

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 5, NO. 32

50 CENTS

APRIL 12, 2002



School board candidates gather for a debate on Tuesday night. Left to right is Daniel Smith, Jeffrey Seider, Kenneth LaFreniere, Tim Morgan and Terry Alexa. Not pictured is Angel Jazikoff, who could not attend.

School Board Vote Tuesday

Next Tuesday, the voters of South Plainfield will go to the polls to approve or disapprove the 2002/2003 school budget and to elect three board members. Six candidates are vying for three seats in this year's election. Members serve for three-year terms.

Three incumbents are seeking reelection this year. They are board members Daniel Smith, Jeffrey Seider and Kenneth LaFreniere. Also running are Tim Morgan, who ran last year, and Terry Alexa and Angel C. Jazikoff.

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 six years, which amounts to about \$26 for a home assessed at \$100,000. State aid to South Plainfield did not increase this year, but remained the same, despite increased enrollment. Other school districts asking for increased taxes are: Old Bridge-\$285, Metuchen-\$257, East Brunswick-\$342 and South Brunswick-\$185.

The bond referendum portion of the school tax brings an increase of 6.6 cents per hundred, or about \$70 per household.

Voters passed last year's referendum to construct a new Roosevelt School, renovate the old Roosevelt School, up-

Want to know where the money goes?
For in-depth info on the proposed school budget, see page 7.

grade all of the other schools and install new boilers in the Middle School. The construction and renovations have already started district-wide.

The school board election is Tuesday, April 16. Voting takes place at the following schools: Franklin, Kennedy, Roosevelt and Middle School, also the Rescue Squad and American Legion. Residents should have received a sample ballot in the mail which indicates their voting locations. Polls are open from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Need voting information? Call the municipal clerk's office, 226-7605.

Maple Ave. Truck Traffic Aggravates Residents

Several Maple Ave. residents attended last week's Council Agenda meeting to voice their concerns about the speeding on, and the increased use of, Maple Ave. by semi-trucks.

Julius Jackson, who lives on the corner of Norwood Ave., asked the council for relief from the increased amount of truck traffic. He also complained about the speed at which the trucks travel along Maple Ave., saying it is much faster than the posted 25 mile-per-hour speed limit.

Jackson also added that he can't ever remember seeing a truck stopped for speeding near his house. He says he watches the trucks speed by his house all day long and they are never stopped. Jackson said he has called Middlesex County, because he knows that Maple Ave. is a county road, and was told that South Plainfield Borough Council, along with the county, could prohibit truck traffic.

In answering Jackson's complaint, Mayor Dan Gallagher said that he would not consider re-routing the trucks off of Maple Ave., explaining

that it would be unfair for residents on other streets. He questioned whether prohibiting trucks on Maple Ave. was even a possibility. However, the mayor did ask Police Chief Bob Merkler to step up radar patrol checks along Maple Ave. and crack down on speeders.

Maple Ave. residents Bill and Leslie Steeg reiterated Jackson's complaints. They said an increased number of trucks can be seen barreling down the road, both day and night, and also agreed that the police haven't stopped or ticketed any of the violators.

Councilman Ed Kubala reminded everyone about the proposed Helen Street project. When completed, it will help relieve traffic in South Plainfield. Trucks will be rerouted, bypassing most of the main roads in town. However, he cautioned everyone to have patience, saying that the Helen Street project completion is still years away.

On a trip down Maple Ave. last Friday, we noted the presence of the police, however, we did not see any vehicles stopped at that time.

Veterans' Memorial to be Relocated



South Plainfield Veterans look forward to the upcoming improvements and relocation of the local memorial.

The Veterans Memorial in front of Borough Hall has outgrown itself over time. Earlier this year, a study of the names on the memorial revealed that at least 67 names of local veterans are missing from the memorial.

A committee was formed to study how to expand the memorial. Police Chief Bob Merkler was asked to head it up and accepted the task of finding a way to expand the memorial.

In addition to Merkler, the com-

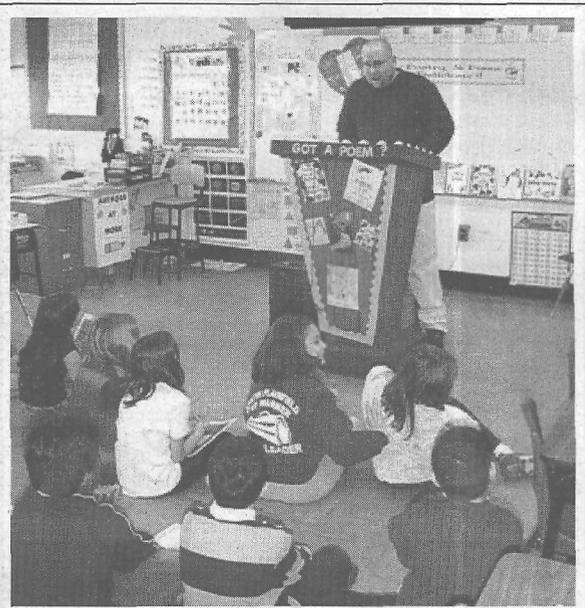
mittee included Merkler's brother Steven (the former chief of police), Bill McCriskin of McCriskin's Home For Funerals, Office of Emergency Management Coordinator Mike Zushma; Bobby Stilo, owner of Stilo Paving and Stan Werchinski, an engineer also at Stilo Paving.

It was decided that the monument should be moved and expanded to the grassy area next to the Rescue Squad near the creek. With the help of Architect Bob Longo; a new area

was designed for the memorial. It will be situated next to the new Fireman's Memorial, which is slated to be built on the other side of the creek next to the new Senior Center.

The Veterans' Memorial will be a focal point in the park-like setting, with flags from each branch of service, walking paths, shrubs, benches and lighting. Branching out behind the memorial to the right and left will be two memorials, one each for the Rescue Squad and the Police Department. The present Police Memorial, which is behind Borough Hall, will be relocated there. Policemen who were killed in the line of duty, and those who served and died, will be honored. Rescue Squad members who served will be listed on their own memorial. A four-face clock will be placed in the area at the front of the memorial.

To fund the project, fundraisers and requests for donations will take place in the future. A replica of the four-face clock will be sold as one of the fundraisers. More information on the sale of the clock will be available at a later date.



Celebrating Language Through Poetry—Mike Bertram's third grade class at Roosevelt School has turned the language of poetry into a celebration through reading, writing and reciting. For story and poems, see page 6.

Junior Baseball, Ponytail Softball Seasons Kick Off Saturday

Opening Day activities for Junior Baseball and Ponytail Softball will include a parade, which begins at 10 a.m. from Borough Hall. (Teams will meet at Borough Hall at approximately 9:30 a.m.) The parade will be followed by Opening Day ceremonies at the complex. We are hoping to have the police chief, fire chief, and rescue

squad captain throw out the first pitches. Little Miss Baseball will be crowned during the opening ceremonies. Team photos will be taken throughout the day. Each team manager will be advised of their respective team's time.

Remember to pick up your opening day program at the snack stand.

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 15 Thursday, April 21
Monday, May 6 Thursday, May 9
Monday, May 20 Thursday, May 23

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

planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. (starting in May at 7 p.m.) • Questions? 908-226-7641
Apr. 23, May 14, May 28, June 1, June 25

zoning board of adjustment

Meets first, third and fifth Tuesday of the month (starting in May meeting held on Thursday)

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641
April 16, May 2, May 16, June 13, June 27, July 18, July 25, Aug. 15, Aug. 29

taxpayers advisory group

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

siteplace sub-committee

The fourth Thursday of the month as follows:

April 25, May 23, June 20, July 18, Aug. 22, Sept. 19 and Oct. 24

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
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
May 8

board of education meetings

Grant School Gymnasium on Cromwell Place unless otherwise noted

Committee of the Whole meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m.
Regular Board Mtg., held on Tuesdays, 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

IN MY OPINION

Dear Editor,

I am writing to ask if you can help me put together a petition. The petition is for our only cable company, Comcast, to put TechTV back on its lineup. As you know, TechTV was replaced by the YES network for the baseball fans in this area on April 1. What this petition will ask Comcast to do is to put TechTV, and keep the YES network on the channel line-up.

The reason why I think this is important is because the students of South Plainfield are very technologically aware. TechTV keeps these youths ahead of the average student, with shows and articles about technology that naturally interests them. Alike, the network also has programs that interest adults about modern technology. TechTV has some entertainment shows, but is mostly comparable to a news network.

If you need to investigate the quality of the network TechTV you can visit their website at TechTV.com. They are very professional and are very serious about giving out high quality programming and information.

If anyone is interested, please contact the *Observer* at 668-0010. Thank you for your time.

**SINCERELY,
GORDON VIRASAWMI
SOUTH PLAINFIELD RESIDENT**

Hello South Plainfield Residents!

Is anyone awake out there? Is it just me or has anyone else noticed what is happening in our town? If you can make it across town through all of the horrible traffic, you can't help notice all the houses that are still being built. I understand there is interest in property on the south side, that if purchased could result in more apartment houses and/or condos.

Don't think you are safe on the other end of town either. There's interest in the property where the old WERA radio station was on Oak Tree Ave. Again, we are talking more apartment houses and condos!

Besides not needing anymore apartments or condos, what about the traffic in these areas! Both areas are a nightmare now. I can't even imagine what it would be like if these projects become a reality!

Where is the communication between the borough and Board of Education? Are we not presently ripping up our schools to accommodate the increase in enrollment due to all the new construction? We as taxpayers are paying for these improvements and a new school with no help from the builders of these new developments.

If more apartments and condos are built in town, the construction we are doing on the schools will be obsolete! We will be back to where we were with a shortage of classrooms. The other elementary schools have been taking the overflow from Roosevelt because they have no room for these children. Imagine more construction on that side of town and within a couple of years, they will be adding more classrooms not only to Roosevelt's new school, but to the other elementary schools!

