

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 5, NO. 34

50 CENTS

APRIL 26, 2002

Sparks Fly at BOE Meeting

What was billed as the post-election Board of Education reorganization meeting Monday night, turned into a former board member accusing another board member of violating school ethics during this year's school board campaign.

The evening began with the three newly elected Board members, Ken LaFreniere, Tim Morgan, Sr. and Dan Smith, taking the oath of office from Board attorney Dr. Nicholas Celso III. The Board then voted unanimously to elect Frank Mikorski as Board president and Pio Pennisi as vice president.

Board members each took turns congratulating the members who won the election. Several members also recognized Jeff Seider for his tireless work while serving on the Board, especially his work on the Building and Grounds Committee (B&G). This committee has been working very long hours on the construction at Roosevelt and

Grant schools and the new track. Seider lost his bid for a second term in this year's election.

When Seider spoke during the public portion of the meeting, he first congratulated the winners and thanked the voters for passing the budget. He then announced that he would be asking for an investigation into the conduct of Board member Steve Bohn, who was not on this year's ballot, but helped with the campaign of several of other Board candidates. He charged that: "Bohn violated every ethics code that a Board member is supposed to follow."

Seider said Bohn obtained a list of labels containing the names of the parents of Future Stars' students from Adult School Administrator Jim Lenox. According to Seider, these labels were used to mail campaign literature promoting candidates, which is a violation of the code of ethics.

Bohn immediately denied this, but left after the meeting without any further comments. Contacted the next day, Bohn again denied mailing the campaign literature in question.

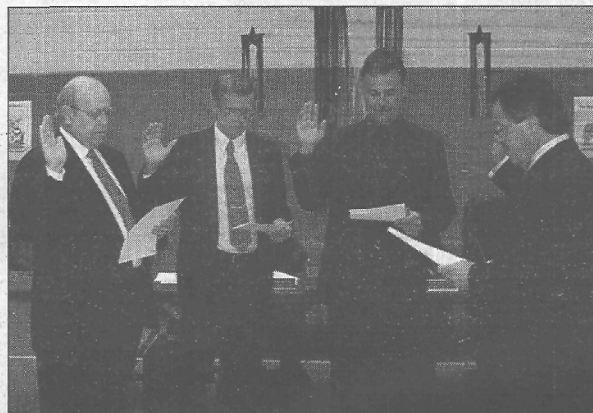
Seider states that asking for and obtaining the labels of the students was in itself a violation of the ethics code.

Seider asked the Board to begin an immediate investigation into Bohn's conduct and to take action if needed.

He also accused Bohn of not carrying out his duty while a board member, by missing many Board and COW meetings and not attending any committee meetings. Seider concluded by saying to Bohn, "You were elected to do a job; for the first time in 10 years, start doing your job!"

Jeff Licato reiterated Seider's charges, saying he was very upset when he received campaign literature addressed to "The Parent of"

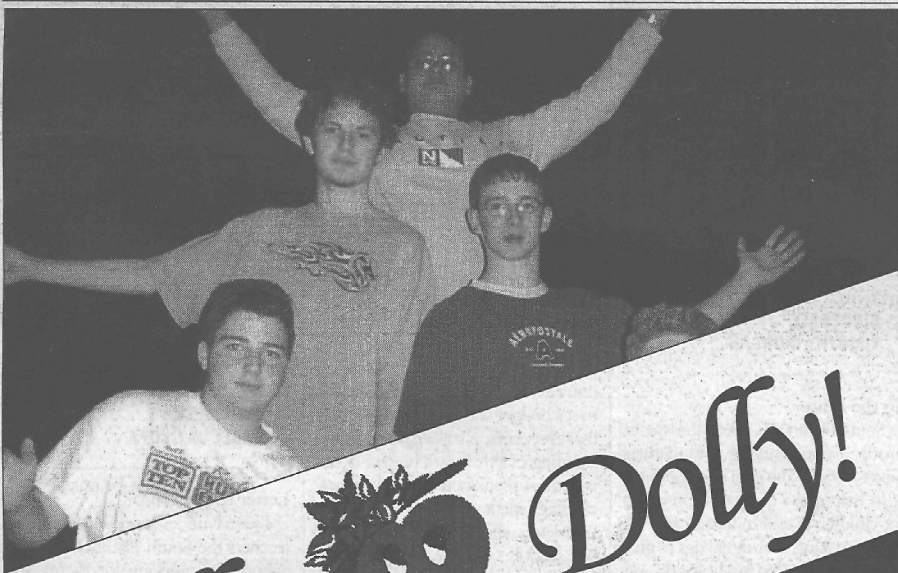
The final speaker was Tim Morgan,



Pictured are newly elected Board members Ken LaFreniere, Tim Morgan, Sr. and Dan Smith with Board attorney Dr. Nicholas Celso, III.

