ring physician for Golden Gloves Boxing fundraisers. Dr.

Klukoski was co-captain of the football, basketball and baseball teams while at South Plainfield High and was the most valuable player on each team as a senior. He graduated SPHS in 1985. His medical offices are located in South Plainfield and Cranford. Dr. Klukoski lives in Piscataway.

Pio Pennisi is presently the Dunellen Middle School principal. He was just elected to the Board of Education. He previously served on the BOE in 1990-1992 and 1994-1996, serving as president in 1995 and vice president in 1996. He is a member of the Junior Baseball Club and the Traveling Soccer Club. Pio lives in South Plainfield with his wife, Lynn and children, Kelly, 17 and Christopher, 11.

Alfred H. Ranger, a native of South Plainfield, attended North Plainfield High School; because at that time we

had no high school. In 1952 he taught biology at South Plainfield High School, beginning his 37-year career in the district. Ranger was the SPHS wrestling coach for 23 years, amassing 20-years of winning seasons. He died in 1997, leaving behind his wife Audrea, three children and three grandchildren, who are all students in the South Plainfield School District.

John Patrick Santoro is Executive Director, Leadership Communications at Pfizer Inc. John graduated from Sacred Heart School in 1967 and SPHS in 1971. He earned his Eagle Scout Award in 1971 while in Troop 24. His volunteer work includes the United Way of Morris County, Boy Scouts of America, Christian Children's Fund and St. Joseph's of Yorkville. John lives in Morristown with his wife Pam and son Michael.

## Dr. Krewer Shares His Visions for the Future

Superintendent of Schools Dr. John Krewer shared some of his thoughts on what he would like to see in the future in the South Plainfield school district.

Krewer has distributed a letter which lays out some of his visions, ideas, goals and challenges.

Surveys have been sent to students, alumni, staff and the public at large in order to get more input our the districts needs.

Since coming to the district, he has attended many functions including, Heritage Day festivities at the high school, the production of *Damn Yankees*, inductee ceremonies for the Honor Society, Future Stars and Adult School graduations and the Hall of Fame ceremonies. He also attended the awards luncheon for the seven teachers who were honored by this years Governor's Teachers Recognition Program.

Krewer explained that he has a vision for the future of our school district, but needs more input from teachers and parents. He wants to provide a curriculum that challenges all learners and includes not just some students, but every student.

He said there are only two directions a district take — improving or declining — if you are not improving, you are declining. He reminded everyone that we must teach the whole child.

He is meeting with staff members, with teaches on a volunteer basis to find out what common needs they all have and discuss what direction the district should be taking in the future.

His vision includes teachers, staff and students working together, in a learning environment.

## South Plainfield Police Will Be Pedaling Bikes

The South Plainfield Police Department has decided to initiate police bicycle patrols. Police Officer David Franchak will be the first officer to assume the responsibility of routine bicycle patrols. He recently completed a 40-hour block of training on police bicycle techniques and has been issued related equipment.

On Wednesday, the Police Department received a new fully equipped "2001 Cannondale Police Mountain Bike" from the Neumann Foundation at a ceremony at the John H. Stamler Police Academy.

The Neumann Foundation is a non-profit organization established in memory of fallen Essex County Police Officer Keith Neumann, who was killed during a pre-dawn drug raid in 1989.

The new bike is fully equipped with everything the Bike Officer will need while on patrol, including safety and comfort features. The mountain bike is valued at \$1,300.



Pictured with the newly donated 2001 Cannondale Police Mountain Bike from The Neumann Foundation are Police Officers David Franchek and Chuck Siedenburgh, along with Police Chief Robert Merkler.



## 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, June 18 ..... Thursday, June 21

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

### planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month

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

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

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.

### siteplace sub-committees

The fourth Thursday of the month as follows:

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

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

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, June 12, 7 p.m., Regular Board Mtg., June 19, 8 p.m.

July -- No Meetings

### 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  
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 spobserver.com or ggnan@aol.com or ngrennie@ix.netcom.com. Include your name, address, telephone number.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

## Carnival Held at Pilgrim Covenant



Children attending Pilgrim Covenant pre-school enjoyed a carnival at their school recently. The carnival included a Moon Walk, face painting, tattoos, a balloon toss, fishing pool, spin art, sand art, bean bag toss and many other games.

## In My Opinion

### Pop Warner Parents

Welcome to the 2001 Eagles Football Season! Your Pop Warner Board of Directors has been working since January preparing to have everything ready to kick-off our season on August 1.

The National Pop Warner Organization was established to teach safety, fun, pride and teamwork to our youth. I am pleased to make you aware that your local Pop Warner Board has incorporated some changes to our administrative process to ensure fairness and an equal opportunity to everyone interested in participating in our organization. Some of these changes included a numbered registration process; limiting squad/team sizes to ensure the safety of all the children involved; updating our organizational by-laws; formalizing rules and regulations for our coaching staff end participants; holding pre-season meetings with all of the coaching staffs; ensuring that one coach/commissioner from each squad/team will be present at each monthly Board meeting to offer input and raise any concerns and trying some new fundraising ideas.

In order to make this organization a success we need the help of EVERY FAMILY. We ask that each parent or guardian help to ensure our children have a wonderful and safe experience and to let their children know that they have your support. Please plan to attend all your children's games and cheer them on from the sidelines.

As in the past, we are fortunate to have many of our excellent, dedicated, seasoned coaches and commissioners return again this year. We also continue to add new coaches and Board members to the organization to ensure we receive fresh ideas and prepare new leaders for future seasons. Currently the Board has a vacancy in two positions; Secretary and Social Chairperson. I ask that anyone interested in fulfilling either of these positions contact me or leave a message on the telephone at the field house as soon as possible.

Also enclosed in this mailing is important information concerning a FREE preseason athletic screening by

Pro-Care Physical Therapy being held at the Fieldhouse on Saturday, June 16. We have also included a page with some other important information concerning the upcoming season and a list of the 2001 Board members.

Please know that we welcome your direct communication with us and we care about your opinions and any concerns you may have. We encourage you to attend our General Membership Meetings, which are held on the third Thursday of every month at 8:00 p.m. at the field house. We wish you and your family a fun and safe summer and look forward to seeing everyone on the opening day of practice, August 1.

**SINCERELY,  
ROBERT JENKIN  
PRESIDENT**

### To the Editor,

The John E. Riley P.T.S.O. would like to thank South Plainfield resident Scott Mackenzie, owner of C.K.L. Pest Control, for his continued support of our playground committee. This spring the playground fund received a \$400 check from C.K.L. Pest Control. Since 1998 the company has donated \$1,000 to the playground committee in an effort to help with the purchase of future playground equipment. Mr. Mackenzie would like to urge other South Plainfield business owners to help support our committee.

Thank you again to Scott Mackenzie for his generosity and support.

**JOHN E. RILEY P.T.S.O.  
PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE**

### To the Editor,

I enjoyed the letter in last weeks paper by Joe Scalera.

As president of the South Plainfield

Historical Society, I want to say that some of the ideas he mentioned had been brought up at our meetings and at the Business Association's meeting about the time the railcar was opened, but no one seemed to come forward to say "Yes, I'll take a spot over there."

Maybe we didn't publicize the subject enough.

I think it may not be too late to try something like what Mr. Scarlera suggests. But with the vandalism that has taken place on the car the "ambiance" won't be the same.

I further suggest, that those who are interested in such a project call me at (908) 756-9654, so we can get something done in the next two weeks. Otherwise it will be too late into the Spring planting season.

Park benches were to be put in on the site, but now I doubt that will happen.

I further suggest to the readers, that they call their friends to see what can be accomplished.

**THANK YOU  
BILL TUTHILL**

## Need to Contact the Mayor or Council?

Recently, South Plainfield's Mayor and Council released new phone numbers that residents can use to directly contact them.

All numbers are area code 908.

The numbers are as follows:

Mayor Dan Gallagher .. 226-7691  
James Vokral ..... 226-7618  
Ed Kubala ..... 226-7619  
Darlene Pinto ..... 226-7658  
Dennis Cerami ..... 226-7659  
Raymond Petronko ..... 226-7626  
Robert Cusick ..... 226-7648

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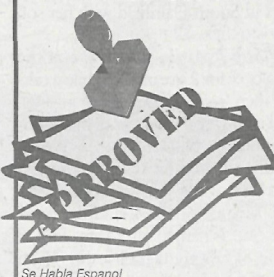
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The Lions Club of South Plainfield hosted their annual luncheon for the blind, deaf and handicapped recently. The Lions have been holding this event for 15 years.

## SP Residents Can Recycle Their Used Carpets

The South Plainfield Recycling Center is accepting used carpet for recycling. Residents can bring carpet and foam padding to the trailer at the drop-off center instead of using up a Compactor coupon to dispose of it as trash.

This is a pilot project that the Middlesex County Division of Solid Waste Management has started to see if it is feasible to divert residential carpet from the landfill. They have arranged for CarpetCycle, a commercial carpet recycler, to place a trailer at the South Plainfield drop-off center for several months. If there is a large enough supply of used carpet, the arrangement may be made permanent.

CarpetCycle uses nylon carpet in its recycling process. A resident who is not sure what his carpet is made of should bring it to the drop-off. CarpetCycle will sort and discard what it cannot use. Carpeting should be in rolls, not bagged. No scraps, carpet tiles or throw rugs can be accepted.

Recycling is open on Tuesdays from 12 to 7 p.m. and on Fridays and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information, call the Recycling Coordinator at (908) 226-7621.



Assembly members Barbara Buono and Peter Barnes were in South Plainfield a few weeks ago, meeting with council members and borough department heads to find out what they need from state legislation.