Also, has anyone thought about what is going to happen once the se-

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 spobserver.com or faxed to 908-668-8819. Deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. 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.*

nior citizens start selling their homes to move into their new apartments? There are one hundred available apartments and most of the occupants will probably be residents of South Plainfield who are going to sell their homes. Who is going to buy those homes? You guessed it! People that most likely have children.

I realize that sacrifices have to be made so that our children's schools will be able to accommodate them comfortably. But I pray every day when I drop my daughter off at Central Sixth and also when I pick her up that nobody gets hurt with all the construction going on. Personally, I don't understand why this couldn't have waited until June. Not only is this affecting the sixth graders, but the Future Stars, Sunshine Program and Latch Key programs are being affected. The noise is deafening during the day!

The playground has been roped off and the equipment has been removed. There are no more outside activities for any of these children. The sixth graders have two lunch periods that are one hour each. After lunch they sit in the all purpose room for another half hour, shades pulled up, windows shut and they are bouncing off the walls by the time classes start.

The parking lot is roped off so nobody, including teachers, can park there. Cars are parked around several corners making it not only difficult for parents to safely drop off and pick up their children, but also a safety hazard to the buses trying to get there!

There is nothing we can do now to remedy the school construction that has started. Remember the majority voted for the referendum, although the people that were polled two years ago strongly wanted the elementary schools to be reverted back to K-sixth grade. It was said by the Board of Education that having the schools returned to the K-sixth was impractical. So now we have to live with that decision and hope that by eliminating three classrooms from each elementary school we will have enough space for more incoming students.

We as residents of South Plainfield can do something now to try and help ourselves and our children's futures. We have to look long and hard at the people that are running for local elections. We need people that will listen to us and will try to accommodate our wants without jeopardizing our town's future. We need the people who run the borough to work with the people on the Board of Education. We can't just stand back and let the building continue.

So when you go to the polls next week and again in the fall, think long and hard before you push those buttons. We need a change of government in South Plainfield. As residents of South Plainfield, you must make yourself heard!

GWENN KURILEW

Clarification

To the Observer,

In last week's "Police Report" section of the *Observer*, you printed an inaccurate report regarding "a South Central Ave. resident report that a contractor doing work on his home had taken a \$9,000 check and cashed it." I am that resident and I must insist the report be clarified as soon as possible.

The check in question was stolen and cashed by a previous contractor who was doing work on our home prior to the current contractor working on the house.

The contractor currently working on our home, Mark Wagner from South Plainfield, was not only not involved in the check theft incident, he has worked wonders finishing the work that was started, as well as fixing prior work that was done defectively and in violation of township code regulations.

We are indeed very fortunate that Mr. Wagner was referred to us and grateful for his monumental efforts.

Thank you for your anticipated prompt attention to this issue.

**SINCERELY,
JAMES HOWARD**

To the Voters of South Plainfield:

I feel it is very important for you to come out and vote on Apr. 16. We need a team that will work together and that is why I am supporting lines 2, 3 and 4 (Angel Jazikoff, Terry Alexa and Daniel M. Smith). All three understand the importance of our school system and are involved with our community. I know they will work as a team for everyone and that is why they say "Education and Community First".

Support South Plainfield by supporting Angel Jazikoff, Terry Alexa and Daniel M. Smith. Please vote for lines 2-3-4.

STEVE LICATA

To the Voters:

I'm writing this in behalf of my friend Terry Alexa who is running for the Board of Education on Apr. 16. I have known Terry for over 20 years and know she will be an asset to the Community of South Plainfield. Our children have attended school together from Future Stars, where Terry was an officer of the Parents Group to Roosevelt School, where she is corresponding secretary and Grant School 6, where she is also corresponding secretary.

Terry is totally committed, especially where children and education are involved. Please join me in voting for Terry Alexa-Line 3 on Tuesday, Apr. 16.

PATTY PETRONKO

Continued on page 10

South Plainfield Observer

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

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

1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
2. Mail, fax or drop it at: Editorial Department
South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or drop it in the box at Mohn's Flowers on Plainfield Ave. or at (908) 668-8819 or e-mail us at spobserver.com or ggnan@aol.com or ngrennie@ix.netcom.com. Include your name, address, telephone number.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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The South Plainfield Health Department
Is Conducting Its Annual

RABIES CLINIC

At the
South Plainfield Borough Garage
(corner of Spicer and Belmont Ave.)

Dog and Cat Owners are urged to bring their pets for inoculation.

Dog & Cat Licenses Will Be Available
Please Note: Cats must be in a carrier

DATE:
Saturday, April 20, 2002 • 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

**For More Information Please Call
226-7631**

southplainfieldpeople Milestones

Lynda K. Hepburn Makes Dean's List

Barbara and Ron Hepburn are pleased to announce that their daughter, Lynda, a second year sophomore at Rutgers University College of Engineering, has made the Dean's List for each of the first three semesters.

Lynda is majoring in Computer Engineering.

In addition to her studies, Lynda participates in the Marching, Pep and Concert Bands at Rutgers University.

Passport Services Available at Borough Hall

The Middlesex County Passport Office will be at Borough Hall next Friday to process passports for area residents.

Residents can save the time of driving to New Brunswick to obtain a passport. With most airlines requiring a photo identification, it's a good idea to have a passport when traveling.

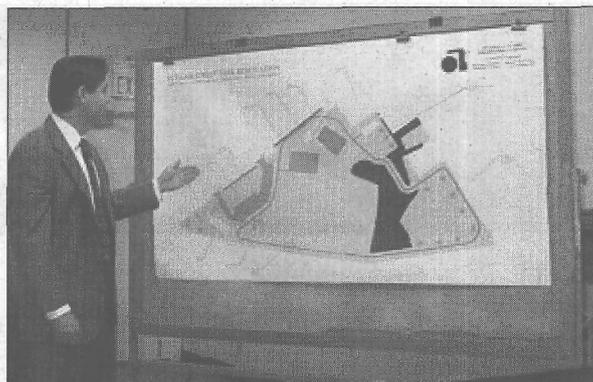
On Friday, Apr. 19 Middlesex County personnel will be in the Borough Hall courtroom from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to accept passport applications.

To save time, residents can pick up a passport form at the Borough Clerk's office.

To obtain a passport, proof of citizenship is required. You will need a birth certificate from vital statistics-raised seals and file dater or a previous passport or a naturalization certificate. Hospital or Baptismal certificates will not be accepted.

You will also need two photographs (2"x2") taken within six months, a driver's license if over 18 or a school I.D. with photo if under 18 or a parent's signature and presence.

Checks and money orders will be accepted, payable to U.S. Dept. of State. The cost is \$45 if over 16 and \$25 if under 16. A check for \$15 payable to the County Clerk will also be needed. No cash will be accepted.



Charles Fooks from the Alaimo Group explains the renovations planned for Putnam Park.

Plans for Renovations at Putnam Park Unveiled

If the plans unveiled last week are accepted, Putnam Park will become an oasis for the residents of South Plainfield.

Located on the corner of Park and Oak Tree avenues, Putnam Park will be expanded to include a .42 mile jogging trail, a 300x180 foot soccer field, a basketball court, additional parking and a comfort station.

Because of the council's pay-as-you-go policy, the park's renovations will take place in three phases. Funds for all of the improvements will be coming from developer's funds and will cost the taxpayers nothing.

The Putnam Park renovations were

presented by Charles Fooks, an associate from the Alaimo Group, the architectural firm commissioned to draw up the plans for the park.

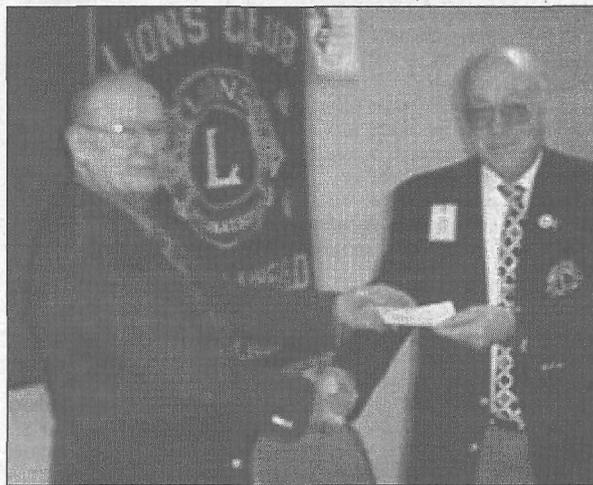
The mayor and council made a few suggestions on the park plans, but all were in agreement that they would be a benefit to South Plainfield.

Last year the council authorized the purchase of several houses on Park Ave., immediately behind the park. A drug store had expressed interest in purchasing the land to build a store on that property. Instead, the council purchased the land with the aid of Middlesex County and tore down those houses. The property became part of Putnam Park, thus allowing for the addition to the size of the park.

Phase one will include relocation of the volleyball court, building of the jogging trail and expansion of the parking lot. Phase two will include construction of a soccer field and basketball court. Phase three will be the comfort station.

Frank and Susan Wassel, residents who live on Park Ave. behind the park, wanted to make sure that the comfort station would not tax their sewer lines and cause flooding. They were assured that it would not happen. The Wassels thought the park expansion was a win-win situation for the neighborhood.

The very popular handball court location will stay where it is and no changes will be made to that area. The softball field will be eliminated to make way for the soccer field. The canopy area will stay. With the renovations, the council was assured that the wooded area will be kept in tact except for the area where the jogging trail passes through it.



South Plainfield Lions Club president Bob Desch presents a check to George Bassett of Camp Marcella.

South Plainfield Lions: Giving & Serving

The South Plainfield Lions Club, formed in 1947, provides support and aid for those who are visually and hearing-impaired. Among its many causes are helping needy people obtain hearing and eye exams, eye glasses, hearing aids, along with scholarships and other worthy causes.

