

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 5, NO. 30

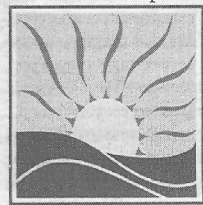
50 CENTS

MARCH 29, 2002

Good Friday, Easter Sunday Sunrise Services

The public is invited to worship together this holiday weekend

Members of the South Plainfield Clergy Group invite the public to worship with them on Good Friday, March 29 at 7:30 p.m. First Baptist Church at 201 Hamilton Blvd. is the host for the evening. Minister Wanda



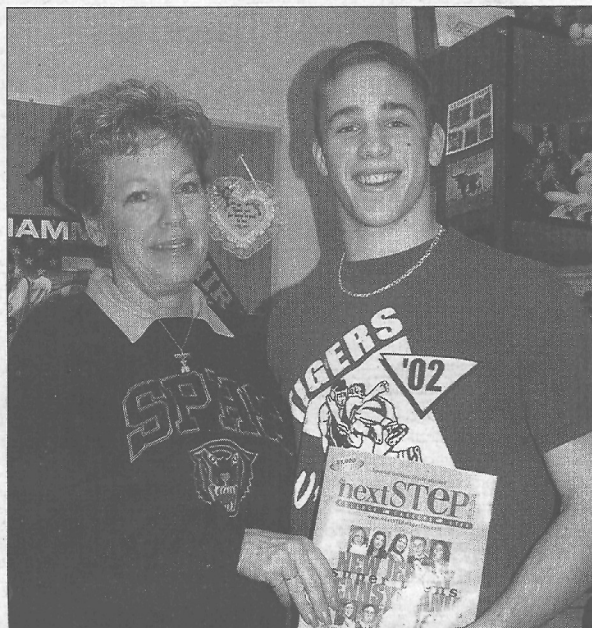
Roach from Rescue House of Prayer will preach.

Check with your local church, as several churches have specific worship services for Good Friday and cannot join together for this service. We invite you all to worship on Good Friday.

The wonderful Easter Sunrise Service tradition continues again this year. Everyone is invited to gather for the sunrise worship service, which will begin at 6:30 a.m. at the gazebo in Spring Lake Park. Pastor Cathy Stanley-Erickson from Pilgrim Covenant Church will preach and Tom Baker, Music Director from St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, will lead the music.

Feel free to bring your own chair and blanket for warmth! If it rains, our time and location will be 6:45 a.m. at Wesley United Methodist Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave.

All are welcome!



SPHS Guidance Counselor Marge Kopacsi with "Super Teen" Scott Doerr.

SPHS Senior Scott Doerr is "Super Teen"

By Patricia Abbott

SPHS Senior Scott Doerr has been named "Super Teen" in *The Next Step* magazine's fourth annual Super Teen Contest. Scott is one of 10 students from New Jersey and Pennsylvania chosen for their exemplary work in academics, extra curricular activities, community service, athletics and part-time work. His picture appears on the cover of the March/April edition. There is a photo inside, as well as a brief introduction.

Scott is a well-rounded student with a long and diverse list of accomplish-

ments. Academics include honors courses in all subjects. He is a member of the National Honor Society, French Honor Society (President), he is a three-year recipient of an Academic Letter, Gold Card, and is also listed in the "Who's Who Among American High School Students" for three years.

In athletics, he is equally proficient. In wrestling, Scott is a three-year varsity letter recipient. He is captain of the Wrestling Team with a career record of 61-25. In 2001 he was named District 12 Champion, Greater Middlesex Conference Finalist, Hunterdon Central Tournament Champion. He was recently named an All Area Wrestler by *The Star Ledger*. He has also received a varsity letter for football in 2000.

Scott's extracurricular activities range from Jersey Club, French Club-President, Math and Academic Teams, yearbook and Junior class prom committees and Student Council Executive Board.

He has worked as a certified Lifeguard and Swim Instructor for the Plainfield Country Club, and is certified in Community First Aid and Safety and CPR for The Professional Rescuer. He is a volunteer mentor for students in an after school help program.

Scott will be attending Duke University next year, and looks forward to wrestling for Duke.

History teacher Fran Flannery has known Scott for four years as a club advisor and teacher in her honors history class. She describes him as a solid, self-motivated student who displays an "intelligent curiosity and a very strong work ethic," a student who's thinking is "clear, logical and independent." In

Continued on page 12

School Board Adopts Budget

The Board of Education formerly adopted their 2002/2003 year's budget Tuesday evening. The budget will be voted on April 16, along with the candidates for School Board.

This year's budget total is \$42 million, of that \$1,454,000 is for debt service, a result of the bond proposal passed by voters last year.

The 2002/2003 budget represents an increase in school taxes for the first time in the past six years. The Board has been able to keep the rate at 2.03 per \$100 of assessed value during recent years, but this year there will be an increase to 2.6 cents per \$100. This amounts to approximately \$26 for a home assessed at \$100,000. Because of the state budget deficit, state aid to South Plainfield remained the same, even though costs and enrollment have increased. Surrounding towns have also announced tax increases. A few examples are: Old Bridge, whose taxes will increase by \$285, Metuchen by \$257, East Brunswick by \$342 and South Brunswick by \$185.

The bond referendum portion of the school tax means an increase of 6.6 cents or about \$70 per household. This was the bond referendum which

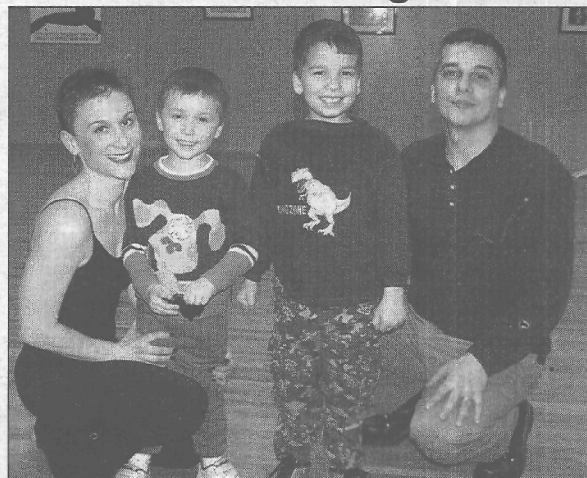


School Board Business Administrator/Secretary Ellen Johnson receives an engraved clock on behalf of South Plainfield School Board from Frank Mikorski, board president at last week's meeting. This was Johnson's last meeting.

the voters passed last year to construct a new Roosevelt School, renovate the old Roosevelt School, upgrade all of the other schools and install new boilers in the Middle School.

Superintendent Dr. John Krewer and members of the Board will be attending PTSO meetings in April to answer any questions on the budget.

Local Mom Raises Autism Awareness through Dance



Tara, Alex, Drew and Michael Catalina.

By Patricia Abbott

The dictionary defines Autism as a "mental disorder originating in infancy that is characterized by self-absorption, inability to interact socially, repetitive behavior and language dysfunction." For Tara and Michael Catalina, the multi-syllable word description doesn't begin to scratch the surface, yet can be simplified with a single word—"Alex." Alex is the

Catalina's four-year-old son who was diagnosed with autism at age 2½. His struggles are his families struggles. Tara, Michael, Alex and his seven-year-old brother Drew live with autism on a daily basis.

Community Outreach and Services for the Autism Community (COSAC) is a non-profit agency providing information and advocacy services, family and professional education and con-

Continued on page 13



Even though the weather was chilly, the Annual Easter Egg Hunt at the PAL was a big success. See page 8.

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, 7 p.m. (New Time) • Questions? 908-226-7605

AGENDA MEETING **PUBLIC MEETING**
Monday, April 1 Thursday, April 4
Monday, April 18 Thursday, April 21

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

planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641
Apr. 8, Apr. 23, May 14, May 28, June 1, June 25

zoning board of adjustment

Meets first, third and fifth Tuesday of the month
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641
April 2, April 16, May 7, May 21

taxpayers advisory group

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

site place sub-committee

The fourth Thursday of the month as follows:
April 25

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
Apr. 2, May 7, June 4, Sept. 3, Oct. 1, Nov. 12 and Dec. 3

environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)
Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-561-8280
Apr. 10, and May 8

board of education meetings

Grant School Gymnasium on Cromwell Place unless otherwise noted
Committee of the Whole meets Tuesdays, Apr. 2 at 7 p.m.
Regular Board Mtg., held on Tuesdays, Apr. 9 at 8 p.m.

business advisory group

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 5 p.m. • Questions? 908-757-8100

traffic safety advisory commission

Meetings, held at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room, Borough Hall
April 24, May 22, June 26, July 24,
(Aug. no meeting), Sept. 25, Oct. 23, Nov. 27 and Dec. 18



Pictured is South Plainfield Business Association Vice President Emil Leporino, past President Bill McCriscin and new President Joe Peterson.

South Plainfield Business Association Names New President, Upcoming Events

During last week's South Plainfield Business Association (SPBA) meeting Jack Peterson was introduced as their new president. They also announced some of their plans for future events.

Peterson's goal is to bring the old membership back into the fold and to recruit new businesses in South Plainfield to join the group.

In his message to the members he laid out what the Business Association can do for both small and large businesses in town. Peterson explained, "The SPBA probably means something slightly different to everyone. I can't help but feel that the number one thing people want from a business association is business, therefore, creating an environment that makes it easy to do business in our borough will be my number one goal."

In terms of just what the SPBA does for individual businesses, he said that he believes there is strength in numbers and the SPBA will do their best to make your problems their problems.

"Many of the members have let their memberships expire. I am now

asking you to rejoin our organization. If you are unsure please come to one of our many upcoming meetings or functions and evaluate our group. We gladly accept partial payments, so why not send in \$25 and give us six months to prove our value? If you are unhappy in six months simply do not send the remaining \$25," he added.

The SPBA is planning their annual Golf Outing on May 7 at the Cranbury Gold Club in West Windsor. If you are interested in sponsoring a flag or tee or sign up to play golf, call Bob Longo at (908) 753-7004 or Joe Celentano at (908) 412-9999.

A weeknight networking function is tentatively scheduled for May at the Knights of Columbus Hall from 5 to 7 p.m. Members and non-members are welcome to come out and enjoy the evening.

A SPBA phone number has been set up for anyone having questions or ideas. The group welcomes any suggestions and/or help. Call 757-8888 and leave a message, someone will get right back to you.

Letters to the Editor on pages 10-11-14-15

High School Drama Club Presents Hello Dolly

Hello Dolly!, its so nice to have you here in South Plainfield! The SPHS Players Drama Club brings the popular musical to the South Plainfield High School stage from April 25-27. Over many years, two names have become synonymous with the title role of 'Dolly Levy,' Carol Channing and Barbara Streisand.

Directing the show is Gloria Naso, who brought South Plainfield the hysterical *Damn Yankees* last spring. Vocal Director is Tracy Murray and Band Director is Mark Tweed. Watch the *Observer* for more details and progress on the SPHS Spring Musical *Hello Dolly!*

Submit Letters to the Editor:

South Plainfield Observer
1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

Letters may be submitted by email at our website at spobsobserver.com or faxed to 908-668-8819. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. We reserve the right to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the publisher.

A Note From the Publisher

This issue of the *South Plainfield Observer* is our largest in both pages and circulation. It will be mailed to every household in South Plainfield. If this is the first time you have seen the *Observer*, we hope you enjoy it. If you are a regular subscriber, enjoy.

The *Observer* has been publishing for more than five years now and is still growing each week. Our goal has been to fill the obvious void in coverage that exists with the daily newspapers in reporting local news and events. The *Observer* covers things that do not make the daily paper, but are still important to our residents.

Please take your time reading the paper and you will get a good idea of what has been going on around town recently. These articles and events can be seen in the *Observer* every week.

It's important for everyone to keep up with the latest news in South Plainfield. For example, next month we will be electing three school board members and vote on the 2002/2003 school budget. Do you know the candidates? A new school is going up at Roosevelt and renovations are going on at all of the other schools. Our Recreation Department has numerous activities and sports available for both you and your children all year long. Later this year we will host our Annual Labor Day Parade, with events planned all day and evening. In the fall, we will be electing a mayor and two councilpersons. The *Observer* is the tool you need to keep informed.

Also, please take time to look at all the advertisers in this paper. They are all local businesses who support the *Observer* and want your business. Without the advertisers, there would be no weekly *Observer*.

After reading the *Observer*, we know that you will want to receive it every week. Just fill out the the subscription form on page 9 and mail it to 1110 Hamilton Blvd., So. Plainfield, NJ 07080 with a check for \$25. Or you can drop by our office from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. You are also welcome to submit stories and letters at this address.

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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 at spobsobserver.com or ggnan@aol.com or nrgrennie@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 spobsobserver.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*. Letters must be submitted with name and phone number, even if they request their name be omitted when published.



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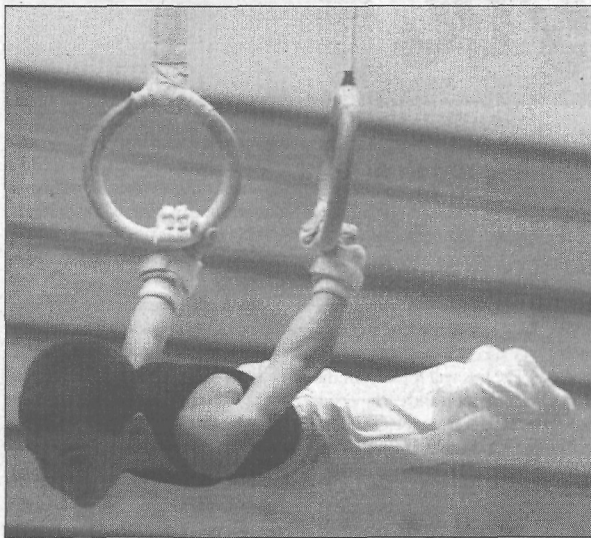
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southplainfieldpeople Milestones



Philip Longo at Saturday's competition doing his still rings routine.

Philip Longo Finishes Third in State Gymnastic Championship

Philip Longo finished third all around in his age group at the 26th Annual New Jersey Boy's State Gymnastic Championship, held this past weekend at Clifton High School.

The men's Gymnastic Competitions consisted of six events, Floor Exercise, Pommel Horse, Still Rings, Vault, Parallel Bars and High Bar. Gymnasts compete in each event and scores are combined for the "all around."

Philip finished third all around with a score of 54.9. He placed in the top ten in every event, including a third place finish on Pommel Horse with a 9.1, second place on Still Rings with a 9.5, and tied for first place on Vault

with a 9.6.

Philip is coached by Vladimir Karvachy from Hendersons Gymnastics Academy in Edison. He trains for three hours a day, five days a week. Philip has been taking gymnastics lessons since the age of four, and has been competing in state sanctioned events for the past two years.

Philip's performance this past weekend has earned him a trip to the United States Regional Competition, scheduled for April 13 and 14 at the University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus.