## Proposed Education Formula Offers Property Tax Relief

Assemblywoman Barbara Buono (D-Metuchen) recently introduced legislation that would alter the formula used to fund public education in New Jersey. Under this proposal, each school district would receive a minimum of 50 percent in public school funding from the State of New Jersey. The remaining 50 percent would be funded by local municipalities.

"Each municipality is currently funded by a complex, convoluted formula that is unfair to middle-income districts," stated Buono. "Under this proposal, each school system would be guaranteed a minimum amount of state aid that will be a constant percentage every year." Buono noted the great disparity in state aid from one municipality to the next. While towns in New Jersey receive an average of 43 percent of public education funding, municipalities can vary from as high as 90 percent state aid or as low as two percent in state funding.

"This bill will provide real property tax relief to homeowners in middle income towns who currently pay skyrocketing property taxes in order to support the high price tag of public education," noted Buono. "By providing schools with state funding, municipalities will not need to bear the brunt of educational costs and then pass that hardship onto working families in the form of property tax hikes."

The legislation does not lower the funding amount for those schools who already receive more than the 50 percent from state revenues. It does, however, aim to ease the burden of many middle-income municipalities who face exorbitant property taxes because they must fund well over 50 percent of the educational costs with local funds.

"Property tax increases are spiraling out of control. We need to take a hard-line approach to property tax relief and come up with real solutions, not short-term band aids or rhetoric," said Buono.

Edison Council President Anthony Massaro (D), who is also the principal of South Plainfield High School, approached Assemblywoman Buono to express the urgency of addressing property tax rates from the perspective of a municipal official as well as an educator.

Massaro stresses that the ultimate goal of the legislation is high on his priority list. Simply put, this legislation would provide more money for our schools as well as providing property tax relief to homeowners. The legislation is something he has been working towards for a long time.

"Seeing this effort get this far is part of a lifetime project. All along the way people have told me 'not to bother' or 'it's no use.' Two summers ago, I testified at a Comprehensive Educational Improvement Funding Act Committee on just this point. Earlier this fall I spoke at Assembly Speaker Collins' Commission about this issue. I am thrilled to have, with the help of Assemblywoman Buono, to have gotten to the point of having legislation introduced. This is the right thing to do and it shows that perseverance is worth it," said Massaro.

## SADD Tree of Life Campaign

The South Plainfield High School SADD organization ran a "Tree of Life" campaign under the direction of high school teacher Danielle Harris Lacasale, who recently completed her MA degree in Special Education at Kean University.

The Tree of Life campaign represents a commitment to life by all those involved. SADD members worked diligently on this effort. They approached students and staff members to request their commitment and contribution to life by agreeing not to drive while intoxicated or use illegal drugs. They were asked to sign a green leaf as an outward sign of their support. \$534 was collected and the corresponding number of leaves were displayed on a tree outside the school cafeteria. The money collected is being used as part of their prom pledge/commencement kickoff.

Staff members from other schools also contributed to this important cause. The staffs of Franklin and Roosevelt Schools had 100% participation. The students appreciated everyone's support.

From Danielle Harris Lacasale

## southplainfieldpeople Milestones

### Samantha Staats Named to Dean's List

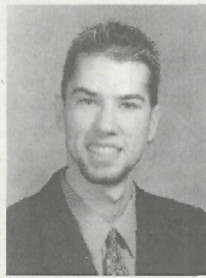
Samantha Staats, daughter of Bill and Heather Staats of South Plainfield, has made the Dean's List for her second Semester this year.

Samantha is attending Kean University, where she is majoring in Elementary Education.

### Steven Seiz Graduates from Rutgers University

Steven Seiz, son of Tom and Linda Seiz, graduated with honors from Rutgers School of Engineering, in New Brunswick, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering.

In 1998, Steven had received his Associate Degree, Summa Cum Laude, in Electrical Engineering Technology from Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston Mass.



Steven Seiz

## Vision 2001 Annual Golf Outing June 25

Vision 2001 will be holding their annual Golf Classic on Monday, June 25 at the Meadows at Middlesex, 700 Hunters Glen in Plainsboro. Registration begins at 12 noon and shotgun start at 1 p.m. A buffet dinner caps off the day at 7 p.m.

Hole-in-one prizes this year include a new car, a vacation and a Pot of Gold. Prizes will also be awarded for low net, low gross, the longest drive, closest to hole, closest to line and both corporate team net and gross.

Entry is \$90 if paid for before June 15 or \$100 after that date and includes 18 holes of golf, green fees, cart, lunch, beer/wine hour and a buffet dinner.

Vision 2001 provides financial support for incentive programs that encourage academic and good citizenship for South Plainfield students, annual scholarships, internship and cooperative work opportunities, inventive industry/school partnerships and endowment funds for scholarships. To find out more about Vision 2001, checkout their website at [www.sp-vision2001.org](http://www.sp-vision2001.org).

For information or reservations call Richard Regan at (908) 756-4530 or Emil Leporino at (908) 756-8038.



Brooke Ashleigh Maurath



You add "spice" to our life Love, Nanny & Papa

## The South Plainfield Rescue Squad (2520 Plainfield Avenue)



invites you to an

OPEN HOUSE

on Saturday, June 9, 2001

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

FEATURING:

Extrication, First Aid, CPR, and Automated External Defibrillation Demonstrations

Ambulance Tours

Blood Pressure Screenings

Child Car Seat Safety Check

REFRESHMENTS:

Hotdogs, Soda, Popcorn and Cotton Candy

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# Around Town

## SP Rescue Squad Plans To Hold Open House

June 9

On Saturday, June 9, the South Plainfield Rescue Squad invites everyone to attend their Open House. It will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Rescue Squad Building, 2520 Plainfield Ave. The Open House will feature extrication, first aid, CPR, automated external defibrillation demonstrations, ambulance tours, blood pressure screenings and child car seat safety checks. Refreshments will also be provided, which include hot dogs, soda, popcorn and cotton candy.

## Elks to Hold Outdoor Chinese Auction

June 9

The South Plainfield Elks Club will be holding an outdoor Chinese 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, Yankees and Somerset Patriots tickets and many gift certificates. Admission is \$5. For ticket information call Lisa at (908) 668-9750.

## Historical Society Monthly Meeting

June 12

The South Plainfield Historical Society will hold their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the high school library.

Present, old and new members are encouraged to attend. Plans for the Labor Day Parade will be discussed.

## AAPR Chapter 4144 to Installation New Officers

June 15

The June 15 meeting of AAPR Chapter 4144 will be held at the Willows Restaurant, located on Washington Ave. in Greenbrook. It will be a luncheon meeting.

AAPR Chapter 4144 will install the following officers at that meeting: William E. Hannah-President, Marian Fischer-Vice President, Mary A. Stevens-Secretary and Jerome Mendel-Treasurer. Board of Directors

are Stephen Machat-three year term and Guiseppe-three year term.

There will be no meeting held during the summer months. The next meeting will be in September.

## South Plainfield Rec Department and SAFTE Fishing Club Host Derby

June 16

The South Plainfield Recreation Department and the South Plainfield High School S.A.F.T.E. Fishing Club invites everyone under the age of 18 to participate in their Annual Fishing Derby.

The Derby will take place on Saturday, June 16, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. It will be held in Spring Lake Park, and prizes will be given out to the winners. If you are planning to attend this event, please bring your own fishing equipment.

## Elks Lodge Hosting Spaghetti Dinner

June 16

The South Plainfield Elks Lodge will be hosting a spaghetti dinner on Father's Day eve, June 16. The dinner will be held at the Elks Lodge, located on New Market Ave. from 5 until 8 p.m.

The "All You Can Eat" menu will include, salad, meatballs, sausage, Italian break, beer, wine, soda and coffee and tea. Cheese cake will be available for dessert at a small additional charge.

Cost is \$6 for adults, \$5 for senior citizens, \$4 for children under 12 years.

## 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.

## OLC/Knights of Columbus Blood Drive

July 10

Our Lady of Czestochowa Church and South Plainfield Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a blood drive. It will be held at the South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Hall on Hamilton Blvd. from 3 to 8:30 p.m. on July 10.

Contact Carolyn Yankoski at 908-755-2516 for more information.

## Knights to Sponsor Mom's Night Out Dinner

July 20

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a "Mom's night out all you can eat" dinner for the family on July 20, from 5-7 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall.

Call 908-625-4843 or 908-755-6203 for more details.

## 9th Annual "Shotman" Basketball Camp

July 30 - August 3

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

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

## —Out of Town—

## Middlesex East WOWs Plan Dance

June 8

The Middlesex Easty WOWs Carteret Chapter will hold a dance for widows and widowers on Friday, June 8, at St. Demetrius Community Center, 681-691 Roosevelt Ave., Carteret. Admission is \$7 and includes will be live music and refreshments. The event takes place from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. For more information, call (732) 969-1123 or (908) 757-0515.

## KISMET Dance Party

June 8

KISMET will host a Dance Party on Saturday, June 8, from 8:30 p.m. to Midnight. The dance will be held at The Inn at Mount Bethel, 181 Mount Bethel Road, Warren. \$35 at the door includes music by DJ Winn Balou and open bar. Proper attire is required; jackets for men is appropriate. For more information, contact KISMET at (908) 232-8827.

## KISMET Holds Broadway Musical Dinner Show

June 23

KISMET will hold a community event for singles, on Saturday, June 23. The event, "Broadway Musical Dinner Show," will be held at The Inn at Mount Bethel, 161 Mount Bethel Road, Warren. Doors open at

6:30, and dinner will be served from 6:30 - 8 p.m. Showtime is 8 p.m. \$45.95 at the door includes dinner, show and cash bar. For more information, contact KISMET at (908) 232-8827 or visit [www.thatskismet.com](http://www.thatskismet.com).

## Theology Course

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.