For instance, in February a \$500 donation was made by the club to the Audio/Visual Screening Foundation at the district level. More recently, a \$500 donation was made to Camp Marcella, a state-funded Lions project, which provides a facility for blind children to attend summer camp. A two-week camping experience is provided each summer for more than 300 young blind children, ages 3-16 where they can swim, boat, fish, skate, play baseball and other recreational activities. Camp Marcella, located in Rockaway, New Jersey also offers a year round recreational building which includes a library and offers crafts and bowling.

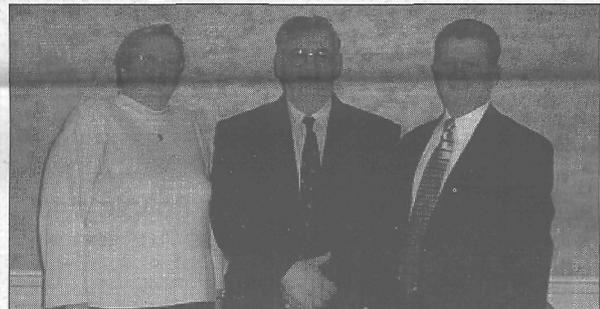
The South Plainfield Lions Club,

which holds its meetings on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at the Holiday Inn on Stelton Rd., recently elected its new slate of officers. Given that last year's officers did such an outstanding job, they'll continue on in their current duties. Steve Cecchetti will continue to serve as club treasurer, Hank Grabarz will continue as club secretary and last, but certainly not least, Bob Desch will serve his third year as club president. Bob was recently presented with a pin from District Governor Debbie L. Hackworth commemorating his 43 years of service to the club.

The Lions would like to thank all those who have previously supported and continue to support our activities. Our Palm Sunday breakfast was a huge success and we thank everyone who attended to support us.

For more information on Lions or if you wish to become a member, please see one of our members or contact the club at: Lions Club of South Plainfield, P.O. Box 721, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

Meet the Republican Candidates For Mayor and Council



Left to right Republican candidates Marge Reedy (council), Jake Cataldo (mayor), Geoff Champion (council).

The monthly meeting of the South Plainfield Republican Organization will be held Wednesday, April 17, at 8 p.m. at the American Legion Hall. Local candidates Jake Cataldo, Marge

Reedy and Geoff Champion will be available to meet the residents.

All South Plainfield residents are invited to come discuss borough issues and concerns.

Proposed Condos Bring Out Neighbors

Last year the Council voted to adopt a new Master Plan. Properties in South Plainfield were designated with certain zoning specifications, such as residential, industrial, business and various other land uses. The Master Plan was in the works for more than a year and was reviewed by members of the Planning Board, Zoning Board and the mayor and council.

In an informal hearing before the Zoning Board last week, K-Land Corporation asked the board for a variance to build townhouses on a piece of property zoned industrial. There are different requirements to be met for property zoned commercial, industrial or residential and the applicant wanted to find out which will be enforced on this property. They also wanted to get input from the area residents. They were not disappointed.

The proposed townhouses will be located on Oak Tree Ave., the property where the former WERA radio station was located. The builder wants to build 59-three story townhouses, most with two car garages. One driveway, which will serve as both the entrance and exit, will be made on Oak Tree Ave.-No side-

walks, no playground or swimming pool are in the proposed.

Neighbors from surrounding areas of the development had many questions and some objections.

Tuesday's meeting was an informal hearing. The planner is not asking for a variance at this time, just input from the board and the public. The hearing will be continued on May 16.

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Events Around Town

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 a 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 projects, including a scholarship for a South Plainfield High School senior, holiday baskets for families and supports various borough activities.

Spaghetti Dinner at American Legion

April 14

On Sunday, April 14, the 40/8, a branch of the American Legion, will host 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 12. The proceeds will be used for nursing scholarships.

For tickets and information, call Donna Rowlands at 756-6522.

'Twilight Stroll For Life'

April 14

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

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. 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.

Job Info Center Programs at Library

April 17, 24

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. 17, 7:30 p.m., Resumes/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.

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.

AARP Chapter #4144 Meeting

April 19

AARP Chapter #4144 of South Plainfield will meet on April 19 at 12:30 in the PAL Bldg. on Maple Ave.

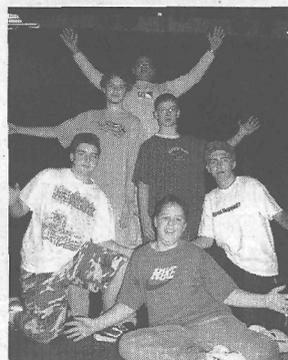
Ms. Millie Groves will entertain us by presenting the Late Bloomers in a Comedy called the Reunion. It will be lots of fun and all are welcome.

2002 Walks N' Talks Program

April 20, 21

The Walks N' Talks Program, sponsored by the South Plainfield Environmental Commission and Friends of the Woods, is inviting the public to participate in **Veteran's Park Litter Cleanup** on Saturday, Apr. 20, Saturday, 9 a.m. Meet at Vet. Park parking lot and also **Earth Day Tree Walk with Mary Ferraro** on Sunday, Apr. 21 at 1 p.m. at Highland Ave. Woods.

For information, call 908-226-7621 or log onto: <http://www.community.nj.com/cc/friendsofthewoods>



SPHS Drama Club Presents Hello Dolly

April 25-27

Just 13 days until *Hello Dolly!* arrives at the SPHS stage. The SPHS Players Drama Club brings the popular musical to the South Plainfield High School stage Apr. 25-27.

Directing the show is Mrs. Gloria Naso, who brought South Plainfield the hysterical *Damn Yankees* last spring. Vocal Director is Mr. Tracy Murray, Band Director is Mark Tweed and choreographer is MaryAlice Topoleski.

Watch the *Observer* for more details and progress on *Hello Dolly!*

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 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 May 1, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Piscataway Senior Center, 700 Buena Vista Dr. in Piscataway.

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

Plfd. Animal Hospital 50th Anniversary

May 5

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, 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.

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

Casino Royale and Chinese Auction

May 11

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

Rescue Squad Open House on May 19

May 19

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad will be holding its annual open house on Sunday, May 19, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The open house will feature multiple demonstrations, such as vehicle extrications with the Jaws of Life, CPR and first aid demos, ambulance and rescue truck tours, blood pressure screenings and child seat safety checks by the Traffic Safety Department of the police department. The South Plainfield Police will also donate 50 booster car seats for children to be given out at the open house.

The first 50 children attending between four and eight years old will receive a free booster seat. The booster seats are part of the Boost America program sponsored by the Ford Motor Company Fund.

Refreshments, including hotdogs and hamburgers will also be served.

Golden Glove Semi-Finals to be Held

May 18

The 2002 Golden Glove semi-finals will be held at South Plainfield High School on Saturday, May 18 at 8 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m.

General admission is \$8 in advance and \$12 at the door. Golden Ringside tickets are available at \$75. Tickets include dinner at Cafe Piancone, and an entry into a \$500 drawing.

For tickets or reservations call (908) 226-7663 or (908) 561-0649. Tickets are also available at the PAL or Sal's Spirit Shoppe on Park Ave.

Phantom of the Opera Tickets Available

June 6

The South Plainfield Recreation Dept. is selling tickets to the *Phantom of the Opera* on Thursday, June 6. Bus leaves the PAL at 4 p.m.

Tickets are \$60 and can be purchased at the PAL 8:30 to 5 p.m..

Seniors Tour of New York Harbor

July 11

Seniors are invited on a tour of New York Harbor, Ellis Island and Lady Liberty on "The Lady." There will be a buffet lunch. Departure will take place at the PAL, 9 a.m. on Thursday, July 11. Tickets are first come, first served!

The cost is \$40 per person. Tickets are available now at the PAL.

Rec Offering Trip To Virginia Beach

September 8-12

South Plainfield Recreation, along with White Star Tours, is offering a trip to Virginia Beach, VA, featuring a ghost tour of Williamsburg, Sept. 8-12.

Features include four nights accommodations at one of Virginia Beach's finest motels; a tour of the Norfolk Naval Base, Arthur Memorial in Norfolk, Waterside Complex, four breakfasts, four dinners, including Spirit of Norfolk Dinner Cruise and evening entertainment.

Cost is \$350 per person. Only one bus is available for this trip; so make your reservations early.

For info/reservations, contact Mike English at (908) 226-7714.

— Out of Town —

Westfield History Society Assembly

April 17

The Spring Assembly of the Westfield History Societies will feature Renate Maroney of Scotch Plains, costume chairperson of the Miller-Cory House Museum Volunteers. The assembly will meet at First Baptist Church on Elm St., Apr. 17 at 8 p.m. Introductory music will begin at 7:45. The presentation is expected to include men and women in Revolutionary attire.

Mrs. Maroney is a skilled seamstress with an interest in period clothing who has completed seven costumes dating from the mid 18th century. She has an extensive antique hat collection.

A short musicale of folk tunes and ballads of the Colonial period will precede the program and refreshments will conclude the evening which is

open to the public, without charge. Parking is prohibited at the rear of the video store adjacent to the church but is available in the town lot accessible from either Elm St. or from Mountain Ave.

Missionaries of the Poor Benefit Concert

April 19-20

The Missionaries of the Poor from the Island of Jamaica are coming back to New Jersey. "Father Richard Ho Lung and Friends" are returning to present *Spirit*, a benefit concert featuring the spiritual music of vibrant island rhythms combined with original Jamaican flair.

Your support allows the missionaries to continue and expand their services to many of the numberless poor and sick who seek out their help daily.

The concert will be held at St. Veronica's Church in Howell on Apr. 19 and 20 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and can be ordered by calling Maureen Scarpati (732) 577-9697.

Concert Pianist To Give Benefit

April 20

A surprise ending is what pianist Paul DiDario promises his audience on Saturday, Apr. 20, when he performs a benefit concert for Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains. But first, the audience will have the pleasure of hearing selections from his most recent CD, *Two Part Creation*, which includes sonatas by Scarlatti, Beethoven and other music on both piano and harpsichord (hence the title "Two Part Creation").

Joining him for part of the program will be Ars Musica Antiqua, an early music ensemble which was started 27 years ago by Walter and Jane Canter.