At the regional competition he will be competing against the top gymnasts from seven states.

Michelle Paterek Named US National Award Winner in Journalism

The United States Achievement Academy announced that South Plainfield High School student, Michelle Paterek has been named a United States National Award Winner in journalism. This award is a prestigious honor very few students can ever hope to attain. In fact, the Academy recognizes fewer than 10% of all American high school students.

Michelle was nominated by her English teacher, Ms. Schoonover. Her name will appear in the United States Achievement Academy Official Yearbook, which is published nationally.

The Academy selects USAA win-

ners upon the exclusive recommendation of teachers, coaches, counselors and other qualified sponsors and upon the Standards of Selection set forth by the Academy.

The criteria for selection are a student's academic performance, interest and aptitude, leadership qualities, dependability and recommendation from a teacher or director.

Michelle is the daughter of Frank and Donna Paterek. Her proud grandparents are Josephine and the late Frank Paterek of Roselle, and Teresa Evans of W. Warwick, RI and Robert Paton of Warwick, RI.

2002 Walks N' Talks Program

The following is the schedule for the Walks N' Talks Program, sponsored by the South Plainfield Environmental Commission and Friends of the Woods. The public is invited to participate in any and all of these events.

Saturday, April 20 at 9 a.m.
Veteran's Park Litter Cleanup
Meet at Vet. Park parking lot

Sunday, April 21 at 1 p.m.
Earth Day Tree Walk with
Mary Ferraro
Highland Ave. Woods*

Friday, April 26 at 3:30 p.m.
Arbor Day Ceremony and
Tree Planting
South Plainfield Public Library

Sunday, April 28 at 9 a.m.
Spring Trail Maintenance
Carmine Ave. side of
Highland Ave. Woods

May 1-31 National Wildflower
Week Art Exhibition
South Plainfield Public Library

Saturday, May 4 at 9 a.m.
Garden Planting-continued at
South Plainfield Public Library
3 p.m.-Garden Dedication
Ceremony - Public Library

Sunday, May 5 at 1 p.m.
National Wildflower Week Walk
Highland Ave. Woods*

* Sylvania Place entrance off South Clinton Ave.
For information call 908-226-

Jr. Woman's Club Accepting Applications for Scholarships

The Junior Woman's Club of South Plainfield is pleased to announce it will be accepting applications for their annual Mary Helfrich Nursing Scholarship. A \$500 scholarship will be awarded to any student who will pursue a career in nursing. All interested applicants can submit a letter of interest to Shannon Jefferys at Columbia Savings Bank, 620 Oak Tree Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

The letter should include: your current GPA; the school you will be attending in the Fall 2002; why you will

pursue nursing as a career and your name, address and telephone number.

The Junior Woman's Club will consider current nursing students, as well as graduating seniors living in South Plainfield. Mary Helfrich was a member of the Junior Woman's Club of South Plainfield and a nurse; this scholarship was named in her memory.

The Junior Woman's Club of South Plainfield is a service organization in South Plainfield. Interested in finding out more about us? Call Dawn Jefferys at 908-755-3986.

Volunteers Needed For Clean-Up Week

Are you Bitter About Litter? Welcome Spring by helping clear away Winter's grime!

The South Plainfield Clean Communities Advisory Board will sponsor a Borough-wide cleanup at the end of April. The main clean-up event takes place on Saturday morning, April 20.

Volunteers will meet from 9 to 10 a.m. in the Borough Hall parking lot at 2480 Plainfield Avenue to collect

equipment and clean-up assignments. Plans are to have the volunteers target roadsides, parks, streams and vacant lots. All volunteers will be invited back to Borough Hall at noon for a Pizza Pickup Picnic, complete with environmentally friendly door prizes. Residents are welcome to organize a crew, or to come on their own.

Call Alice Tempel, at (908) 226-7621 for more information.

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Saturday, April 6th

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Events

Around Town

Rescue Squad Flower Sale

March 29-30

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad will hold their 13th Annual Flower Sale. Potted plants, hanging baskets and much more will be available at this yearly fundraiser. The sale takes place at the Rescue Squad building Friday and Saturday, Mar. 29-30 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Fashion Show at GFWC Meeting

April 4

The GFWC Suburban Woman's Club will host a Fashion Show and guest speaker at their meeting to be held April 4 at 2 p.m. at the American Legion Hall on Oak Tree Ave.

Guest speaker will be Sue Dreyfus of Highland park and her topic is entitled "Clothes to You".

Meetings are open to all women interested in joining the woman's club or in finding out more about the activities sponsored by the club.

Senior Citizens Meeting

April 5

The South Plainfield Senior Citizens (formerly the Adult School Seniors) will hold their monthly meeting a 10 a.m. at the PAL building on Maple Ave. on April 5. After the meeting coffee will be served.

Please call Sue Mischka at (908)754-1047 for further information and transportation.

Dance/Gymnastics To Benefit Autism

April 6

Jo-Ann's Dance Studio and

Feigley's School of Gymnastics, 4475 So. Clinton Ave., will hold a program celebrating the art of dance and gymnastics to benefit autism awareness on Saturday, Apr. 6 from 7-8:30 p.m.

Some of the area's top dancers and gymnasts will perform to raise funds for the COSAC, the NJ Center for Outreach and Services for the Autism Community, Inc. The only admission charge will be a donation and tickets are available in advance or at the door.

For information call Jo-Ann's Dance Studio at (908) 561-5094.

Rainbow Academy Open House

April 6

The new Rainbow Academy Child Care Center located at 2177 Oak Tree Rd. in Edison will hold an Open House on Saturday, Apr. 6, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. They are now registering for Summer Camp and Fall 2002. For directions and information visit their website at www.rainbow-academy.com.

Everyone who registers will receive one free month of ParentWatch, an internet viewing service. For a demo of their video services, visit their website at www.parentwatch.com.

Spaghetti Dinner at American Legion

April 14

On Sunday, April 14 the 40/8, a branch of the American Legion, will hold a "Spaghetti Dinner" at the American Legion Chaumont Post 243 on Oak Tree Ave. in So. Plainfield. The time will be 1 p.m. until 6 p.m.. The cost is \$7 for adults and \$3 for children under twelve. The proceeds will be used for "Nursing Scholarships."

For tickets or information call Donna Rowlands at 756-6522.

John E. Riley Plans Pasta Dinner

April 12

John E. Riley School, located at 100 Morris Ave., will be hosting a Pasta Dinner on Friday, April 12, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Doors will open at 4:30 p.m. for senior citizens only.

Dinner includes pasta, sauce, meatballs, salad, bread, beverage, dessert and coffee/tea. The cost is \$6 per person, \$5 for senior citizens and children under ten. Proceeds will benefit the 2001-2002 Stokes Trip.

GFWC Holding Annual Garage Sale

April 13

The GFWC Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield will hold its Garage Sale Fundraiser at 115 West Elmwood Dr. on April 13 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The club is community service oriented and raises funds throughout the year for various projects, including a scholarship for a South Plainfield high school senior, holiday baskets for families and supports various borough activities.

Vision 2001 Presents Annual Art Auction

April 19

This year's annual Vision 2001 Education Foundation Art Auction will be held on Friday, Apr. 19 at South Plainfield High School.

Admission is \$10 per person. \$5 will be returned as a gift certificate to be redeemed at the Apr. 19 art auction only. Preview time is 6:30 p.m. and the auction begins at 7:30 p.m. There will be hors d'oeuvres, coffee, cake and door prizes.

For tickets, call (908) 561-3951.

Knights of Columbus Plan Bus Trip to AC

April 27

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus is offering a bus trip to Atlantic City on Apr. 27. Price is \$25 which includes lunch and drinks at the K of C Hall before leaving. Refreshments will also be available on the bus trip. The bus will leave from the K of C Hall at noon and each person will get \$10 back from the casino.

Call Ed Koznowicz at (908) 754-3094 or (908) 755-6203 for details.

A 90's Birthday Bash

May 1

The Middlesex County Office on Aging, invites all seniors citizens from South Plainfield who are celebrating their 90th birthday before May 1, 2002 and a guest to a celebration of life in their honor!

The event takes place on Wednesday, May 1 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Piscataway Senior Center, located at 700 Buena Vista Drive in Piscataway.

RSVP by March 8 by calling (732) 562-1133. South Plainfield residents should call Sue Mischka for transportation at 908-754-1047.

Casino Royale and Chinese Auction

May 11

On Saturday, May 11, the Casino Royale and Chinese Auction will take place at the VFW Hall located on Front St. from 7 p.m. til midnight!

The event is open to SPJBC members only at \$45 per person. The Casino Royale has an open bar and music will be provided by DJ Kevin.

Each guest will receive \$500 in play money. The money must be redeemed for Chinese Auction tickets.

For tickets, call Stacey Lake, (908) 757-9531 or (732) 646-1676. Tickets are limited—"first come, first served!" (Tickets will also be available Opening Day!)

— Out of Town —

"A Day To Remember" at Alliance Bible Church

March 28-29-30

A Day To Remember....A Passion Play, will be performed at Alliance Bible Church in Warren, on Mar. 28,

29 and 30 at 7 p.m. There will be a matinee show on Saturday, Mar. 30 at 3 p.m. Conclusion show will be on Easter Sunday, Mar. 31 at 8:30 and 11:15 a.m. Tickets for all performances are free and can be obtained by calling the church office at (732) 469-1425. No tickets required for Easter performance. Seating is limited.

For additional information or directions visit our website at www.alliancebiblechurch.com or contact the church office at (732) 469-1425.

New Jersey Stamp & Postcard Spring Fair

March 29-30

The 2002 version of the New Jersey Stamp & Postcard Spring Fair will be held at the Edison Ramada Plaza Hotel on Friday and Saturday, March 29 and 30. The site is located at 3050 Woodbridge Ave., in the Raritan Center area, just west of Route I-287, with easy access from NJ Turnpike exit 10 as well as from the Garden State Parkway and Routes 1 and 9. Show hours will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

Attending collectors will be treated to dealers from around the region with stocks containing a great variety of stamps, postcards, covers, souvenir cards, lots, collections, etc. Admission is free to the public. There is also ample free parking.

Information can be obtained by calling (732) 247-1093.

Westfield History Societies Meeting

April 17

The Planning Committee for the Spring Assembly of the Westfield history societies has announced that the group's annual meeting will be held on April 17 at 8 p.m. at the First Baptist Church on Elm Street. Introductory music will start about 7:45 p.m.

The assembly is the yearly gathering of the community's four history organizations: The Genealogical Society of the West Fields, The Miller-Cory House Museum Volunteers, The Westfield Historical Society, and the West Fields Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

The Miller-Cory House Museum Volunteers are the host associations this year represented on the committee by Pat D'Angelo.

The program will be announced as plans are complete. The feature presentations will be followed by refreshments and the public is invited.

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Holy Week Schedule 2002

Holy Thursday - Mar. 28

7:30 p.m. - Mass of the Lord's Supper
Eucharistic Procession and Adoration
11:30 p.m. - Closing Night Prayer

Good Friday - Mar. 29

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
3:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Lord's Passion and Death
7:30 p.m. - "The Way of the Cross"

Holy Saturday - Mar. 30

9:00 a.m. - Morning Prayer
12:00 p.m. - Blessing of Easter Food
8:00 p.m. - The Solemn Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday - Mar. 31

Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord
8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.



From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Time for some very late March news from the South Plainfield Library:

The Library is closed today in observance of Good Friday, and will be closed on Sunday in observance of Easter Sunday.

We've got a lot of Circuit news this week. We're between groups on the Video Circuit today; it'll be back early next week. Meanwhile, Monday is the last day of availability for the current group from the Audiobook Circuit. Titles in this group include *Sticks & Stones* by Dianne Mott Davidson, *Right Ho, Jeeves* by P.G. Wodehouse, *Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason* by Helen Fielding, *From the Corner of His Eye* by Dean Koontz, and *In A Class by Itself* by Sandra Brown. Audiobooks may be borrowed, four at a time, for two weeks. Again meanwhile, we have a new group from the Large Print Circuit. Titles from that group include *The Locket* by Richard Paul Evans, *The Bear and the Dragon* by Tom Clancy, *The Kiss* by Danielle Steel, and *The Cat Who Robbed a Bank* by Lillian Jackson Braun. LPC books are also borrowed for two weeks.

There will be a meeting for Home schooling parents, as well as parents who are interested in Home Schooling, on Monday evening at 7:30 in our Children's Room. No pre-registration is required. If you'd like more information, please call us at (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda.

The Friends of the Library will not

hold this month's meeting at the Library, as they usually do. For details on the April meeting, please check with Natalie Bergen.

Miss Linda has returned from her cross-country vacation, so we're back to the normal schedule of children's Storytime programs. These programs are for children ages three and over; no pre-registration is required. Each program lasts about an hour and features stories and a craft activity. The programs are held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. For more details, please call us and check with Miss Linda.

Here's a bit of a request regarding fines. We have no problem with a patron deciding to pay off their outstanding fines. But we do ask that you take into consideration the change situation. We're a public library, not the First National Bank. As such, we have limited access to cash, particularly on the weekend. It would be a great help, therefore, if you could pay off your fines in the most efficient manner possible. By that, we mean paying a 10-cent fine with a dime, rather than a \$20 bill. Or paying a \$5 fine with five singles, rather than 500 pennies. As always, we appreciate your cooperation.

We also have a request regarding posting notices. As you've probably seen, we have several areas reserved for putting up flyers and notices. We're happy to find a place to put up an announcement you might have. However, there are restrictions. The announcement must be for a non-profit organization, or a similarly themed public service note. Further, it can't be a purely personal announcement, or a commercial announcement. (You'll have to find someplace else to announce your yard sale.) Finally, it must be approved by the Director before we can post it. If you have any questions regarding this, don't hesitate to ask.

That's all for this week and this month. See you in April.

Enterprise Rent-a-car Wins Glitter Award

Joseph Assante, Assistant Manager of Enterprise Rent-a-Car, accepted the South Plainfield Clean Business Association's Glitter Award last Friday. Clean Communities Advisory Board Chairman Emil Leporino presented the award in the new Enterprise office at the corner of New Market and South Clinton Avenues. Enterprise opened for business in November of 2001, following a complete renovation of the former Details site.

The building design reflects the trademarked corporate colors - green and gray - and makes a stylish statement surrounded by new landscaping. A new fence screens the rear of the property, where the rental fleet is parked. Assante noted that very few cars are actually on site at any time, since demand for rentals is so high. He said they chose this location to improve their service coverage in South Plainfield and Piscataway. The next closest Enterprise offices are in Green Brook and Edison. Their goal is that no potential customer be more than fifteen minutes from a rental center. Their focus is on customer service. Enterprise Rent-a-Car will pick up a driver whose car is in a service garage and will rent one of their cars even for only a few hours. They also have weekend specials when car rental is only \$10 a day.