## Holy Spirit Prayer Breakfast for Men

June 12

All men are welcome to a Holy Spirit Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, June 2, from 8-10 a.m. at the Koinonia Academy, 1040 Plainfield Ave., in Plainfield. A free full breakfast will be served. The theme of the breakfast is from Isaiah 61. "*The Spirit of the Lord God brings glad tidings to the lowly, healing to the broken hearted, liberty to the captives and freedom to the prisoners.*" No matter how far you might think you are from God, Jesus has His arms wide open, a smile on His face and love and forgiveness in His heart for you! Jesus loved you and so do we. Come join us for a free breakfast. This event is being sponsored by the People of Hope. For more information, call (908) 222-9722

## Comedy Club Fundraiser Slated

June 24

On Sunday, June 24, the Friends of Ship 243 will be holding a fundraiser to support the Sea Scouts B.S.A., Ship 243. The Sea Scout group is nationally recognized through its association with the Boy Scouts of America and helps to educate local youth in the areas of maritime skills, boating safety, swimming lessons and more. The Sea Scout base is located at Tremley Point Rd. in Linden and consists of young recruits from Linden, Rahway and the surrounding towns.

This event is being held at Rascal's

Comedy Club in Ocean Township. Start time for the show is 8 p.m. and is smoke-free. In addition to the five opening comics, the headliner for the evening will be Carl Banks from TV's "Grace Under Fire." Tickets are \$10 each, with a two-item minimum.

Dinner arrangements can be made separately to coincide with the show, but are not required.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please call Dot at (908) 862-3092, ext. 915. Cash and checks accepted.

## NJ Repertory Company Premieres Play

July 12 through August 5

The New Jersey Repertory Company, Lumia Theatre, 179 Broadway in Long Branch, presents the New Jersey premiere of Stan Lachow's new comedy, "Harry and Thelma in the Woods." Performances run July 12 through August 5, Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m., with Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25, with discounts available for students, senior citizens and groups. For reservations, call (732) 229-3166. For additional information, visit [www.njrep.org](http://www.njrep.org).

## Westfield Workshop To Present "Annie Junior"

July 26-27

We all know it's a *Hard Knock Life*, but join us at The Westfield Summer Workshop and we'll show you how a determined little girl changes her life to live on *Easy Street*. *Annie Junior* is an abridged version of the original *Annie*, but your favorite cast of characters are still the same. Students in the 'Paint a Play' classes will do set decoration and the Workshop Band will provide musical entertainment during the play's intermission.

No auditions are necessary to take part in the Studio One performance of *Annie Junior*. Participants will be required to attend all classes daily for the entire workshop, as well as dress rehearsals and evening performances. The class is open to students in grades six through eight.

The Westfield Summer Workshop runs from June 25 through July 27. The actual performances will be held during the afternoons and evenings of July 25 and July 26.

For more information on Studio One's production or to obtain a brochure, call (908) 518-1551.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Labor Day Parade Committee Asking Residents for Grand Marshal Nominees

It's that time of the year again. The Labor Day Committee has been busy meeting for the past few months, signing up bands and making plans for our Annual Labor Day Parade. This year is South Plainfield's 75th birthday, so the committee is planning to make the day even more memorable. The parade is scheduled for Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 3.

The first order of business is who will be this year's Grand Marshal. The Labor Day Committee is asking residents to send their nominations for Grand Marshal.

If anyone knows an individual who they feel has contributed outstanding service to the community,

they are asked to send a letter stating the reasons why this person should be considered for Grand Marshal. If you submitted a name last year, you must submit it again this year.

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](mailto:jmsorrentino@home.com) or fax (908) 753-4003.

If you are interested in marching in the parade, entering a float, or need more information, please contact Councilwoman Darlene Pinto at (908) 561-1517.

Let's all celebrate South Plainfield's 75th birthday!



## Sacred Heart Church Holds Annual May Crowning



The annual May Crowning of the Blessed Mother was held at Sacred Heart Church, South Plainfield, on May 13th. Kayla Vokral performed the crowning ceremony assisted by Angela DeSantis, William Hartmann, Charles Huber, Michael Mocharski and Joseph Nicastro. Officiating were Rev. Thomas Ganley and Rev. John Paul Alvarado, Pastor.

## Local Young Writers Published

Good writing skills are an essential ingredient in the recipe for success, and the teachers at SPHS are striving to ensure that their students are equipped with important skills.

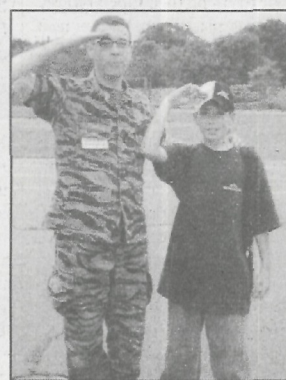
To prepare students in language arts, local teachers have taken advantage of a nationwide publication devoted to the betterment of literary skills.

The *High School Writer* is a monthly classroom teaching magazine developed to provide a "real audience" for students and to thereby foster the desire among young people to learn good reading and writing skills. The magazine consists of works written by students and includes fiction as well as non-fiction, essays, and poetry.

The *High School Writer* is published by Writer Publications of Grand Rapids, Minn., which received more than 30,000 manuscripts from all over the US during the 2000-2001 school year. Over 3,000 pieces were selected by the editorial staff and published in nine monthly issues during the year. Writer Publications has just completed its sixteenth year of providing publishing opportunities for young writers.

"The teachers you have at South Plainfield High School obviously consider reading and writing a necessity for their students' success. Your teachers should be proud of their commitment to teach good writing to students," commented Writer Publications' publisher, Teresa Ivanca.

Published students received special recognition for their accomplishment and were presented Certificates of Literary Merit by local school officials. The list of nationwide award recipients included: Mike Buck-February; David Aquino-February; March, May; Joanne Michalski-March; Jessica Pasco-April; Sandhya Balkaran-April; and Eman Younes-May.



Students at Riley school participated in a Fun Day last week. Special guest was Shawn Yaney, who starred in the reality TV show "Boot Camp." The students referred to him as "Recruit Yaney." Pictured above saluting with Yaney is Riley fifth grade student Peter Adorna.

## Parenting Workshop to Be Held at Grant Central Sixth

What if you could learn a technique that could help your child become a better student, athlete, family member, or even a better member of the community?

The Grant Central Sixth PTO will be sponsoring a Parenting Workshop on Monday, June 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the school auditorium. It will be hosted by Russell and Lin Jones, the husband and wife team of the highly

acclaimed Power Workshops.

After spending the morning with students in the school, The Power Workshop concludes the day with an interactive workshop for the parents. Just 60 minutes can put you and your children on a path toward real happiness and true success!

Refreshments will be served. You can also check them out at [www.powerworkshop.org](http://www.powerworkshop.org).

## NCADD To Host Bowl-A-Thon

The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) of Middlesex County, Inc. has announced their first annual "Knock Down Addiction" bowl-a-thon. The event will take place on Saturday, June 23 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the AMF Mid State Lanes in East Brunswick.

Bowlers of all ages are welcome to participate. Bumpers will be available for very young bowlers. Shoe rental and three games will be provided. Every bowler will receive a T-shirt designed exclusively for the event. In addition there will be door prizes

awarded throughout the day, donated by Etienne Aigner Group in Edison, who has also provided a surprise for each bowler.

This is an opportunity for families to do a fun activity together, fulfill community service hours or just bowl for fun. Registration is required by calling NCADD at 732-254-3344. Bowlers must secure pledges of \$25 or more. All proceeds will support NCADD's programs and services that aim to promote healthy communities in Middlesex County.

The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) of Middlesex County, Inc., founded in 1980 is a private, non-profit health education agency. Their mission is to promote the health and well-being of individuals and communities in Middlesex County through the reduction or elimination of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use problems. Located in East Brunswick, they provide a Prevention Resource Center, Information & Referral Helpline, community education, professional training, school-based prevention programs and advocacy.

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**SOUTH PLAINFIELD**  
Wednesday, June 13  
Holiday Inn  
4701 Stelton Road  
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
(Refreshments)

**MONROE TOWNSHIP**  
Thursday, June 14  
Holiday Inn Center Point  
Exit 8A - NJ Turnpike  
390 Forsgate Drive  
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
(Full Buffet Breakfast)

Sponsored by: Law Offices of Levine & Furman. Roger Levine speaks to area residents about living trusts and proper estate planning. He has a Masters Degree in Tax Law and over 25 years experience in estate planning. His seminars are always "informative, easy to understand, and entertaining."

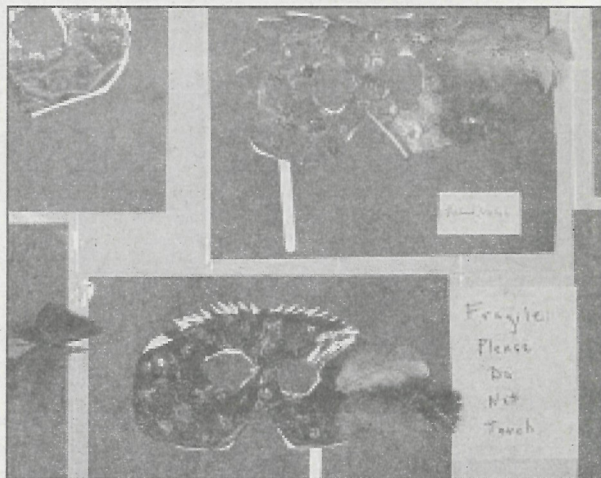
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# ART AND MUSIC FILL THE HALLS OF RILEY SCHOOL



## Story/Photos by Patricia Abbott

Riley School recently held their annual Art Show and Spring Concert. Art teacher Barbara Harris made the most of the space available creating an extensive exhibit of talent that ran the length of two hallways. Colorful, creative and diverse, is the simplest description of the Riley School student's artwork that lined the hallways. Parents browsed the halls as students proudly showed off their contributions to the art show.