The concert will begin at 4 p.m. at Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Rd., Scotch Plains. For directions call (908) 232-5678 Mon.-Fri. from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 adults, \$8 students and can be purchased at the door. 12 & under free.

Refreshments will be served after the concert. Proceeds benefit the 50th Anniversary Building Fund of the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church.

'City of Light' Fundraiser

April 20

The 'City of Light' will be holding a pro-wrestling fundraiser at the Washington Elementary School between the streets of Darow and Spooner Ave. on April 20 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are between \$7-\$12 dollars and can be purchased in advance at the 'City Of Light' which is located on 147 North Ave.

Send Us Your Events:

Mail or drop off stories and photos to
South Plainfield Observer,
1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B,
South Plainfield, NJ 07080, fax
(908) 668-8819; or email to
ggnan@aol.com.



The cubscouts of Pack 324, Den 5, recently visited the South Plainfield Rescue Squad to satisfy one of the requirements to earn their "Readyman" badge. Squad member Carol Grennier was on hand to teach the scouts basic first-aid techniques and to give a tour of the facility and ambulances. Pictured from left to right are Carol Grennier, Logan Green, Jimmy Bijlani, Kevin Simms, Mathew Santos, Johnny Bullock, Ray Coletta and Steven Grzenda.

Three Divas Concert Draws a Large Crowd

"Three Divas in Concert" held recently at Wesley Methodist Church drew a crowd of over 75 people and no one went home disappointed.

The audience was treated to a variety of melodies from opera and Broadway and those attending thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon of songs.

The program was performed by three very talented professional singers from New Jersey, Florence Lazzeri, Margaret Southwell and Marilyn Spesak. Accompanying on piano was Victoria Griswold, an internationally known pianist.

The event was sponsored by the South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission which sponsors concerts several times a year. The concerts are free of charge.



The "Three Divas Concert" sponsored by So. Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission included Florence Lazzeri, Margaret Southwell and Marilyn Spesak.

Earth Day Walk in The Highland Woods Reserve

The Friends of the Woods are sponsoring a free Walks 'n' Talks program at Highland Woods Environmental Education Reserve on Sunday, Apr. 21, 1 p.m. The Earth Day program will be presented by local resident Mary Ferraro, forester with the Department of Environmental Protection.

Scouting, school groups and gardeners in particular are encouraged to join Ferraro for an informative and fun spring walk through the 36-acre

reserve. There is an unusually rich biodiversity of plants and animals here, a rarity in South Plainfield and Middlesex County.

Ferraro is a former high school biology teacher and Shade Tree Commissioner in Bound Brook. She holds a masters degree in forestry from the University of Maine and is an associate member of the South Plainfield Environmental Commission.

The Highland Woods Reserve is lo-

cated on Sylvania Place, off South Clinton Ave. in South Plainfield. For more information, please call Alice Tempel at (908) 227-621 or Dorothy Miele at (908) 754-3073.

You may also e-mail questions to SPNatureTrails@cs.com or visit our website at: <http://community.nj.com/cc/friendsofthewoods>. Call (908) 754-3073 the day of the event to be sure there is no last minute cancellation. Heavy rain will cancel the event.

Show Your Patriotic Spirit, Honor Those Who Served In Battle

Be a true patriot and continue an American tradition by joining the Sons of The American Legion. Monthly meetings are held at the American Legion Chaumont Post 243 on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. Our next meeting is Apr. 17 and potential new members are welcome. The Sons of The American Legion participates in a variety of community activities including volunteer work at Veteran Hospitals, social

activities, fund-raising for charities & scholarships, and other community projects. For just a few hours each month and only \$7 annual membership dues, you can become a proud member of The Sons of The American Legion.

If you are a male descendent, adopted son or stepson of a veteran who served during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Lebanon, Grenada,

Panama, the Persian Gulf War or delimiting periods set forth in Article IV, Section I, of the National Constitution of the American Legion, you may be eligible to join. Applications for membership are available at the American Legion Chaumont Post 243 on Oak Tree Ave. Membership will require a valid proof of honorable discharge (form DD214) by the eligible veteran or proof of their active membership in The American Legion.

If you have questions or want to learn more, contact us at sal0243so.plfd@aol.com. Bring your completed application, membership dues and the appropriate forms, and start making a difference in your community.

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From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Time for the latest news from South Plainfield Library:

We'll be returning to our normal schedule of children's Storytime programs next week. The programs will be held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. Each program lasts about an hour and features stories and a craft activity. The programs are for children age 3 and over; no pre-registration is required. We've also got this month's Kidcraft program. It's scheduled for Friday afternoon, April 19, at 4 p.m. It's for children age 6 and over; we ask that you sign up in advance for Kidcraft. There's no charge and all craft materials are provided by the library. For more information, please give us a call at (908) 754-7885 and check with Miss Linda.

At present, you can still sign up for our next Job Information Center class. It's called, "Resumes and Cover Letters". The class is scheduled for Wednesday evening at 7:30. The class is free of charge; space is limited so you must pre-register. Please call to sign up or to get further details.

In previous columns, we've informed you all about our Inter-Library Loan system, which allowed us to locate books we don't own and obtain them from other libraries for our patrons. As part of this system, we helpfully took charge of books from other libraries that were returned to us and saw to it that they ended up where they belonged. Now, you may be wondering why the previous sentences were written in the past tense. This is because our ILL system itself is in the

past tense. Due to circumstances beyond our control, our ILL system has been shut down until further notice. We hope to have the system running again very soon, but the fact of the matter is that it will take some time. Until then, we can attempt to determine which MURAL libraries might have a book you're looking for, but you'll have to go over there yourself and take it out. Your South Plainfield Library card should be accepted at any MURAL library. We'll keep you informed on this.

We now have two displays in place for April. The display wall features a variety of artwork by the students of Dorothy and Sarah Miele of South Plainfield's Miele Art Studio. Meanwhile, our display case features a collection of "Muffy Bears" and accessories provided by the Jenkin family (who brought in the Elvis display last month). You can see both displays here at the Library throughout the month.

Finally, it's THAT time again. Your income tax returns must be in the mail or in the hands of the government by the end of Monday. We still have both state and federal tax forms available. For some forms, we have original copies that we can duplicate for you. We also have several books and periodicals outlining current tax laws and regulations. However, be advised that Library staff members are strictly forbidden to provide specific tax advice. And we're also forbidden from paying your taxes for you; you alone must shoulder that burden.

As you ponder your governmental responsibilities, we'll finish things up for this week. See you next Friday for more.

Flo's Piano Studio Students to Perform in Short Hills

Flo's Piano Studio of South Plainfield will present "Music Via Ladies and Gentlemen" at Nordstrom's in The Mall at Short Hills on Sunday, April 4.

Those honorees who will be participating are six of the adult students of the piano studio.

Performances include Music by Flo Powell on the piano and Roland Washington on the saxophone from 1 to 2 p.m., "Beautiful Music via Ladies and Gentlemen" from 2 to 4 p.m. An awards ceremony/reception will follow.

2002 GOLDEN GLOVE SEMI FINALS
 All bouts sanctioned by: NJ Association of USA Boxing Inc.

Doors Open at 7 pm • Bouts Start at 8 pm

Saturday, May 18, 2002

South Plainfield High School 200 Lake Street, South Plainfield, NJ
 General Admission: \$8 in advance, \$12 at the door
GOLDEN RINGSIDE \$75.
 includes **DINNER AT 5 P.M.**
 and an entry into a \$500 drawing
 at **Cafe Piancone Restaurant**
 2291 Hamilton Boulevard, South Plainfield, NJ

For Tickets or Reservations Call
(908) 226-7663 or (908) 561-0649
 Tickets are also available at the South Plainfield PAL or Sal's Spirit Shoppe

"If I was An American Flag!"

If I was the American Flag
I would stand proud
way up high to show
that I care about our country

My flagpole
would be my long legs
that stand up very high
because they hurt our country bad
The Flag Still Stands

My Bright Eyes
are two stars in the middle
that see what's going on
The Flag Still Stands

My Mouth
is the 8th white stripe
that tells the bad things to go away
The Flag Still Stands

My Ears
are two sides of the pole to hear what's going on
The Flag Still Stands

My Arms
are right beside me to catch what's coming
My heart
is everywhere
because we love it all
No matter what goes on, remember
The Flag Still Stands
by Jamie McLean

Love to Me

Love means a lot.
Love means happiness.
Love means not to fight.
Love means going to the sea.
Love means I love my family.
Love means helping each other.
Love means don't hit each other.
Love means sweet butter in a cup.
Love means people getting married.
Love means to listen to your teacher.
Love means two birds singing in a tree.
Love means people having fun together.
Love means people who love each other.
Love means caring, loving, sweet, and kind.
Love means happiness, friendship, and hearts.
Love means being together and sharing things.
Love means that someone loves me as a friend.
Love means that you are going to care about someone.
Love means caring, sharing, and taking care of each other.
Love means to me a lot of things with a lot of meanings.
Mr. B's Grade 3



Celebrating Language Through Poetry

Mike Bertram's third grade class at Roosevelt School has focused on poetry throughout this year. They've read poems, wrote poems and, most importantly, shared poems with one another. In celebration, the class held their first official Poetry Party recently.

The class has read the poetry of Mattie Stepanek, Shel Silverstein, Langston Hughes and Maya Angelou, all great poets who have inspired them to write, write, write.

After the World Trade Center tragedy, they composed poems expressing their desire for world peace. Their favorite poet, eleven-year-

old Mattie Stepanek, inspired them to write peace poems which he calls "Heartsongs."

In December, the students published an anthology of poetry for the holidays and have continued writing and sharing their works. They've also written class poems where each student writes one line and, in the end, they have a class poem.

Their poetry parties are a celebration of language. Last week the children shared two poems with their classmates, reading in front of a podium. Through the writing and sharing of poetry, students have learned that their voices can be heard.

