South Plainfield A Nation Grieves OSCHIVELE A Nation Grieves

VOL. 5, NO. 4 50 CENTS SEPTEMBER 21, 2001

WE COME TOGETHER AS ONE

Life as we know it was forever changed at 8:45 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 11. American citizens have known peace in our country for almost 51 years. An attack on our soil is something Americans may have feared, but never experienced, at least not on the mainland of our country. Without trivializing the tragic day, the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 is dwarfed by the magnitude of the destruction and untold number of innocent deaths. The cowardly attacks by an enemy we have never met has only solidified America's resolve to stand by its principles. The rest of the nation is just coming to realize what the military and intelligence branches have known all along; we are at war with an unnamed enemy.

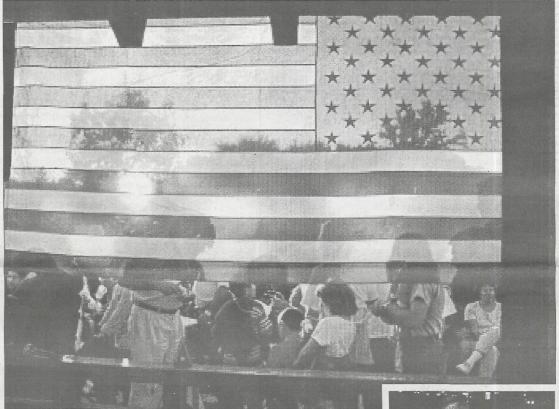
Tuesday's terrorist attack on the United States was a personal attack on each and every American citizen. Still reeling from media images of a flame-engulfed Pentagon, and a collapsing World Trade Center, a shocked South Plainfield immediately went into emergency mode. Many residents began to do what they could to help. Offers of supplies began to pour in to the mayor's office.

By noon, Emergency Management had set up a Command Center at Borough Hall. South Plainfield firefighters, rescue squad personnel and members of the police department were all put on alert to help wherever they were needed. The fire department sent one of their trucks and a crew to cover Brooklyn and the rescue squad sent a rig to Liberty State Park to help with the injured who were evacuated by ferry. Three police officers, Dan Noonan, Bryan Iarrapino and Wayne Diana arrived at "ground zero" to help and spent 22 hours there.

to help and spent 22 hours there.

Every police, fire and rescue squad member was eager to help. As time passes they will probably be called to relieve those who are working now. Five additional members of the police department also went to New York to help.

Many local businesses and most of the banks closed at first word of the tragedy or by early afternoon. Grocery store employees noticed an increase in the sale of water and other emergency items.



5,000 come out in support of America and all victims of the terrorist attacks



American flags began to pop up all over town. Flags of all sizes could be seen hanging from poles, out of windows and on cars. The firehouse was among the first to lower their flag to half staff and the rest of the town quickly followed suit. One can hardly drive down a single block without seeing at least one flag or sign. Hand drawn signs by children grace the windows of vehicles.

Continued on page 4





Many have asked what they could do to help in this time of crisis. You can donate money to any of the following agencies or call them for more information. Please note that clothing is no longer being accepted.

To Donate Money

United Way September 11th Fund: To help the victims of the attacks and their families and to provide immediate support to established emergency assistance: Call 212-251-4035.

assistance: Call 212-251-4035.

American Red Cross: 1-800-435-7669

Salvation Army: 1-800-725-2769

Feed the Children: 1-800-525-7575

Federal Employee Education &

Assistance Fund: 1-803-933-7580

This fund is set up for up for federal families

This fund is set up for up for federal families affected by the disasters in New York and Virginia. FEEA (Federal Employees] World Trade Center/Pentagon Fund

World Trade Center/Pentagon Funda 8441 W. Bowles Ave., Suite 260, Littleton. CO 80123-9501 Mennonite Disaster Fund 1018 Main Street, Akron, PA 17501 United Jewish Communities Emergency Relief Fund Eighth Ave., Suite 11-E, New York, NY 10011

Many South Plainfield businesses and banks are also accepting cash donations.

For Information

World Trade Center Relief Fund P.O. Box 5028, Albany, NJ 12205 American Red Cross

Family Inquiry Hotline: 1-215-299-0134 To Give Blood: 1-800-448-3543 Spanish Information Line: 1-800-257-7575 Volunteer Medical Services: 1-800-801-8092 General Services: 1-518-431-7600

mark your calendars

Log on to southplainfieldnj.com for the latest meeting agenda

councilmeetings

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, October 1 .. Thursday, October 4 Monday, October 15... Thursday, October 18 Monday, November 5 Thursday, November 8 Monday, December 3 ... Thursday, December 6

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

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month

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

Sept. 25, Oct. 9, Oct. 23, Nov. 13, Nov. 27, Dec 11, Dec. 25 (no meeting).

zoningboardofadjustment

Meets first, third and lifth Tuesday of the month Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641 Oct. 2, Oct. 16. Oct 30, Nov. 6 (no meeting), Nov. 20, Dec. 4, Dec. 18.

taxpayersadVisorygroup

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

The fourth Thursday of the month as follows:

September 27, October 25, November 22 (no meeting), December 27,

recreation commission

Meets once a month on the first Tuesday of the month, except July and August PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716 October 2, November 6, December 3

environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)

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

Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec: 12, Jan. 9, 2002

boardofeducationmeetings

Grant School Gymnasium on Cromwell Place unless otherwise noted

Committee of the Whole, Tue. Oct. 16, Nov. 13, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. Tue., Oct. 23, Nov. 20, Dec. 18 at 8 p.m.

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)

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

Trafficsafetyadvisorycommission

Meetings, held at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room, Borough Hall Sept. 26, Oct. 24, Nov. 28 , Dec. 26.



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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.

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Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
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or drop it in the box at Mohn's Flowers on Plaintield 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 clarify 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. Letters must be submitted with name and phone number, even if they request name their name be omitted when published.

In My Opinion

To the Editor,

This year's Ricochet/SPASA Labor Day 5K Race was another successful event with spectacular weather and over 200 runners competing or just having a fun run. This 11th annual race and walk helped raise funds for the South Plainfield Alliance for Sub stance Awareness to support programs to educate the community regarding the dangers of substance abuse. Additionally, over 40 adults and children participated in our annual 1.5 Mile Family Fitness Walk.

Many thanks to the runners and walkers who came out to a large crowd to support SPASA's efforts. An event like this is successful because of the many who volunteer their time and/or provide a donation. Helping register runners and walkers were Al Czech, Nancy Erickson, Tom Cassio, Rick Hangge, Kevin Beegle, Kathe Beegle, Eric Beegle and Marge

Rudy Wilemsen and the staff at The Club at Ricochet provided awards and the shirts for all the runners and walkers. The Home Depot donated \$50 gift certificates for age category winners and Sports World donated running shoes. Trophies for first and second place category winners were again donated by Joe Roomer Tro-phy Shop of Edison. Poland Spring donated the water at the finish line. Oak Tree Farms supplied the oranges and the Bagel Pantry donated bagels. Patrick Aiello from Aiello Chiropractic provided pre- and post-race mas-sages for the runners. Sherban's Restaurant donated the cost for printing the race numbers.

The following South Plainfield

businesses or organizations also provided a donation or service to support the race: Buy-Rite Auto Parts, Casablanca Is Hair, Ciccio's Pizza, David's Stationery, Flanagan's Restaurant, Giakas Cleaners, James W. Conroy Funeral Home, KC's Korner Bar and Restaurant, McCriskin Home for Funerals, Mohn's Florist, Physiques in Motion, Presto Printing Service, Rodolfo's Pizza, So. Plainfield PAL, Plainfield Liquor Store, So Plainfield Middle School Graphic Arts Department, Spring Lake Texaco Service Center, Twin City Pharmacy and Vail Hardware.

The Ricochet/SPASA Labor Day 5K Race/1.5 Mile Family Fitness Walk was truly a community to the efforts of many. It helped make a great day in South Plainfield.

WILLIAM BEEGLE, SPASA COORDINATOR

Dear Editor,

Recently my grandfather passed away, which was very difficult for our whole family. The Moniz family would like to thank McCriskin's Fu neral Home for making everything a little bit easier. We thank them for their care, support, comfort and dedi-cated hard work.

WITH DEEPEST THANKS, DAVID, LAURIE, GEOFFREY & LAUREN; PAM, NICK, NICHOLAS & LORENZO AND MARSHA, SCOTT, **KRISTI & RICKY**

To the Editor,
On behalf of Class, "The girls next door" and personally, I wish to thank Mr. Chiovarou, Troop 124 Leader, and his troop for a job well done by the assistance they provided throughout the So. Plainfield Labor Day/75th Anniversary Parade. The scouts who participated as spotters for our float

Send us Your Letters/Opinions

Send your letter/opinion to: The South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 18, South Plainfield 07080. Email us at GGNAN@aol.com or fax to 908-668-8819. We will omit names by request, but you must name and phone number must be provided when you submit a letter, or it will NOT be published.

helped to make the parade safe for us as well as the spectators. We do appreciate your community concern and cooperation.