Jr., who spoke eloquently of how proud he was of his father, Tim Sr., for his dedication to the children of South Plainfield. Morgan was elected

to his first term on the Board. He will be stepping down from his position on the Board of Adjustment, which he has served on for the past two years.



Hello,  Dolly!

at SPHS
April 25, 26, 27
7 p.m.

For tickets, call 908.745.4620

For story
& cast
photos, see
page 7.

Man Found Dead in RV



The decomposed body of an unidentified man, approximately 55 years old, was found Tuesday inside this locked camper parked in the driveway of a residence on Sampton Ave. across from Quick Chek. The man's brother became suspicious of his whereabouts and called police. It is not known how long the man had been in the camper. An autopsy was being done on Wednesday. At press time, police say it is so far considered an unintended death.

Borough Notes

Council

◆ The Senior Housing Building received its CO on April 15. A grand opening is planned for sometime in June.

◆ The Senior Center is moving along. The outside has been prepared and ready to put down the parking lot. Utility work is now underway. Grand opening ceremonies are planned for June 29 at 4 p.m.

◆ Telecom Plus has been awarded a contract to audit the Borough's telephone billings. There is no up-front fee for this service, but Telecom receives 50 percent of the amount of the savings the Borough realizes for the first 18 months.

◆ Kimberly Bulla has been hired as a full-time public safety telecommunicator effective April 22.

◆ G.T.B.M. has been awarded a

contract to purchase a new server at a cost of \$7,670.

◆ Linda Pasko has resigned as docket clerk.

◆ The Yard Waste site is still turning away people who do not have stickers. Stickers may be obtained at the Borough Clerk's office, Monday through Friday.

Zoning Board of Adjustment

◆ Sullivan's Auto Body was granted a variance to reconstruct a new garage on Hamilton Blvd. Their building was destroyed in a fire last year after being hit by lightning.

◆ Shekinah Worship Tabernacle, Inc. was granted a variance and a waiver of site plan to use a portion of the premises on Clinton Ave. as a church.

◆ Carmen Petrillo of Montrose Ave. was granted permission to erect a second story add-a-level.

INMYOPINION

To the Editor,

I would like to commend Patricia Abbott for the excellent photos and news articles she covers for the *Observer*. I have personally witnessed her at many events and she not only waits for the perfect picture but extends herself to make the whole event happy and meaningful.

She is a wonderful asset to your paper and she is truly an inspiration to many in our town of South Plainfield.

Thanks Patty for all your time and efforts. It isn't an easy task to get from one event to another, to devote you time and energy and to love your work, but you do so exceptionally.

**SINCERELY,
COLLEEN M. LAZAR**

Dear Editor:

While it's easy to take things at face value, what appears accurate at first often proves inaccurate upon closer inspection. The front-page article about this year's Democratic candidates in April 19's *Observer* is a good example. The article boasts about several alleged accomplishments by our mayor and council. But the successes fail to hold up under tougher scrutiny.

For example, while self-serving quotes from party spokespeople suggest that Democratic politicians weaved "fiscal responsibility" out of "financial chaos," the article overlooks an almost 80 percent tax increase suffered by residents since 1993 — during a booming economy no less. Nor does the article point out that the town is selling off assets (i.e., land) and closing departments to minimize an otherwise higher tax burden.

The candidates and their friends also crow about projects completed over the last decade: things like construction and road projects. But this is what taxes are supposed to go for. In other words, the mayor and council gloat over giving us the services we

pay taxes for them to fund. At the same time, they overlook their failures: things like a rising crime rate (fourth highest in Middlesex Co.), increased traffic congestion, lack of property maintenance and overbuilding.

By contrast, an article buried on page three of the April 12 *Observer* introduces this year's Republican candidates. Rather than boast about the people running (for example, Marge Reedy's years of service to South Plainfield's youth), the article invites public input on the many tough issues South Plainfield faces. Yes, all is not well, as the Democrats would have us believe. Many issues need attention.

South Plainfield needs two-party government again. Our elected officials have become complacent because nobody watches them. They don't face problems — only rattle off a litany of stale ideas and long-overdue projects. The town deserves better.