God's Eye

When the World Trade Center
was hit
GOD
looked down on everyone
and he had a delivery.
3,000 DEAD from violence
those you love and treasure.
SO
you better be an angel
because God has an eye
big enough to see everybody around the globe
24 hours 7 days a week.
by Anthony Alexander

"Poems"

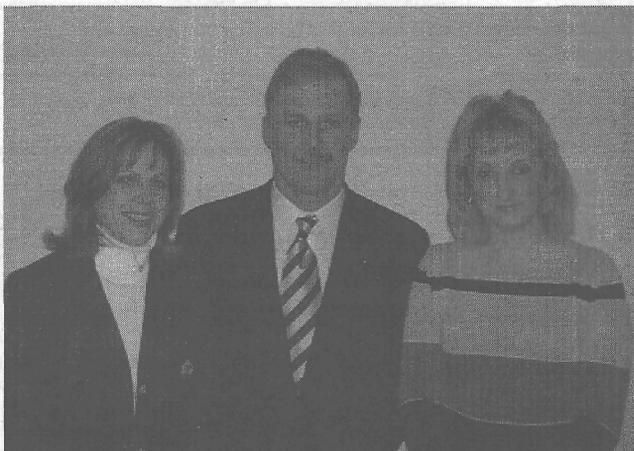
Poems are like flowers blooming
they are
also
like the
sun shining
Poems show
LOVE
not hatefulness
Poems
release bad feelings
into good feelings
So the next time someone
shoots you with words
think of
Poems
By Umron

What is Poetry?

Poetry is ME on paper.
I can write....
sad poems, glad poems,
you make me real mad poems.
Poems that sing songs in you heart
and tap-dance on your mind,
or poems that BLAST you off
on an endless journey,
one star at a time.
My poems can explode like a cannon
or whisper like the wind.
How do you begin?
Just pick up a pen
and
Write what you feel
because
YOU are POETRY.
4 you, by Mr. B

I Wish...

I wish I was rich.
I wish I was taller.
I wish I had a dog.
I wish I had a sister.
I wish I had a horse.
I wish I had a rabbit.
I wish I was a wrestler.
I wish I had a funny cat.
I wish I had a mustache.
I wish I had a 100 on my test.
I wish I had a million dollars.
I wish there was world peace.
I wish I had a bat but not a cat.
I wish I had a cub tiger for a pet.
I wish I could go to a haunted house.
I wish my dog, Bandit, would live longer.
I wish my hamster, Abbnor, will never die.
I wish I had a pool, a pony, and a trampoline.
I wish I had a car and a license so I can drive.
I wish I had a Lego house with Bioncle guards.
I wish I were the winner of the million
dollar sweepstakes.
Most of all, I wish that Mr. B's Grade 3
gets all their wishes.
Mr. B's Grade
February 15, 2002



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your children and the community.
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South Plainfield Board of Education - April 16th Election

- Excellence in Academics, Arts & Athletics
 - Improved Buildings & Grounds
 - Implementation of New Technology
 - Cable-Televised BOE Meetings
- Fiscally-Responsible to the Community

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Where the Money Goes: An In-Depth Look at the Proposed School Board Budget

A review of the State Department of Education's 2002 Comparative Spending Guide shows that of 97 comparable school districts with K-12 systems, South Plainfield is in the lower 45% in per pupil costs. The 2002-2003 school budget is \$2.6 million below current state average and with this in mind, South Plainfield voters will be asked to vote on a spending plan of \$42,030,612 of which \$30,042,440 will be supported by local taxes, inclusive of an increase in the General Fund of 2.6 cents. Combined with last year's approved referendum and 6.6 cent increase the total school tax will increase, by 9.2 cents per \$100 of assessed home value. If approved, the education tax rate will be at approximately the same level as it was in 1998-99.

The Board of Education's five-year long range plan for school improvement includes objectives to support academic priorities, instruction and assessment, professional development and staff, as well as allocating funds for expanded sports facilities, equipment and facility needs. The improvements in all areas are extensive and highly detailed. A more in-depth look at the plans can be found in the Budget Presentation literature available through the superintendent's office or at www.spnet.k12.nj.us.

Among the many additions to the curriculum are a reading/language art literacy text and support materials for grades K-2 and 7-12. Plans include refining core literature components for grades K-12, computer science curriculum, and much more. Professional development includes training for advance placement teachers, expansion of staff in-service in Internet use and applications such as Power Point and web page design, staff training on "How the Brain Learns," "Hands-On Equations/Algebra," accelerated reading and math, six-traits writing, phonics and comprehension strategies.

Hiring of new staff will be based on the specific needs of the district and New Jersey State mandates as some programs, such as science, expand from two- to three-year programs. The high school will acquire two science teachers and one special education teacher.

Technology will be greatly expanded. At present, the computer labs are used extensively throughout the day for keyboarding, PowerPoint, Access, and Excel. Over the summer every classroom will be wired for Internet access. Wireless computer labs—30 laptop computers on rolling carts (two for the high school and one each for all other schools) will enable entire classes to access the Internet. Director of Technology Russell Mattoon said, "Laptop computers with a projection device allow the whole class to view virtual field trips, learn search strategies and explore curriculum topics by communicating over the network. It can also be used in teams of students to conduct research and present findings."

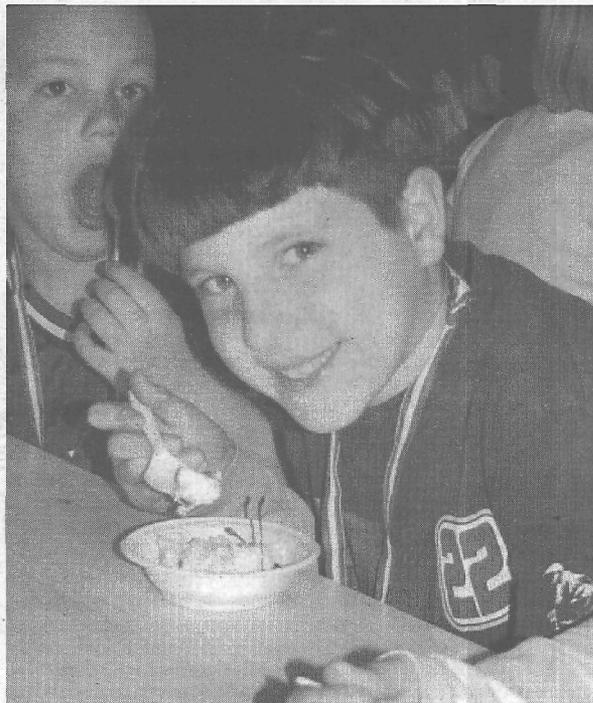
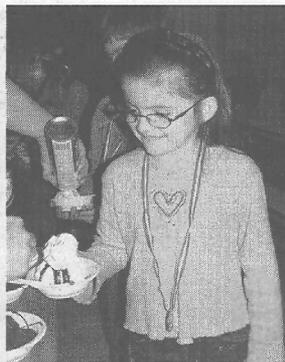
Additional sports activities will become available at the Middle School. The 2002-2003 school year will see the addition of soccer and cross country for boys and girls, boy's baseball and girl's softball. Superintendent Dr. John Krewer stated, "We are committed to providing meaningful opportunities for our middle school students' involvement beyond the school day. Our Report Card well reflects commitment to extracurricular experiences for our students, with the system spending \$295 per student versus the state average of \$180."

Facility improvements for the five year period are wide-ranging and include ceiling replacements, interior

and exterior painting, sidewalk repairs and desk replacements. Other repairs/replacements include locker rooms and lockers, clocks and exhaust system work.

Corporate partnerships such as the one formed with L. A. Dreyfus, Park Ave. Edison, allow the district to increase learning opportunities for students with no expense to taxpayers. Dreyfus is funding the training of two teachers of advanced placement courses, one each in humanities and in math/science. Other partnerships include SkillsTutor.com, 2001-2004, an online tutorial that individualizes student instruction in a variety of skills, matching national standards. The annual value is approximately \$42,000. Triumph Learning, 2001-2004, focuses on ESPA and GEPA test preparation for grades 4-8. The value is \$25,000 annually. Advanced Academics—a virtual reality learning environment. This provides support for re-teaching for specific courses. The program will be expanded to provide online courses for our senior citizens at no cost. The value is approximately \$75,000 annually.

The proposed budget reflects the district's mission statement and the district's dedication to providing the best for our youths. Mission Statement: "To ensure that all students are equipped with the essential skills necessary to acquire a common body of knowledge and understanding; To instill the desire to question and look for truth in order that students may become critical thinkers, lifelong learners, and contributing members of society in an environment of mutual respect and consideration."



Reading—An Olympic Sport at Franklin School

By Patricia Abbott

Influenced by the Winter Olympics, Franklin School students were primed and ready to "go for the gold."

The annual Read-A-Thon began with the start of the 2002 Winter Olympics on Monday, Feb. 11. In preparation for the contest, each class became a country of their own creation.

The Opening Ceremony began with a parade of nations around the gym. The torch was passed down the line and the cauldron was lit amidst excited cheers.

The children had six weeks to read as many books as possible. A chart in the lobby kept track of progress with an ever-growing list of gold, silver and bronze medals, depending on the number of books read each week.

The children read a total of 11,051

books. Mrs. Bishop's third grade class took top honors by reading the most books. They were rewarded with a pizza party. All children who participated in the read-a-thon received medals and were treated to a closing ceremony ice cream party. Every student was a winner, but the real winners were those students that discovered they don't need a contest to enjoy reading every day.