The scouts were exceptionally courteous and very respectful, abiding by the rules and regulations for the day. They were very concerned and did not once fall out of line as our protection. Not even when they saw people they knew. They had a very crucial job to do and did it with the utmost trust and sincerity to the best of their abil-

I also want to let you know that our Group, Class, "The girl's next door", was selected by the Judges as being the Best Adult Musical Group. Again, thank you for your assis-

tance and concern KACEY LECHOWSKI CLASS, "THE GIRL'S NEXT DOOR"

To the Editor:

Well, the silly season has begun again. However, in light of recent events in our nation, it seems unimportant right now. But, we are still a community in need of leadership. This letter will be brief, just to let you know who I am.

My name is Marjorie Reedy. I have lived in South Plainfield for 25 years, since my husband Michael and I were married. We have three children -Sandy, a junior this year at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, a son James, a freshman this year at Five Towns College in Long Island and a son Patrick, a Freshman at South Plainfield High School. I have been active in the schools in South Plainfield since my children entered them in Kindergarten. I was a member of the South Plainfield Board of Education for nine years, serving as President for two of those years.

I believe in South Plainfield. My

ancestors were a large part of this community.

My great-great grandfather was the first Postmaster and another relative served on one of the first school

I cannot promise any of you that I will do specific things right now, except to tell you that I am an honest person and believe in letting the community know what is going on every step of the way.

At this point, you don't see too

many of our signs around town. We, as a Republican Committee don't have as many funds available to spend on items such as this. However, instead of asking anyone for additional funds at this point, I would encourage all of you to send donations to the American Red Cross or The United Way to help those in need right now in Washington, DC and New York. They are in much more need of funds.

Now, I will close this letter by saying that I hope everyone here in South Plainfield is a registered voter. Especially now, many people have given their lives in an effort to keep our country free and safe. We need to come together as a nation and as a Community to keep those ideals strong.

Thank you SINCERELY. MARJORIE M. REEDY

To the Editor,

I am urging everyone in South Plainfield to put up the American flag. A little one, big one whatever you can do. We need to show support and patriotism for our country.

DIANE HUNTERTON

To the Editor,
On behalf of the entire Network Commerce staff, we wish to express sincere sympathy to anyone affected by the recent World Trade Center, Pentagon and Pittsburgh tragedies. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have suffered. For those receiving this note, we hope you are well and safely with your loved ones. As a concerned citizen, you may

be asking how you can help the vic-tims of the recent disaster. The answer is simple: Please give to the American Red Cross.

Your donation will help thousands of people in a time of great need. American Red Cross resources are strained during emergencies of this magnitude. Please read the following official message from the American Red Cross and respond in this time of need.

SINCERELY, **DWAYNE WALKER,** CHAIRMAN & CEO NETWORK COMMERCE INC.

Dear Friends.

It's impossible to fully comprehend the devastation and cowardly acts of the terrorists on Sept. 11. This experience will continue to affect everyone as it unfolds on the world stage. From me and my family I extend to all of you my love and concern while we pray for all who senselessly died on Sept. 11.

The Red Cross is in serious need of

blood donations from all over the country. They will ship blood to the areas in need. You can find the closest Red Cross blood donation center by entering on the link below. If this page does not display right away, it's because of the high volume of Internet traffic, please keep trying it's very important. http://www.redcross.org/donate/donate.html They also have a toll free number

Continued on page 10

To Our Readers

Because we were gone on a short vacation last week, we published the Observer a day early and could not report on the terrorists attacks which occurred last Tuesday.

This week's paper has many pictures and stories of events that have taken place since then.



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SOUTH PLAINFIELD Reaching

Students Rally to Aid the **Families of Victims of World Trade Center and Pentagon Terrorist Attacks**

Local Students Hold Yard Sale to Help the Families of Terrorists Attack Victims

On Saturday, four sixth graders and an eighth grader from Sacred Heart School held a garage sale at 441 Joan St. to benefit the victims of the World Trade Center disaster.

After seeing the loss and devasta-tion, they came up with the idea to sell their unused books, shoes, stuffed animals, etc. in order to raise money for the United Way. They

even asked their families and classmates to contribute items to the sale.

Bob Nelson, a resident of Piscataway, read about the sale and brought hundreds of whirly birds to

Pictured right are Megan McHugh, Camille Romano, Diane Romano, Allison Whitefleet and Olivia Gerlitz

Camille's mom, Rosanne Illardo, asked her company, Merrill Lynch, to match the funds raised at the sale and they generously agreed. The yard sale brought in \$921 and Rosanne Illardo donated enough to make the total \$1,000. With Merrill Lynch's donation of \$1,000, a total of \$2,000 as donated to the September 11 Fund of United Way.

High School Students Sell **Buttons to Aid Victims**

On Friday, Sept. 14, just days after the World Trade Center bombings, students were hard at work creating fundraisers to aid the victims of this

In 1993, during Desert Storm, Mr. LoConte, Mr. D'Urso and the SAFTE Club at South Plainfield High School created bumper stickers to help the families of victims at that time. This year Toni Day, a duty aide at the school suggested that a similar program be started.

D'Urso and LoConte went to work! LoConte came in to see D'Urso at 8 a.m. on Friday and by 9 a.m. a design was created and hundreds of students were participating in the production of these buttons

Seven hundred dollars was made on

Friday (the first day) and the button production is continuing. Students hope to raise thousands of dollars to aid victims of the World Trade Center

bombing.
D'Urso and LoConte want to thank all of the students for their in-credible effort, participation and concern for life. LoConte wants to thank Mrs. Ton Day for selling over 600 buttons herself. Many thanks also goes out to all the people who donated one

dollar per button to aid in this effort.
Anthony Masssaro, principal of the
South Plainfield High School added, "I am always proud of our students, however the way they have come through during this tragedy and risen to the occasion, may well be their finest hour.





بن دخت ಯಯ South Plainfield **Volunteer Fire Department** 123 Maple Avenue South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080 (908) 756-4701 Saturday, September 29, 2001 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Embassy Suites, Piscataway, NJ Tickets - \$70 per person Ticket price includes: Wine Tasting Reception 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Buffet Dinner 8 p.m. - 9 p.m. Open Bar, DJ and Dancing 9 p.m. - 11 p.m. Special Hotel Rooms Rate Available for Overnight Stay For Tickets or More Information Please Contact: John Celentano (908) 757-5691or Mike Gallagher (908) 755-9874

Display the Flag Properly

played either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union, which is the blue field, should be in the uppermost blue field, should be in the uppermost corner and to the flag's own right, that is, to the observer's left. When dis-played in a window, the flags should be displayed the same way, with the union to the left of the observer in

The Flag Code, which formalizes and unifies the traditional ways in which we give respect to the flag, also contains specific instructions on how

contains specific instructions on how the flag is not to be used. They are:

• The flag should never be dipped to any person or thing. It is flown upside down only as a distress signal.

• The flag should not be used as a drapery, or for covering a speaker's desk, draping a platform, or any decoration in general. Bunting of blue, white and red stripes is available for these purposes. The blue stripe of the bunting should be on the top.

• The flag should not be used as part of a costume or athletic uniform,

except that a flag patch may be used on the uniform of military personnel,

Franklin Students Plan Walk-A-Thon

The children and staff of Franklin School will honor the men and vomen who gave their lives trying to help others in the World Trade Center tragedy. The goal is to raise money to help the children and the families of our fallen heroes through a Walk-A-Thon on Wednesday, Sept. 26 at 1:15 p.m.

You can help them help others by sponsoring the children in this en-deavor. All proceeds will be donated to the New York Police ad Fire Widws' and Children's Benefit Fund.

patriotic organizations.

• The flag should never have placed on it, or attached to it, any mark, insignia, letter, word, number, figure,

or drawing of any kind.

• The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything. When the flag is lowered, no part of it should touch the ground or any other objects it is the provided by the control of the provided by the control of the provided by th ject; it should be received by waiting hands and arms. To store the flag it should be folded neatly and ceremo-niously. The flag should be cleaned and mended when necessary. When a flag is so worn it is no longer fit to serve as a symbol of our country, it should be destroyed by burning in a

Music Boosters Selling T-Shirts for Red Cross

The high school Music Boosters are selling patriotic tee shirts that read "the United States of America — one nation...under God...indivisible...with liberty... and justice for all" with a picture

of the country in the flag colors.
The club is selling the t-shirts for \$10. \$4 from each sale will be given to the American Red

Call (908) 561-5800 ext. 302 or Carol Provaire at (908) 561-9855 after 5 p.m. each day for



We Come Together As One

Continued from page

On Friday night residents could be seen with lighted candles throughout the town. Neighbors joined together and stood in the chilly evening air on street corners and porches. Still others had candles burning on curbs, porches and driveways. Children too young to fully understand joined their parents in the candlelight vigil. Hours after the 7 p.m. lighting time people still stood with their low burning candles. Businesses across town lit candles in tribute to those who died.