The concert portion of the show began with the Recorder Ensemble. The entire third grade began learning to play the recorder in January. They were under the direction of Joanne Gurske. Their four songs demonstrated their hard work. They are students of Miss Dress, Mrs. Gumina and Mrs. Zablocki. The string ensemble consists of third, fourth and fifth grade and is directed by Carleen Tedeschi. They performed five numbers. The beginners in third grade joined in on two of the pieces. The John E. Riley Band is directed by Miss Jessica Schimpf, who is new to the school district. Her band presented three numbers then the fifth grade band showed their prowess by playing Queen's, *We Will Rock You*. The Riley School Chorus is also directed by Mrs. Gurske. The students sang four songs including the gospel classic, *Michael Row the Boat Ashore*. The evening ended with the presentation of awards. The Betty Street Memorial Award for musical arts went to Christopher Delaney for band, Marcel Graham for chorus and Katherine Gorman

for orchestra. The Salvatore Spandaro Memorial Art Award when to Frank Alfano. The awards were provided by the PTSO.

## String Ensemble

*Violin I*—Katherine Gorman, Robert Moriera, Stephanie Szeliga, Elan Sims, Catherine Natarano, Emily Piekarski and Jennifer Ibarra; *Viola*—Stephanie Milicia, Teresa Gustafson, Evelyse Rivera and Matthew Franzson; *Violin II*—Briana Alexander, Kimberly Pham, Timothy Ratti, Justin Ditmars, Christopher Seesselberg, Michelle Gustafson, Emily Roseo, Doily Sierra and Maria Comayagua and *Cello*—Ryan Bunting, Maxwell Bulter and Jake Butynski.

## RILEY BAND

*Flutes*—Brittney Bishara, Michael Boyle, Danielle Butrico, Brianna Calderone, Melissa Fisher, Lindsay Fredericks, Ashley Galan, Clare Kelly, Nora Stasio and Stephen Wagner; *Oboe*—Keri Gould; *Clarinets*—Jacqueline Bosse, Courtney Easterday, Kaitlin Egan, Taylor Harris, Nicholas Pauls, Alyssa Roibal, Steven Stark and Amanda Thorn; *Tenor Saxophone*—Stanley Stellakis; Bass clarinet—Jessica Gray; *Trumpets*—Jessica Adams, Nicole Cosma, Julie Garbowsku and Bobby Harrington; *Alto Saxophones*—Christopher Delaney, Daniel Flynn and Mark Sprenger; *Percussion*—Allison Clawans, John Mocharski, Patricia Robles, Matthew Seider, Ricky Sierzega and Matthew Smith.

**RILEY CHORUS**—Briana Alexander, Samantha Barthel,

Brittney Bishara, Danielle Blackford, Daniel Bosse, Jacqueline Bosse, Michael Boyle, Sean Coffey, Nicole Cosma, John Crisitello, Lauren Diana, Steven Diaz, Rhianna DiPaolo, Sherrie-Lynne Donato, Kaitlin Egan, Rachel Esteves, Melissa Fisher, Lindsay Fredericks, Ashley Galan, Katherine Gorman, Keri Gould, Marcel Graham, Jessica Gray, Taylor Harris, Ashley Hawkins, Amanda Hunterdon, Duenca Jones, Shakera Jones, Stephen Kelly, Michelle Kobilis, Ashley Kwasniewski-Knoff, Stephanie Lanza Colleen Mackenzie, Stephanie Milicia, Cornelius Mootoo, Robert Moriera, Anthony Moscato, Catherine Natarano, Matthew Ortiz, Sheley Peterson, Timothy Ratti, Patricia Robles, Eric Rovayo, Christopher Seesselberg, Matthew Seider, Rocco Severini, Michelle Slover, Olivia Smith, Mark Sprenger, Stevie Stark, Vincent Stark, Nora Stasio, Stanley Stellakis, Katie Sullivan, Stephanie Szeliga, Kara Thomas, Meghan Toolan, David Valerio, Nicholas Vallone and Jonathan Vaillamarin.

**Congratulations**  
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Send your check or money order with the graduate's name and your message along with your name, address and phone to: **South Plainfield Observer Congratulations**, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. (If you would like your photo returned, please include a SAS envelope.)

**Good Luck Class of 2001!!!**

**Nicole Scavone**  
High School Graduation  
June 2000



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From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

According to our monthly calendar, next week is National E-Mail Week. But, even with the growth of electronic communications, sometimes you just can't beat plain old paper for information. Especially when it's this paper, which features news from the South Plainfield Library.

Our normal schedule of children's Storytime programs is set for next week. The programs are for children ages three and over; you don't need to sign up in advance. Each program lasts about an hour and features stories, music and a craft activity. They're held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. Turning to other news from the Children's Department, there's no Kidcraft program scheduled for this month. However, this year's Summer Reading Club, "Flip Over Books", is coming soon. Children can sign up for the club starting June 25, while the formal kick-off program is scheduled for June 30. We'll have more details as soon as they're determined. If you have any questions, please check with Children's Librarian Linda Hansen.

The Library Board of Trustees will hold their next meeting on Tuesday night at 7:30. Members of the public are invited and encouraged to attend this important meeting.

We've expanded our present collection of books from the Foreign Language Circuit. Along with the Russian books we've received, we now stock books in Spanish and Hindi. Books from the Foreign Language Circuit may be borrowed for two weeks. You'll find them shelved alongside books from the Large Print Cir-

cuit, next to our display wall. This group will be available until the end of August.

Meanwhile, the new group of tapes from the Video Circuit is now ready for borrowing. Titles in this group include *Blue Streak*, *She's All That*, *Meet the Parents*, *Marnie*, *Belle's Magical World* and, on DVD, *U-571*. This group will be available until June 25.

Now for some advance word on an upcoming program, "The History of South Plainfield". This program will be presented here at the Library by the Friends of the Woods on Tuesday, June 19, at 7 p.m. It'll be led by archaeologist/historian Larry Randolph, Chairman of the South Plainfield Environmental Commission. It will feature a slide presentation covering the area's history back to the pre-Colonial era and a Q&A session. Refreshments will be served; no pre-registration is required. If you'd like more information, please call Dorothy Miele, the President of the Friends of the Woods, at (908) 754-3073.

Here's an advisory: You'll note that we've just added new stepstools in both of our restrooms and at the drinking fountain. They're mainly for the use of children, who otherwise might have trouble reaching the sinks or the fountain. We ask, though, that parents help their children both onto and off of these stepstools, just to be on the safe side. Thanks for your help on this.

That's about all for this week. As always, we're interested in your comments, questions and suggestions. Feel free to tell us at the main desk, give us a call, or leave us a note in the suggestion box back near the public photocopy. Catch you later.

## Middle School Takes a 'Trip Around the World'



By Patricia Abbott

The Middle School recently provided their appreciative audience with a musical 'Trip Around the World.' The concert featured The Concert Choir, Handchime Choir, Orchestra, and Gems. The concert opened with the Middle School Orchestra conducted by Carleen Tedeschi, accompanied by Marc Stasio. Their diversified songs included the *Russian Sailors Dance*.

The Handchime Choir under the direction of Doris Younken played four tunes. Younken noted that the students used their bodies to help control different aspects of the notes. Chimes were held close to the body to stop the chimes, or students stepped back as they swung the chimes.

The Concert Choir, conducted by Younken and accompanied by Jennifer Bao, performed a wide variety of songs including an Irish folk song, and *Three Little Maids from School* from Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado*. The Gems offered a Scottish tribute with a medley of songs including *My Bonnie* with soloist Natalia Tamzok.

Ribbon dancers Ashley Britton, Ariana Makoski and Nadine Yon performed a Korean Ribbon Dance, wearing authentic Japanese kimonos provided by Phyllis Savage. Other soloists were Alyssa Docyk, Kazuki Daimo, Ashlen Udell, Katie Mott, Jackie Muglia, Gina Severini and John George.

The boy's ensemble of the Concert Choir featured a narration by Michael Duquette.



## South Plainfield Continues Reforestation Project

The Oak Tree Open Space Parcel on Park Avenue took another step towards reforestation last week, as nine more trees joined the 73 trees and shrubs that were planted there a year ago. The Borough contracted with A-Tech Landscaping & Design to implement this spring's planting project. The project was awarded a \$2,660 grant by the Middlesex County Urban Forestry Advisory Committee. It continues the \$5000 grant project that was initiated last year.

The developer of the shopping center at Park and Oak Tree Avenues deeded ten acres of the former ASARCO property to the Borough. The shopping center had cleared the wooded part of the site, and Mayor Gallagher and the Council decided the best use for the remaining open space would be to return it to forest. However, the Borough's Environmental Specialist examined the site and reported that existing conditions would be more likely to produce a permanent tangle of brambles and weeds than a natural succession to woodland. The Borough hired a landscape archi-

tect to design a small-scale project that would introduce native trees and shrubs to a portion of the field. The remainder would be moved for several years to suppress the exotic multiflora rose and Japanese honeysuckle. Flowering Dogwoods were planted last year. Scattered among the dogwoods are Staghorn Sumacs, a native shrub that spreads naturally into dense colonies. The sumac produces dark red flower clusters that mature into tiny berries that birds can eat in the winter. The bright red autumn foliage can be spectacular. Across the field on the berm near the shopping center is a grove of Eastern Red Cedars. This pioneer species comes into abandoned fields and prepares the soil for shade trees that follow. Planting the red cedars instead of waiting for them to come in on their own will give the natural succession to forest a "jump start."

The current grant project added an oak gallery along one of the ridges running back toward Woodland Ave. On the flat land near Park Ave., a clump of four Washington Hawthorns will bloom every spring.