**VERY TRULY YOURS,
ROBERT J. JONES, JR.**

To the Voters of South Plainfield,

I'd like to thank all my friends and the voters who supported me in last week's Board of Education election. Although by a very small margin I did not win a seat on the board, I feel personal victories in other ways.

It was obvious that the voters believed in Dan Smith, as the highest vote getter and his message that our children and education come first. I had the privilege to run along side Dan Smith and Angel Jazikoff, as we all supported the same ideals.

I learned that having the desire to become a member of the Board of Education is more than how many board or committee meetings one attends, or long-winded self-gratification speeches. It should be the combined efforts of all the board members to collectively make decisions that will help our administrator's create the best learning environment for the chil-

dren and the teachers of South Plainfield. After all, without retaining good teachers and attracting qualified good new ones, all educational opportunities for our children would fail.

I will continue to support those still on the board who keep the best interest of our children, our teachers and our pocketbooks, in mind.

With regard to the comments made at Tuesday's Board of Ed meeting: According to the School Board Candidates Literature, "You can gather support for your candidacy by communicating your goals and aims for the school's to the electorate." I conducted my campaign as a private citizen in a professional manner, with the public's best interest at heart, period! What is "obscene" and worries me is that we have public officials on the board, making decisions for my kids, who misuse their positions by spreading slanderous statements and false "rumors." Chickens for chickens, this chick lost the election by only 11 votes. The public did speak!

**THANK YOU,
TERRY ALEXA**

To the Editor,

I would like to thank all who supported me in my effort, posted signs on your lawns and offered me encouragement during my campaign to seek election to the South Plainfield Board of Education. I am gratified by the welcome I have received from the present board members, our superintendent Dr. John Krewer and Assistant Superintendent Mario Barbieri and I truly look forward to working with all of you during the next three years.

My compliments to all of the candidates for the respectful way in which you ran your campaigns. This, to me, shows a great deal about the character and caliber of the individuals vying for these positions.

To the voters, I can only promise to do my best when deciding the many issues that will come before us, always keeping in mind what is best for all of the students in our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent you and I look forward to meeting and talking with you during my term.

**SINCERELY,
TIMOTHY MORGAN**

To the Editor,

South Plainfield Cadette Girl Scout Troop 375 is working toward their Silver Award. The goal of our project is to help make the transition easier for children placed in foster care. We will be making overnight bags to give to kids when placed in a home during the month of May, from the 6th to the 17th. We will be seeking donations from kind people like you to help make life easier for these children. We will be setting up collection boxes at each of the elementary schools including Central Sixth to collect any donation that you can give. Flyers will be sent home with students from each of the elementary schools. Each school will be requesting different items for the overnight bags.

Kennedy School will be seeking

Submit Letters to the Editor:

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

Letters may be submitted by email at our website at spobsobserver.com or faxed to 908-668-8819. 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.*

donations of hair care products, shampoos, combs and brushes. Riley School is requesting mouthwash and Band-Aids, Franklin School wishes soap, deodorant and lotion and Roosevelt School seeks markers, pens, pencils, journals and diaries. Central Sixth is asking for washcloths and hand towels. All items need to be of personal size, new and unused. We hope you can find it in your hearts to donate to help make life easier for these children. Remember, keep your eyes open for these school flyers. We thank you for any help you can offer.

**AIMEE MAIORINO
CADETTE GIRL SCOUT TROOP 375**

To My Fellow Residents,

I would like to begin by thanking Jeff Seider for his service as a board of Education member for past three years. I cannot even begin to tell you how much time and energy Jeff has dedicated on behalf of the children and taxpayers of South Plainfield. I can tell you if each of the Board members would put half that much passion in their committee chairmanships this new year, we will have a district that can be showcased, statewide...an example to be shown with pride for all board members, staff, students and our community.

To our newly elected board member and our re-elected board members, I welcome you Tim, and congratulate all three successful candidates. I look forward to the year ahead of us, working as a winning team representing our constituency. Each of our individual successes at the polls has taught us that we have the awesome responsibility of insuring the district's business is conducted in a fiscally responsible manner while at the same time ensuring that every child is the recipient of the very best we have to offer, after all their future depends on it.

I would like to thank our community for supporting the budget and at the same time commend Dr. John Krewer, Mario Barbieri, Richard Calhoun, Ellen Johnson, Dr. Janet Munger, Adele Veirs and last but not least, Russ Maffoon for the many opportunities they provided for our community members to hear and see a detailed presentation of the budget, which informed each of what an additional 2.6 cent increase would do for the children of South Plainfield. I don't ever recall a time when our district's budget was presented in a way that every person walked away understanding exactly how a budget dollar is spent. I thank you all for the many evenings spent preparing our budget newsletter, and presenting at each of our schools, and any other place invited to present that information.