Stacey Lamonda organized an impromptu candlelighting in front of ATA Karate and Dunkin' Donuts. Karate students, their teachers, along with customers and the owners of Dunkin' Donuts all went out to the shopping center's parking lot. Cars along Maple Ave. and Lake St. stopped by the roadside to join them. Many waved their flags as they passed shouting, "God Bless America."

Also, the tree in front of McCriskin Funeral Home was lit on Friday night.

Sunday's candlelight vigil in Spring Lake Park, "A Time of Healing," brought well over five thousand people to a brief but touching ceremony. From veter-

ans to toddlers, the spirit of America was visible. The South Plainfield High School Tiger Marching Band solemnly marched together and filled the gazebo. Candles cast a glow in the dusk as Mayor Dan Gallagher spoke to the crowd. High school student Pam Janizak sang the Lord's Prayer. The mayor asked the crowd to hold their candles high. There was a hush as thousands of South Plainfield residents became one, raising their candles, joining the rest of



A Nation

the country in a memorial for the thousands of innocent victims, displaying a united front against terrorism.

Afterwards as the crowd slowly began to disperse, residents walked to the water's edge and began to place their lit candles along the rim of Spring Lake.

the rim of Spring Lake. Soon the rim of the entire lake was ablaze with candle light.

It took last week's tragedy to show our true colors, to fly our flags high and to fill our churches again. Perhaps this is a turning point, a hard lesson to all of us. Again we were reminded that, "Freedom is not Free."

President Bush effectively summed up the strength of Americans when he said, "These acts shattered steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve."







Candlelighting Service Organized on Short Notice

Marion Gallagher, wife of Mayor Dan Gallagher, wanted to find a way for the residents of South Plainfield to express their sorrow and show their support to those who were affected by the terrorists attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Trade Center and the Pentagon.
Gallagher, who works at the South
Plainfield High School, asked school
principal Tony Massaro last Friday if
he would help organize a memoria
service. Within an hour members of
the student council and the high
school band got involved and plans
were rolling along.
Flyers were printed and hung all

Flyers were printed and hung all over town. Calls were made. Churches were notified and announcements were made during Sunday services.

A special non-denominational service held on Sunday evening at Sacred Heart Church was attended by parishioners and clergy from churches all over South Plainfield Many of those who attended the service went to the park and joined in the candlelighting service.

candlelighting service.

No one knew how many would show up at the park, since the plans

had been made so late. But one hour before the service Sunday evening, families began to stream into the park. By the time the ceremonies began, an estimated 5,000 had arrived. Candles were handed out to those who did not bring their own.

Dressed in red, white and blue and

Dressed in red, white and blue and carrying various sized flags, the somber crowd watched as the South Plainfield High School Bank marched silently into the gazebo in Spring Lake Park. The mayor read a short statement and Pam Janizak sang the Lord's Prayer. Candles were lit as the crowd sang "God Bless America" and raised their candles. It was an unforgettable site to all who attended.

This event took place simply because one person, Marion Gallagher, thought we should do something. Marion, the participating high school students, the many volunteers who handed out candles and everyone who helped out deserve credit for a very successful event.

Let's hope we can keep this spirit going in the future!

Schools Handle Crisis Calmly

By Patricia Abbott

The attack on our country occurred while area students were in school. Within minutes of the news, the South Plainfield school district went into high gear working on a plan to protect and inform the students. At 10:15 a.m., South Plainfield High School Principal Tony Massaro had a memo sent out to all faculty members. The order of the day was "business as usual" to prevent confusion or hysteria. He noted there were many stories, both factual and fictitious, and explained the ongoing attempt to obtain facts from law enforcement and upper level government agencies. Despite a few isolated cases, the student body remained calm. A meeting with Superintendent Dr. Krewer was scheduled for late Tuesday afternoon.

On Wednesday morning, Massaro

On Wednesday morning, Massaro made a morning announcement praising both staff and students for the manner in which they handled the previous day's events. He was confident that common sense and calm would continue to prevail. He put unspoken thoughts into words for the school saying, "Everyone yesterday lost something — even if you had no friends or relatives who lost their lives. Everyone lost a bit of our vulnerability, everyone lost a bit of our belief in our immortality. Most of these issues will be resolved by our elected leaders and officials.

Hall's Accepting Supply Donations

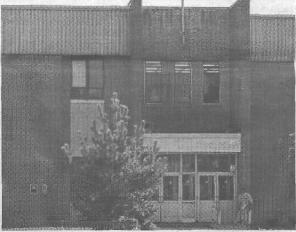
Anyone wishing to donate much needed supplies for the victims of Tuesday's tragic events can bring their donations to Hall's Warehouse Corp, 501 Kentile Rd. in South Plainfield. We have set up a trailer at our facility to be used for this purpose. We will contact the proper parties to make sure these products go to those in need.

Items that are desperately needed are: socks, sweatshirts and pants, rubber gloves and work gloves, saline solution, dog food, baby wipes, peanut butter, canned soup, batteries (D, C, AA, A), flash lights, disposable cell phones, alcohol swabs, can openers, foot powder, mouth wash, tooth paste and tooth brushes, boots-size 12 and up, shoe/boot insoles, blankets, t-shirts, tarps, wash cloths and towels, etc.

If you have any questions please call (908) 756-6242 ext. 620.

They need our support. We must, however, do our part and focus on what we can control—namely, our own actions. We are all South Plainfielders. We are all Americans and we need to hold those ideals in high regard and practice what we preach about

High School Guidance Counselors Eileen Boettger, Cheryl Fox, Marge Kopacsi and Cindy Povall worked late into the evening calling the homes of students with a parent who



brotherhood. Now, more than ever, we must come together."

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Krewer and Mario Barbiere, assistant superintendent, also extended their thanks to a dedicated staff throughout the district, complementing them on professionalism and sensitivity to the students. He thanked the secretaries who had the daunting task of reviewing student emergency cards to identify those with parents working in Manhattan. He praised Tom Baker and Cindy Povall for their swift action implementing the district's Crisis Management Plan in the schools. Dr. Krewer said, "The spirit of volunteerism in our district is exceptional."

was listed as working in New York. They sought to seek out those in need of assistance. Gindy Povall noted the appreciation of many of the families who were called. In addition to phone calls, two schools were designated as emergency centers. Roosevelt School was to be open for the night if needed. Staff members Peggy DeAndrea, Ellen Decker, Cathy Gilsky, Kevin Hajduk along with Principal Dr. Hangge were ready to stay the night. Fortunately this proved unnecessary. Dr. Krewer noted there were countless examples of the district's staff willing to go above and beyond the call of duty in the interest of the children.

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Thousands Gather to Mourn, to Pray, to Hope

A Letter of Thanks

s our shock wears off from the disaster of last Tuesday, the residents of South Plainfield continue to respond with compassion and outrage. Within a 48 hour period a 'Night of Healing" was organized to help all of us.

Over 5,000 people came out to seek solace in prayer and song with their candles held high. This was only possible because of the extra effort of our Police, Fire, Rescue Squad and Emergency Management. All wore their full dress uniform to show their support.

Help also came from the Administrators, Staff, Senior Class Officers, Band, Color Guard and the entire student body of South Plainfield High School. I would also like to thank; Pam Janizak for singing the Lord's Prayer, Brian Hoey, Somerset County Pipe & Drum Band, which played Amazing Grace on the Bag Pipes, South Plainfield Police Department Honor Guard for the 21 gun salute and Mounted Police Officer Michael Promutico of the Edison Police Department and his

To my husband, Mayor Dan Gallagher, for always being there for us and for all those who worked so hard to make this a night of healing.

MAY GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU AND MAY GOD BLESS THE USA

Marion Gallagher



On Tuesday morning at 8:44 a.m., there was no doubt what nation was the most powerful in the

history of man.
On Tuesday morning at 8:44
a.m., no one could question the kindness and compassion of the American people.

On Tuesday morning at 8:44 a.m., the United States of America was the beacon of justice and fair-ness for the entire world to see.

Then at 8:45 a.m., a passenger jet was turned into an instrument of war, striking at one of the very sym-

bols of this great country.

The Twin Towers are lost along with the lives of thousands of innocent men, women and children.

How much more has been lost? Is the most powerful nation on earth now a fearful one? Of course not!

Has our kindness and compassion turned to bigotry and hatred?

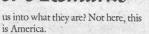
No...we are a loving people.
Will we discard justice and fairness in exchange for anger and re-venge? Never, because that is not what we are about

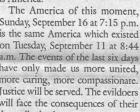
Will we allow our enemies to turn

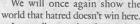
is America.