Assante said that he has worked in many Enterprise branches, and South Plainfield's is one of the nicest looking he has ever seen. He and the staff, including Eric Meyer, a manager-in-training, work diligently to keep it clean. They have to pick up litter about three times a day, because their location is on a well-known windy corner. Papers blow from across the street and catch on to their shrubs and they also find many cigarette butts thrown from passing vehicles.

Assante also said that South Plainfield is the friendliest town he has worked in, and nowhere else has an Enterprise branch been so well received by the community. As he thanked Leporino for the Glitter Award, he said that he expects Enterprise to be an asset to the Borough.

The CBA gives Glitter Awards to



Clean Communities member (center) Emil Leporino presents the Glitter Award to Assistant Manager of Enterprise Rent-a-Car, Joseph Assante, as Eric Meyer, manager-in-training looks on.

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 en-

hancing the appearance of commercial districts through property maintenance and litter control. For more information, contact A. Tempel at (908) 226-7621.

Kindergarten Enrollment Announcement

Kindergarten enrollment in the South Plainfield school district for the 2002/2003 school year will be held the week of May 13-16 at each neighborhood elementary school.

Please call the Enrollment Center at 908-754-4620 (ext. 223) for exact date and time for your school.



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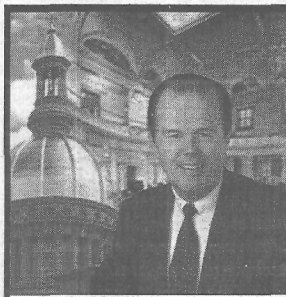
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News

From The State House

Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan

This is the first of what I hope will be a monthly column to my fellow South Plainfield residents. Thank you for your overwhelming support. Having lived in South Plainfield my entire life, I feel extremely close to the community and its history and to all of its residents. It is an honor to be the first "South Plainfielder" to serve in the New Jersey Assembly.

I was overwhelmed with emotion when I took my seat in the Assembly Chamber on January 5. With many family members and friends present, my only regret was that my mother and father were not alive to see me, but I know that they were watching. I see my service as an

Assemblyman to be a tremendous opportunity to continue working for South Plainfield and its residents, as well as all of the towns and residents in the 18th District.

This will be a challenging year for our state and for our new Governor, James E. McGreevey. I have known the Governor for 15 years and worked with him in various capacities. I can assure you that he will be an honest and hard worker for all of the people of New Jersey.

Our first challenge is a daunting one. We must balance the budget. The Governor has a plan to fill the \$3 billion shortfall through the end of the fiscal year, which is June 30, 2002. This translates into approximately \$1 billion a month for the little over three months that are left.

The job will be even more challenging for the new budget year, which begins on July 1. The state is projecting a shortfall of \$7 billion. Cutting budgets is always difficult. It won't be any different now. But, if we work together to put the state's financial house in order, we will be on firm footing when the current recession comes to an end.

As an assemblyman, I am a member of the Education Committee, the Economic Development Committee, and the Vice Chair of the Judiciary Committee. These committees offer exciting opportunities for our borough, our district, and our state. If you have any questions, concerns, or recommendations about any issue facing New Jersey, please contact me.

My Chief of Staff is Addie Levine, who served on the South Plainfield Council for six years. My office is located at Oak Tree Avenue, Unit B, in South Plainfield. The phone number is (908) 757-1677; the fax number is (908) 757-6841; my e-mail address is AsmDiegnan@njleg.org.

Local Host Families Needed for Exchange Students

ASSE International Student Exchange Programs (ASSE) is seeking local host families for boys and girls from Europe, Asia, North and South America, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, 15 to 18 years of age, coming to this area for the upcoming high school year. These personable and Academically selected exchange students speak English, are bright, curious and anxious to learn about this country through living as a part of a family, attending high school and sharing their culture and language with a newly adopted host family.

The students are sponsored by ASSE, an organization founded by the Swedish National Department of Education. ASSE also cooperates with the Canadian Provincial Ministries of Education and the New Zealand Ministry of Education.

The exchange students arrive from their home country shortly before school begins and return at the end of the school year. Each ASSE student is fully insured, brings his or her own personal spending money and expects to bear his or her share of household responsibilities.

ASSE is also seeking local high school students to become ASSE exchange students abroad. Students should be between 15 and 18 years old and interested in living with a family, attending school and learning about people.

For more information about becoming a host family or an exchange student, contact ASSE's Area Coordinator Jomiette Hewn at (845) 877-1321 or call (800) 677-2773 or visit ASSE's web site at www.asse.com.



Future Stars morning inclusion class in the Rainbow Room.

Future Stars Celebrate St. Patrick's Day

The Future Stars preschool was decorated all green for St. Patrick's Day. The children celebrated by having a "Green Party."

Their faces were painted with freckles and their pointed ears looked magical. The children were mystified when they found their classroom in disarray,

all done by the leprechauns. Green coins were also tossed throughout the room, but finding that special pot of gold was really a highlight.

Leprechaun Fascoia danced around the class rooms dropping green four leaf clover coins for the children. All in all a fun day.

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Job Information Center Programs for April at Library

The South Plainfield Free Public Library, located at 2484 Plainfield Ave. (adjacent to the Municipal Building) has planned the following program schedule for April 2002:

Wednesday, Apr. 3, 7:30 p.m., Job Searching 101.

Wednesday, Apr. 10, 7:30 p.m., Job Searching on the Internet.

Wednesday, Apr. 17, 7:30 p.m., Re-

sumes and Cover Letters for Beginners.

Wednesday, Apr. 24, 7:30 p.m., Interviewing 101.

All programs are FREE, space is limited and reservations are required. For more information please call the library's Reference Desk at (908) 754-7885 or visit the library website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

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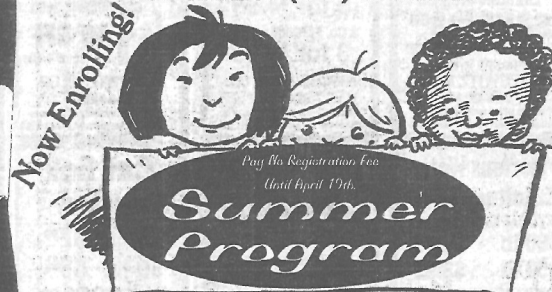


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From the Pens of Riley Fifth Graders

The following are letters that were written by students in Riley School as an English Lesson. We thought you might enjoy reading a few of them.

To the Editor:

I feel, that wearing uniforms to school is vile and against the rights of all children. America is a free country, like an eagle. Since we are free, don't we have the right to choose our own clothes? It is true that some types of uniforms shouldn't be worn in school.

I also know that wearing a uniform shows you are a part of a school. Isn't it more important to be a part of sweet freedom, than school? Also, some uniforms are very itchy and plain ugly. The "special" shoes are weird and you can't play in them. So let's choose what we want to wear, and I hope you agree with me on NO UNIFORMS!!

THANK YOU, TARUN BHATNAGAR

To the Editor:

I don't think we should get up early in the morning for school. Most children are always tired in the morning because of getting up so

early. We should go to school at either 9 or 9:30 a.m., because that way children can sleep later and be more rested for school. Also, if you get enough sleep you will become healthier. That is why I think children should go to school later.

SINCERELY, PATRICK NOLTY

To the Editor:

I think that wearing uniforms to school is a good idea. This thought comes to my mind because: 1) It'll be less of a hassle trying to pick out what to wear every day. 2) Kids at school will not be made fun of because of what they are wearing. 3) Uniforms are much cheaper than buying a pair of jeans or a sweater.

SINCERELY, ASHLEY GALAN

To the Editor:

I think siblings are a very important part of growing up, for these reasons: 1) All my friends are busy and I have no one to play with. Sometimes my brother plays with me. (I don't see him as much as I used to because we won't go to the same school again until he's a junior and I'm a freshman.) 2) We always have lots of fun. 3) If it's about 6 p.m. on a school night, you can play

with your brother or sister since it's too late to invite a friend over. 4) Having a sibling makes life more fun!

This is why I think it's good to have a brother or a sister and people shouldn't take advantage of it, even if they do annoy you.

SINCERELY, LINDSAY FREDERICKS

To The Editor:

I am writing about traffic in some neighborhoods. First, if there is too much traffic, it could be dangerous. Second, if kids want to play and there is a lot of traffic, then they can't play. Third, if they play in the street, it could be dangerous.

Sometimes people bike-ride at night and cars can't see them. That is why there should be a stop sign at almost every corner.

SINCERELY, RICKY SIERZEGA

To The Editor:

I'm an only child. It's nice because I have my own room, a computer and don't have to share my parents with someone else. But when my parents are busy, sometimes I become lonely. I wish my parents would adopt a girl my age. If she were my age we would probably be interested in the same things.

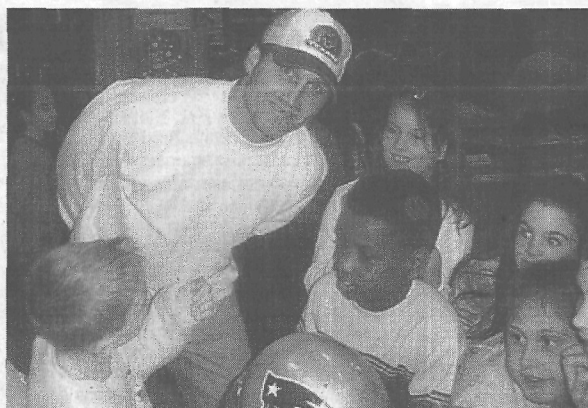
Also I think kids in orphanages wouldn't be brats like regular siblings. They'd probably be happy to have a family. My dad almost became an orphan, so I know how they feel. Kids who have a sibling wish they were an only child, but I wish I wasn't.

FROM, KERI GOULD

To The Editor:

Moving Christmas to July would be smart. Well I think it would be! I'll tell you why, because my birthday is December 30. Five days after Christmas. It is so boring because I don't get any presents year round. Also nobody is home during the holidays. Please take this into consideration.

SINCERELY YOURS, NICK PAULS



Super Bowl Champ Pays a Visit to Riley School

By Jane Dornick

Pro Football player Matt Stevens paid a surprise visit to Riley Elementary School during lunch period last Wednesday. Matt is married to the former Terri Colantoni, who was born in South Plainfield. Her aunt, Laurie Kurlew, a lunch aide at Riley suggested they pay a visit to the students before leaving for the Houston Texans training camp the next day. The excited students got autographs, saw a scrapbook of his career and even touched his Super Bowl Champion Patriots helmet.

Matt was originally drafted by Buffalo in the third round in 1996 as a safety and has played for Washington

and Philadelphia. He was signed by the New England Patriots in Dec. 2000 and started four out of 15 games as free safety in 2001 and was a key component of the Patriots secondary. Last season he registered 37 tackles, two passes defended, one fumble recovery, one interception and six special teams stops. He also saw action in Super Bowl XXXVI. Last month Matt was drafted to the Houston Texans expansion team.

He and his wife, Terri have a two year old daughter named Cassidie and currently reside in Avon, NJ. Terri lived in South Plainfield until she was four but still maintains a close relationship with her aunt and uncle who reside here.

Parade Committee Need Volunteers

The South Plainfield Labor Day Parade Committee is looking for help from the residents.

They are also asking residents to submit a theme for this year's parade. They also need volunteers willing to serve on the parade committee.

The committee meets once a month until August and meet more frequently as the big day approaches.

If you would like to volunteer, contact Darlene Pinto at 980-561-1517 or you can contact her by email at dpcouncilwoman9@aol.com.

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Holy Week Schedule

Thurs., Mar. 28 7 p.m. Mass, church open until 10 p.m.
Fri., Mar. 29 3 p.m. Traditional Good Friday Services
7 p.m. Stations of the Cross
Sat., Mar. 30 Blessing of the Food: 10 & 11 a.m.
1 & 2 p.m. in church hall
Sat., Mar. 30 7 p.m. Easter Vigil Services
Sun., Mar. 31 8 a.m. Easter Day Sunrise Mass
11 a.m. Easter Day High Mass



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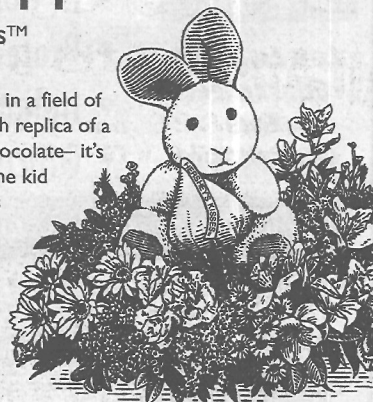
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High School Honor Roll

Freshmen—Nicole Aguilar, Darshan Amin, Shakellah Amini, Peter Aquino, Christopher Bakazan, Michael Benak, Dawn Besser, Erika Blazsak, Christopher Bojarski, Matthew Boley, Jennifer Braco, Justin Buendia, Gerry Butrico, Nina Byard, Pasquale Cantarella, Fabian Casteblanco, Nicholas Cesare, Timothy Cheng, Mallory Christ, Lauren Ciandella, Toni Ciccio, Janine Clemente, Kristin Coffey, Paul Corrado, Nicholas Curcio, Robert Cusick Jr., Cassandra D'Urso, Alissa Davis, Peter DeAndrea, Louana DeLosSantos, Stacey Diana, Christina DiFrancesco, Allison Dimeglio, Kaitlynn Disch, Jonathan Donahue, Michael Downes, Michael Duquette, Jeffery Eng, Caitlin English, Shawn Ferguson, Melanie Foscolo, Kimberly

Gaub, Keenan Gaynor, John George, Allia Ghanim, Kendall Green and Jeffery Grubesch.

Melissa Hansen, Emily Harkins, Lauren Haus, Joseph Helgesen, Phu Huynh, Jamie Jakubik, Latoya Johnson, Colleen Kamen, Peter Kelly, Ryan Kenny, Thomas Kiczula Jr., Jessica Kizman, Kevin Lahey, Linda Lee, Johnathan Lopez, Kurtis Maglaque, Aimee Maiorino, Alyssa Maiorino, Krista Malecki, Jessica Manning, Thomas Manolio, Allan Mazurak, Kayleigh McGovern, Christopher McKnight, Jayne Merio, Stefanie Miller, Rosanna Mootoo, Krystal Morales, Kathleen Morgan, Katie Mott, Jacqueline Muglia, Brian Murtagh, Cynthia Nguyen, Huan Nguyen, Silvia Nunez, Jean Pagdonsolan, Valerie Pasquarella,

Deep Patel, Dhruvi Patel, Daniel Piwowar, Amanda Prybella, Patrick Pryor, Dwight Quichua, Patrick Reedy, Eric Rhode, Michael Richard, Mayra Robles, Ana Santiago, Jessica Senz, Rajiv Sewdat, Jarret Shelton, Justin Shelton, Lesley Sideck, Erin Sikanowicz, Alisha Stasenko, Melissa Sticco, Sara Sukenik and Darshan Suthar.