Finally, I would like to commend my fellow community members for

seeing through at least one special interest group's attempt to seduce you into thinking that they had your interests at heart. It restores my faith in the fact that although a lot of money and energy was expended on targeted mailings, postcards, people other than the candidate going door to door and an obscene number of signs, that an average community member was not enticed into the obvious political realm. Therefore, one who has a sincere interest in serving his or her community on behalf of the children and taxpayers can prevail. In this instance, the fact that a special interest group who spent a great deal of money in an attempt to ensure the election of their candidates was ignored. This election proves that our community was wise enough to see through those efforts and to some very satisfying extent they had nothing to celebrate at their big party Tuesday night. That fact reinforces the adage told to me many times, "don't count your chickens before they hatch." In this case, two of the three chickens didn't hatch.

I am proud to be a resident of South Plainfield and look forward to the challenges the next few years will bring and I am convinced you will continue to be diligent with regard to special interest groups.

DAWN JEFFERYS

Dear Residents,

Recently I ran in the South Plainfield Board of Education election. Although I was unsuccessful, I met so many nice people in our community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who voted for me and my teammates, Terry Alexa and Dan Smith. As a team, we found common ground in our ideals for the school district. I appreciate the time we spent together and the friendships that have been gained through our combined efforts.

I congratulate Dan on winning his bid for re-election. I feel confident he will continue to keep the interests of the children and our community uppermost in his mind when making decisions. I am very pleased that the budget passed, which will enable the district to move forward with new programs and initiatives.

I also would like to extend my congratulations and best wishes to the other two winners in the election, Tim Morgan and Ken LaFraniere.

**SINCERELY,
ANGEL JAZIKOFF**

Letter to the Editor,

I don't understand what kind of teachers the South Plainfield Middle School has working for them. My daughter had a little problem the other day with one of them. I have to let

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in South Plainfield Observer:

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

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Ficorilli's Celebrate Their 50th Wedding Anniversary

A surprise 50th wedding anniversary party was given for Agnes and Gene Ficorilli on April 6 at the Victorian Manor in Edison.

The party was given by their children, Marie and Frank Benak and Michael and Jeanmarie Ficorilli. The Ficorilli's have five grandchildren, Michelle, Michael, Nicole, Mark and

Michael, Jr. The party was also attended by fifty relatives and friends.

The Ficorillis were married April 19, 1952 in St. Rose of Lima Church in Newark. Their reception was at The Friar Tuck in Clifton.

They spent their honeymoon in Miami Beach, Fla. and have lived in South Plainfield for 45 years.

Sacred Heart Funstival Will Feature New Rides

This year's Sacred Heart Funstival will feature the same great food, the same popular games and same wheels of chance, but a completely new ride company.

Both Ann Demico and Grace Bertucci have been visiting other church festivals this past year and they thing have found a ride company which features rides both young and old will enjoy.

The McDaniel Brothers, Fred and Richard, have been in business since 1987. Each brother had over ten years experience in the amusement industry before they formed their own company. They started with just a hand-shake and their word and built the business by adding more and more rides and concessions.

You will recognized their staff, because they all wear their trademark logo and colors when working.

They now boast 15 rides, such as the octopus, skydiver, super swing, slide, husler, scrambler, tilt-a-whirl, tubes of fun, jungle of fun, helicopter, Corvette combo, turtle and tank.

You can save 50 percent off the price of the ride tickets by purchasing them ahead of time. They will be on sale after Mass at Sacred Heart Church and at the Parish Center before the Funstival begins. Tuesday has been set aside for bracelet night, as well as Saturday afternoon from 12-5. All rides cost only \$12 on these two occasions.

Of course along with the delicious variety of food available each evening, their will be nightly 50-50's, a Super 50-50 and a Raffle held on Saturday. Raffle tickets have been mailed to each parishioner.

The Funstival takes place Tuesday, May 14 through Saturday, May 8. Hours are Tuesday through Friday 6 p.m. until closing and Saturday 2 p.m. until closing.

Passport Services at Borough Hall This Friday

If you went to Borough Hall last Friday for a passport you were notified that the wrong date had been advertised on the posters. Well the correct date is this Friday, April 26. The Middlesex County Passport Office be at Borough Hall in courtroom from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to accept and process passport applications.