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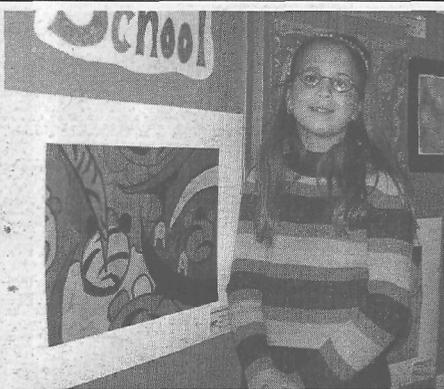


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All District Festival & Art Exhibition – A 33-Year Tradition

by Patricia Abbott

“Music-Pass It On 2002!” was the theme for March, Music In Our Schools Month as decreed by the Music Educators National Conference. The 33rd Annual South Plainfield All District Music Festival and Art Exhibition was in complete agreement with the theme. From the elementary school’s combined All District choir, string ensemble and band, to the Middle School’s orchestra, select female vocalists-the Gems, choir, concert and stage bands to the high school’s chorus, orchestra, stage and concert bands, the festival allowed the

community to experience the full range of South Plainfield youth’s musical talent.

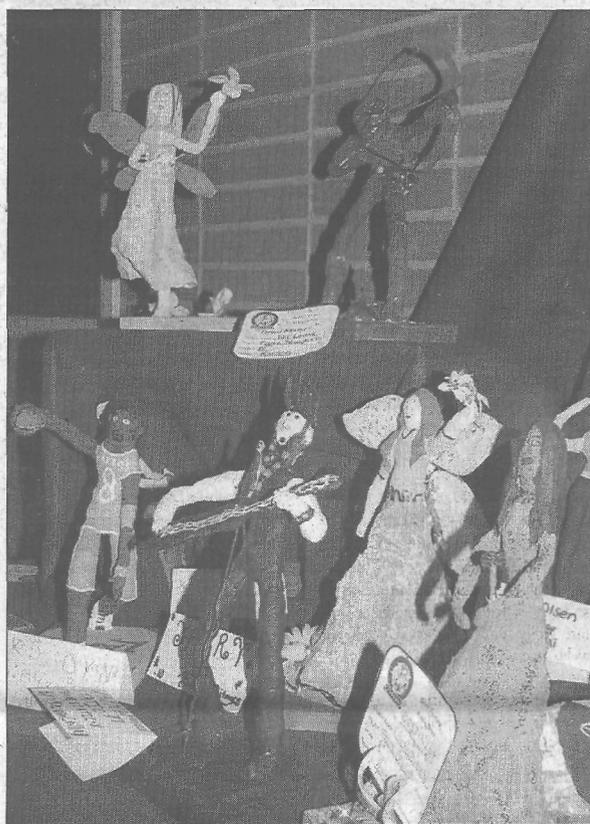
The evening also highlighted the artwork of students throughout the district. The hallway was filled with youthful masterpieces of all kinds, including the figure sculptures created by Middle School art teacher Diane Kardos’ classes. The project, a favorite of the students according to Kardos, combines the study of art history, art critique, art production and the process of making their own sculptures.

The art and music faculty of the district put in many hours preparing

for the event to ensure a delightful evening for all. Elementary school students were bussed to rehearsals once a week to allow all the children to rehearse together. The festival does far more than allow the musicians to perform in public. It offers them a chance to hear groups older and younger, inspiring younger students to continue in the music programs and encouraging older students to become role models for the younger set.

The first festival was held in 1969 with a combined junior and senior high concert. The following year elementary schools formed a select chorus and band from each school to perform with the older students, and was called the South Plainfield District Music Festival. The event originally took place in the old high school, now the Middle School. For eleven years following the opening of the new high school, the festival was held in the auditorium. It was moved to the gym in 1986. In 1991 the Art Exhibit was added. Mr. Leonard Tobias, Superintendent of Schools when the first festival was held, was on hand to enjoy the evening.

This year’s finale, “The Battle Hymn of the Republic,” featuring all the choruses, the high school band and orchestra, was an explosion of emotion and talent.



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Clean Communities Bill Introduced in Assembly

Assemblymen Egan (D-17) and Eagler (D-34) introduced legislation (A-2110) with more than a dozen co-sponsors to reinstate the NJ Clean Communities program which funds New Jersey’s roadside and public area clean up efforts.

The bill also diverts a portion of the fund to save New Jersey’s depleted recycling program until another revenue source can be found. Assemblyman

Egan’s office drafted this bill with input from the shareholders and will continue to look for our help to rally support in the Assembly. Within less than one week, this bill has attracted a list of co-sponsors including many key Assembly members such as: Assemblyman Peter Barnes (D-18)-Majority Whip; Assemblyman Pat Diegnan Jr. (D-18), Assemblyman Willis Edwards (D-34), Assemblyman Gary

Guear (D-14) and Assemblyman Raphael Fraquela (D-33).

Your support is needed to assure success. Please begin contacting your legislators and ask them to co-sponsor A-2110, or support it when it comes before them in committee or on the floor of the General Assembly.

Terra Nova Garden Therapy and Monthly Meeting

The Terra Nova Garden Club will provide Garden Therapy at 1 p.m. on Apr. 17 at Muhlenberg Adultcare Facility in Plainfield. The April monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, Apr. 24, 7 p.m. at the North Edison Library, 777 Grove Ave. Edison. New members are always welcome.

Guest speaker for the evening will

be Jeff Van Pelt, Head Rosarian of the Van der Goot Rose Garden at Colonial Park in Somerset County. The slide show and lecture on the subject of roses, the many species and their care will inspire the rose lover in all of us. *Reminder:* Cookbooks are still available - contact any member for great tried and true recipes.

Last Chance Signup-Reduced Swim Lessons

An ordinance introduced this year means a reduction in swimming lesson fees for members of the community pool. A flat rate of \$10 per person, per session, will be in effect starting this summer for members. The previous fee was \$30 for the first child and \$25 for the second child.

Don't wait - the early bird membership rate is in effect until April 15.

Kindergarten Enrollment

Kindergarten Enrollment for the 2002/2003 school year will be held during the week of May 13-16 at each neighborhood elementary school.

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

Vendors Wanted

The South Plainfield ELKS Lodge # 2298 is looking for vendors for their Craft Fair on May 4. Cost is \$20 per table. Located on 1264 New Market Road.

For additional information or reservations contact Anna at (732) 968-7238.

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Sports

SOCCER

So Plfd Blaze Mutes Del Vals Scream

The South Plainfield Blaze U-13 girls traveling soccer team notched another win this past Sunday beating Delaware Valley Scream 7-3 in Del Val. Three games into this young spring season and Blaze finds themselves undefeated and in first place. Strong team effort and desire clearly was the key to this win.

Protecting the cage in the first half our keeper Becky Keller continues to shutdown opposing attacks and has not allowed a goal all season. Our sweeper Jackie Miller who also helps out as keeper had another fantastic day defensively turning balls wide and stopping threatening attacks in the middle. Dominating the middle and winning every ball center midfielders

Dorian Bishop, Jenna DeLillo and Jennifer Copeland were unstoppable. Effective in taking away Del Val's outside threats deep in our box fullbacks Megan Boyle, Elizabeth Flannery, Ashleigh Gaspari, Tiffany Smith and Kim Marin were relentless. Midfield outside attacks both offensively and defensively were controlled by some outstanding performances from Joy Maszczak, Lauren Fry and Ashley Little.

Our scoring frenzy started in the 10th minute when left halfback Lauren Fry tapped in a breakaway for the first score of the game and her second tally of the season. Left attacker Kate Hardy scored second and third goals in the 12th and 16th minute. While Jenna DeLillo blasted off a shot which deflected off the post near Megan Boyle who nailed a beautiful floater into the left corner.

In as an attacker and in the 50th minute Becky Keller showed off her skills outside the cage by finding the back of the net for our fifth score. The last two scores which capped our win and put the game out of reach for Del Val happened in the 72nd and 78th minute on some great ball control and execution through the middle by center midfielder Jennifer Copeland. This victory clearly proves that self-motivation; hard work and desire are very important elements in the key to success. Enjoy the win girls and well done! Visit the South Plainfield Soccer Club web page at www.soplfd.soccerclub.com

-Submitted by Coach Hardy

Comets Collide

The South Plainfield Comets tied the Linden Comets 1-1 in a tight match. There was no score during the first half of the game. Katie Baldassare saved the only goal attempt by Linden. Most of the action happened at the opponent's goal thanks to the strong defense of Rachel Senz, Allison Whitefleet, Courtney Wilhelm and Lindsay Fredericks. In the second half of the game, Linden scored the first goal of the game. South Plainfield tied the game with a goal kicked in by Clare Kelly with an assist from Katie Baldassare. There were two saved goals by Kate Reichert and the Linden Comets were unable to score again. It was a well-played game by all the girls.

Hotspurs Post Two Shutouts

The South Plainfield Boys U-8 Hotspurs played two games this past weekend and came away with two shutout performances.

Saturday's game at Westfield brought out some fine play from Albert Vill, Quinn Bolivar and Taylor Born as they regularly stopped the opponents and advanced the ball up the field into our offensive zone. Eric LaVerne and Ryan Marcoux handled the scoring as they both tallied two goals apiece in the 4-0 win. On Sunday, the Hotspurs again were led by the scoring of Marcoux (two goals) and LaVerne (one) as they handled the Elizabeth Lions 3-0.

In both matches, South Plainfield displayed great teamwork and the ability to pass the ball effectively to get scoring opportunities. In addition, the defense led by goalie Daniel Lyew has really tightened up nicely. Vill, Zachary Noll, Paul Seyffart and A.J. Celentano were able to disrupt numerous breaks by the opposition. And when a shot was attempted, Lyew was there to take it away. On the offensive end, Born and Bolivar both had scoring chances but also provided key passes that led to a number of shots on goal as well as scores.

Following a tough Fall season that saw only two victories, Coach Wally Bolivar has now quietly guided this young team to a 3-1 record and has them playing aggressively and with a lot of teamwork. Keep up the good work guys, you're doing great!

juniorbaseballclubnotes

2002 Opening Day Message from the Commissioner Kevin Lykes

Another winter off-season has quickly passed and it's time to play ball once again. The 2002 season will be my first as commissioner. With a new Board, a new snack stand director, and new league directors in place I am looking forward to a great season of baseball, good food, and fun for everyone.