Joseph Teller, Kelly Thomas, Melissa Tinana, Kari Trembley, Ashlen Udell, Jennifer Vasquez, Erik Vesper, Michael Williams, Robert Yuill, Philip Zazzara, and Brian Zielinski.

Sophomores—Elaine Alexander, David Allara, Jamaal Allen, Arti Amin, Almasa Amini, David Amini, Jacqueline Arango, Danielle Aronowitz, Alex Barletta, Robert Barone Jr., Victoria Boley, Shannon Boyles, Jonathan Buggy, Kaitlin Bungy, Kristie Butrico, Nicole Carlson, Michael Carmon, Jonathan Chiang, Jeanine Christopher, Jason Cosma, Michael Cupo, Lori Cushner, Christopher Czaplinski, Kelly Daley, Ryan Decker, Christinna Del Genio, Brittany Denitzio, Allison Dicanto, Christopher Dickerson, Frank Dietzold III, Jence Douras, Alan Dummett and Brian Edwards.

Chelsea Falato, Catherine Flannery, Michael Fry, Arielle Fumosa, Matina Ganiaris, Gregory Garbowski, Miguel Garcia, Corey Gilmore, Sarah Green, Johanna Hedler, Christine Helbo, Robert Hoffman, Christopher Horn, Janice Hussain, Tara Israel, Joshua Jackson, Katherine Kaczka, Wajdi Kanj, Kyle Kazimir, Christopher Kelly, Wendy Kollarik, Kristen Kunie, Kristina Latonio, Brittany Lee, Pauline Lee, Heather Loenser, Jordan Lynch, Kerry Mackey, Charlyn Magat, Jennifer Martinez, Ashley Mazellan, Michael Maher, Danielle Nobile, Cristina Nunez, John Okuski, Francesca Pasquale, Anuj Patel, Hardik Patel, Julie Patel, Miten Patel, Ravi Patel, Oscar Perez, Natalie Picciottoli, Yorka Rawlins, Amanda Rastelli, Ashley Ritchey, Jonathan Rodger and Josef Rodriguez.

Michael Salerno, Shari Sangster, Matthew Santone, Rachel Schwartzter, Guy Severini, Daniel Sierczega, Susan Smela, Derek Smith, Jenna Smith, Carly Stoeckel, Alexander Tierney, Charles Tinana, Adam Toth, Stephen Turrise, Jeremy Vesper, Kenneth Wakefield II, Erin Walsh, and Michael Zeno.

(Juniors and Seniors continued in next week's *Observer*.)

Juniors—Christopher Addvensky, Joseph Adorna, Alain Amazan, Christopher Baron, Heather Barrett, Jason Basile, Christine Bojarski, Quien Bowe,

Correction

Matthew Emery, a seventh grade student in the Middle School, was inadvertently left out of the list of honor students in last week's *Observer*.



Coooooold Easter Egg Hunt Held Saturday

By Patricia Abbott

Winter-like temperatures on a sunny spring day didn't deter parents and excited youngsters from attending the Annual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Recreation Department. The annual event would not be complete without the Easter Bunny, who arrived via fire truck.

Holding assorted containers for collecting the plastic eggs, children ages 0-10, anxiously awaited the call for their age group. During the wait, children visited with the Easter Bunny and shook his paw while parents snapped photos. Parents were allowed on the field to assist those ages five and under. The younger set wandered around

the field oblivious to the game at hand. Moms, dads and siblings cajoled the little ones to "come get the egg!" More competitive parents scooped up the eggs themselves. Each age group became more assertive, pint-sized "eggsperts" who knew "eggsactly" what to do.

Recreation Director Mike English joked about the eager six-year-old boys group who were raring to go long before the gate was opened. After grabbing as many eggs as they could locate, it was time to turn them in for a prize. Special eggs with stickers garnered a larger prize. Every child went home with a treat to await the Bunny's visit to their home Easter morning.

Animal Hospital Celebrates 50 Years of Keeping Pets Healthy

The Plainfield Animal Hospital is celebrating its 50th Anniversary. To

honor this milestone, the animal hospital will host an "Open House" on Sunday, May 5, 2002 from 1-4 p.m.

The event will feature tours of the hospital, pet-related information, giveaways, and a barbecue lunch.

Established in 1952 by Dr. Richard Lunna, the Plainfield Animal Hospital has grown to become one of the largest and most respected animal hospitals in Central New Jersey. The six-doctor facility utilizes the latest technology available including laser surgery, ultrasound, in-house laboratory capabilities, and a full service dental specialty service. They treat a wide range of domestic pets including dogs, cats, rabbits, rodents, birds and reptiles.

"I am proud of our accomplishments" said Dr. Scott Linick, current owner and director of the hospital, who marks his 20th year at the practice in May. "We are looking forward to many more years of helping pets enjoy happy, healthy and long lives."

For information, call (908) 755-2428 or visit their website at www.plainfieldanimalhosp.com.

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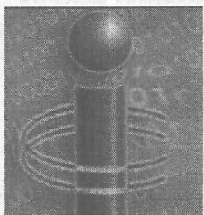
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SOCCER

Typhoons Beat Perth Amboy Magics

The South Plainfield Boys U-12 Typhoons defeated the Perth Amboy Magics (last year's flight champions) 4-2 at the High School on Sunday.

Brendan O'Shea once again led the Typhoons with two goals while Brandon Ullom and Brian Fabino each chipped in with a goal apiece. Grey Coppi turned away several shots at key moments and Dan Pompilio played an excellent game in the middle to preserve the victory and avenge two tough

losses suffered to this team last season.

The Typhoons jumped out to a 1-0 lead when O'Shea converted a beautiful throw in from Pompilio with a rocket deep from the left side. Following two Perth Amboy goals, Ullom scored his first of the season late in the opening half with an assist from John Polizzano for a 2-2 tie going in at the half.

With the wind at their backs, South Plainfield was able to control the ball

for most of the second half. Following a couple of scoring opportunities, Ullom centered the ball perfectly in front of the net to Jonathan Marcoux for a header that O'Shea was able to chip in for a 3-2 lead. An insurance goal would come next when Fabino took the ball down the left side of the field, shook off his defender and drilled it passed the goalie and a solid 4-2 final score.

The entire team once again played aggressively and with a mission to upset the only team they didn't beat during the fall campaign.

This Sunday they will match up against a very strong Watchung Hills team in Warren.

Comets Record Victory

The South Plainfield Soccer Club's U12 Comets had another impressive victory by defeating the West Windsor Bravehearts this past Sunday. Action began early with the opponents scoring the first goal but the Comets quickly answered back when Victoria Plasse drove a goal in off a skilled corner kick from Stephanie Szeliga. Later in the first half with only seconds remaining, Brooke DeNitzio placed the Comets on top, where they would ultimately remain, with an unassisted goal.

Katie Baldassarre, moving from goalie to the front line, picked up the action in the second half right where it left off with another unassisted goal. Clare Kelly now had the difficult task of protecting the lead and she did so with many exciting saves, helping to keep the Comets on top.

Victoria Plasse later took the ball all the way downfield and in for another goal. The scoring was capped off by a perfect center assist by Stephanie Szeliga, as Katie Baldassarre was in perfect position to boot it in for a final score of 5 to 1.

A great team effort by all made it so that even Mel Gibson wouldn't

have been able to save those "Bravehearts"! Great Job Comets—Keep up the good work while having fun!

Submitted by Mary Jane DeNitzio

Blaze vs. Livingston Lynx

At home and facing the Livingston Lynx, the South Plainfield Blaze U-13 Girls traveling soccer team produced their second shutout in a row beating Livingston 4-0. Once again our defense prevailed in shutting down a relentless attack.

Sharing our keeper position, Becky Keller and Tiffany Roth had no problem keeping the ball out of the net. Strong performances from fullbacks Tiffany Smith, Ashleigh Gaspari and Kim Marin barred any scores from the outside, while sweeper Jackie Miller and stopper Dorian Bishop completely shut down the middle attack. Winning midfield battles halfbacks Ashley Little, Elizabeth Flannery and strikers Joy Maszczak and Megan Boyle did a great job in setting the tempo of the game. The first strike of the game came early when in the eighth minute center, midfielder Jen-

nifer Copeland crossed a ball to left midfielder Lauren Fry who blasted it in for a score. In the 58th minute and finding the back of the net and from the eighteen, Jennifer Copeland nailed a beautiful floater to the left corner for our second score.

Exhibiting some great ball control and dominating the middle our left center midfielder Jenna DeLillo sent off a well placed ball to striker Becky Keller who in the 67th minute tapped it in for our third score. Putting the game out of reach for Livingston and our fourth goal in the 78th minute and with some great team work, striker Becky Keller sent off an excellent crossing feed to striker Katie Hardy who slipped it in for a score.

Congratulations girls and excellent team work! Visit the South Plainfield Soccer Club web site at www.soplfd-soccerclub.com.

Sports

By Kevin Lykes

juniorbaseballclubnotes

OPENING DAY IS FAST APPROACHING

We are fast approaching our last push towards opening day. Our work detail for this weekend will concentrate on painting. Please dress appropriately. All are welcome. We will be starting at 7:30 a.m. Come down anytime on Saturday to help us out.

Our booster weekend begins on Thursday, April 4, 5, thru the last day being Saturday, April 6. Coaches will be advised of their team's times. If your team needs to switch their time for any reason, we can accommodate you.

Patriots tickets for May 17 are going fast. For information/ reservations, please contact Debbie Lykes, (908) 756-3671.



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FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

To the Voters:

My name is Terry Alexa and I am a candidate in the upcoming Board of Education election.

Eleven years ago, my husband Don and I chose South Plainfield as our home to raise our family. Our two daughters have grown and thrived within the positive structure of a caring community. Our oldest attends Grant Central Sixth and our youngest is a student at Roosevelt School.

My husband and I believe people make a community and this is evidenced by the many hard-working volunteers in our borough. Through these efforts, our family's quality of life has been enhanced. Early on, Don and I had decided to "give back." Don has directed his efforts on a community-level as a member of the Zoning Board and the South Plainfield Labor Day Parade Committee; whereas, my focus has been child-oriented.

Being aware of the valuable leadership skills learned through Girl Scouting, I have spent the last four years as a Brownie/Daisy leader. The future benefits this activity will bring to my daughters, as well as to other girls, are immeasurable. As a parishioner of Sacred Heart Church, I have taught the children's liturgy during mass.

Equally important to me is my involvement with the schools. I have the pleasure to work with the wonderful, caring and dedicated teaching staff at the Roosevelt school by participating in the PTA for the last six years. Before that, I was an active participant on the Future Stars Preschool Parent's Group. I am concurrently serving on the PTA and PTO of Roosevelt and Grant Schools. Currently, I am the Corresponding Secretary on both associations. My total involvement has been fulfilling to me because it has allowed me to actively participate in my children's educational opportunities.

Through your support, I would like to expand my role to directly help share the lives of all our children by becoming a member of the SPROE. I am committed to supporting the programs and initiatives that enhance the knowledge

and well-being of our youth. I am also committed to do this in a fiscally-responsible manner by incorporating the concerns of all residents into my decision-making.

I am grateful for the support that my husband and children have given me in my decision to run, while being warmed by the response from my friends and neighbors. It has been said "The strength of a community is measured by the individual." I would like to join the ranks of those who have made and continue to make South Plainfield a wonderful place to call home.

Please vote for me, Terry Alexa - Line 3 on April 16th.

Thank you.

TERRY ALEXA

To the Voters:

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, Angel Jazikoff, as one of the candidates for the South Plainfield Board of Education.

My husband, Raymond and I have lived here for six years, raising our three children. Raymond is a life-long resident of the borough and has been a Borough employee for the past 15 years. I also served the Borough as an employee for the past 13 years. Currently I am employed by Middlesex County and have been there for the past two years.

Most importantly we are the proud parents of three children who all attend South Plainfield public schools. I am a member of the PTO and the South Plainfield Athletic Club, supporting their goals and ideals. My husband and I have also been coaching T-ball for the South Plainfield Recreation Dept. for the past few years. I am also a member of Sacred Heart Church.

I believe in the values and community spirit that are embedded in our institutions and in the many volunteer organizations. This is what makes our borough so unique. Our community is full of hard working, caring and dedicated people who strive to insure our children's successful educational learning experiences. These nurturing qualities are important to our youth and serve

as role models in preparing our children to be caring individuals. These qualities are best reflected in our schools where students, educators and parents strive to maintain a high quality learning environments so that our children can be educated to the fullest and not be limited in the pursuit of their dreams.

This is why Raymond and I chose South Plainfield to be our home; so our children can benefit and experience the positive reinforcement of such a close-knit, caring and hard working community. It is also why I decided to become a candidate for the school board election. I would like to preserve these qualities and spirit by supporting programs and initiatives that add to the quality of our children's lives. Creating and maintaining a solid educational foundation is the key to our children's success and future.

I appreciate your support on April 16 by voting Line 2. Thank you.

Respectfully,

ANGEL JAZIKOFF

Voters of South Plainfield:

I have lived in South Plainfield for the last 33 years. My three daughters graduated from the South Plainfield High School and all have completed a college education. My wife Chris and I are the happy grandparents of two sets of twins (all girls) and one grandson. While our children were growing up, I was always involved in helping out. I was the treasurer for the Pop Warner Eagles, years ago. I was the director of Project Graduation for nine years, SPHS PTA President for six years. Currently I am a Trustee of the Hall of Fame for SPHS and the Educational Foundation of South Plainfield Vision 2001. As you can see, I have been involved with our students at many levels and many positions.

I am very proud of the school system and what it has provided my family. The reason why I am running is to take what I am proud of and, with my six years of experience, try to make it better for all the students of South Plainfield.

I retired from AT&T after 30 years. I enjoyed my career, but it is time to give back to the community what had made my life as good as it is. I have worked very hard for the last six years as a Board of Education member to provide the Community with a person that is dependable, accountable, reliable, and experienced. The District has many education initiatives, building programs,

budget issues and maintenance of facilities on its plate to complete in the next three years. With my experience, dependability, accountability and reliability I believe that the completion of these initiatives can be accomplished.

That is why I am asking for your vote (LINE 6) to support making the educational system reach beyond excellence for the children of South Plainfield.

KEN LAFRENIERE

Letter to the Voters:

My name is Tim Morgan and I am a candidate for the South Plainfield Board of Education. My wife Ann and I have lived on Lafayette Place for the past 17 years. Our two children are both enrolled in the South Plainfield school system. Tim Jr. is a senior and Kathleen is a freshman at the high school. I have been employed as a licensed funeral director with the Flynn and Son Funeral Home in Fords and Perth Amboy for the past 27 years. I am a member of Our Lady of Czestochowa, where I serve as an usher and Eucharistic Minister. I have also worked on the finance committee at the feast of St. Anthony for the past six years and many other capacities at the feast for many years before that. I am an active member of the South Plainfield Parent's Ponytail Softball Assn., a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment for the past two years and previously served on the Land Management Committee in the Borough.