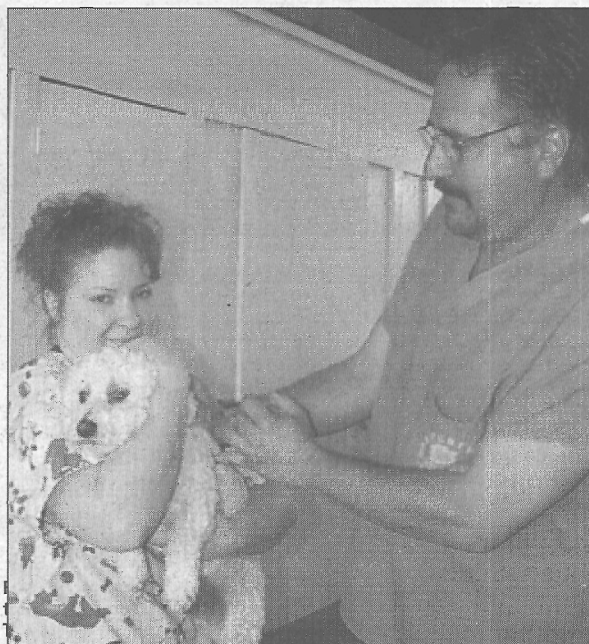
To obtain a passport, proof of citizenship is required. You will need a birth certificate from vital statistics-raised seals and file dater or a previous passport or a naturalization certificate. Hospital or Baptismal certificates will not be accepted.

You will 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.

Sandra Reedy Performed at Lincoln Center

Sandra Reedy, a 1999 graduate of South Plainfield High School, performed with the Westminster Symphonic Choir on April 17, 19 and 20 at Lincoln Center with the New York Philharmonic to Vivaldi's Requiem.



Scott Linick, owner of the Plainfield Animal Hospital was at the Borough Garage last Saturday, giving free rabbi shots. Residents were also able to pick up their 2002 dog license.

Grant School Students "Walked the Walk"

By: Kelly Panuzzo

On April 10 the sixth grade students of Grant Central Sixth Elementary School held a School Walk for Diabetes. This was a Student Council sponsored event. Student Council advisors, Kara Georgia and Kelly Panuzzo, had received information from the American Diabetes Association and thought that it was something worth looking into. Since Grant has several people, both students and faculty, who are affected by this terrible disease, it seemed even more worthwhile.

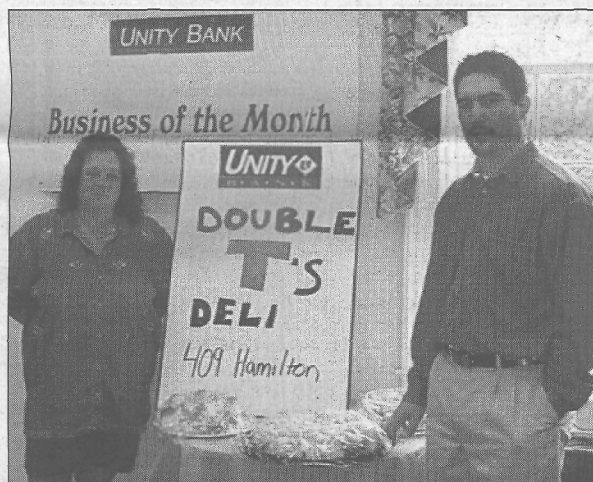
Several weeks before the walk took place, the students were given envelopes to collect donations.

They were then given some time to collect for the walk. All the donations were due by April 8. This event was not only used to raise money for people who have diabetes, it was also a way for the students of Grant to help themselves. First of all, students who raised a certain amount of money won many prizes. Almost all of the students will be received a diabetes water bottle for raising \$15. Students who raised \$40 will be receive a diabetes T-shirt. More importantly, any school that raised more than \$7,500 will receive 15 percent of their total as a gift certificate for sports equipment. Grant School will receive a certificate for \$1,350.

On the day of the walk, the students were all very excited. At about 1 p.m. 197 students, along with many teachers and faculty members, left for Spring Lake where they spent one hour walking to help raise money for diabetes research. They walked around the lake twice and then returned to Grant. The students were tired, but they felt good about what they had accomplished.

Many students went above and beyond all expectations. Some collected as much as \$200 all by themselves. One student, got her father to agreed to match all her donations and then his company matched his donation, raising over \$700. All together the Grant School sixth grade students raised \$8,965. Some teachers donated the difference so that the students could send an even \$9,000 to the American Diabetes Association.