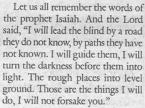
Sunday, September 16 at 7:15 p.m. is the same America which existed on Tuesday, September 11 at 8:44 n.m. The events of the last six days have only made us more united more caring, more compassionate. Justice will be served. The evildoers will face the consequences of their dastardly deeds.

We will once again show the

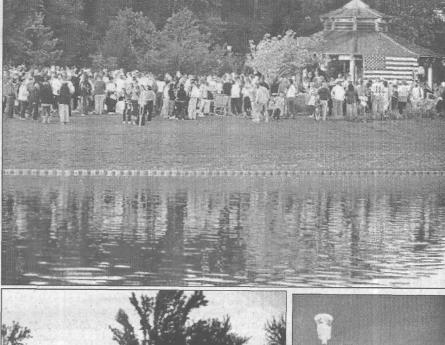








Now I ask that everyone lift his or her lighted candles toward the sky and join in singing God Bless America. During the song, our Honor Guard will conduct a 21-gun salute in honor of those who lost their life last week.







Over 5,000 South Plainfield residents seeking solace, looking for answers, come to Spring Lake Park for last Sunday's "Night of Healing."





The SPHS Guidance Counselors are available for providing families with counseling services during non-traditional hours. The services include social/emotional counseling and academic planning A family may call (908) 754-4620 at the extensions listed below to make an appointment at a convenient time for the family. It is not necessary to see your child's counselor in the evening. Counselors want to provide an outreach to all families.

The high school counselors are available as fol-

lows: Eileen Boettger, Monday 12-7 p.m. at ext. 294; Cheryl Fox, Tuesday 11-6 p.m. at ext. 297; Marjorie Kopacsi, Wednesday 12-7 p.m. at ext. 295 and Nadine Knight, Thursday 10:15-5:15 p.m. at







Around Town

Riley School Holds Annual Flower Sale September 20-21

John E. Riley School will hold its annual sale of fall flowers on Thursday, Sept. 20 and Friday, Sept. 21 at 3 p.m. behind the school's main entrance located at 100 Morris Ave. and 6 to 8 p.m. during Back to School Night. All are welcome to come and shop.

AARP Meeting Set September 21

The general meeting of AARP Chapter 4144 will be held on Friday, Sept. 21 at the PAL Building at 12:30 p.m. Speaker will be Ms. Sally Triolo, a distributor for four major health supplement companies, who has devoted herself to teaching others how to regain and maintain good health. Ms. Triolo does one on one consultations as well as group teaching on the traditional uses of medicinal herbs and advances in the national health industry. Visitors are

The Board Meeting for Chapter 4144 will meet on Friday, Sept. 7 at the PAL Building at 3 p.m.

Cub Scout Pack 324 Holds Car Wash September 22

Cub Scout Pack 324 from Kennedy School will be holding a car wash on Saturday, Sept. 22 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the front driveway of Kennedy School. Cost per car

Profits will be used to help fund pack activities and events for the up-coming year. Webelos Scouts will also be working on the car wash as one step toward earning their Handyman pin. Raindate is Sunday, Sept. 23.

Vendors Needed

Vendors are wanted for the Franklin School Annual Harvest Day Fest on Oct. 6. Tables are \$10-\$15.

Call Debra Krawiec at

Wesley Methodist Praise Service

September 20

Wesley United Methodist Church located at 1500 Plainfield Ave. will hold a Praise Service beginning Thursday, Sept. 20 at 7 p.m., and continuing every Thursday at 7 p.m. Sunday Services: Sunday School

9 a.m., Church Service 10:30 a.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Roosevelt School Car Wash

September 29

Fourth and fifth grade students from Roosevelt School will sponsor a car wash and bake sale on Saturday, Sept. 29 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. All proceeds from this event will go towards the November 2001 and 2002 Stokes Environmental trips. The fee for all vehicles is \$5.

During the car wash customers may purchase baked goods while vait.

The car wash will take place in the Roosevelt School parking lot off Jackson Ave. and Hamilton Blvd. Rain date is set for Saturday, Oct. 6.

OLC Rosary Society Spaghetti Dinner

September 29

Our Lady of Czestochowa will hold a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, Sept. 29 at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Hamilton Blvd. from 4-

8 p.m.
Ticket prices are: adults, \$7; seniors, \$6; children 5-15, \$3.50; children 5-15,

For more information, call Millie at 757-3925.

SP Fire Department To Host Wine Tasting Event September 29

The South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department will host a Wine Tasting event on Saturday, Sept. 29,

from 6 to 11 p.m.

The event will be held at the Embassy Suites, in Piscataway. Ticket price of \$70 per person includes a wine tasting reception, from 6 to 8 p.m., a buffet dinner from 8 to 9 p.m. and also features an open bar, DJ and dancing, held from 9 to 11 p.m. There are also special hotel room rates available for overnight

For tickets or more information, contact John Celentano at (908) 757-5691 or Mike Gallagher (908)

Future Stars Parents Group Meeting October 4

Future Stars Parents Group will hold their first meeting on Oct. 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the Grant School Cafeteria. All parents are urged to at-

Open Your Heart to Cruise on Cornucopia October 5

A benefit for children battling cancer and blood disorders will be held Friday, Oct. 5, aboard the Cornucopia Princess, sailing out of Perth

The Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer Foundation, a nonprofit-organization, formed by a group of Realtor-Associates at Century 21 Moretti Realty, is accepting requests for seating reservations

aboard the Cornucopia.

Tickets can be purchased at \$100 per person, which includes dinner and dancing on two private decks. Seating is limited, so reserve your seats by calling (800) 899-9199, extension 406.

Monetary pledges will also be acceptéd for this worthwhile cause. To find out more about how you can help, call (800) 899-9199.

Columbiettes Announce Fall Trips Oct. 6, Nov. 3 & Nov. 25

The South Plainfield Columbiettes will be hosting a bus trip to Bingo World in Baltimore, a shopping spree to Reading and a trip to see a Christmas Show in Connecticut this fall. All events are open to

the public.
On Saturday, Oct. 6, patrons will have a choice to attend either the Inner Harbor or Bingo World, both in Baltimore. The bus will leave at 7:30 a.m. from Sacred Heart Church parking lot and return at about 8:30 p.m. Cost to go to the Inner Harbor is \$35 per person, while Bingo

World will cost \$55 and includes a \$49 admission package good for the main session only. Reservations must be made by Sept. 30.

The Columbiettes' annual shopping trip to Reading, Pa. will be held on Saturday, Nov. 3. The bus will leave promptly at 8 a.m. from the Knights of Columbus Hall on Hamilton Blvd. and return at about 7 p.m. Cost is \$18 and includes a free lunch coupon and discount book. Dinner is on your own at the Cracker Barrell. Deadline is Oct.

On Sunday, Nov. 25, the group will go and see the Christmas Show at the Spinning Wheel Inn in Connecticut. The bus will leave from the K of C Hall at 9 a.m. and return at 5 p.m. The \$65 cost includes the show and a four course meal, which is served in between acts. Deadline

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

Recreation To Sponsor Two Trips to Broadway October 13, December 16

The South Plainfield Recreation Department is sponsoring two trips to New York to see Broadway Shows. The first show, Contact, will be on Saturday, Oct. 13. The cost is \$60 per person and the bus leaves from the PAL Building at 10 a.m.

The second trip on Dec. 16 is to see the classic Radio City Music

Hall's Christmas Show. Tickets are \$75 per person and the bus will leave the PAL Building at 1:30 p.m.

Each trip allows everyone to shop and dine before the show.

To purchase tickets, visit the Recreation Office, located in the PAL Building on Maple Ave. The office is open weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 5

Atlantic City Trip Sponsored by Polish Home October 14

The South Plainfield Polish Home's Scholarship Committee will be sponsoring a trip to the Taj Mahal Casino in Atlantic City on Oct. 14. Tickets are \$15 per person with a \$9 coin return. Bus leaves the Polish Home parking lot, 312 New Market Ave. at 11 a.m. For reservations, please call Ann (908) 561-6551 or Millie (908) 757-3428.

Rescue Squad to Hold Fun Night 2001

November 3

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad will hold Fun Night 20001, sponsored by the Rescue Squad Ladies Auxilary on Saturday, Nov. 3 at

Fun Night 2001 will take place at the Holiday Inn in South Plainfield. A donation of \$20 includes food and

beverage. There will be a cash bar. For tickets or information, call (732) 424-3661 or (732) 764-0620.

SPHS Class of 1976 25th Reunion

November 10

Attention all classmates! South Plainfield Class of 1976 will hold its 25th reunion on Saturday, Nov. 10 at the Clarion-Windsor Ballroom.

For more information, please e-mail Debra (Hays) Bishop at sphs1976@hotmail.com.

SPHS Class of 1981 20th Reunion

November 23

Attention classmates! South Plainfield High School Class of 1981 will hold its 20th reunion on Friday, Nov. 23 at Madeline's in Bound Brook.