Over the past thirteen years I have been very active in my children's education both in the classroom and outside and the various sporting activities that they have participated in. I have been to every "Back to School Night" since kindergarten and have personally met every one of the teachers that my children have had. I have also taken the time to meet with and get to know each of the administrators at the different schools that they have attended. I was fortunate to be a chaperone for the Roosevelt School fifth grade trip to Stokes States Forest twice and for the eighth grade trip to Washington, D.C. four years ago. I enjoyed these opportunities tremendously.

During the Summer and Fall of 2000, I was a member of the architecture committee created to obtain citizen input and recommendations as to how to deal with the two failed bond referendums. There were many nights and many hours of discussion and debate, all centering on what was best for the education of our children. When all

was said and done our proposal was submitted to the Board and accepted in its entirety. This proposal was some \$3.2 million less than the original referendum and gave our children all the facilities, equipment and technology that they would need to succeed today, tomorrow and well into the future. Was all this time and effort worth it? You bet it was! It proved to me that what we were working so hard for was what was right for the children and the taxpayers. This summer we will begin to see the fruits of our labors as the work on each of the schools and the building of the new Roosevelt School begins.

I believe in keeping the lines of communication open, by listening to what the citizens, teachers and administrators have to say. I did so on the architecture committee, where all sides were represented and I think the results were fantastic. I am proud of the work we did because we did it for the best reason, our children, which are our community's most valuable asset.

I am asking for the opportunity to represent you and our children on the Board of Education for the next three years by voting line 1 on April 16. Thank you.

TIM MORGAN

To the Editor:

Let me first introduce myself. My name is Jeff Seider; I am a life long resident of South Plainfield (38 years) and a graduate of South Plainfield High School. My wife Debbie and I have three children, all of whom attend our elementary schools. I was first elected to the Board of Education three years ago, at which time I sought to address the following concerns that I had, as well as the community.

Communication & Participation: Board of Ed/Community—During my tenure, I believe great strides were made in this area via newsletters, website info, open communication to Board members and the administration as well as involvement of the community groups in defining our successful building referendum project.

Illegal Enrollment—Again my tenure has seen the Board of Education hire a Residency Officer in which to date, 50 non-resident students have been removed from our district while also recouping back tuition.

Re-Open Grant School—In December
Continued on next page

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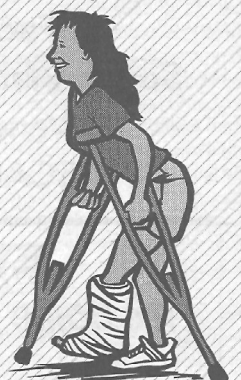
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THE SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

Continued from previous page

ber 1999, I proposed a resolution to reopen Grant School for the September 2000 school year. This was to deal with the overcrowding at the Middle school as well as show the community that the Board was exhausting all their resources before proposing a Building Referendum. Grant School was opened September, 2000 and a successful Referendum was passed in April 2001.

Special Education—Having been disappointed with the quality of our Special Ed programs, a Steering Committee was formed to solicit input from the parents, students, staff, administrators as well as the community in an effort to build a model program for our district and to address the needs of all students. This is however, still ongoing. While working to address those concerns as well as many others, I have also served on various committees including Transportation, Personnel, Residency and Building & Grounds. While serving as Chairman of Transportation, I proposed a policy to deal with the high absenteeism rate. Since Board adoption, the absenteeism has been reduced significantly which has led to reduced costs and higher efficiency. As a member of the Buildings & Grounds Committee, the last two years as chairman, I have sought to improve the appearance and conditions of our buildings and grounds,

by touring each school throughout the year to identify problems and to ensure that they are addressed. A procedure has also been established to allow staff and administration to communicate their needs on a daily basis with the custodial and maintenance staff.

As chairman, I have also been holding weekly buildings and grounds meetings with regard to the building program, which includes overseeing the track replacement, Middle School boiler replacement as well as the new construction and upgrades to the existing schools. During my campaign three years ago, I stated I would not make any promises, but would make a commitment to do the best job I could. It's the same commitment I will make if re-elected.

During my tenure, I believe the decisions I made, although not always popular, were in the best interests for all. I ask for your support on APRIL 16th. VOTE LINE 5.

JEFF SEIDER

To the Editor:

Just over twelve years ago my wife Elizabeth and I moved to South Plainfield to start and raise our family. Blessed with three beautiful children we grew to embrace the community and truly considered it "home."

Coaching recreation soccer when our children were younger; wanting to always be a close part of our children's lives and motivated by a desire "to give something back" to our community, I developed an interest in seeing to it that our town's schools were governed by policy settings that would help run them properly for "each" of our town's children. However, always mindful that it had to also be in a way that was responsible to the taxpayers of South Plainfield.

For many years I had heard the complaints of fellow residents about the large number of illegal students; chil-

dren from outside town that were attending our schools. As a Board member I contributed to a process that established the position of Central Registrar and Residency Enforcement Official. To date over thirty five illegal students have been identified and acted upon representing a huge savings to the district.

The public spoke and we listened!

With continued rising enrollment, facilities concerns needed to be addressed. Admittedly we fell short in building the needed consensus and support twice. However, after taking the issue back to a grass roots level; having the plan shaped and determined by utilizing fellow members of the community, participating on various "citizen's committees" we were finally successful in passing an action, that would position us to meet "each" of our children's needs, from a facility standpoint, for many years to come.

The public spoke and we listened!

South Plainfield is a community that demands fiscal responsibility from its elected officials and during the first two of my three years we delivered budgets that included no school tax increase. Only this year, with State funding levels frozen at the prior year's level have we proposed a slight budget increase. One I would point out is amongst the lowest in Middlesex County.

The public spoke and we listened!

The decisions you are called upon to make as a Board member are at times very difficult. I have always attempted to make my decisions with the best interests of our students at heart, in the way most responsible to the taxpayers of South Plainfield.

As the public continues to speak, I pledge to keep listening. I am asking for your support for three more years.

On April 16 re-elect Daniel M. Smith to the South Plainfield Board of Education, "because every child matters!"

DANIEL SMITH



Sherry Dvorak receiving her tenure certificate from Kennedy School Principal Al Czech during last week's BOD meeting.

News From the Grant Sixth Grade Student Council

By Ashley Alvarado

The student council of Grant Central Sixth Elementary School has been working very hard for the past few months and has been keeping themselves very busy. In December, Grant and the Middle School students collected canned food and unwrapped toys for needy families and children in South Plainfield and throughout the State of New Jersey.

This month, we are having March Madness. What is it? Every Friday we will have a School Spirit Day. March 1 was Hat Day; March 8 was Crazy Hair Day; March 15 was Career Day and March 22 was Stuffed Animal Day.

Our next dance is on April 12 from 7-9 p.m. More information on when the student council will be selling tickets will be announced later.

We had a Teacher Baby Picture Contest of the month and we are planning to have a Teacher Trivia Contest later in the year. All pictures were on display

from Feb. 25-March 1. The winning student, Danielle Dembia, guessed the most correctly and won a prize. The teachers' baby pictures stayed up for the entire month, with the names attached for identification.

To decorate the school for Valentine's Day, we created hearts cut out of paper to hang around the school. We did something similar for St. Patrick's Day using shamrocks. The shamrocks told what we were wishing for. They are still up in the main hallway.

Finally, we will be having a Walk for Diabetes. It will held at Spring Lake Park on April 10. The rain date is April 11. Grant School students will be walking to raise money for diabetes through flat donations from family and friends. We are all looking forward to working for a greater cause.

So far this has been a pretty productive year. Ms. Panuzzo and Ms. Giorgio have been keeping us busy, but we are enjoying it. We can hardly wait to see what we will do next.

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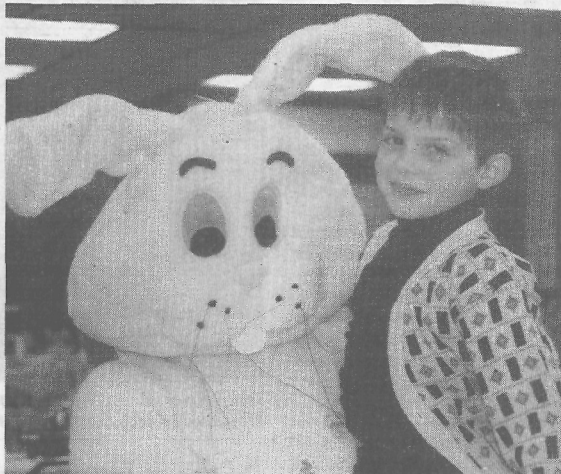
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Columbiettes for the Nights of Columbus sponsored a lunch with the Easter bunny recently. It was completely sold out. Each child received a generous basket, and spent time with the bunny. Children were treated to a served special lunch while the parents enjoyed a delicious buffet.

Senior ScottDoerr is "Super Teen"

Continued from page 1

a letter recommending him for a scholarship she stated, "Scott is a young man of excellent character. His strong personal code of ethics is evident in everything he does, from the intellectual honesty displayed in his course work to the sportsmanship exhibited on the wrestling mat. Many students excel in academic or athletics. Scott excels in both. But more importantly, Scott is compassionate, generous, and honorable. He is a very deserving young man of whom I am proud."

When asked about being named a Super Teen for New Jersey/Pennsylvania he said, "It is an honor to be recognized among my peers and also to represent South Plainfield High School. Hopefully, SPHS will be fortunate enough to have an individual

receive this award again next year."

The Next Step Magazine, a publication for teenagers issued through the guidance department, deals with college, career and life in general. The contents cover a diverse range of topics such as peer pressure, dealing with stress, public speaking and more. The articles strive to get a message across to the readers. They encourage them to "get involved," "make a difference" or to "be your own person" to name a few. The magazine directs students to Internet sites where they can apply to multiple colleges online. A teen book section features reviews of new books written by students.

Each month The Next Step presents several career profiles of businessmen and women in different professions emphasizing nontraditional roles. Additional sections address life after high school with advice on everything from financial aid and roommates to life skills, teen rights, drugs, and more.

'Twilight Stroll For Life' Planned

The first annual "Twilight Stroll for Life", a fundraising event to benefit children with cancer and blood disorders, will be held on Sunday, April 14. This event is sponsored by Century 21 Moretti Realty and part of the Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer Foundation.

You can help share in their determination by supporting this first annual 'Stroll for Life.'

Registration begins at 6 p.m. at the Spring Lake Park Gazebo in South Plainfield. You can race, walk or take a leisurely stroll with your family, friends or your pet.

Begin now to get your pledges and bring them with your sponsor sheet the day of the Walk. Ask family, friends, neighbors, business associates, just about anyone you come in contact with. Don't be afraid to ask! Many businesses offer a Matching Gifts Program, in which they match contributions made by their employees. Tell your sponsors to check with their company to see if they have this program. All checks are to be made to "Open Your Heart-Twilight Stroll."

Registration is \$12 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under.

There is no rain date. The walk will go on as planned, rain or shine. Please dress accordingly.

For an entry form, sponsor sheet or more information, call 755-5300.

Home Helpers Offers To Make Life Easier

A new business has opened in Matawan which provides the extra help seniors need to manage their everyday life. For one small monthly fee, Home Helpers Home Assistance Program can be arranged to fit individual needs, from morning "perk-up" to evening "tuck-in", plus a variety of services in between.

Home Helpers is flexible. They are available on an hourly, daily or weekly basis, day or night. Although independent senior citizens are ideal candidates for the services, Home Helpers can offer loving care to new mothers and those recovering from a recent illness. Services can be tailored to meet anyone's personal requirements.

Home Helpers is a national company with corporate offices in Cincinnati, Ohio. For more information regarding services available locally, please call (732) 441-9125.

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Stella Artois 12 oz NR btls 6.99	Michelob Regular & Light 12 oz cans 15.99
Natural Light & Ice 12 oz 2/12 cans 8.99	Amstel Light 24 12 oz NR btls 19.99

THIS WEEK'S SPIRITS & CORDIAL SPECIALS

Malibu Coconut Flavored Rum 750 ML 10.99	Baileys Irish Cream 750 ML 15.99
Gordon's Vodka 1.75 Liter 13.99	Bacardi Light & Gold Rum 1.75 Liter 16.99
Seagram's Seven 1.75 Liter 14.99	Jim Beam Bourbon 1.75 Liter 19.99
Seagram's Gin 1.75 Liter 14.99	Grand Marnier 750 ML 25.99
Margaritaville Gold Tequila 750 ML 14.99	Glenfiddich Single Malt Scotch 750 ML 26.99
Clan MacGregor Scotch 1.75 Liter 15.99	Belvedere Vodka 750 ML 26.99
Amaretto Di Saronno 750 ML 15.99	Remy Martin VSOP Cognac 750 ML 30.99

THIS WEEK'S WINE SPECIALS

Wild Vines 1.5 Liter 5.99	Concha Y Toro All Varietals 1.5 Liter 7.99
Fox Horn Cab, Chard, Merlot 1.5 Liter 5.99	Franzia Chablis, Blush, Chianti 5 Liter Box 8.99
Nathanson Creek Merlot 1.5 Liter 5.99	M&R Asti 750 ML 8.99
Corbett Canyon Res Cab, Chard, Merlot 750 ML 5.99	Harvey's Bristol Cream 750 ML 8.99
Stock Sweet & Dry Vermouth 1.5 Liter 6.99	Clos Du Bois Chard 750 ML 9.99
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Jadot Beauj Village 750 ML 7.99	Redwood Creek Cab 1.5 Liter 11.99
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Local Mom Raises Autism Awareness Through Dance

Continued from page 1

sultation. Tara and her family rely on COSAC for much needed support and information. Last year Tara, who is artistic director at Jo-Ann's Dance Studio-The Performing Arts Centre, wanted to give something back to this organization. Together with Feigley's School of Gymnastics they held their first annual Autism Awareness program and raised over \$3,000 for COSAC.

April is Autism Awareness month and this year's fundraiser for COSAC will be held on April 6 at 7 p.m. at Jo-Ann's Dance Studio and Feigley's School of Gymnastics, 4475 South Clinton Ave. The program, celebrating the Art of Dance and Gymnastics for the Benefit of Autism Awareness, features the studio's Le Centre Dance Ensemble and members of the Bridgettes gymnastics team. Admission is a donation to COSAC. Suggested donation is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children over five. Tickets are available at the door or in advance by calling (908) 561-5094. In addition to the performance there will be refreshments, prizes, a 50-50, raffles and a chance to win Yankee tickets.

Jo-Ann Faulkner, owner/director of the studio said, "I really do think our programs are doing a tremendous amount to raise autism awareness. While the money that is raised is very important, it's really secondary to bringing awareness to the community. This will help in all areas in the lives of children with Autism - from

early detection and early intervention to a better understanding of what these kids and their families deal with 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Autism is such an unusual and hard to understand condition; it is so often terribly misunderstood by the general population."