This year let's make the emphasis on fun! Players of all ages are here playing baseball because they enjoy it; let's all make sure this baseball experience provides them with enjoyable memories that have a positive impact. Players from all teams, including the opposition, and the umpires officiating your games, deserve the respect and the same treatment that you ask everyone else to give your children. Remember, everyone here is a local kid who lives next door or down the street, and goes to the same schools, no matter what team he or she might play on. Since we re-select our teams each year that same child who some might view as the adversary from the other team might well be on your team next season.

Over the winter the club has adopted a "Code of Ethics" as a basic foundation for the type of behavior and attitudes we would like to see at our complex from all players, parents, coaches, and guests.

It reads as follows:

I shall show respect and positive support for coaches and officials, prior, during and after games. I will ensure my child behaves in a sportsmanlike manner. I will demonstrate respect and support for all players prior, during and after games. I will be mindful of the need for player development over the need to win.

I will be mindful of my role at all times, provide support, not openly instruct during the game or openly interpret the rules. I will abide by the rulings of the officials and coaches and league administrators during and after the game. I will demand and demonstrate a healthy sports environment by refraining from drugs, alcohol and tobacco use during all games and practices.

Although some of these things are not completely enforceable we hope that most of you will adhere to them as closely as possible, and set a good example for the kids.

The new season will also be our first full season as an affiliate of Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken Baseball. We first became involved with this organization during the middle of last season, and participated in our first district tournaments last July, with our 14-15 year old team becoming the Babe Ruth District 9 champion. This year we have a Babe Ruth liaison officer in place and hope to be a bit more informed and involved from the beginning. We expect to be adding a 16 yr. old division to our annual invitational tournament in July, and we are looking into the possibility of hosting a Cal Ripken District tournament at our complex. We also hope to expand upon the fall baseball program that was first introduced last year.

In closing, let me wish every player the best season possible, and each team a successful year. I hope everyone will lend the kind of support to managers, committee heads, and league organizers that they deserve for volunteering so much time and energy towards the daily operation of our baseball club, and I offer my personal thanks to all who contribute to our baseball experience in 2002.



Ponytail Softball Batters Box

By Sharon Miller

Opening Day - Apr. 13 -It is hard to believe, but it is time once again for the fun and excitement of softball. Please join us at Pitt Street Park on Saturday, Apr. 13, for Opening Day festivities.

Games will begin at 9:30 a.m. Opening Day ceremonies will start at 11:45 a.m. In event of rain, Opening Day will be held on Saturday, Apr. 20.

Ponytail Softball Association Meeting - Apr. 23

The South Plainfield Parents' Association will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, Apr. 23, at 8 p.m. in the South Plainfield Middle School Library. If you are interested in becoming a member and being involved in girl's Ponytail softball, please join us on Apr. 23. New members are always welcomed. (Please note time change to 8 p.m.)

All-Star Tryouts - May 4

Tryouts for the summer All-Stars teams will be held on Saturday, May 4 at 4 p.m at Pitt Street Park. Players will be chosen for the 10 and under and 14 and under teams. One team per age group will be formed.

Age requirements: C League Team - Girls must be 10 and under as of 12/31/01. Tryouts will take place on field C. B League Team - Girls must be 12 and under as of 12/31/01. Tryouts will take place on field B. A League Team - Girls must be 14 and under as of 12/31/01. Tryouts will take place on field A.

Pool Party - June 7

The Ponytail Parents' Association will be sponsoring an end of season pool party. This event is open to all recreation Ponytail softball players so please join us on Friday, June 7 at the South Plainfield Community Pool. Additional information will be provided in upcoming publications of the Batters Box.

All-Star Tag Day - June 8

All-Star Tag Day will take place on Saturday, June 8. It is a mandatory requirement that every All-Star player participate in two days. This tagging requirement can be fulfilled by participating in any two of the four tag days. If an All-Star player is unable to tag on June 8, they will be permitted to tag during any two of the three recreation tag day (please see your coach to arrange this).

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Linda Evans

Obituaries

Marie L. (DeFrance) Dimperio, 99

Marie L. (DeFrance) Dimperio died Friday, Apr. 5, at Jersey Shore Medical Center in Neptune.

Born in Elizabeth, Mrs. Dimperio had resided there for most of her life before moving to Ocean Grove in April of 1998.

Mrs. Dimperio was a homemaker and former member of St. Elizabeth Church in Elizabeth.

She is predeceased by her husband, Michael Petrone; two sisters, Florence and Christine and her brothers, Phillip, Joseph, Albert and William.

Surviving is a daughter, Gloria and her husband Gerome Dulcie of Dallas, TX; a son, Richard and his wife Gloria Petrone of South Plainfield; two sisters, Virginia Valani of Fla. and Dorothy Murawski of Union; a brother, Andrew DeFrance; six grandchildren, four great granddaughters and two great great grandsons.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Cynthia L. Stilo, 51

Cynthia L. Stilo of Branchburg died on Sunday, Mar. 31 at her home.

She was born in Plainfield and was a former resident of Tewksbury before moving to Branchburg six years ago.

Cynthia was the founder and owner of A Mothers Touch in Branchburg. She started the company in 1995.

She was a graduate of the Berkeley Business School in East Orange and a member of the Grace Fellowship Chapel in Bedminster.

Cynthia is survived by a son Eric and his wife Ana Luhrs of Duncellen; her parents, Leonard and Virginia Towne Stilo of Beach Haven Inlet and two sisters, Claire Cantwell of Apex.

NC and Andrea Daniels of Wales, Pa. Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Sarah (Jacobs) Raya, 95

Sarah (Jacobs) Raya of Miramar, Florida died on Saturday, Apr. 6, at University Hospital in Tamarack, FL.

Born in Manhattan, NY, Mrs. Raya had resided in Brooklyn, NY for many years before settling in Florida 29 years ago. She was a homemaker.

Mrs. Raya is predeceased by her husband, Raymond, her daughter, Linda Ferraro and her son in law, Harry Pearlman.

Surviving are her daughters, Edna and George Manassa of Staten Island, Eileen and George Giakas of So. Plainfield and Eleanor Pearlman of Plantation, FL; sons Ernest of Miramar, FL and Albert and Gloria Raya of Manalapan; a son-in-law, Frank Ferraro of Bethlehem, Pa.; 14 grandchildren and 28 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held by McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Angelo J. Petrella, 79

Angelo J. Petrella of Edison died on Monday, Apr. 8, at Woodlands Care Center in Plainfield.

Born in Newark, Petrella grew up in Plainfield. He had resided in Edison for the past 45 years.

Before retiring ten years ago, he had worked 30 years for his brother's construction company, Petrella Construction and later known as AKA Masons of Scotch Plains. He was superintendent of the company.

Angelo bowled in leagues at the Strike 'N Spare Lanes in Greenbrook. He also enjoyed woodworking and metal working in his spare time.

His wife, Mary Ventriglia Petrella, died in 1970. He was also predeceased by a sister, Madeline Lorenzetti and by three brothers, Joseph (who gave his life in WWII), Louis and Ralph Petrella.

Surviving are twin sons Angelo Petrella of Edison and Joseph and his wife, Barbara of Lopatcong; two grandchildren, Christopher and Jenna Marie Petrella of Lopatcong and a sister, Doris Petrella of Punta Gorda, Fla.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Continued from page 2
To the Editor,

Three years ago when my husband was first elected to the Board of Education, I suppose I did not realize what a big commitment it really involved. So when it came time to consider re-election, I was pleased that Dan considered it a "family" decision. Dan, myself and our children discussed it and we considered it fully. We felt if Dan was willing to commit to another term, with all the good things he was able to be a part of for South Plainfield, he would have our complete support. So South Plainfield, if you are looking for an honest, hardworking, considerate candidate for the Board of Education, my guy is your guy.

Re-elect Daniel M. Smith, Line 4, to the South Plainfield Board of Education.

LIZ SMITH

To the Voters of South Plainfield,

I have known Ken LaFreniere for over 20 years, and nothing makes me prouder than to write a letter urging his re-election to the South Plainfield Board of Education.

Ken is a true Renaissance man—a father and grandfather, a successful mechanical engineer, a leader/organizer of Project Graduation, a past SPSHS PTA president. For the past six years he has contributed his time and talents to our Board of Education, where he continues to be instrumental in revising the curriculum and updating technology that will prepare our students for the 21st century. Ken enthusiastically supports professional development, thereby ensuring that our administrators, teachers and staff are able to provide students with the very best education.

Don't let this School Board Election pass you by. Vote, and when you do, please vote for Kenneth LaFreniere, line 6, a candidate with all of our students and staff in mind.

SINCERELY,
NANCY PAULMENN

To the Editor:

I am writing today to endorse three candidates for the South Plainfield Board of Education. Having served on the board for nine years, I understand the commitment needed to undertake this endeavor. It requires a lot of time away from home for meetings, as well as keeping up to date with the material that comes home to read each week.

I feel that the three candidates that will best serve our community are Jeff Seider, Ken LaFreniere and Tim Morgan. I have worked with Ken and I know that he truly has the district students' best interests at heart. He has served on just about all the committees that there are and makes it a point to attend all meetings. Jeff Seider has been keeping on top of the building projects that are currently taking place. Tim Morgan has been attending board meetings since I was a board member and has had input when asked on several committees that were open to the public.

I would urge you to vote on April 16 for these three candidates. They will best serve the needs of all students in South Plainfield.

I also would urge everyone to vote

INMYOPINION

for the budget this year. I realize that the impact of the referendum will be felt this year. But due to all the building that is taking place in town, it is necessary to ensure that all students in South Plainfield have the best education possible. Also, remember that the State of New Jersey has cut the funding for all districts this year. The School Board has kept the budget truly at a flat rate for the last several years. This year, please vote for the budget. I encourage every registered voter to go out to the polls on April 16. This is an important year, and it only takes a few minutes to vote. Remember, the right to vote has been earned for all of us. This is a right and freedom this country has been built on, and shouldn't be taken lightly.