The Urban Forestry grants require the Borough to provide matching funds worth at least 25% of the project cost. The match can take the form of in-kind services. In addition to paying part of the cost of the planting, the Borough is providing supplied to protect the plantings against deer damage and labor. The Department of Public Works will water the trees once a week unless sufficient rainfall makes this unnecessary. The Environmental Commission is seeking volunteers to help monitor the plantings and keep them weeded. Anyone interested in getting involved in the project should call the Environmental Specialist at (908) 226-7621 or e-mail her at atempel@southplainfieldnj.com.

## LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Karen Hafner requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the construction of a 12' x 10' wood deck, proposed deck lacks required a 8' side setback, 5.09' being proposed and exceeds lot coverage by 16% sq.ft. or .3%; and other variances that may be required, said property being located on Block 272 Lot 13 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 June 18, 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.

\$95.00

1T June 8, 2001

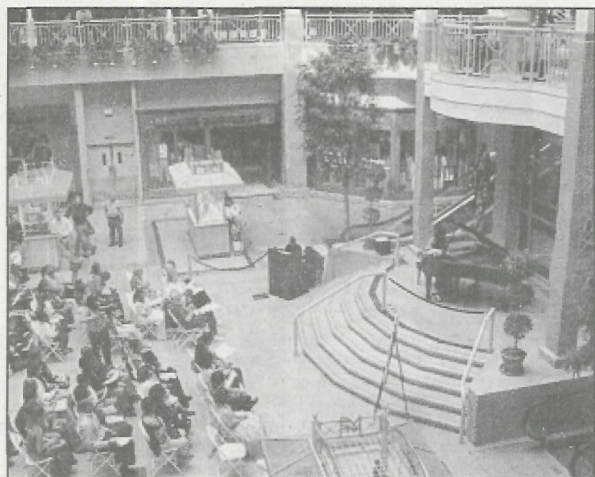
# Congratulations



## Patricia Abbott

on Being Named to the Hall of Fame





## Flo's Piano Students Wows 'Em at Bridgewater Commons

Shoppers at Bridgewater Commons were recently treated to a piano recital by six intermediate and advanced students at Flo's Piano Studio of South Plainfield.

The students played in the center court of the shopping center. Many shoppers stopped to listen as they were passing by. Each student played a classical piece and one piece they personally chose.

**Jasmine Sherie Spann** performed *Reverie* by Debussy and *The Girl from Ipanema* by Jobim. She is a 13-year-old seventh grade honor student in Piscataway and has been studying piano for nine years. She also plays the clarinet and is a member of her school band and orchestra.

**Erin Walsh** performed *Doctor Gradus Ad Parnassum* by Debussy and *Moon River* by Mancini. She is a freshman honor roll student at South Plainfield High School and was seen this past April in the High School Players Drama Production of *Damn Yankees*. She has also appeared on stage in the Summer Drama Workshop of the *Wizard of Oz*. She is on the school's tennis team and an active member of the Jersey Club.

**Victoria Zappi** performed *Nocturne in E Minor*, by Chopin and *Somewhere My Love* by Maurice Jarre. She has been playing the piano for seven years and is a sophomore and honors student at SPHS. She is on the Student Council and has been accepted into the Spanish Honors Society. Her other activities include gymnastics, dance and diving. Victoria is a recipient of the Gold Award from Flo's Piano Studio.

**Britney Denielle Hollaway** performed *Suite Bergamasque* by Debussy and *Jazz Etude & Improvisation/Key to You/Urban Daydreams* by Lienhard/Benoit. A sixth grade honor roll student at Central Sixth Elementary School, she received the "Meredith Marie Brown Piano Award" (highest award) at last year's Nordstrom Concert. She is a member of the School Band and Wind Ensemble. She was hand picked from the band to be a member of the Wind Ensemble. She recently was a soloist playing the oboe at her school's spring concert. She also plays the alto sax and violin.

**Kimberly Ann Galinsky** performed *Sonata in C Minor, Opus 13* by Beethoven and *Nola/Tango/Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy* by Arndt/Raye/Prince. She is a sixth grade student at Grant Central Sixth Elementary School. She is in the Academically Enriched (AK) class and so far has been on the High Honor Roll (High Honor roll status is awarded to students achieving all A's) for the entire year. Kimberly received the "Meredith Marie Brown Award" (highest award) for piano excellence at last year's Nordstrom Concert. On May 17, she performed at the first annual AT&T New Jersey Pioneers Family Talent Night at the Edward Nash Theatre at Raritan Valley Community College in North Branch.

**Andre Michael Boomer** performed *Rhapsody in Blue* by Gershwin and *I Wish, I Just Called To Say I Love You, Isn't She Lovely and Sir Duke* by Stevie Wonder. Andre is a sixteen-year-old sophomore in Somerset and a member of the Franklin Warriors Marching Band playing the snare drum. He has participated in the Concert Band, Jazz Band and the Wind Ensemble, playing the drums. He was a piano recitalist for the South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission Concert Series held May 21 and he received the "Meredith Marie Brown Piano Award" (highest award from Flo's Piano Studio) at the Piano Prom Recital held at Nordstrom last year.

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# Sports

## SOCCER

## Typhoons Complete the Perfect Season

The South Plainfield Boys U11 soccer team completed their domination of the flight by shutting out the Montclair Vipers 4-0. The victory was the team's 15th straight game without a loss, dating back to last fall, and gave the Typhoons a perfect record of 10-0!

The early Sunday morning start attributed to a sluggish first 15 minutes, however two goals by Brendan O'Shea at the midway point of the first half was all it took for the Typhoons to wake up. From then on, they never gave the Vipers much of an opportunity to mount any serious scoring threats as they controlled the play throughout the remainder of the game. John Christ and Brian Fabino would find the goal in the second half

to finish the day with the 4-0 win.

The game was a true reflection of how the entire season was played and was quite fitting that they would post a shut out for this final victory. This team combined a tough defense, awesome mid-field speed and relentless attackers throughout the season as they dismantled their flight by the cumulative score of 49-7.

In his second season as goalie, Grey Coppi led a tremendous defense that included Chris Pennisi, J. R. Licato, Greg Watts, Keith Heckel and Matt Helgesen as they notched five shutouts during the year and never gave up more than two scores in any game. The attackers who kept constant pressure on the opposing backfields were made up of John Christ, Brian Fabino,

David Alston, Jonathan Marcoux and Eric Rovayo. And finally, providing the team with its excellent speed and aggressiveness down the center of the field were the midfielders consisting of Brendan O'Shea, Brandon Ullom, John Polizzano, Dan Pompilio and Steven Guevara.

Coaches Pio Pennisi, Kurt Ullom and Keith Heckel once again provided the kids with great preparation and guidance as they repeated as flight champions and will now enter the Mid New Jersey Youth Soccer Association playoffs this Friday. Their time and dedication is very much appreciated by all the parent's as we are very proud of the boys' hard work and success this spring. CONGRATULATIONS!

## Blaze U-12 Girls Flight Champions!

6/3/01 So. Plfd. Blaze vs. New Providence Wildcats

The South Plainfield Blaze U-12 Girls traveling soccer team captured the flight by beating New Providence Wildcats this past Sunday. In a fitting end to a great season Blaze shutout New Providence 4-nil and dominated the flight with an impressive record of 9 wins 0 losses and 1 tie. With a combination record of 17-1-2 for the Fall and Spring seasons of 2000/2001 Blaze had an exhilarating year.

In our game against the Wildcats our defense was spectacular, as they have been all season. Leading the way our keeper, Becky "Boomer" Keller, had numerous saves. Outside fullbacks, Tiffany "Tiff" Smith and Ashleigh "Ice pack" Gaspari, played tough and shutdown all attacks wide. Sweeper Elizabeth "Bitsy" Flannery and stopper, Jackie "Jr. Boomer" Miller, handled the middle forcing balls wide. Jackie Miller also filling in for Becky in keeper position in the second half did a great job there as well.

Midfield domination and speed came from outside wings Lauren "I'm

ok I'm ok" Fry, Ashley "Gazelle" Little, Joy "Smiley" Maszczak and Katelyn "Crazy Legs" Conrad. Center midfielder Jenna "Twister" DeLillo had a great game controlling the middle and feeding balls up front which helped to keep the defense busy. Attackers and sharing spots on the left "Denise D-Lo Lopez" and Megan "The Bull" Boyle were a constant threat and beat out the Wildcat defenders on many occasions to create dangerous scoring opportunities for their teammates.

Scoring got started early for Blaze when in the 10th minute Jennifer "Kicks" Copeland found the back of the net from the eighteen. Second strike of the game came on a beauti-

ful pass from Jennifer Copeland to Katie "The Clown" Hardy who beat the keeper and tapped it in for the score. The third tally in the 36th minute came on a well-placed corner kick from Katie Hardy that sailed across the mouth of the goal to an open Dorian "Dor Dor" Bishop whom one touched it in. Our fourth goal of the game and securing our shutout Lauren Fry sent the ball through two Wildcat defenders to a waiting Dorian Bishop whom blasted it in for the score. Congratulations girls on a great win and a spectacular season! Visit the South Plainfield Soccer Club web site at [www.soplfd-soccerclub.com](http://www.soplfd-soccerclub.com).

Submitted by Coach Harry

## Ponytail Softball Batters Box

By Sharon Miller

Pool Party — June 8

The Ponytail Parents' Association will be sponsoring an end of season pool party. This event is open to all Recreation Ponytail softball players so please join us on June 8 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. 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.

All-Star Tag Day — June 9

All-Star tag day will take place on Saturday June 9. It is a mandatory requirement that every All-Star player participate in two tag days. All players should meet at the snack bar area at the Pitt Street Park complex 15 minutes prior to their scheduled time.

Teams	Scheduled Time
A	11:00 a.m.
B (Bosse)	11:00 a.m.
B (Reichert)	9:00 a.m.
C	9:00 a.m.