Autism is a biologically based neurological disorder that affects behavior, the ability to communicate and to interact socially. It is referred to as a spectrum disorder, meaning its many symptoms can occur in combinations with varying degrees of severity. Autistic children often have severe reactions to everyday stimuli. Normal sights, sounds, smells and even touch are amplified and become unbearable.

Routine and therapy are important elements in the autistic child's life. Alex receives speech, occupational and physical therapy at school. Marion Crino, his tutor, works with him at home as well. Tara is thrilled with the results. His growth and progress allow him to spend a full day in the Future Stars Preschool program based in Grant School. His day begins in the Rainbow room, an inclusion class of classified and non-classified children. The latter part of the day is spent in the "Sunshine Preschool" a class for preschoolers with disabilities. In a recent interview, Tara said, "Alex has done very well with these changes to his schedule and for the first time is beginning to make friends and create true bonds with other children."

Alex idolizes his big brother Drew, who teaches him important things such as how to play games, to share and just have fun. Drew is patient with Alex, in his own way he understands that his brother is special and can't do things the same way as other children. The interaction with Drew is in itself a milestone. Tara explained, "Two years ago Alex did not acknowledge that Drew walked on the earth, but now it is hard to pry him away from his big brother. I think that Drew is the most important person in the world to Alex."

Tara's ongoing crusade to create autism awareness has been recognized by COSAC. She will be honored as an Autism Awareness Ambassador of the Year at the organization's 20th Anniversary Conference to be held in Atlantic City.

Referring to last year's program she said, "I think that people were made aware that autism is everywhere, in every community. I also think it gave people a 'real life' perspective on what it's like to live with autism in a family. I think it cleared up a lot of 'myths' regarding autism...just look at my son, he is affectionate, makes eye contact, and does not sit in a corner 'spinning a plate.' Yet, he suffers and struggles everyday with difficulties resulting from his autism. People who know Alex are automatically more aware of what autism really is. In short, I really think the benefit raises awareness because it gives you a true look into autism."

Borough Notes

Council

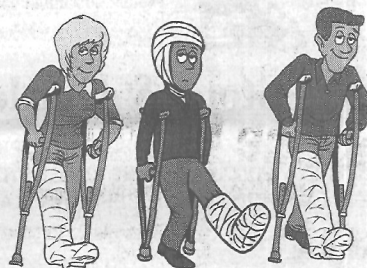
- Charlie Butrico reported that the newly purchased South Plainfield Flags are now being put up in various spots around town.
- The Council approved the purchase of two Microcon Air Cleaners from Air Technology at a cost of \$51,900 for the Police Department dispatch room.
- Eight plastic coated picnic tables will be purchased at a cost of \$14,544. The tables will be placed in various parks throughout the Borough.
- Marie Dudek, has transferred from secretarial assistant to confidential secretarial assistant in the Municipal Clerk's office at a salary of \$25,594.
- The following part-time plumbers were hired: Dominic DeMico, Jr., Robert Post and Joseph Vele at a rate of \$25.00/hr for 4-6 hours per day.
- Dorothy Paradiso, Supervisor of Accounts has been authorized to certify purchase orders until a CFO is employed.
- The Council approved the purchase of three laptop computers to be used in the new police vehicles at a cost of \$6,315.
- The Council accepted the resignation of full-time Public Safety Telecommunicator, John Butrico, effective April 5, 2002.
- The Borough will purchase new carpeting from Carpet Bazaar for the renovated areas of the Police Department at a cost of \$3,155.

- A contract was awarded to Traffic Lines, Inc. to restripe all Borough roads and the two railroad crossings at a cost of \$5,307.80.
- Eric Milstein, Public Safety Telecommunicator has been reassigned from part-time to full-time at an annual salary of \$29,138 effective March 25, 2002.
- The Council approved the purchase of software, printer and signature pad for ID card system for the Police Department from Mack Camera at a cost of \$5,727.
- A SCBA fill station, two air cylinders and one Paratech air cartridge will be purchased from Continental Fire & Safety for the Fire Department at a cost of \$11,020.
- Roderick Chirumbolo and Michael E. Pisack have resigned from the Environmental Commission.

Pop Warner Looking For Commissioner

The South Plainfield Football Eagles are looking for a Cheerleading Commissioner, who would oversee the cheerleading program, consisting of girls ages 5-13, be a liaison between the coaches, board and conference representatives.

Please call Doreen Darr if interested at 908-756-2848.



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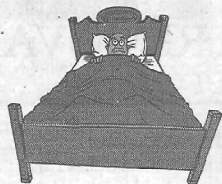
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IN MY OPINION

To the Editor:

After reading the letter you printed last week written by William Tuthill, I decided to write.

William stated that he is sick of the media "bashing the church because of some sick priests who have gone out of bounds of their vows." Well, I wouldn't call what these "sick" priests have done "going out of the bounds of their vows" — I would call it, what it is, a "CRIME." And I don't think that reporting facts to the public is "bashing" the church. The truth is the truth.

He also stated that "the victims had gone with their molesters many times and only years later came out with their sad stories." He believes this was their way to get their face on TV. This statement is so unbelievably appalling. He is putting blame on the "victim" for going with a molester many times — These were "children" scared (I'm sure) and unable to even comprehend what was happening to them. Also, for your information Mr. Tuthill, there are many, many molested children who never come out with their "sad stories" — so the fact that any of these people had the courage to tell their stories should be commended for their courage and not condemned for how long it took them. I don't think it was to get their "face on TV."

The only thing Mr. Tuthill stated

that I agree with is that anyone, clergy or not, should be prosecuted for molesting children.

By the way — I too am a Catholic — the only difference is, that I am a Catholic who believes in facing the "truth" and dealing with it — not hiding it or putting the blame on others.

Mr. Tuthill asked that people who agreed with him sound off to save this country from going down the drain — Sadly Mr. Tuthill, sounding off is not going to save this country — people who do something to stop these "sick" priests might!

GOD BLESS ALL THE CHILDREN OF THESE HORRIBLE CRIMES!

MICH

Residents,

Have you heard or noticed all the changes in our schools? Have the children told you of the changes?

Some things are obvious, construction fencing has been placed on the property of Roosevelt and Grant Schools, at Frank Jost Field, the track has been torn up and soon you will see workers begin each of those three projects. What are not so obvious are the things you can not see, the Middle School boilers are in place, and as our students leave for their summer vacation, much needed electrical upgrades will begin, as well as our technology

wiring, all in place as our students return back to school in September.

Some of the more subtle changes in areas of curriculum, staff development, technology, and business partnerships developed under the leadership of our new and very visible and interested Superintendent. If you have a student or students in our schools you cannot help but feel the tide of change within our buildings.

Our administrators and staff have worked hard over this year in committees to promote positive changes and recommendations for change to the Board of Education in all areas that affect the quality of education in South Plainfield. Under the leadership of our Superintendent, John Krewer and his assistant, Mario Barbieri we are experiencing changes in curriculum and program offerings. Soon we will see the important addition of technology in the everyday experience of every student.

Our residents have supported the direction our school district is moving toward and our citizen committees helped developed the referendum plan voted on and approved last April. These citizens worked hard with the Board of Education members, and our architect to propose a plan they felt the community would support. One such citizen is now running for the Board of Education. In addition to being involved with the referendum committees, Tim Morgan has also attended curriculum meetings and regular Board meetings. Tim has shown a sincere interest and his opinions at our Board meetings. I believe Tim will bring a fresh approach and new ideas to our Board of Education.

The average Board of Education member sits on two to three committees, and attends two other meetings a month, a COW and regular Board meeting. This usually would amount to about five meetings a month. Jeff

Seider is the Chairperson of Buildings and Grounds, he holds a meeting every week at 8:30 am between the architect, construction manager, buildings and grounds representatives, administrators and Board members, keeping all informed and the lines of communication open. Jeff has advocated for many parents and children in our district that need a voice in areas of special education. As a parent of a child with special needs, Jeff brings a perspective that no other Board member can in special education issues. Jeff has also worked hard in Transportation and Personnel. I believe Jeff will continue to work just as hard for our residents and students for the next three years.

Ken LaFreniere has worked hard in areas of Curriculum and Finance committees. Ken has also spent a lot of time developing relationships with our business and community members through his work in our educational foundation, which provides scholarships to graduating seniors and program support such as our yearly fifth grade trip to Stokes. I hope you will again support Ken for another three-year term on our Board of Education.

Our superintendent and business officials have worked very hard to present a responsible budget to our community, with the State aid frozen to last years numbers, even with our increased enrollment and improvements in curriculum and program initiatives, we are seeking a modest increase of 2.6 cents.

One need only read the daily newspapers to see our surrounding communities seeking much more than that from their residents. This modest increase will not only keep programs intact, but will also allow us to move forward with some of the exciting change that is taking place in our school district. I hope you will

take the time to hear what this budget includes in one of the presentations in each of our school buildings over the next few weeks, or call the superintendents office to find out when and where you can hear the details of this budget. I am confident you will be pleased with the detail you will be provided with.

I hope you will support the children of South Plainfield and their education by voting yes to the budget and support Tim Morgan, Jeff Seider, and Ken LaFreniere for three-year term in the Board of Education election on April 16.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say thank you for your continued support, every Board member knows without the support of our community members we would not see the success we have in just this last year alone. It is truly an exciting time to be a Board of Education member and my sincere privilege to represent the children and taxpayers of South Plainfield. It has been a rewarding time for me and I look forward to the continued improvements throughout my term.

DAWN JEFFREYS

To the Editor:

My first amendment right grants me the freedom of speech. Obviously the South Plainfield Board of Education has a problem with this. But with the recent resignation of Dr. Hangege, I feel compelled to write this letter. *Do Not Believe Rumors!!! Only Believe The Facts!* I say this because the BOE has made false statements which were not true about me. As a matter of fact, I have a "bogus" report where they took my complaint out of context. They used me as their *scapegoat!* and many violations occurred with my complaint. Instead of being responsible and accountable this Board played "push and shove." The Board president should practice what he preaches about accountability, but he doesn't. Oh yes, it will be nice to get a new school building (Roosevelt) but that's not going to bring up our test scores. That's where we should look to the administrators and principals. Are they doing their JOBS? After all they are the backbone and the foundation in seeing that our children get the proper education. If they don't want to do their jobs, LEAVE!

I am frustrated to see the teachers always being blamed. When in fact the administrators and principals need to be responsible and accountable for their actions. They need to motivate, guide and treat all the teachers equally, and STOP trying to win a popularity contest.

It appears the Middle School principal has done a fantastic job in the short time he has been there. I met him once and he seems to be assertive, sincere and doing his job. He seems to motivate everyone and treat everyone equally. The BOE should use him as an example. I don't know the other principals, only those at Roosevelt.

I always thought the best of the Roosevelt School teachers. My husband and I were always happy with our childrens teachers. I thought them to be very professional. I was never called to school for any discipline problem and was always told how well behaved my children were.

Since my children are bus students, I was never spent much time at the school. The times I did have go to school were when my children were seriously hurt at Roosevelt School and on the school bus. In 1991, my son broke his arm at Roosevelt School

Continued on next page



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IN MY OPINION

Continued from previous page

without notification of his injury. He got off the bus crying and we brought him to JFK hospital, where it was confirmed it was broken. My other son was thrown out of the school bus seat. It was supposed to have seat belts, but it did not. He had to get five stitches in his head. These are just a couple examples of how the important issues are "swept under the carpet." I tried to reference this at the March 20, 2001 public BOE meeting. Board President, Frank Mikorski said it was not pertinent. I resent the fact that he would not let me speak. I then tried to bring up an old issue, that I still had not received an answer to my complaint. I tried to ask Board members about another issue at hand, because the Superintendent just said a report had been sent to the board on Feb. 26, 2001. I wanted to get their feelings. Mr. Mikorski jumped in and would not let me speak. Needless to say, I was very upset. The people sitting in the audience were just as shocked as me. How many other parents have done their job and everything is blown off from the BOE? After eight tries to get this "report," I finally got it. Now I see why members of the Board ran from me as if I had a deadly disease. There were plenty of people who saw how I was treated. I cannot play Politics! Shame on you Frank Mikorski. SOW what you preach! It all comes down to that someone did not do their job! And you pushed and shoved it on me! And please don't say that was the former superintendent. When in fact the school principals should be held responsible for their actions too.

This should have been handled differently when the former superintendent admitted publicly he had guilt in the matter at the Jan. 23, 2001 BOE, public meeting.

I had the opportunity to meet Dr. Hangge; I thought he was going to be a good principal. What upsets me is my children are the ones who hear most of these rumors in school. I tell them not to believe what you hear, only believe the facts. Where did these rumors start? Or if any are true, I thought this was supposed to be confidential. Is anything being leaked out? I find it hard to believe that Dr. Hangge resigned so quickly. Why were we told about it after the fact? Whatever reason, I wish him all the best. If there is going to be any type of investigation it shouldn't be conducted by the South Plainfield BOE, maybe the state, federal government, or the United States Justice Department.

To all the cronies; before you cast a stone, know the true facts first.

Know your dates and do your homework first. You may be surprised what can surface. And to all the good parents who try to do what is right for the children, remember *United We Stand Divided We Fall!* Remember, administrators can be nice, and at the same time not be doing their jobs. Keep your eyes open wide! Go to the BOE meetings. If you have issues that been "swept under the carpet" take it to the Board. And when the Board takes their sweet time opening the public portion, **DO NOT LEAVE!** Maybe someone can throw rotten tomatoes at them. It will fit in perfectly! More to come!

Disgusted and Frustrated,
AUDREY SCHUETZ

To the Editor:

After reading William Tuthill's letter to the editor from March 22 I felt compelled to respond.

Mr. Tuthill is upset that the media is "bashing the Catholic Church" and makes the excuse that "No one can tell me that there are not any clergy of other denominations that are not doing the same kind of things." Now, questionable grammar aside, is Mr. Tuthill trying to say that because there may be clergy from other denominations that are committing sexual abuse of children and that it is okay for Catholic Priests to do the same? Or is he trying to say that the media ignores the sexual crimes of non-Catholic clergy because they're all just out to get the Catholic Church? If his point is the latter where is his evidence? It is very easy to make groundless accusations.

He was also bothered that "some of these 'victims' went with the molester many times and only years later came out with their sad stories." Is he really implying that these children went with their molesters "many times" because they wanted to? If Mr. Tuthill would take the time to do a little research on the subject he would find that more often than not sexually abused children are too confused, intimidated and ashamed to report these crimes to anyone. Imagine how difficult and confusing it is for a child to deal with any adult abusing them sexually let alone a revered authority figure like a Priest. Children are helpless in situations like that. I find this business of trying to blame the victims to be, frankly, despicable.

There is one point though on which we can agree. That "anyone, clergy or not, should be prosecuted for molesting children." But it should not stop there. The higher-ups, who knew what these men were doing and thought it

more important to protect the Church from scandal than to protect the children in their congregations from these sexual predators, they must be held responsible for their actions as well. For, as they moved these sick men from parish to parish where they were free to prey on their next victims, they truly aided and abetted these pedophiles in committing horrible deeds.