For more info, call Jane (Lacey) O'Dowd at (908) 479-1684 or Gina (Rosania) Capizola at (908) 526-

— Out of Town —

Burt's Bees Presentation Makeup Show

September 22

On Saturday, Sept. 22 from 1-3 p.m. Burt's Bees Presentation will be showing their fine line of makeup and more. Refreshments will be served. The event is being held at The Brass Lantern, 335 Main St., Metuchen. For more information please call (732) 548-5442.

Adoption Support Chats Meeting Set

September 24

Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support,, will meet 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 24, at Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church, 170 Watchung Ave., North Plainfield. Sarah Saffian, author of the book, "Ithaka: A Daughter's Memoir of Being Found," will be with us to share her story. Anyone is welcome—adop-tee, adoptive parent, birth parent or anyone with an interest in adoption.

Open sharing of adoption-related stories; light refreshments. Call Alyce at (732) 227-0607 or http://commu nity.nj.com/cc/chats for information.

Theatre Co. Presents Forever Plaid

The Jersey Central Theatre Company, a new non-profit troupe, tak-ing up residence at the historic Dunellen Theater, 458 North Ave. (Rt. 28) at Madison Ave. will present their premiere production of Forever Plaid on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Oct. 5-27. The show pays tribute to the "good guys" of the era not the greasers, but the ones who wore dinner jackets and bow ties. The cost is \$20 per person. Stu-

dent, senior, group and subscription discounts available. For more infor-mation, contact Jersey Central Theatre Company at 732-968-9010, or online at theatre.com. www.jerseycentral

Send Us **Your Events:**

Mail or drop off stories and photos to South Plainfield Observer,

1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax (908)

668-8819; or email to ggnan@aol.com.

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,

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

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

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.

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



- Out of Town -

Unique Bridal Fair

October 7

On Sunday, Oct. 7 from 1 to 6 p.m. the historic and picturesque Pillars of Plainfield Bed and Breakfast at 922 Central Ave., Plainfield, will host a Teddy Bear Bridal Fair to help potential brides make their plans.

Admission is by donating a new Teddy Bear (tags attached) to the "Teddies for Trauma" project which provides these comforting creatures to hospitals, rescue squads, police and other agencies which help children and others in crises.

There will be two shows, one at 1 p.m., the other at 4 p.m., as well as displays of items the bride needs for her special day.

Although a new Teddy Bear is the cost of admission, reservations are required by phoning Cathy Demarais at (908)561-5163, by calling The Pillars at (908)753-0922 or sending an e-mail request to their web site: www.pillars2.com.

Craft Festival and Silent Auction

October 19

Hillsborough Presbyterian Church will hold their 16th Annual Autumn Craft Festival and Silent Auction at Hillsborough Presbyterian Church, Route 206 and Homestead Road Hillsborough on Saturday, Oct. 20, 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Special auction hours on Friday, Oct. 19 are 6 to 9 p.m.

Last year's success allowed our church to donate \$2,500 to the Somerset Home for Displaced Children. We are targeting the Samaritan Homeless Interim Program (SHIP) and the Resource Center for Women and their Families as the recipients of half of this year's proceeds

Tourette Syndrome Assoc. of NJ Meeting

November 8

The Tourette Syndrome Association of New Jersey-Middlesex/ Union County Family Support Group and the Somerset/Hunterdon County Chapter will meet on Thursday, September 13 and November 8 from 7-9 p.m. They will meet in the Neuroscience Institute of JFK Medi-

cal Center, 65 James St., Edison.
Guest speaker at the Sept. 13
meeting will be Debbie Johnson of
the Tourette Therapeutic Program at Rutgers University. She will explain

the program and answer questions. For more info, call Marilyn at (908) 757-5074 or after 6 p.m., Debbie at (732) 283-1439.

Terra Nova Garden Club To Celebrate 50th Anniversary

November 15

The Terra Nova Garden Club is turning 50! Come and celebrate with them at their 50th Anniversary Luncheon, to be held on Tuesday, Nov. 15 at the Metuchen Golf & Country Club, on Plainfield Rd. in Edison, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Featured guests will be noted floral designer Winifred Applegate and pianist James Nuzzo.

For reservation or more info, call Kay McCormack, (732) 548-1976.





The South Plainfield VFW Post 6763 held thier 50th annual picnic with a record number attending of people on Sept. 8.

VFW members manned the tables to serve the

VFW members manned the tables to serve the guests sausage, peppers and onions, fresh corn on the cob, hamburgers, hot-dogs and salads. VFW member Leo Grabowski spent the day shelling clams. Beer and soda flowed. A roasting pig filled the air with a mouth-watering scent. A line quickly formed and plates were piled high with the succulent pork. Music was provided by Billy Phillips.

This year Unity Bank, located on Plainfield Ave., joined in the celebration. The people-oriented bank provided half price tickets, along with a free raffle

ticket for a beach chair and picnic table to the first 142 people. Children entering with the first guests were admitted free, courtesy of Unity Bank, which also sponsored a moon walk and pony rides.

Unity Bank Assistant Financial Service Manager Tino Fontes explained the bank's participation, "I was reading the *Observer* when I saw the VFW picnic article and I thought it would be a great way to introduce Unity Bank to the community of South Plainfield *

Tino Martinez and senior teller Sonia Martinez manned a table offering brochures and giveaways. The bank's PT Cruiser was also on display. Their goal was to show that Unity Bank is committed to serving the commu-nity by offering bank-ing the old fashioned way and providing the best possible customer

In light of the events of Sept. 11, many residents have been visiting the VFW Post looking for



flags. VFW Commander Rudy Poczak said that as of Tuesday there were only 20 flags available and expected they would shortly be gone.







Emergency Services Respond to Gas-Line Break

During the last month, South Plainfield's Office of Emergency Management has faced four major events and dealt with each one professionally. They were involved with the water main break on Park Ave., The Labor Day Parade, the disaster last week at the World Trade Center and Monday a gas main break on New Durham Ave

According to Mike Zushma, emergency management coordinator, "Our emergency services all work and cooperate together and that makes handling these emergencies much easier." He gave an example of Monday's gas line break on New Durham Ave., "Soon after it oc-curred, members of the police and fire department, the rescue squad,

the public works, along with Mayor Dan Gallagher and Councilman Dennis Cerami, arrived on the scene." He added that the break occurred on the border of Piscataway and it was hard to find one police officer from that town.

The gas-line break took place in front of Copolla's Farm by a construction crew that broke a 6-inch

gas line at noon on Monday. The break led to the evacuation of 160 homes in the Shadyside area, Piscataway and in the New Traditions community for three hours, as well

as the closing of New Durham Ave. The South Plainfield, North Stelton and New Market fire departments, and the South Plainfield rescue squad were at the scene.

A Message of Thanks from Unity Bank



Dear Loyal Customers and New Arrivals*:

Team UNITY would like to take this opportunity to THANK YOU for allowing us to service all your banking and financial needs.

It is our absolute pleasure to do whatever we can for our loyal customers and to strive to do that which others believe is impossible!

Today, we are not selling you anything in our ad but rather letting you know how much we enjoy your friends and family banking with UNITY.

Unlike others who have come and gone, UNITY your local, hometown community bank is still here, celebrating our 10th anniversary and anxious to provide banking "the old fashioned way," face to face, up close and personal.

So, we thank you for your trust and loyalty and ask you to stop in any time for business or just to have a cup of coffee and chat!

And remember we have Café Unity plus Kids Corner in our Clinton office. There are extended hours in all our offices, with Sunday hours and continental breakfast in a number of locations. For your convenience, other offices with Sunday hours are coming soon.

Working With You. For You. Unity.

*New arrivals from other banks such as Fleet, Summit, Union Center, PNC and Advantage.