All-Star Tournament — June 13, 14, 16 and 17

The Ponytail Parents' Association has established and will be hosting the South Plainfield All-Star Tournament. We need the assistance of parents and Association members in order to make this tournament a success. The tournament will take place on June 13, 14, 16 and 17 at the Pitt Street Park Complex. In addition to our South Plainfield All-Star teams, teams from Iselin, Colonia, North Plainfield, North Edison and Delaware Valley will be participating. Please join us in support of our All-Star players for this exciting event. Team schedules can be found on our website.

Ponytail Softball Association Meeting — June 26

The South Plainfield Ponytail Parents' Association will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, June 26 at 8 p.m. in the South Plainfield Middle School library. If you are interested in becoming a member and being involved in girl's Ponytail softball, please join us on June 26. New members are always welcomed.

Ponytail Softball Online

You can now visit Ponytail softball online anytime at our newly created website...SPPONYTAIL.com. You will find the latest news/events, team rosters/schedules, game highlights/pictures, information on our Parents' Association, and All-Star teams. Please feel free to contact us by keying on the email link WEBMASTERSPPONYTAIL.com found on our home page.



## TRACK

## Sacred Heart Hawks Soar in the CJCTC Individual Championships

The Sacred Heart School Spring Track Team from South Plainfield competed in the 2001 Central Jersey Catholic Track Conference Individual Championships on Saturday, May 19, held at Cranford High Memorial Field Track in Cranford. Sixty-five Sacred Heart runners participated in 19 track and field events against eight other schools winning five first-place, three second-place, five third-place, seven fourth-place, five fifth-place, two sixth-place, one seventh-place, three eighth-place and three ninth-place honors. The team took home five gold, three silver, and 20 bronze medals and six honorary pins. In addition, two of our runners set a new conference record. The entire team ran a hard race and did an exceptional job representing our school. Congratulations to all runners!

Proud medal winners and runners are:

**K-1-2 Girls 100m**-Placing 8th was Andrea Muglia with a time of 18.73. Also competing were Jasmine Aguinaldo-19.56; Shannon Bell-20.27; Marissa Smith-20.59; Lanna Arki-22.16; Lauren Bolton-24.16; Kaitlin McHugh-24.23 and Arianna Campos-Marquetti-24.95.

**K-1-2 Boys 100m**-Placing 6th was Frank Cem, with a time of 18.01. Others competing were Juan Edney-18.68; Kyle Whitaker-19.16; Patrick Bell-19.22; Anthony Cardoso-19.37; Austin Jenkin-20.02; Andrew Bell-20.57; Troy Davisson-20.81; Curtis Murry-21.65; Steven Vincent-21.70; Rhel Lapitan-22.31; Charles Dougherty-22.40 and Jake Dingler-28.59.

**3-4-5 Girls 200m**-Placing 4th was Erick Paley with a time of 32.76. Others competing were James Howard-34.66; Shane Howard-36.84; Michael McHugh-38.23; Joshua Howard-41.95 and Jayson Bolton-45.02.

**3-4-5 Boys 200m**-Placing 1 was Marika Simons with a time of 32.06; placing 3rd was Celina Campos-Marquetti with a time of 33.37; placing 9th was Ashley Forbes with a time of 36.67. Also competing were Kaitlin Muglia-37.06; Gerianna Pinto-37.46; Allison Whitefleet-37.74; Daphne Aguinaldo-39.11; Takia

Nash-41.23; Megan McHugh-41.50 and Heather Thomas-42.55.

**6-7-8 Girls 200m**-Placing 4th was Kiersten Whitaker with a time of 29.53. Also competing were Zaida Castillo-31.54; Kristin Gilormini-32.62; Monea Nash-33.72; Cathryn Avery-33.75; Alison Teal-35.89; Tiffany Smith-36.22; Maria Lipnick-36.89; Juliet Fryszczyn-38.08 and Lauren Spott-38.30.

**6-7-8 Boys 200m**-Competing were Saladin McClain-31.35; Jason Brubaker-35.17 and Kyle Thomas-35.20.

**K-1-2 Girls 400m**-Placing 5th was Andrea Muglia with a time of 1:32.71. Also competing were Shannon Bell-1:48.10; Jasmine Aguinaldo-1:49.05; Lanna Arki-1:55.22; Marissa Smith-1:57.56; Kaitlin McHugh-2:06.79 and Arianna Campos-Marquetti-2:09.58.

**K-1-2 Boys 400m**-Placing 5th was Andrea Muglia with a time of 1:32.71. Also competing were Shannon Bell-1:48.10; Jasmine Aguinaldo-1:49.05; Lanna Arki-1:55.22; Marissa Smith-1:57.56; Kaitlin McHugh-2:06.79; Arianna Campos-Marquetti-2:09.58; Frank Cem-1:35.97; Andrew Bell-1:39.78; Patrick Bell-1:40.42; Jake Dingler-1:41.82; Steven Vincent-1:42.00; Kyle Whitaker-1:42.71; Austin Jenkin-1:45.82; Rhel Lapitan-1:51.97; Troy Davisson-1:57.90 and Charles Dougherty-2:02.26.

**3-4-5 Girls 400m**-Placing 4th was Marika Simons with a time of 1:19.66; placing 5th was Celina Campos-Marquetti with a time of 1:20.59; placing 6th was Ashley Forbes with a time of 1:20.66; placing 8th was Camille Romano with a time of 1:22.41. Also competing were Allison Whitefleet-1:27.58; Megan McHugh-1:30.68; Daphne Aguinaldo-1:34.44; Gerianna Pinto-1:38.52 and Takia Nash-1:53.71.

**3-4-5 Boys 400m**-Placing 3rd was James Howard with a time of 1:20.36 and placing 4th was Joseph D'Addario with a time of 1:20.85. Also competing were Alfonso Muglia-1:24.70; Michael McHugh-1:31.46; Shane Howard-1:34.90; Jayson Bolton-1:36.63 and Joshua Howard-1:49.88.

**6-7-8 Girls 400m**-Placing 1st was Alicia Presley-1:05.89; placing 4th was Zaida Castillo-1:08.94; placing 5th was Kiersten Whitaker-1:10.30. Also competing were Caitlin Monroe-1:14.74; Kristin Gilormini-1:15.53; Tiffany Smith-1:25.84; Genna Pinto-1:31.21 and Alison Teal-1:31.24.

**6-7-8 Boys 400m**-Competing were Joseph Cem-1:13.15; Saladin McClain-1:19.51 and Jason Brubaker-1:26.28.

**3-4-5 Girls 800m**-Placing 3rd was Camille Romano with a time of 3:06.80 and 4th was Jacqueline Dougherty with a time of 3:20.39.

**3-4-5 Boys 800m**-Placing 5th was Alfonso Muglia with a time of 3:00.46. Also competing were Michael Muglia-3:16.70 and Joseph D'Addario-3:17.21.

**6-7-8 Girls 800m**-Placing 1st was Alicia Presley with a time of 2:41.86 (a new record); placing 5th was Diane Romano with a time of 3:04.02; 7th was Caitlin Monroe with a time of 3:14.45 and 9th was Genna Pinto with a time of 3:25.43.

**6-7-8 Boys 800m**-Placing 2nd was Jeffrey Pierik-Page with a score of 2:40.54 and 3rd was Robert DiDario with a time of 2:41.02.

**3-4-5 Girls 1600m**-Placing 2nd was Jacqueline Dougherty with a time of 6:59.72.

**3-4-5 Boys 1600m**-Placing 9th was Michael Muglia with a time of 6:55.01.

**6-7-8 Girls 1600m**-Placing 3rd was Diane Romano with a time of 6:52.12.

**6-7-8 Boys 1600m**-Placing 1st was Kevin Hohner with a time of 5:25.85 9 (a new record); 2nd was Matthew Revolinski with a time of 5:41.55; 4th was Jeffrey Pierik-Page with a time of 5:46.36 and 8th was Robert DiDario with a time of 5:58.69.

**6-7-8 Boys**-Placing 1st was Kyle Thomas with distance of 29' 1".

By Tony Cassano



## juniorbaseballclubnotes

**2001 ALL-STAR SUNDAY HIGHLIGHTS**—This year's annual All Star Sunday festivities were held this past Sunday. Preceding the 11 year old game, which was 1 of 4 starting at 12 noon, the first ball was thrown out by former Commissioner Phil Aiello. Mr. Aiello was recently selected for induction to the South Plainfield High School Hall of Fame. Congratulations Phil and thanks again for all your contributions to the SPJBC. We also held a dedication for the brand new batting cage on Field 3. We would like to again acknowledge and thank the Boyle Family, in memory of James and Doris Boyle, the Cassio Family, in memory of Ralph Cassio and the SP VFW for their generous donations which were used to construct the new batting cage. Some additional highlights that I would like to mention are the results of this year's Home Run Derby. The winners and their respective age groups are as follows: 12's-Chris Stallone, 11's-Matt Moates, 10's-Jeff Pryor, 9's-Matt Cesare, 8's-Rich Szeliga. Last but not certainly not least, I would like to again thank Pat Muglia, Tom Kiczula and all the volunteers for their time and effort on both Saturday (preparing the fields) and throughout the day on Sunday. Once again, the community support and on going teamwork amongst the membership of the SPJBC continues to be the backbone of a very successful organization.