SINCERELY,
MARJORIE M. REEDY

To the Voters:

I am writing this in letter in support of three candidates running for the Board of Education on Apr. 16. They are Angel Jazikoff, Terry Alexa and Daniel M. Smith, lines 2, 3 and 4.

I know that the three of them have been involved in many of their own children's school activities over the years, as they all have children who currently attend South Plainfield schools. I know them to be caring and dedicated individuals who will also work hard for all of our children. They are team players who all support continued excellence in academics, arts, and athletics within our schools. They support the continued improvement of our buildings and grounds, in a fiscally responsible manner to the community. They believe in the ongoing initiative of keeping up with the changes in technology and strive to keep the technology in our schools current. These three candidates truly represent "education and community."

That is why I am asking that you vote for Angel Jazikoff - Line 2, Terry Alexa - Line 3 and Daniel M. Smith - Line 4 on Apr. 16.

RESPECTIVELY,
STEVEN BOHN

To the Editor

I have lived in South Plainfield for the last 33 years. My three daughters have graduated from the South Plainfield High School and all have completed a college education. My wife Chris and myself are 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 and SPSHS PTA president for six years. Currently, I am a trustee member for the South Plainfield Education Foundation Vision 2001 and trustee of the Hall of Fame for South Plainfield High School. 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. 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 am retired from AT&T after 30 years. I enjoyed my career, but it is time to give back to the community that has 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 a person that is dependable, accountable, reliable and experienced.

The district is at a crossroads and the need for experience, dedication and commitment is essential for the success of the South Plainfield Educational PLAN. We are addressing the influx of students with the building referendum and have started the building programs thanks to the taxpayers of South Plainfield. The Board of Education (BOE) has adopted a five-year educational PLAN, which has many parts starting with a Mission Statement:

"To ensure that all students are equipped with the essential skills necessary to acquire a common body of knowledge and understanding;

To instill the desire to question and look for the truth in order that students may become critical thinkers, life-long learners, and contributing members of society in an environment of mutual respect and consideration"

To start, the BOE has approved the curriculum five-year update plan and the process to review and implement this action. Language Arts literacy has been completed and the review of Mathematics has started with science and other programs to follow in subsequent years. The refinement and development of desktop curriculum for Language Arts Literacy and Mathematics has been completed. The adoption of the new Language Arts Literacy text and support material for K-2 will be in May, and 7-12 study is underway. The refinement of the Computer Science curriculum at each level is in process. Development is in process of assessments in Language Arts Literacy and Mathematics, aligning with State Core Content Curriculum standards to include common mid-term and final examinations. The board has approved a standardized process for the adoption of textbooks which is in place and being used. All this work is being done by the staff and sustained by the board to support the Mission Statement to insure that all students are being instructed equally.

A need that the district must focus on is the infusion of technology in all curriculums at all levels and all subjects. This is most important at this time since we will have the ability (after each school this summer will be electrically upgraded) to use the technology in the curriculum. This infusion has been a standstill for the last couple of years because of physical plant. Now is the time to go forward to insure that the correct technology is in place and the training of staff is the most effective. I will continue to facilitate this as we go forward. We have a PLAN - and that plan is a living document and will be updated every year or as needed, whichever comes first.

In order to accomplish anything you must have money. As chairman of the finance committee, I have been fiscally prudent with the district's money. We have drilled our own wells to water the athletic fields to reduce the sewage bill. Note that the town charges the school system for sewage charges by how much water you use. Therefore, if we reduce the usage of water then the charges are reduced. We have saved thousands of dollars on sewage and water bills. Simple acts like buying from a catalog (the highest prices for a product) are not acceptable. Refinancing of outstanding board obligations were initiated by the finance committee, saving additional monies. These actions can only be accomplished if you are part of the team and try to facilitate the best that you can.

Children come first has always been my priority. I ask you to support me in this election and help South Plainfield School District reach BEYOND EXCELLENCE. On April 16, 2002 exercise your right to vote and support me, Ken La Freniere, Line 6.

KENNETH LA FRENIERE

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police report

• On April 2, an employee of US Plastics on Metuchen Rd. reported that all the windows of his 1985 Chevy Celebrity had been smashed while parked in the carport behind the building.

• On April 3, a North Plainfield woman reported that her two passenger side windows had been smashed while parked at Liquid Assets on New Market Ave.

• Hanssem on Helen St. reported the theft of two cabinets worth \$742 from a locked trailer.

• On April 4, a Spicer Ave. resi-

dent reported that their glass front door had been shattered by a BB gun.

• On Friday, Jay Chang, owner of Dynasty Cleaners on Stelton Rd., reported that he had cleaned articles of clothing for Grant II Cleaners in North Plainfield and received a bad check for payment.

• On Saturday, a suspicious fire broke out in the basement of 134 Hamilton Ave. An electric heater was plugged into an extension cord that was badly cut up. Other electrical items were also plugged into one outlet. There was minor damage and no

one was hurt.

• On Sunday, an employee of White Castle on Stelton Rd. reported being harassed and verbally abused by a customer.

• Bill Gaze, owner of Graphic Printing on Park Ave., reported that two young black males had thrown rocks through the glass of the store's front door.

• An Oak Tree Ave. resident reported that someone had pried open his locked bedroom door. \$1,500 in cash and a Movado watch was taken.

Legal Notices

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
NOTICE OF SALE

Take notice that the undersigned shall expose for sale, in accordance with RS. 39:10A at public auction on Friday, April 12, 2002 at 9:00 a.m. at On Time Towing, the below described vehicle:

1998 Honda Civic, Serial #1HGEJ6672WL043578 which came into possession of On Time Towing through abandonment or failure of owner to claim same. The motor vehicle may be examined at 200 Eastern Blvd., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

\$70.00 2T April 5 & 12, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
April 3, 2002

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Zoning Board at its meeting held on April 2, 2002.

A. Case #4-02—Robert Vincent—Block 152; Lot 115; R-10 Zone; 1447 Tooz Place—Applicant's request for a rear yard setback variance to construct a first floor addition, was hereby GRANTED.

B. Case #10-02—Patrick & Kathy Flanagan—Block 195; Lot 28; R-7.5 Zone; 20 Allison St.—Applicant's request for a side setback variance to construct an add-a-level was hereby GRANTED, with conditions.

C. Case #44-98/S—Robert & Pat Stilo—Block 449; Lot 3; M-3 Zone; 2209 So. Clinton Ave.—Applicant's request for final site plan approval was hereby GRANTED, with variances and waivers.

D. Case #5-02/S—Omnipoint Communications—Block 628.01; Lot 46.01; M-2 Zone; 4000 Hadley Road—Applicant's request for a height variance and final amended site plan was hereby GRANTED with waivers and conditions.

E. Case #42-00/S—AT&T Wireless Services, Inc.—Block 458; Lots 1 & 7; Block 450; Lot 2; 4500-A Seymour St.—Applicant's request for an amendment to a condition of their final site plan approval, was hereby GRANTED, with conditions.

F. Case #32-98/S—Balagi, Inc.—Block 290; Lots 3 & 4; M-3 Zone; 2105 New Brunswick Ave.—Applicant's request for site plan approval was hereby DISMISSED, for lack of prosecution.

G. Case #11-02—Joseph Calentano-Block 203; Lot

15; 117 Michael St.—Applicant's request for a side setback variance to enclose existing carport, was hereby GRANTED.

H. Case #12-02—Pasquale Cantarella—Block 170; Lot 24; R-7.5 Zone; 301 Franklin Ave.—Applicant's request for a front setback variance from Thornton Ct. to erect a wood shed, was hereby GRANTED with conditions.

I. Case #13-02—William Brooks—819 Delmore Ave.; Block 379; Lot 10.—Applicant's request for a variance from exceeding lot coverage to construct a wood deck, was hereby GRANTED, with conditions.

J. Case #7-02—Nunzio Construction—Block 313; Lot 6; R-10 Zone, Elsie Ave.—Applicant's request for bulk variances to construct a single family dwelling on an undersized lot, was hereby GRANTED, with conditions.

K. Case #38-99/S/A—Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers—Block 254; Lot 2.02; OBC-3 Zone; Oak Tree Rd. & Park Ave.—Applicant's request for a use variance to add outdoor dining, together with amended site plan approval, was hereby GRANTED with conditions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janice Muccilli
Secretary/Zoning Board of Adjustment
\$71.75 April 12, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
ORDINANCE No. 1591

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

Ordinance #1591 entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE SESSION FEES FOR SWIMMING LESSONS FOR MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL POOL COMPLEX was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield on Thursday, April 4, 2002 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk
\$20.00 April 12, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
ORDINANCE 1594

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

Ordinance #1594 entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE SOUTH PLAINFIELD ZONING ORDINANCE TO ADD CODE #713.7 - DECKS: be adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, April 12, 2002 and that a public hearing be held at 7:00PM on Thursday, May 9, 2002 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ORDINANCE No. 1594

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE SOUTH PLAINFIELD ZONING ORDINANCE TO ADD CODE #713.7 - DECKS.

A deck meeting the following standards and requirements may be erected to the rear of a townhouse unit, upon first obtaining the written consent of the homeowner's association:

A. The depth shall not exceed 12 feet except that for a townhouse unit fronting on two interior roadways, the deck shall not exceed a depth of 10 feet.

B. The width shall not exceed 20 feet, except that the owners of two adjoining townhouse units may connect their decks, provided a minimum one foot side yard setback is created from each of the two outside edges of the connected deck. The one foot side yard requirement shall not apply to an end unit of a building.

C. The setback to each property line of the project shall be a minimum of 28 feet.

D. Any railing attached to a deck may not exceed a height of 36 inches.

E. A deck shall be constructed either at grade, or at an elevation equal to the elevation of the rear door of the townhouse unit, as determined by the homeowners association.

Approved April 4, 2002
Daniel J. Gallagher/Mayor

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk
\$56.00 April 12, 2002

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