800.618.BANK unitybank.com

Member FDIC

2002 MUNICIPAL BUDGET of the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex for the State Fiscal Year 2002

	Anticipated	
Summary of Revenues	SFY 2002	SFY 2001
1. Surplus	2,060,000.00	1,800,000,00
Total Miscellaneous Revenues	6,395,798.08	6,608,386.63
3. Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	31,000.00	100,000.00
4. a) Local Tax for Municipal Purposes	11,884,034.00	10,638,726.00
b) Addition to Local District School Tax	0.00	0.00
Total Amount to be Raised by Taxes for Support		
of Municipal Budget	11,884,034.00	10,638,726.00
Total General Revenues	20,370,832.08	19,147,112.63

Summary of Appropriations		SFY 2002 Budget	Final SFY 2001 Budget
Operating Expenses:	Salaries & Wages	8,230,562.00	7,998,640.75
	Other Expenses	7,092,734.15	6,509,325.08
2. Deferred Charges & Othe	er Appropriations	983,665.93	887,073.98
3. Capital Improvements		550,000.00	350,000.00
4. Debt Service		2,608,805.00	2,597,007.82
5. Reserve for Uncollected Taxes		905,065.00	805,065.00
Total Gen	eral Appropriations	20,370,832.08	19,147,112.63
Total Number of Employe	es	136	136

SFY 2002 Dedicated Sewer Utility Budget			
	Anticipated		
Summary of Revenues	SFY 2002	SFY 2001	
1. Surplus	378,995.62	220,000.0	
2. Miscellaneous Revenues	2,932,000.00	3,173,213.00	
3. Deficit (General Budget)	0.00	0.00	
Total Revenues	3,310,995.62	3,393,213.00	
	SFY 2002	Final SFY	
Summary of Appropriations	Budget	2001 Budget	
Operating Expenses: Salaries & Wages	345,000.00	315,000.00	
Other Expenses	2,096,713.00	1,939,213.0	
2. Capital Improvements	0.00	300,000.0	
3. Debt Service	742,275.00	775,000.0	
4. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations	127,007.62	64,000.0	
5. Surplus (General Budget)		a Acceptant Payers	
	Constitution with the	San	
Total Appropriations	3,310,995.62	3,393,213.0	
Total Number of Employees	6	6	

SFY 2002 Dedicated Swim Pool Utility Budget			
	Anticipated		
Summary of Revenues	SFY 2002	SFY 2001	
1. Surplus			
2. Miscellaneous Revenues	149,771.00	190,000.00	
3. Deficit (General Budget)	118,268.93	83,917.47	
Total Revenues	268,039.93	273,917.47	
Summary of Appropriations	SFY 2002 Budget	Final SFY 2001 Budget	
Operating Expenses: Salaries & Wages	102,440.00	97,773.32	
Other Expenses	74,250.00	61,306.31	
2. Capital Improvements	. 0.00	22,000.00	
3. Debt Service	54,478.00	58,627.49	
4. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations	36,871.93	18,956.52	
5. Surplus (General Budget)			
Total Appropriations	268,039.93	258,663.64	
Total Number of Employees	2	2	

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	General	Water Utility	Sewer Utility	Swim Pool Utility
Interest Due - SFY 2002	650,046.00	n/a	292,641.00	10,278.00
Principal Due - SFY 2002	1,639,600.00	n/a	450,000.00	44,200.00
Remaining Principal Outstanding Balance	13,519,200.00	n/a	5,465,000.00	210,000.00

Notice is hereby given that the Budget and Tax Resolution was approved by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex on September

A Hearing on the Budget and Tax Resolution will be held at the Borough Hall on October 4, 2001 at 8:00 o'clock P.M., at which time and place objections to said budget and Tax Resolution for the state fiscal year ending June 30, 2002 may be presented by taxpayers or other interested persons.

Copies of the budget are available in the office of Vincent Buttiglieri, Borough Clerk, at Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey, (908) 754-9000, during the hours of 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. each weekday.

\$483.00

nber 21, 2001



Front Row: Jeff Gillen, Mike Dispenziere, Nick Okoszko, Shaun Alers, Danny Hunt, Daniel Peel, Danny Sticco, Anthony Cardoso and Steven Lanza; back row are Coaches Hunt, Sticco and Gillen.

South Plainfield Soccer Club Sonics U9B

The South Plainfield Sonics had a strong showing in their first game at home versus the Summit Shadows. At half time the Shadows were up 2-

The second half saw a stronger Sonics team score goals by Anthony Cardoso and Danny Hunt. There were second half shots by Nick Okoszko, Danny Hunt and Steven

The defensive line of Daniel Peel. Shaun Alers, Danny Sticco and Mike Dispenziere did a tremendous job. The goal keepers for the game were Jeff Gillen and Steven Lanza.

Congratulations Sonics, for a hard

fought come from behind 2-2 tie.

Traveling Soccer Cook-Off







The South Plainfield Traveling Soccer Club recently held their Third Annual Pre-Season Cook Off in anticipation of a successful season. The club consists of 14 teams with players ranging in age from eight to 19 Over 200 attended the event and enjoyed a sunny day with plenty of food, friends and of course, soccer.

Jr. Baseball Fall Ball Begins

The South Plainfield Junior Base ball Club played fall baseball for the first time this past week. Lee Flanagan, Fall Ball director, indicated there are currently 162 kids signed up to play. Kids will enjoy a 12 game schedule per team, there are fourteen teams in three different age groups. Opening night the Blue Jays received outstanding pitching from six different pitch ers including Daniel Hansen, who had a double and a triple. Lenny Casiero did reach base three times for the Gi-

Other game highlights this week saw the White Sox pitcher Randy Jukulik pitching a perfect sixth inning

and the fielding of Bobby Sacks, playing for the Blue Jays.

The Rockies received strong pitch-

ing from Mikey Pryor the last two innings of the game to hold off the Giants who had a good hitting day from

Kyle Pompillio, Eric Niemeyer and Alphonse Muglia.

The White Sox received a strong pitching performance from Michael Sullivan who also had a good hitting day driving in a key run when they day driving in a key run when they

played the Rockies.

Volunteers are needed to work the Snack Stand at the baseball club. If you have any questions contact Lee Flanagan at 561-6348.

Sports

Soccer

Blaze U-13 Girls Tie Season Opener

South Plainfield Blaze vs. Union Galaxy. The South Plainfield U-13 girls traveling soccer team opened their season this past Sunday with a 3-3 tie vs. Union Galaxy. Picking up where we left off last season Blaze's defense particularly in the second half was outstanding. Our talented keeper Becky Keller had numerous saves and did not allow a goal in the second half. Middle defenders, sweepers, Jackie Miller and Tiffany Roth and stopper Joy Maszczak and Dorian Bishop played well in the middle. The very aggressive play of right fullback Ashley Gaspari and the finesse and speed of right midfielder Ashley Little and with help from Kim Marin our right side was completely shutdown. Sharing the left fullback positions Tiffany Smith and Megan Boyle and sharing left midfield positions Lauren Fry and Elizabeth Flannery all put in strong efforts as well. Early scoring by Union was quickly answered by a beautiful crossing feed from right midfielder Jennifer Copeland to left striker Kate.

Hardy who found the back of the net in the 11th minute. Union would score two more and again we would answer with a score of our own. In the 36th minute and with strong efforts from right center mid fielder Jenna DeLillo who passed it off to Dorian Bishop who one touched it to Kate Hardy who blasted it to keep Blaze within one. A 3-2 score at the half and down by one Blaze made adjustments and came out firing. In what clearly was a dominating second half for Blaze the final goal of the game came in the 72nd minute when right midfielder Jennifer Copeland sent off a beautiful pass and her second assist of the game to Joy Maszczak who then rolled it in for the score. South Plainfield Blaze 3, Union Galaxy 3.

Although the season is young this was a very significant and impressive game for Blaze proving that we can compete at flight four. Congratula-tions Girls! Visit the South Plainfield Soccer Club1s web site at www.soplfdsoccerclub.com.

Submitted by Coach Hardy

SPHS Soccer Season Underway



The South Plainfield High School soccer teams took on Colonia High School last Thursday. The Junior Varsity Tiger's beat Colonia 1-0. The Varsity team played a hard game but were defeated 2-0.

Photos by Patricia Abbott

Opening Day for So. Plfd. Soccer Club

The South Plainfield Soccer Club opens its fall season this weekend with four home games and six away games Riley School field in South Plainfield will host four of the ten games start-

ing at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday.

The first game is scheduled at Riley on Saturday. Making their debut fac-ing Greater Flemington Lightning are the U-8 boy's team, Hotspurs, coached by Wally Bolivar. The two 11:30 a.m. games at Riley on Sunday are Pio Pennisi and his U-12 boys team, the Typhoons, who will attempt to defend their flight championship vs. the So. Brunswick Typhoons. On our small-sided field will be the U-10

boy's team, Fire vs. the Tewksbury Jaguars, coached by Paul Baldassare. The afternoon game slated at 1 p.m., are the Sonics U-9 boy's team, making their debut vs. the Summit Shadows, coached by Bruce Hunt.

Six away games should prove to be very exciting as well. Carlos Gonzalez and the South Plainfield Blast U-11 boys move up to the full-sided field vs. the Cranford Crush and the newly formed U-10 girl's team Power, coached by Sam Pauls. They will battle the Tewksbury Ocelots in Tewksbury. Jen Baldassare's U-12 girls Comets head out on the road to face the Linden Comets in Linden, while the Spring Flight Champions, Blaze U-13 girls, coached by Tom Hardy, will attempt to defend their ritle in Union.

The two remaining away games slated for this weekend are Pete Kelly's U-14 Lightning vs. the Plainfield Extreme and Pete Bolivar's U-13 United vs. the North Brunswick Strikers.