RANDALL MCCANN

Dear Editor,

My name is Marjorie Reedy and I am a Republican candidate for the South Plainfield Borough Council.

I have been a resident of South Plainfield since 1976, when my husband Michael and I moved here after we were married. We have three children - our daughter Sandra is a junior at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, our son James is a freshman at Five Towns College in Long Island and our youngest son, Patrick is a freshman at South Plainfield High School.

I served on the Board of Education for nine years, serving as president for two of those nine years. I currently serve on the South Plainfield High School Project Graduation Committee, the Cultural Arts Commission, South Plainfield Vision 2001, and the South Plainfield High School Music Boosters Organization.

I feel that I can bring a different perspective to the Council and would like the opportunity to continue to serve my community.

Sincerely,

MARJORIE M. REEDY

To the Editor,

I would like to respond to the editorial written by William Tuthill in last week's *Observer* regarding the recent media-bashing of the Catholic

Church. In it Mr. Tuthill asks for people to "sound off—Let's do what we can to keep this country from going any further down the drain." Well Mr. Tuthill I would like to "sound off." I cannot believe that you could again victimize the innocent "victims" of these sick, twisted, pedophiles by even remotely suggesting in anyway they our now coming forward to get their faces on TV. You ask "Why didn't these people file a complaint right after the incident." Please! Mr. Tuthill. You further suggest that "you think that there is a statue of limitations that may give many of the offenders a loop-hole to avoid prosecution." Please Mr. Tuthill, you sound as if you would welcome such a law, a way out if you may, anything to avoid bad press for the Church. Will hiding our heads in the sand make everything go away?

The only sensible statement in your entire editorial was your agreement that anyone, clergy or not should be prosecuted for molesting children. I too am a Catholic and proud of it, what I am not proud of is the recent horror stories involving pedophile priests. And I can assure you Mr. Tuthill that I will NEVER champion your cause to silence the victims of these animals for the sole sake of protecting the image of the almighty Catholic Church. The Lord may judge their souls on Judgement Day, but the laws of this country should be used to their full extent to prosecute these pedophiles and bring justice to their victims.

THOMAS E. SMITH

Dear Editor,

I have had a child or children in Roosevelt School for the last six years. I have come to know the teachers and staff. They are all qualified, professional, caring, and intelligent individuals. I trust their opinions. If they had a problem with the principal of

Roosevelt School, I trust their judgement. I would rather lose one principal than lose a dozen or more good teachers.

I take offense to the letter in last weeks paper that indicated that the PTA had something to do with Dr. Hangge's resignation. As a member of the PTA, I feel we all got along well with Dr. Hangge. He had some new and often good ideas. He also did and said many things that I did not agree with. We all know you can never please 100 percent of the people all of the time. But, if the majority of the teachers had a problem with him, I trust that they made their decisions with our children in mind.

And as for the individuals who cannot sign their names to their letters, I ask one question—what are you hiding? WHY can't you sign your name to your letter? Because you are probably the same troublemakers who have given Roosevelt School a hard time for the last two years. You are probably the same parents (only about three or four) who are responsible for having all the playground equipment removed from our schools! Have the integrity to stand up for what you believe—if you can believe it yourself!

Thank you teachers!

CATHY POMPILIO

Dear Editor,

On April 16, 2002 please cast your vote to re-elect Jeff Seider to the South Plainfield Board of Education. Jeff has worked hard for both our children and for the taxpayers. Jeff has been a part of a BOE that has worked hard to pass the first ever Bond Referendum and restoration of our track and field complex. Jeff has been on numerous committees such as Transportation, Buildings and Grounds, Residency and Personnel. Vote Line 5 on Apr. 16 to re-elect Jeff Seider.

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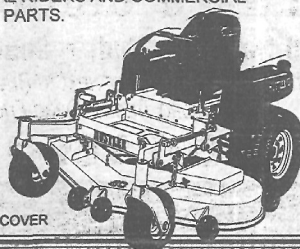
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Amateur Photography Contest Underway

The International Library of Photography is pleased to announce that over \$60,000 in prizes will be awarded this year in the International Open Amateur Photography Contest. Photographers from the South Plainfield

area, particularly beginners, are welcome to try to win their share of over 1,300 prizes. The deadline for the contest is June 28. The contest is open to everyone and entry is FREE.

"Everyone has at least one memorable photo that captures a special moment in time," stated Christina Baylon, Contest Director. "When people learn about our free photography contest, they suddenly realize that their own favorite photos can win cash prizes, as well as gain national exposure," continued Baylon.

To enter, send one photograph in only one of the following categories: People, Travel, Pets, Children, Sports, Nature, Action, Humor, Portraiture or other. The photo must be a color

or black-and-white print (unmounted), 8"x10" or smaller. All entries must include the photographer's name and address on the back as well as the category and the title of the photo. Photographs should be sent to: The International Library of Photography, 3600 Crondall Lane, Suite 101-2613, Owings Mills, Md. 21117. Entries must be postmarked by June 28, 2002. You may also submit your photo directly online at www.picture.com.

The International Library of Photography is an organization dedicated to bringing the work of amateur photographers to the public's attention. You can view over 1.1 million amateur photographers at their website, www.picture.com.

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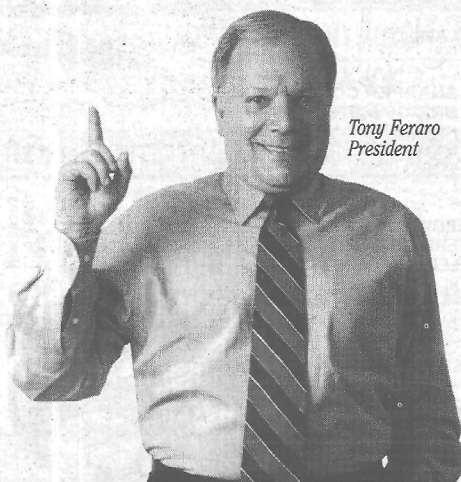
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MEMBER FDIC



Girl Scout Troop #228 from Franklin School recently visited the Westfield Midas shop to complete their car care badge. Herb White and James Dent instructed the girls in good car care, including checking the fluids in the car, tire pressure and how to change and check the oil. Pictured from left to right are James Dent, Christine Snogans, Caitlin Herriot, Catherine Krawiec, Allysa McCreesh, Michelle Arancio, Elizabeth Tran, Brittany Tucci, Brittany Smith, Rebecca Deffler, Kaleigh White, Allyson White and Herb White.

Last Chance for Nominations to SPHS 2002 Hall of Fame

The South Plainfield Hall of Fame Committee is searching for candidates for induction into the Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame was established at South Plainfield High School to recognize outstanding graduates as leaders in their fields who could serve as role models for current and future students.

To be eligible, all Hall of Fame candidates must have graduated South Plainfield High School at least 15 years prior to nomination and they must have achieved a prominent position in their careers or made a significant contribution to the world/community.

Those candidates selected will be honored at a luncheon and will be inducted into the Hall of Fame at the High School's Annual Academic Awards Program in June 2002. All Hall of Fame Inductees from past years will also be invited to attend this luncheon. The nominees will also have

their photographs and biographies displayed on the "Hall of Fame" at the High School.

Community members interested in obtaining a Hall of Fame nomination form should call Mr. Massaro at (908) 754-4620. The application deadline is April 5, 2002.

Girl Scout Cookie Sales

If you missed the regular cookie sale, it is not too late to still get Girl Scout Cookies. Cookie Booth Sales will be held by South Plainfield Girl Scouts at the following locations:

On Saturday, March 30 at Bagel Pantry on Plainfield Ave. from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

On Saturday, April 6 at Quik Check on Sampton Ave. from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Drug Fair on South Plainfield Ave., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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Cortese Completes Training As Doula

Roxanne Cortese attended Mother-Love Inc., a Doula (Doulas of North America) approved Labor Support Workshop. Roxanne, who is a Holistic Health Care Provider in South Plainfield for over 16 years, attended

the required hours to become certified as a Doula and to begin serving mothers and families in supporting the births of their babies. Roxanne has for many years been working with hypnosis with her clients as a tool to

achieve natural childbirth. She is also a Massage Therapist, Reflexologist and Reiki Master.

Cortese says that a mother's need at this time is so important and her needs are to be met with first. This does not mean that Doulas are just for mothers seeking a more modern approach to a natural childbirth. Mothers who still want to use the other options of medication also seek the use of Doulas. Doulas have been around for years and are just now coming back into the health field.

You usually meet with the parents at 32 weeks gestation to go over a packet of questions that present their goals, ideas and needs at the time of the birth of their baby. Then you meet with the mother either at her home or hospital when she goes into labor and stay with her until her baby arrives. There is no greater satisfaction then being a part of a family and the birth of a baby knowing that you were an important instrument to assist and serve the mother to bring her baby into the world.

What Is A Doula and Her Role

Doulas are trained and experienced in childbirth, although they may or may not have given birth themselves. The Doula's role is to provide physical, emotional, spiritual and informational support to women and their partners during labor and birth. The Doula offers help and advice on comfort measures such as breathing, relaxation, massage, reflexology, movement and positioning. She also assists families to gather information about the course of their labor and their options. Perhaps the most crucial role of the Doula is providing continuous emotional reassurance and comfort.

Doulas specialize in non-medical skills and do not perform clinical tasks. They do not diagnose medical conditions, offer second opinions, or give medical advice. Most importantly, they do not make decisions for clients and do not project their values and goals onto the laboring woman. It's about what the parents want.

The Doula's goal is to help the woman have a safe and satisfying childbirth as the woman defines it.

Obituaries

Lothar J. "Uncle Lou" Munz, 80,

Lothar J. "Uncle Lou" Munz died Thursday, March 20 at St. Francis Hospital in Trenton.

Born in Hechingen, Germany, Lou came to the United States in 1928, residing in Newark until 1952 when he then settled in South Plainfield.

He is a veteran of the United States during WWI.

Mr. Munz had been employed by the Heyco Corp., formerly of Kenilworth for 47 years as the traffic manager, retiring in December of 1987.

Mr. Munz is a member of the Covenant United Methodist Church in Plainfield where he had been a member for the past 48 years and was head usher for more than 20 years. He was also an active member of the Boy Scouts of America Watchung Area Council for more than 40 years. He was awarded the Scouts highest honor, the "Silver Beaver," in 1993 and was also awarded the "Distinctive Award

of Merit" in 1976.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Dorothy L. (Meyer) Munz; a sister, Rose Busacca, his wife's sister and her husband, Helen and Gerald Murphy; 11 nieces and nephews and 24 great nieces and nephews, as well as numerous "cousins" nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held by McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Diane S. Maniscalco

Diane S. Maniscalco of South Plainfield, died on Thursday, March 21 at the Haven Hospice in JFK Medical Center in Edison.

She was born to Max and Jean Krupnick in Brooklyn, where she grew up. She later lived in Manhattan and in Iselin before moving to South Plainfield in 1974.

Up until last year, she had worked for 15 years as a secretary in the Sports Department of Rutgers University in Piscataway. While in New York, Diane had worked as a legal secretary for many years with various law firms in Manhattan.

Surviving are her husband of 27 years, Peter J. Maniscalco; a daughter, Jessica L. Maniscalco; a son, Adam P. Maniscalco, all of South Plainfield and her sister, Madeline Frank of Staten Island.

Funeral services were held by McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Consideration

It is far easier for the family if a family plot is arranged prior to need. The considerate staff at Hillside Cemetery will assist your selection. All lots are in fully developed areas and include perpetual care. Located on Woodland Avenue in Scotch Plains, a non-profit organization. 908-756-1729

Hillside Cemetery
www.hillsidecemetery.com



St. Patrick's Dinner/Dance Held at American Legion

By Patricia Abbott

Irish or not everyone was in a party mood at the American Legion's annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner/Dance. Dinner was, of course, corned beef and cabbage with all the trimmings. There were assorted desserts, beer, wine and hot beverages.

Rick Magri organized the event and the committee, decked out in green shirts bearing their name, kept the

evening running smoothly. The Committee consisted of Betty Austin, Jean Pacifico, Paddy Wyckoff, Barbara DeMaia, Diane Malecki, Madeline Penyak and Betty Dowber.

The food was prepared by John Alvenus and Tom Wyckoff. Guests enjoyed music by DJ Roseann. The event was a fundraiser for the American Legion Scholarship Fund.

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Buono Introduces Predatory Lending Legislation

Senator Barbara Buono (D-Middlesex) recently introduced the "Home Loan Protection Act," which would shield consumers from the practice of predatory lending.

Most loans which are characterized as predatory, have excessive interest charges and high up-front fees. There are also excessive penalties, such as large fees if the loan is paid off early, which makes it difficult for individuals to get out of debt. And many times they are based on the amount of the homeowners' equity and not on their ability to make payments.

This type of loan is often marketed to the elderly, the poor and minorities. "Senior citizens are often targeted by predatory lenders due to the high amount of equity they have in their homes," said Senator Buono. "This legislation would protect them and other consumers at risk."

The bill would prohibit certain abusive practices in the making of home loans, including "flipping," or refinancing of a loan and charging of additional fees with no obvious benefit to the borrower and the charging of a fee to provide information concerning a borrower's payoff balance. Abusive mortgage lending has become an increasing problem in New Jersey, worsening the loss of equity in homes and causing the number of foreclosures to increase.

Many communities throughout the state are being threatened by abusive lending practices, causing decreases in home ownership. Too many homeowners find themselves victims of overreaching lenders who provide liens with unnecessarily high costs and terms that are unnecessary to secure repayment of the loan.

Under the measure, any person who participates in the practice of predatory lending would be in violation of the consumer fraud law. The bill also provides for additional penalties, including fines up to \$1,000 and six months in jail.

This bill has the support of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP).

Home Helpers Offers To Make Life Easier

A new business has opened in Matawan which provides the extra help seniors need to manage their everyday life. For one small monthly fee, Home Helpers Home Assistance Program can be arranged to fit individual needs, from morning "perk-up" to evening "tuck-in," plus a variety of services in between.

Home Helpers is flexible. They are available on an hourly, daily or weekly basis, day or night. Although independent senior citizens are ideal candidates for the services, Home Helpers can offer loving care to new mothers and those recovering from a recent illness. Services can be tailored to meet anyone's personal requirements.

All Home Helpers caregivers are reliable professionals who have been thoroughly screened and formally trained. They are also bonded and insured.

Home Helpers is a national company with corporate offices in Cincinnati, Ohio. For more information regarding services available locally, please call (732) 441-9125.

Legal Notices

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
ORDINANCE NO. 1592
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

Ordinance #1592 entitled: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 48 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD ENTITLED: "POLICE DEPARTMENT"** be adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, March 29, 2002 and that a public hearing be held at 7:00PM on Thursday, April 18, 2002 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ORDINANCE NO. 1592

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 48 ENTITLED "POLICE DEPARTMENT" OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD.