**IMPORTANT CLUB NOTES FROM GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**—Our Monthly General Membership meeting was held this past Monday June 4. As previously noted, elections were held for the Executive Board and Trustee's. Congratulations to the following members for being elected to the Executive Board for the 2002 and 2003 seasons. Kevin Lykes-Commissioner, Dennis Moskal-Assistant Commissioner of Administration, Danny Wasnick-Assistant Commissioner of Finance, Chris Hubner-Assistant Commissioner of Communications. In addition, congratulations to Domonic Papa, Danny White, Anthony Romano and Pat Muglia for being elected as next years trustee's. Good luck to each of you. All-Star teams have been selected and I will acknowledge the names of the players selected in upcoming editions of this column along with the tournaments that they will be participating in. Please also note that all raffle tickets are due back by June 10 and the drawing will be held on Monday June 18 at the mid month meeting. Fall Ball at the SPJBC was discussed and their is alot of interest in having it. Volunteers are needed to organize it, please contact Kevin Lykes for further details. Our complex will be closed tonight for our annual trip to see the Somerset Patriots. Game time is 7:05pm. Our standard scheduled weekend work detail will resume again at 7 a.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m. on Sunday. After signing in, please see Dennis Moskal for a work detail assignment. Additional volunteers are welcome to stop by on either day to lend a hand. Thanks again for your continued support. Weather permitting, our in-house double elimination tournament will be starting within the next week. All leagues should have their regular season games completed and the playoff games will begin. Please check our bulletin board at both Snack Stands for the brackets for each league and their dates and times. Good luck to all the teams in each league.

### UPCOMING EVENTS / IMPORTANT DATES

**June 8**—Somerset Patriot game, SPJBC complex will be closed. Contact John Rayho @ 754-8904 to pick up your tickets.

**June 10**—Raffles due back.

**June 17** - Father's Day - Club is OPEN, games will be played.

**June 18**—Raffle Drawing and Mid Month meeting to be held at 8:30.

## Youth Soccer Program Sign-Ups Underway at Recreation

The South Plainfield Recreation Dept. is now taking registrations for their 2001 Youth Soccer Program. The program is open to all South Plainfield residents, ages 6-13 as of October 1, 2001. The Soccer Program runs evenings and Saturdays, September through November.

The registration period is from

June 1 through August 10 with a \$30 fee per applicant. You can register at the PAL, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The Recreation office will also be open from 6-8 p.m. on the first and third Mondays of every month. A birth certificate and proof of residency are required.

## Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Ave.  
South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul  
Alvarado, Pastor

### Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.

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

Weekdays 9:00 a.m. (church)

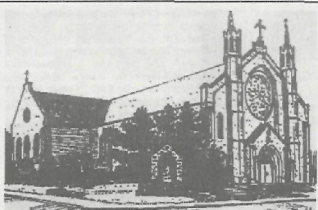
Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.

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

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 11 a.m.- 12 noon, 4:15-4:45 p.m.

and after 5 p.m. Vigil Mass



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going on...



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## Obituaries

### Rosalie M. Kirchofer Iversen, 88

Rosalie M. Kirchofer Iversen of Green Brook, died on Thursday, May 31 at St. Peters Medical Center in New Brunswick.

She was born in Lebanon and was a former 50 resident of South Plainfield before moving to Green Brook four years ago.

Mrs. Iversen was a hairdresser and was the former owner of the Rosalie Beauty Salon in Plainfield for many years before retiring.

She was a member of the Wesley United Methodist Church in South Plainfield and a former member of the South Plainfield Senior Citizens.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Christian Iversen, who died in 1974.

She is survived by her daughter, Gail Schreiber of Green Brook; a brother, Maurice Kirchofer of Stuart, Fla. and many nieces and nephews.

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

### Tuttle "Roger" Freeman, 80

Tuttle "Roger" Freeman of New Port Richey, Fla. died on Friday, June 1.

Born in Newark, Mr. Freeman had resided in Newark, South Plainfield and Palmers Branch, Texas, before settling in New Port Richey, Fla. 24 years ago.

Mr. Freeman is a veteran of the U.S. Army serving during WWII as a glider pilot. He was also a member of the Free And Accepted Masons.

He was the vice president and trea-

surer of K&R Fasteners Inc. in Florida.

He was predeceased by first wife, Freida Freeman, who died in 1978.

Surviving are his wife, Kay (Clement) Freeman; two daughters, Carol A. Meyer of Norridgewock, Mass. and Connie S. Warren, of South Plainfield; a son, Gary R. Freeman of Brick and his step children, Linda K. Johnson of Farmers Branch, Texas, John E. Francis of Kennedale, Texas and Curtis L. Francis of Tucson, Arizona.

Also surviving are three grandchildren and four step grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Memorial donations in his memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, NJ Division, 846 Main St., Fords, NJ, 08818.

### Ida (Edith) Muglia Guarraci, 82

Ida (Edith) Muglia Guarraci of Somerset, formerly of South Plainfield, died on Sunday, June 3 at Willow Creek Care Center in Somerset.

She was born in Plainfield and was a former 75 year resident of South Plainfield and a five year resident of Piscataway before moving to Somerset a year ago.

Mrs. Guarraci was a teachers aide at Roosevelt School in South Plainfield for many years and a former member of the PTA. She was a Den Mother for Boy Scout Cub Pack 125 at Roosevelt School. She was a former member of the South Plainfield Democratic Club.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Salvatore Guarraci, who died in 1995.

She is survived by four sons, John, Joseph and Thomas Guarraci, all of South Plainfield and Salvatore of Avenel; a daughter, Victoria Guarraci, of East Brunswick; three brothers, Alfred Muglia of Va., Victor of South Plainfield and Ernest of Mass.; a sister Jenny Muglia of South Plainfield; nine grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

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

## World War II Pilots Honored by Czech Town

Written by Maura Gaffney

"Dearest Joseph, Even if both of us get old, I can still see your B-17 exploding in the blue sky and white parachutes with your bodies descending to unknown fate, people and country. It has been 55 years since that sad event, but it is not possible for me to forget it." The letter to Joseph Owsianik (pronounced "oh-shanik") of New Jersey, a World War II veteran and former prisoner of war, was written in 1999 by Marie Krivankova who lives in the Czech Republic. Her words reference a major air battle, which took place over Czechoslovakia in August of 1944. Like Marie, most veterans find it is still impossible to forget their wartime experiences. But for those who did not experience World War II or any war, it can be difficult to grasp the horror and easy to forget the details. Sometimes a small keepsake can bring the reality of those past events into the present and can serve as a powerful reminder of those who made the ultimate sacrifice. The story of the air battle witnessed by Marie in 1944 has been resurrected by a simple cross worn by one of the heroes who was killed during that battle.

On the morning of August 29, 1944, American bombers from the 15<sup>th</sup> U.S. Army Air Force, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bombardment Group, based in Amendola, Italy, were on a mission to destroy the Provost Oil Refinery and Moravská Marshalling Yards in the northern region of German-occupied Czechoslovakia. The German Luftwaffe took advantage of the American bombers in a vulnerable moment and launched a surprise attack. It was successful. The American bombers began to drop from the sky like wounded birds. When it was over, the Germans had completely wiped out the entire 20<sup>th</sup> Squadron of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bombardment Group. All seven of the 20<sup>th</sup> Squadron's B-17s (Flying Fortresses), including B-17 #159 piloted by 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant William Tine, were shot down that morning. Three additional bombers from other squadrons (one B-17 from the 429<sup>th</sup> Squadron, another B-17 from the 49<sup>th</sup> Squadron and a B-24 from the 454<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group, 737<sup>th</sup> Squadron) were destroyed as well. The battle lasted only twenty minutes. Forty-one Americans died during the battle or soon thereafter. It was the darkest day in the long history of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bombardment Group.

Pilot William Tine's aircraft withstood the first wave of the German attack, but after the second and third waves, the doomed Flying Fortress struggled to survive. The Germans had shot several huge holes in the wings, an engine caught fire and shells were exploding outside and inside the aircraft. Lt. Tine quickly ordered his crew to bail out. Of the ten crew members, eight managed to bail out. [Lt. Tine was actually pushed out of the plane by a crew member after a shell exploded in the cockpit, knocking him unconscious. Amazingly, Tine regained consciousness during the fall and was able to open his parachute in time to land safely.] The other two crew members, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Russell W. Meyrick and Sgt. Joseph Marinello, Jr., went down with the plane. Their bodies were found with the wreckage.

Of the eight men who bailed out of B-17 #159, six were eventually picked up by the Germans. All six men, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. William Tine, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Francis Flynn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Loy Dickinson, T/Sgt. Robert Kirsch, T/Sgt. Thomas Coogan, and



S/Sgt. Joseph Owsianik, became prisoners of war and remained so until the end of the war in Europe some eight months later. The unforgettable experiences of S/Sgt. Joseph Owsianik, of South Plainfield, were similar to those of many American POWs. He was beaten and kicked by enemy soldiers, was placed in front of a firing squad which tormented him by shooting over his head, was subjected to brutal interrogations and solitary confinement, was transported with dozens of other prisoners after being crammed into a stifling boxcar sealed from the outside and was forced to march hundreds of miles in the bitter cold with little clothing and no food. Owsianik recalled, "We were so hungry. All you could think about was food. I sold my wedding ring for a loaf of bread." The experiences of Owsianik and the other POWs were simply horrible. The

Joseph Owsianik wants people to know about what Marie did. About her bravery and her respect for her liberators. How she saved Marinello's cross for fifty years and prayed for him and the other heroes that she never forgot. Owsianik would like to send the cross to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bomb Group museum located in California.

memories are difficult for them to discuss even now, more than half a century later. Owsianik still fights back tears as he recalls the day he regained his freedom, April 26, 1945.

The two other crew members who had bailed out, S/Sgt. Joseph Sallings and S/Sgt. Robert Donahue, were more fortunate. Sallings evaded the Germans and hid out with a local Czech family until the end of the war in Europe. The Czech family and many other Czech people helped the Americans despite the danger of reprisals by the Germans. It was understood that anyone caught aiding an American would be executed. Donahue was the luckiest of all. He was also assisted by friendly Czechs. They directed him to a town flowing with pro-American sentiment. Several weeks after the battle, he was picked up and flown out of the country by a remarkable Office of Strategic Services (OSS) rescue mission.