We expect this season to be an exciting one and encourage all to come out and support our teams. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that helped make last season a success and look forward to an even better season this year. GO SOUTH PLAINFIELD! Visit our web

www.soplfdsoccerclub.com.
Submitted by Tom Hardy

Comets Shower Over Linden

The South Plainfield U12 girl soccer team traveled to Linden in its season opener and walked away with a 2-1 victory. Trailing 1-nil at the half, Comets shutdown Linden's offense.

The impenetrable defense that led this effort consisted of Rachel Senz, Allison Whitefleet (aka Fleet white) Courtney Wilhelm, Kate Reichert, Alyssa Sutherland and Diana Naser. Keeper Katie Baldasarre saw little action in the second half. Our midfield kept the pressure on and kept the game on Lindens half of the field. Leading the attack from the midfield were Stephanie Szeliga, Brooke DeNitzio,

Chelsea Moubarak, Stephanie Lanza, and Lindsay Fredericks. Comets got on the scoreboard when Maria Lipnick made a run down the left side and crossed the ball into the middle. Victoria Plasse took this pass and put the ball in the back of the net. Tied 1the ball in the back of the net. Ited In-1. Comets put the pressure on Lin-den with help from its forwards Clare Kelly, Megan McHugh, and Jacque-line Bosse. The result was a game-win-ning goal by Clare Kelly, assisted by Stephanie Segelia.

Comets next game will be at home and will face the Metuchen Fire team. Good luck Comets!

Typhoons Lose Heartbreaker

The South Plainfield Boys U-12 Typhoons were welcomed into their new flight by losing 1-0 to South Brunswick. The boys had their 15 game winning streak stopped in a game that was played as a virtual tie until the final five minutes of the match.

Grey Coppi and the defense picked up where they left off, holding the opposition to a lone goal, as the Typhoons could not capitalize on a handful of opportunities throughout the game. Brendan O'Shea, Brian Fabino,

The South Plainfield Boys U-8 Hotspurs played an inspiring inaugu-

ral game Saturday at Riley School against the Greater Flemington Light-ning. It was a great start to what

promises to be a very exciting season as the boys came back from an early

B League Crows

On Saturday, Sept 15 the B League Crows were defeated by the Hawks

by a score of 45-2.

The B-League Crows played well

at their first game together as a team. Each player gave 100 percent and they

followed the coach's directions.

Vs. Hawks

Hotspurs vs. Lightning

Matt Helgesen and Dan Pompilio provided much of the offensive pressure while Steven Guevara, Chris Pen-nisi and Greg Watts thwarted many efforts by an equally matched South Brunswick ream.

Following a season in which they thoroughly dominated the opposi-tion, the Typhoons have been upgraded two flights and will be com-peting against a higher caliber of teams. And even if it was only their first outing, they showed that they have the speed and desire to battle with the hest



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There's a lot going on..



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Kyle Quail scored both goals, asissted and supported by his front line players. Near goal misses were heart breakers, but the number of shots on goal and their aim will improve throughout the season.

Congratulations to everyone on a game well played with sportsmanship and great personal effort!! 2-0 deficit only to fall short 3-2.

The Hotspurs displayed a lot of heart in their first game together as they stopped many early attacks by an aggressive Flemington team. And even though they gave up the first two goals of the game, they did not quit. The front line of Quinn Bolivar, Zachary Noll and Taylor Born worked hard and got to within one late in the first half, following a long goal off the foot of backfielder Albert Vill.

The defense, led by goalie Daniel Lyew, fullbacks Ryan Marcoux and Albert Vill, as well as midfielder Eric LaVerne, continued to turn back the Lightning long enough for A.J. Celentano to pull the team within one when he kicked the ball beyond a

pulled up goalie for the score.

All in all, the kids displayed a great deal of teamwork, camaraderie and hustle. Coach Bolivar and the Hotspurs will travel to Hillsborough next Saturday with one game under their belts and eager for their first victory of the year.

Submitted by Jeff Marcoux

Obituaries

Kenneth L. "Kenny" Krystopik, 54

Kenneth L. "Kenny" Krystopik, died on Thursday, Sept. 13, at the Somerset Medical Center in

Somerser Medical Center in Somerville following a brief illness. Mr. Krystopik was born in Plainfield and grew up there. He graduated from Plainfield High School in 1965. He has lived in South Plainfield since 1976.

He founded KLK Trucking Co. of South Plainfield in 1969 and has owned and operated the business with his family up to the present. He was a member of the NJ Motor Truck Association and enjoyed collecting antique cars.

Kenneth was over generous in providing for his family and friends. He displayed an uncompromising work ethic and had an outstanding ability to care for his employees.

He is survived by his wife of al-

most 26 years, Susan Sloboda Krystopik; three children, Kenneth L. Krystopik, Jr., Leslie A. Krystopik, and Kevin S. Krystopik, all of South Plainfield; two sisters, Sandra Moss of St. Pete Beach, Fla., and Diane Musmanno of Eatontown; two brothers, Walter "Billy" Krystopik of Maryland and Norman Krystopik of Jackson, and by his best friends, Cindy and Tony Popolillo and by his god-daughter, Melissa C. Popolillo all of

Monroe Twp.
Funeral services will be held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Memorial Donations maybe made to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, 2520 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or to the South Plainfield Fire Department, 123 Maple Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080

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Harriet (Tootie) E. Munro, 65

Harriet (Tootie) E. Munro died on Tuesday, Sept. 11 at Greenbrook Manor Nursing Home in Green

Tootie was born in Plainfield and was a life long resident of South Plainfield.

She had worked in the laundry department of Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield for 25 years before retiring in 1994.

Her father, Walter E. Munro, died many years ago. Her mother, Harriet Munro died in May, 2001 and her sister, Judy Holz, died in July of

Surviving are her sister and brother in law, Carol A. and Edward W. Moraller of Middlesex and her two nephews; Andy Moraller of Middlesex and Barry Moraller of Piscataway.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Donations may be made in her memory to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, 2520 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ, 07080.

Charles (Charlie) Bechtoldt, 73

Charles (Charlie) Bechtoldt died on Wednesday, Sept. 12 at the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, NH. He was suddenly taken ill while visiting in New

Mr. Bechtoldt was born in Irvington and has resided in South

Plainfield for the past 42 years.

He graduated with a BS degree in accounting from Seton Hall University and had worked as an accoun-

retisty and had worked as a fraction and for Bristol Myers in Hillside for 37 before retiring 10 years ago.

He was a 32 Degree member of the Free & Accepted Masons Lodge, formerly in Franklin. He was a member of the Masons for over 50 years. He was also a member of the American Legion Chaumont Post 243 of South Plainfield and of the First Bap-

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tist Church of South Plainfield.

Surviving are his wife of 44 years, Arline Winget Bechtoldt and his children; Scott Bechtoldt and his wife, Jennifer, Todd Bechtoldt and Christopher Bechtoldt, all of South Plainfield and by a sister Dorothy Vieser of Red Bank.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Memorial donations may be made to the First Baptist Church of South Plainfield or to the Lukemia Society, Northern NJ Chapter, 45 Springfield Ave., Springfield, NJ 07081.

John "Jack" Barry Tomko, 44

John "Jack" Barry Tomko died on Friday, Sept. 14 at home.

Mr. Tomko was born in Plainfield and lived most of his life in South Plainfield before moving to Edison three years ago. He attended South Plainfield schools. He was an avid golfer and a member of the Golf Mission Assoc. of Clifton. He was a mason for many years, mostly working out of the NJ B.A.C. Local #4 of Morristown. He was also a self employed private mason contractor in the area. At the present time, he was employed by the New York Sports Club working out of the Colonia location.

He was predeceased by his father, John Tomko and a nephew.

Surviving are his mother, Ann Tomko of Edison and three sisters, Gail Billian of Holland Twp., Debra Capozzi of Piscataway and Linda Viola of Warren and three nieces and

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Memorial donations may be made to the Twin Towers Fund, P.O. Box 26999, General Post Office, New York, NY, 10087-6999.

Gloria E. Smith, 77

Gloria E. Smith died on Friday,

September 14 at her home.

Born in Manhattan, she was a former resident of Menlo Park Terrace and Kingsley, Pa. before moving to Easton, Pa. in 2000.

Mrs. Smith was a homemaker and a member of the Kingsley, Penn. Civic

Her sister, Margureite Gillis died

Surviving are her husband, Donald E. Smith; six daughters, Marianne Colalillo of Readington Twp., Deirdre Bukowski of Green Brook, Patricia Critelli of Neschanic, Christine Grzeszczak of Piscataway, Claudia Ortuso and Joanne Karch, both of Somerset; a son, Donald F. Jr. of Bound Brook; two sisters, Sister M. Francine Connolly, I.H.M. of Manhassett, NY, Dolores Carlo of Wantagh, NY and a brother, Gerard Connolly of Fairfax, Virginia. Also surviving are her grandchildren, Mat-thew, Richard, Jacqueline, Lauren, Brittany, Kyle, Stephanie, Nicole and Brooke.