Section 48-1. Establishment.
A Police Department is hereby established in and for the Borough of South Plainfield, under the name of "Police Department of the Borough of South Plainfield".

Section 48-2. Department Personnel.
The Police Department of the Borough of South Plainfield shall consist of 1 Chief of Police, 3 Captains, 7 Lieutenants, 7 Sergeants, 44 Police Officers and such other staffing requirements and employees as shall from time to time be deemed necessary by the Mayor and Council to properly preserve peace and good order within the Borough of South Plainfield.

Section 48-3. Appointments and promotions.
All appointments and promotions within the Police Department shall be made in accordance with New Jersey Department of Personnel regulations.

Section 48-4. Rules and regulations.
The Borough Council shall establish and may from time to time amend or repeal such rules and regulations as it may deem necessary for the government and efficient working of the entire Department and to secure the greatest possible protection to persons and property and the supremacy of law, peace, health, order, morality and temperance throughout the borough.

Section 48-5. Functions of Police Committee
Delete

Section 48-6. Physical examination and Committee examination.
The Chief of Police shall designate appropriate physicians; medical, psychological and drug testing, for examination for appointments. Upon completion of testing the Police Chief based upon the background investigation shall make a recommendation of appointments to the Mayor and Council for their approval.

Section 48-7. Qualifications of police.
Each member of the police force of the Borough of South Plainfield as presently constituted shall be a member of the Police Department. Each member of the Department hereafter appointed shall be a citizen of the United States and must have good moral character, be sound in body, in good health, be able to read and write in the English language intelligently.

Section 48-8. Probationary period.
Each person hereafter appointed to the Department shall first serve a probationary period of six (6) months from the date of his appointment. During the probationary period he shall be known as a "probationary officer".

Section 48-9. Membership in Police Pension Fund.
Delete

Section 49-10. Oath required.
Every member of the Police Department, before entering upon the performance of his duties, shall take and subscribe an oath or affirmation bear true faith and allegiance to the government established in this State, under the authority of the people, to support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey and the laws and ordinances enacted thereunder and to faithfully, impartially and justly discharge and perform all the duties of his office, which oath or affirmation shall be filed with the Borough Clerk.

Section 48-11. Duties of Chief.
The Chief of the Police Department shall be the executive head of the Department and shall be responsible to the Public Safety Committee and through said Committee, to the Mayor and Council for the conduct, efficiency and management of the Department. In the absence or disability of the Chief of Police, his duties shall be performed by the next officer in command in order of rank then on duty.

Section 48-12. Responsibility of Department.
The members of the Police Department shall be held responsible for the proper enforcement of all ordinances of the Borough of South Plainfield and the laws of the State of New Jersey and of the United States.

Section 48-13. Keeping of records.
All records of the Police Department shall be kept in a proper and orderly fashion under the direct supervision and responsibility of the Chief of Police. Such records shall be kept and maintained in the form and manner prescribed under the rules and regulations approved by the governing body and the Attorney General of the State of New Jersey.

Section 48-14. Regular reports.
The Chief of Police shall report in writing to the Public Safety Committee on all matters pertaining to the department as required by the Mayor and Council.

Section 48-15. Reasons for Removal from Department.
No person shall be removed from office or employment in the Police Department for political reasons or for other causes than incapacity, misconduct, violation of the terms of this chapter or of the rules and regulations of the Department.

Section 48-16. Charges against members; hearings.
Delete

Section 48-17. Special Officers.
Delete

Article II

Delete

Article III

Police Service for Private or Quasi-Public Functions

Section 48-20. Request to Chief for service.
The Chief of Police is hereby authorized to furnish out duty police officers on a voluntary basis, to service private or quasi-public functions upon written request received from such party and upon party's agreement to pay the charges therefor.

Section 48-21. Authorized functions.
Such power of the Chief of Police shall at all times be confined to the areas and functions as may be authorized by resolutions adopted by the Mayor and Council from time to time.

Section 48-22. Rate of payment for service.
The party requesting the service of a member of the Police Department as stated in Section 48-20 hereof shall be charged and pay for such service at a rate to be set forth by Ordinance properly adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield.

Section 48-23. Compensation of member rendering service.
Each member of the Police Department rendering such service shall be compensated at the rate to be set forth by Ordinance properly adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield compensation. Such money shall be paid through and out of regular payroll procedures. The time spent by any such member of the Police Department shall not be computed as part of regular employment hours or overtime.

Section 48-24. Rules and regulations.
The procedures set forth herein pertaining to the manner and method of fixing and collecting charges, together with the establishment of payroll procedures, shall be subject to rules and regulations promulgated by the New Jersey of Local Government Services.

Section 48-25. Reciprocal agreement established.
The Borough of South Plainfield hereby establishes, pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:14-156.2, a reciprocal agreement with any municipality within the Counties of Middlesex, Union and Somerset for inter-municipal police assistance at time of any and all emergencies. This Article shall become effective to each and every other municipality within said counties at such times that said municipality has in the past or may in the future adopt an ordinance providing the same terms and conditions set forth herein and including the Borough of South Plainfield within its coverage.

Article IV

Intermunicipal Police Assistance

Section 48-26. Municipal expenses.
The Borough of South Plainfield hereby agrees to bear all expenses incurred by members of its Municipal Police Department for emergency assistance rendered within or without the boundaries of this community. The Borough of South Plainfield shall make no claim for reimbursement from any municipality adopting an ordinance providing the same terms and conditions set forth herein for damages, injuries, wages and the like in connection with aid rendered by the members of its Police Department to any other municipality adopting such ordinance.

Section 48-27. Intermunicipal police authority.
In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:14-156.2, the members of the Police Department of the Borough of South Plainfield and any other municipality passing an ordinance with the same terms and conditions as this Article while on duty rendering assistance to any other such municipality shall have the said powers, authority and immunities as do the members of the police force of the municipality in which such assistance is being rendered. Additionally, said members shall also have, while so acting, said rights and immunities as they may otherwise enjoy in the performance of their normal duties within the Borough of South Plainfield.

Section 48-28. Municipal Expense.
The Borough of South Plainfield shall, upon providing assistance to another municipality which has enacted a similar intermunicipal assistant ordinance, assume the cost and expense of providing said personnel and equipment to the requesting municipality; excepting such instances when the requesting municipality receives State or Federal aid as reimbursement therefore. In this event, the costs incurred by the borough shall be submitted to the municipality which requested assistance, for reimbursement.

Section 48-29. Senior ranking officer.
At such time that an emergency may occur and intermunicipal aid is requested, the Chief of Police of the municipality wherein said emergency exists shall be the senior ranking officer of all members of any Police Department which may be rendering assistance within the confines of said municipality.

Section 48-30. Injury or death while on duty.
In the event any member of a police force summoned pursuant to an agreement to render assistance, suffers injury or death in the performance of his or her duties, his/her designee or legal representative shall be entitled to such salary, pension rights, workman's compensation or other benefits as would have accrued, if such injury or death had occurred in the performance of his or her normal duties.

Section 48-31. Copy on file
Deleted.

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

Approved March 21, 2002
Daniel J. Gallagher/Mayor

ATTEST: Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$284.00 March 29, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
ORDINANCE NO. 1593
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

Ordinance #1593 entitled: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5 ARTICLE VIII OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD ENTITLED: "BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS"** be adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, March 29, 2002 and that a public hearing be held at 7:00PM on Thursday, April 18, 2002 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ORDINANCE NO. 1593

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 5 ARTICLE VIII ENTITLED "BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS" OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD.

Section 5-27. Recreation Director.
The Recreation Commission shall have the power to appoint a Recreation Director for a term not to exceed five (5) years, which shall run from January 1 of the year in which he/she is appointed.

The Recreation Director must be trained and possess the necessary qualifications and who has demonstrated by actual work his/her ability to organize and direct a community recreation system, and such other personnel as may be deemed necessary and are recommended by the Recreation Director.

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

Approved March 21, 2002
Daniel J. Gallagher/Mayor

ATTEST: Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$45.00 March 29, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Richard Thoma requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the erection of an 8' x 12' wood shed, proposed shed lacks the required 30' front setback from East Hendricks, 5' being proposed and other variances that may be required, said property being located on Block 62 Lot 6 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 Tuesday, April 16, 2002 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

The maps and documents pertaining to this appeal are available for public inspection in the Building Inspector's Office, South Plainfield Borough Hall, Monday through Thursday, between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm.

\$35.00 March 31, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD					
ORDINANCE NO. 1590A					
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, THAT: Ord 1590A entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 1440E ENTITLED: AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD AND THE METHOD OF PAYMENT OF SUCH COMPENSATION FOR THE YEARS 2001 THRU 2005 be adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, March 29, 2002 and that a public hearing be held at 7:00PM on Thursday, April 18, 2002 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.					
ORDINANCE #1590A					
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #1440E ENTITLED: AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD AND THE METHOD OF PAYMENT OF SUCH COMPENSATION FOR THE YEARS 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 AND 2005.					
<i>Be it ordained by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, as follows:</i>					
SECTION 1. The rates of compensation for each employee of the Borough of South Plainfield shall be on an annual basis as follows except where indicated. Such rates of pay shall be effective on January 1st of the years shown.					
POSITION	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
DPW					
GENERAL SUPERVISOR	33.11	34.27	35.47	36.71	37.99
SUPERVISOR	31.33	32.43	33.56	34.74	35.95
SENIOR SEWER REPAIRMAN	27.88	28.85	29.86	30.91	31.99
HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR	25.97	26.88	27.82	28.79	29.80
MECHANIC	25.45	26.34	27.27	28.22	29.21
TRUCK DRIVER	22.91	23.71	24.54	25.40	26.28
MECHANICS HELPER	22.91	23.71	24.54	25.40	26.28
SEWER REPAIRMAN	22.91	23.71	24.54	25.40	26.28
BUILDING MAINT. WORKER - REC	22.91	23.71	24.54	25.40	26.28
BUILDING MAINTENANCE NT	22.33	23.11	23.92	24.76	25.62
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	21.47	22.22	23.00	23.80	24.63
LABORER VI	20.51	21.23	21.97	22.74	23.54
LABORER V	18.39	19.04	19.70	20.39	21.11
LABORER IV	16.92	17.52	18.13	18.76	19.42
LABORER III	15.48	16.03	16.59	17.17	17.77
LABORER II	14.03	14.52	15.02	15.55	16.09
LABORER I	12.58	13.02	13.47	13.94	14.43
SECTION 2. INCONSISTENCY - All ordinance or parts of ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.					
SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE - This ordinance shall become effective and operative ten days after the publication thereof after final passage.					
Approved March 21, 2002					
ATTEST: Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk					
\$130.00					
March 29, 2002					

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Copy deadline for the Observer is Monday, 5 p.m. for the following Friday's publication.

Please mail, fax or email your copy, (preferably typed in upper and lower case and double spaced). Send to South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Fax to (908) 668-8819, email us on our web page at spobserver.com.

policereport

• On March 18 a Plainfield resident reported the theft of her 2001 Hyundai from in front of 11 South Plainfield Ave.

• On March 19 a Franklin Ave. resident reported that someone had put sugar in her gas tank.

• On March 20 a Plainfield resident reported the theft of a computer from his vehicle which was parked at 3900 Hamilton Blvd.

• South Plainfield Ob/Gyn Asso. on Park Ave. reported that their computer software had been tampered with and that equipment and office furniture stored in the basement was missing.

• On Thursday a So. Central Ave. resident reported that someone that was doing repairs to his home had taken a \$9,000 check and cashed it.

• On Friday Vilma Garcia-

Puentes of Kearny was arrested at CVS on Oak Tree Rd. for shoplifting \$44.95 worth of cosmetics.

• On Saturday a Stroudsburg, Pa. resident reported that someone had shot the rear drivers side window with a BB and shattered it while he was parked at 4081A Hadley Rd.

• Bethania Cruz-Paulino of Plainfield was arrested at Kohls for shoplifting a pair of sneakers worth \$52.99.

• On Sunday a Piscataway resident reported that while driving along side the parking lot of the A&P, something had struck her rear window causing it to shatter.

• A Harvard Ave. resident reported that someone had smashed out the drivers window and hit the car with eggs.

• On Monday a Toms River resident reported that the passenger side lock of his 1994 Accura had been pried open and the ignition removed while it was disabled on So. 10th St. The windshield had also been cracked.

• A Wells Dr. resident reported the theft of her credit card. Purchases of \$646 had been made before the card was cancelled.

• The manager of 7-11 on Plainfield Ave. reported that

someone had punched the store window, breaking it and then ran away.

• An employee of G&W Laboratories on Coolidge St. reported that between March 21 and 23, the tires of her car had been slashed three separate times while parked in the lot.

• Alberta Martino of Perfect Touch Salon on New Market Ave. reported that a window had been broken apparently by a BB gun.

• Radio Shack on Hadley Rd. reported that a cell phone was missing from a locked display case.

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An Important Community Message From Your Community Bank.



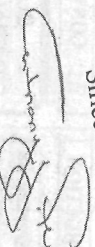
Dear Friends:
The newspapers are reporting that some pompous financial institutions have decided to fight the system and bully their way into your neighborhoods. How arrogant!

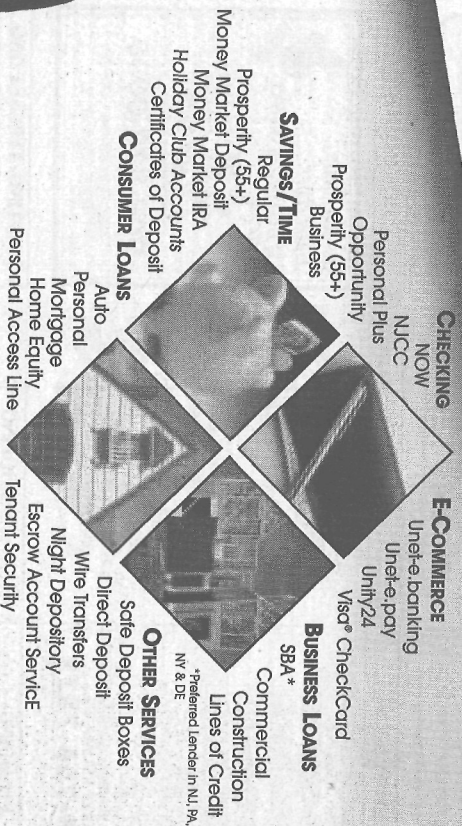
In one case, a bank you know is suing the township where it wants to build. It seems when this bank does not get its way it runs to its attorneys. Who pays to defend against these suits? The very people the bank wants to "serve." Some service...legal briefs!

The bank in question continues to pressure local leaders to build their stark, neoteric, cookie-cutter branches...the picturesque landscape we serve, rules. They plunder through your municipal codes to build their stark, neoteric, cookie-cutter branches...the picturesque landscape we serve, rules.

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President & CEO



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