Second Lt. Russell W. Meyrick and Sgt. Joseph Marinello, Jr. were found near the town of Rudice in the eastern region of Czechoslovakia. Sgt. Marinello's body was discovered by a young Czech woman named Marie Krivankova. Marie, with the help of a friend, pulled Sgt. Marinello from the mangled wreckage and managed to transport his body to the nearby town. There they had a simple coffin made for him and with the help of another local man, brought his body by horse and buggy to a church in Rudice. They received permission from the German authorities to hold a funeral for the American and were told that the body of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Meyrick, which the Germans had discovered, could be buried as well. The funeral arranged by the compassionate Marie included eulogies, hymns, even flowers. The German soldiers who attended the solemn funeral offered a final salute to the Americans by firing shots in the air. Before the burial, Marie noticed that Sgt. Marinello wore a simple alabaster cross around his neck. Carefully, she removed, hoping someday to return the cross to the man's family.

A short distance from Rudice is the town of Slavcin. Here, two days after the air battle, the bodies of twenty-

eight Americans who were killed during the battle were dumped into a mass grave by German soldiers. A wooden marker at the grave read: "28 American Flyers, Died Aug. 29, 1944, Buried Aug. 31, 1944." German orders strictly forbade anyone from bringing flowers to the grave. Eleven other flyers were buried in neighboring Czech towns. Eventually, all of the bodies were exhumed and returned to an American military cemetery in Europe or returned to the United States, but the people from the Slavcin area would not forget these men or those last days of August 1944. The Czech people understood that the Americans had made the ultimate sacrifice not only for the liberation of Czechoslovakia, but for humanity and for peace.

After the war, a group of people from the Slavcin area tried to uncover details of the battle and to learn the names of the men who had been buried in their town. However, the political climate in Czechoslovakia changed quickly in the post-WWII era, and as a result, the search for information was essentially halted. Nevertheless, the Czech people did not forget about their American liberators. Every year since the battle, on the last Sunday of August, a special mass has been held at the church in Slavcin in memory of their fallen heroes. Slowly and patiently, the dedicated Czechs collected information and pieced together details related to the battle and the men who fought it. Finally in 1994, fifty years after the bombers had been shot down, the town of Slavcin formally thanked their liberators. On Aug. 28, 1994, the town held a grand commemoration ceremony which included the dedication of a new stone monument at the site of the original mass grave. It is inscribed with the names of the 28 Americans who had been buried there fifty years earlier.

Much to the pleasure of the townspeople, a few American veterans traveled to Slavcin for the touching ceremony. These veterans included Lieutenant Tine, Flynn and Dickinson from B-17 #159. It was during this ceremony that Marie Krivankova approached pilot Tine. She gave him Sgt. Marinello's cross and asked if he would return it to Marinello's family. Tine was touched that Marie had saved the cross for all those years and he made every attempt to locate Marinello's family. After exhausting his efforts, he contacted his former crew member, Joseph Owsianik. He hoped Owsianik, a New Jersey resident, would have more luck finding relatives of the Brooklyn-born Marinello. Tine mailed the cross to Owsianik, who began the search immediately. Owsianik's wife had saved several documents from 1944. Through those papers and some luck with the local phone book, Owsianik was able to locate the sister of the deceased hero. After all these years, he thought, the cross would finally be returned to Marinello's family. Unfortunately, his hopes were dashed after speaking with the elderly woman. She simply did not want the cross once worn by her brother.

The motto of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bomb Group is "Defenders of Liberty." Just as a cross is the ultimate sign of one man's sacrifice for the sake of humanity, Marinello's cross is the tangible symbol of his personal and ultimate sacrifice for liberty. Although the story of what happened to Marinello is tragic, forgetting the sacrifice made by him and hundreds of thousands of other soldiers would be the greatest tragedy of all. Marinello's cross prompted the telling of this story.

Hopefully, it will help ensure that the sacrifices of all the "Marinellos" will never be forgotten.

### Beauty

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## policereport

• On May 30, Fyretch on Hollywood Ave. reported that their trailer had been broken into but nothing was taken. Three other trailers in the same area were also broken into and nothing was missing.

• On May 31, an Edison resident reported the theft of his credit card which was left at the Mac machine on Stelton Rd.

• On June 1, a Florence Pl. resident reported that the basement window in the rear of the residence had been broken out.

• A Salem St. resident reported the theft of a go-kart and dirt bike from his rear yard.

• On Saturday, J. Anthony's on So. Clinton Ave. reported that his trailer lock had been cut and a trimmer and two blowers were missing.

• On Sunday, a Durham Ave. resident was found passed out in his car on Merchants Ave. after hitting a parked car.

• A Plainfield resident was arrested at Macy's for removing a shirt from the store without paying.

**Copy deadline for the Observer is Monday, 5 p.m. for the following Friday's publication.** Send to South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Fax to (908) 668-8819, email us at GGNAN@aol.com.

# Classifieds

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### INFORMATION WANTED

DOES ANYONE HAVE ANY INFORMATION or pictures of the White Birch Stables. They were located in the 1940's and 1950's on 7th, near Clinton Ave. Call Rich Trexler at 757-2610.

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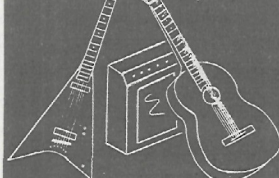
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# Roosevelt Spring Concert Plays to Full House

By Patricia Abbott

The change in the Terra Nova testing dates for grade schools wreaked havoc on many plans, including the scheduled spring music concerts. More than once there were multiple concerts held in one evening. These concerts also competed with other school events, such as the National Honor Society Inductee Ceremony.

Despite the conflicts, Roosevelt School's Annual Spring Concert performed to a packed room of family and friends. The 6 p.m. start time, earlier than usual, was necessary in order to avoid a conflict with the Middle School's concert. Roosevelt School's concert gave everyone a chance to shine and shine they did!

The show opened with the Roosevelt String Players, conducted by Bruce Mikolon. They played four songs and spotlighted the beginners. The Roosevelt Band, conducted by Tobie Baldwin, was also split with experienced players and beginners.

The chorus closed the show with four songs. The concert was dedicated to Mrs. Doris Younken. The program cited, "We recognize her many accomplishments throughout the district. Her legacy includes all the young musicians she has nurtured, especially those here at Roosevelt School."

**String Players:** Violin I-Andrea Lozarito, Alison Smith, Allison Huffsmith, Tiani Allen Lightfoot and Ashley Avarado; Violin II-Alexa Kunch, Jeannine DeAndrea and Alexa Sambat and Viola-Pauline Eskander and Angela Ang.

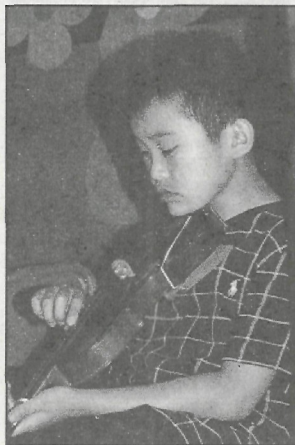
**String Beginners:** Brittany Alvarado, Laurie Ascencio, Harley Bottiglierie, Cassie Caparelli, Lusie Cepeda, Jasper Dimayuga, Roasamaria Farfan, Alana Franco, Carrie Friday, Jamie Handwerger, Brittani Janowicz, Nabia



Kahn, Kelly Kline, Christina Montalvo, Nicole Montuori, Katelynn Morgan, Chelsea McCook, Diana Nasar, Kishan Patel, Amanda Plum, Alyssa Scrudato, David Stogoski, James Vokral and Heba Younes.

**Advanced Band:** Flute-Gina Lampasona, Lauren O'Day, Jennifer Capparelli and KatieJean Zacek; Oboe-Kelling McLean; Clarinet-Rachel Senz, Brooke DeNitzio, Dana Alexa, Danielle Heilmann, Erica Bowden, Christopher Smith, Hakim Hardy and Michael Ascencio; Bass Clarinet-Joseph Del Negro and Brandon Ullom; Alto Sax-Christopher Kedemec; Trumpet-Michael Sopko and Joseph Dacchille and Percussion-Russel Pornovets, Christian Cole, Jonathan Christopher Steger, Jonathan Mills III and Jason Dowlet.

**Beginner Band:** Flute-Sandra Pleeter, Shana Pascalli, Maricela Gonzalez, Antonette Hudak and Jacqueline LaVerne; Clarinet-Jessica Rosocha, Kelliann Friday and Matthew Hoppe; Alto Saxophone-Cristopher Kedemec and Micholas Levendusky; Trumpet-Darnell Beverly; French Horn-Justin Smith and Jes-



sica Handwerger; Baritone Horn-Abraham Amini and Percussion-Shawn Mack and Tiffany Hunter.

**School Chorus:** Dana Alexa, Ashley Alvarado, Christian Barrientos, Cori Black, Erica Bowden, Gillian Capella, Audrey Cupo, Jeannine DeAndrea, Brooke DeNitzio, Gloria Esaw, Pauline



Eskander, Christopher Esposito, Jessica Handwerger, Amy Hayes, Danielle Heilmann, Kelsey Hoffman, Allison Huffsmith, Natia Katson-tonis, Cristopher Kedemec, Nabia Khan, Gina Lampasona, Jacqueline LaVerne, Andrea Lozarito, Lyndsey Murtagh, Brittany Musolino, Diana



Nasar, Lauren O'Day, Emily Orlandini, Shana Pascalli, Rocco Petriello, Alexandra Petronko, Rachel Pinto, Sandra Pleeter, Andreanna Powell, Alison Refe, Omar Rodriguez, Alexa Sambat, Rachel Senz, Gina Siringo, Alison Smith, Heather Stolloff and Brandon Ullom.

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