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rator trucks are lined up in the parking lot acro

Generators to Aid New York Recovery are Stored Here

If you have driven past the Borough's public works department on Spicer and Belmont avenues, you may have noticed that there are large GE trucks parked there.

These huge trucks contain portable generators, transformers, electrical cables and other supplies which are being used in the recovery efforts at the World Trade Center. After the attack. Con Edison contracted with GE to bring lighting to "ground zero."

GE has established a temporary

headquarters at their company's St. Nicholas Ave. location. Employees inspect and service the equipment brought in from warehouses all over the country to send to New York as needed. When the inspections are complete, the trucks are either sent to New York or parked on the lot at the Borough garage until needed.

This is just one of the ways South

Plainfield has been able to help out in the recovery efforts that are going on at the World Trade Center.

In My Opinion

1-800-GIVE-LIFE. They may be overwhelmed with phone calls from others wishing to help, so just keep trying until you get through.

The following link will help you

find out how to help the victims and their families: http://dailynews.yahoo. com/fc/US/Emergency Information/
BE STRONG AND BE WELL,

PATRICK M. AIELLO D.C.

Don't Sell Me Anything Today

As I drive home from dropping my oungest child off at school, I immediately hit the on button for my car radio. No need to change the dial, it's been set to news radio for days now. I wait until my children are safely (I pray) at their schools before inundating myself with countless hours of updates. While making the bed, I watch cable TV coverage. While doing the dishes it's Channel 2 on the antennae-fed black and white. It's the only channel the kitchen TV will broadcast because they have another studio somewhere other than One World Trade Center. Later, I will pick up the newspaper when food shopping in an empty store while wrapped in a mental fog. I will place it on my bedroom dresser, the tall one, to somehow shelter my children from

yet another reminder of the carnage. The headlines are large and bold; the color photos extremely vivid. It all seems out of place resting on the living room coffee table.

As I drive, I listen to Paul Harvey's report. I am soothed by his familiar voice. It's a welcome reprieve from the talk radio hosts' and their callers' opinions of what this country should do to retaliate. And then I am struck by something that seems incredibly out of place: a commercial.

As is always the case on Paul Harvey's segment, it is in his own voice. Because of this, it seems to sneak through. It barely registers at first. It's for a radio that is supposed to provide superior sound while taking up very little space. I've heard the claims before. But, today, I can't bear to part with the sadder news. I change the channel. Is it morbid of me to somehow need to wallow in the grave reality of this horrid situation or is it morbid for this company to think I should want to buy their radio today?

I know I must continue to do my daily routine. I know this country will prevail. I know that life still offers us beautiful surroundings. I just don't feel like shopping today.

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Left to right are Matthew Casiero, Joe Diegnan and Dominick Clarizio.

Matthew's Mobil Service Center Wins Glitter Award

Marthew Casiero, franchisee/dealer of the Mobil station at 4501 Stelton Road, accepted the South Plainfield Clean Business Association's Glitter Award today. CBA President Joe Diegnan presented the award to Casiero and Dominick Clarizio, Business Development Manager for TOSCO (which owns Mobil in New Jersey). Mr. Casiero has owned the gas station since 1984. He is only the third owner since the station was built in

The business earned the Glitter Award for its consistently excellent property maintenance, Casio does his own landscaping, including planting the annual flower displays every spring (although he admitted that this year he has hired someone to cut the grass). He said that litter is a constant problem, but all of his employas well as his wife and children pitch to the pick up the litter and keep the area clean.

Casiero takes pride in his business's appearance. He noted that the station's location next to the Rte. 287 exit casts them as the Borough's welcoming committee. People stop to ask for directions or use the restroom. "Mystery shoppers" from Mobil come in anonymously every month to see if the station is meeting corporate standards. Cleanliness of the restrooms is an important item.

Matthew's Service Center is one of only 15 stations in New Jersey that are "CarCare"-certified by Mobil, offering a 12,000 mile nation-wide warranty on parts and labor. They are also AAA approved. Last month, Mr. Casiero installed "SpeedPass," an electronic system for automatically charging a customer's credit card to decrease the time at the pump.

In accepting the Glitter Award, Mr. Casiero told Mr. Diegnan, "I feel honored. I've seen the Glitter Award around town, but I never expected to get it myself. It's nice to be recognized by the community."

The CBA gives Glitter Awards to South Plainfield businesses that are unusually well maintained or have recently improved their appearance through renovation or landscaping. Membership in the CBA is open to all businesses that share its goals of enhancing the appearance of commercial districts through property maintenance and litter control. For more information, contact A. Tempel at (908) 226-7621.

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.

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policereport

- · Odd Jobs on Helen St. reported that one of their employees attempted to leave the building with a concealed Sony telephone worth \$50.
- · A Dumont Ave. man was arrested for the theft of license plates belonging to his employer. The plates had been taken from his employers basement while he was helping him move some items.
- A 15 year old resident was riding his bike on Clinton Ave. when he was stopped by two males who were also on bikes. One male told the youth to get off his bike and he refused. The youth

was punched in the jaw several times and even threatened with a supposedly concealed gun. The suspects did flee with the boy's bike valued at \$243.

- · A Manning Ave. resident reported that someone had smashed out the rear small driver side window of his vehicle.
- · On September 12, a bomb threat was called in at Pathmark from a pay phone at the Middlesex Mall.
- A truck driver from Old Bridge was arrested at 7-11 for harassing the employees there.
- · A Nunnik Ln. resident reported the theft of a boat cover

which was draped over garbage pails in his yard.

- · A Wickford Rd. resident reported the theft of his temporary handicapped card from the rear view mirror of his car which was parked at Drug Fair.
- On Friday, Micro Smart In. on Kennedy Rd. reported that the front glass door to the building had been broken.
- · A Plainfield women was arrested outside of CVS on Plainfield Ave. for shoplifting \$109 worth of vitamins.
- · A Minnesota man was arrested for stealing a freightliner tractor from Swift Transport on

- · On Sunday, an Allison St. resident reported that her truck, which was parked in the driveway had been scratched.
- · CVS on Oak Tree Ave. reported that two men ran out of the store activating the security alarm system and sped off.

Rescue Squad Notes

Calls for July

There were 143 calls and 317 ac tual man/hours in July.

50/50 Winner

Eddie Laferrera was the winner of the Labor Day 50/50 in the amount of \$1,479.

From the South Plainfield Library Kan kmen ko

By Kenneth Morgan

This weekend sees the return of our Sunday operating hours. We'll be open Sunday afternoons from 1:30-5 p.m.

Monday is the last day you can borrow items from this month's Circuit video group. Titles available this month include Anna and the King, 2010, Silent Movie, Magnolia and, on DVD, Pay It Forward. If you're interested in these or other titles from this group, pick them up right away while they're here. Meanwhile, we're between groups on the Large Print Circuit. The next group of Circuit books will be available very soon.

Our children's Storytime programs have been cancelled for this week. They'll be back the following week at their usual times.

Here are two cancellation notices. Due to the terrible events of Sept. 11, the scheduled meeting of the Library Board of Trustees was cancelled. That meeting will not be rescheduled; the next meeting is set for Tuesday, Oct. 9, at 7:30 p.m. We also cancelled the bilingual computer class set for Friday, Sept. 14. If you'd like informa-tion on when it'll be rescheduled, call us at (908) 754-7885 and ask for Gladys Hector.

At this writing, there's still open space available for our job-searching program. It's scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 29, from 10:30 a.m.-12 noon. Reference Librarian Allen Kleiman will lead the class and give details on setting up a job search, including using Internet resources. Space is limited for this class, so please call to reserve a spot.

Here's a request from us for parents. As we've noted in previous columns, we realize how tough it is to ride herd on your children here at the Library. Between the books, the videos and the toys in our Children's Room, they have a lot of fun and it's only natural that they'll get a bit rambunctious. That said, please, for safety's sake, try to keep them from running around too much. And if you can impress upon them the need to be sort of quiet (using what has been called their "library voice"), that'd be a comfort for those patrons trying to study. As always, we appreciate what-ever help you give on matters like this.

One addendum to last week's news: Students interested in ordering an item via Inter-Library Loan can save time by using our website. The address is www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us. Finally, another advisory. In the

past, we've had some problems with people loaning their Library cards to others (friends, family, neighbors, etc.). The policy at the Library is that such practices are permitted, but not advisable. If you intend to loan out your Library card, please be aware that you, as the registered cardholder, will be responsible for items that the card user loses, damages or returns late. So, if you're intent on doing this, you're free to go ahead (and let's hope the person using your card is really trustworthy). There is one exception to this: use of the Internet. Only the cardholder may use it for Internet access.

With that, we'll wrap things up for this week. See you next Friday.

AIDA SANTOS

Assistant Vice President BRANCH MANAGER

Valley National Bank

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