The faculty and staff of Grant Central Sixth School are so proud of the hard work and dedication of their students. If these 197 students can raise \$9,000 in three weeks for people they don't even know, just imagine what we can expect from them in the future.



Congratulations to Theresa Montuori, owner of Double T's Restaurant, located on Hamilton Blvd. Double T's was named the 'Business of the Month' at Unity Bank. Pictured with Montuori is Tino Fontes, Assistant Manager of Unity Bank.

Union Catholic Honor Roll

Two South Plainfield residents made the third quarter honor roll at Union Catholic School.

Named to the first honor roll were Nicole Barko, a senior and Marybeth Tran, a freshman.

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| Cheddar Cheese | 5 ⁹⁹ | Fresh Salads | |
| Cappicola | 6 ⁹⁹ | Homemade | |
| Roast Beef | 7 ⁹⁹ | Potato Salad | 3 ⁹⁹ |
| Bologna | 4 ²⁵ | Macaroni Salad | 2 ⁹⁹ |
| Spiced Ham | 4 ²⁵ | Coleslaw | 2 ⁹⁹ |
| Genoa Salami | 6 ⁹⁹ | Roasted Pepper Salad | 3 ⁹⁹ |
| Pepperoni | 5 ⁹⁹ | Fresh Mozzarella | 5 ⁹⁹ |
| Maple Turkey Breast | 6 ⁹⁹ | | |

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Over the Top Around Town

SPHS Drama Club Presents Hello Dolly!

April 25-27

The SPHS Players Drama Club brings the popular musical to the South Plainfield High School stage Apr. 25-27. See page 7 for ticket information.

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

Kennedy School Plans Scoop Dinner

April 26

The Kennedy School Playground Fund will be hosting a Scoop Dinner on Friday, April 26 in the all-purpose room at Kennedy School. Doors open at 5 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. for senior citizens. Homemade foods will be sold for just 35 cents a "scoop." Soda, coffee, tea and homemade desserts are available for just 35 cents a serving.

Profits will be used for our playground fund. All are welcome! Please come and enjoy a delicious and reasonably priced home-cooked meal!

Any questions? Please call Susan Barry at (908) 769-8507.

Children's Health And Safety Fair

April 27

A variety of health and safety information will be available at a Children's Health and Safety Fair, sponsored by South Plainfield Girl Scout Troop 117. The fair will be held on Saturday, April 27 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at John E. Riley School.

A local pediatrician will talk about the importance of good nutrition. South Plainfield Police will provide free fingerprinting, information on bicycle safety and McGruff the Crime Fighting Dog will be there. A staff person from Ricochet Health Club will demonstrate yoga for children. A representative from the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation will also be available.

And kids, don't forget to bring your Teddy Bear to the Teddy Bear Clinic. The health and safety fair is open to the public.

For more information, call (908) 769-9491 or (908) 756-7487.

Girl Scout Troop 117 is organizing

this Children's Wealth and Safety Fair as their Silver Award Project. We hope everyone will help make it a big success.

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.

Suburban Woman's Club Meeting

May 2

The program for the May meeting of the South Plainfield Woman's Club, a member of G.F.W.C., will focus on "Domestic Violence." Gail Dougherty, the speaker, is South Plainfield's Coordinator of the Domestic Violence Crisis Intervention Team.

The meeting will be held Thursday, May 2 at 2 p.m. at the American Legion Hall on Oak Tree Road.

Meetings are open to all women interested in the club, it's programs and various community activities. For further information, call 561-1908.

Spring Craft Fair at Elks

May 4

The South Plainfield Elks Lodge #2298, located on New Market Ave. is planning a craft fair on Saturday, May 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The fair goes on rain or shine.

The kitchen will be open for breakfast and lunch. Admission is free.

For information, call (908) 668-9750 or Anna at (732) 968-7238.

The Broadway Kids to Perform

May 4

The South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission in Association with The South Plainfield Friends of The Arts will proudly present *The Broadway Kids* on Saturday, May 4.

The Broadway Kids will perform at the South Plainfield High School Auditorium at 1 p.m. They will be performing songs sung by or about our kids. The show runs about an hour. Tickets are available for \$10 at The Bagel Shop, Ralph's Italian Ice and Law Office of Suzanne Lyte, all located on South Plainfield Ave. (see page 10 for more information).

Come out to support your schools. The profits will be donated to the four South Plainfield Elementary Schools' Playground Funds!

For more information please contact Bonnie Gallanter at (212) 604-0005 or e-mail Bonizzai@aol.com.

VFW Will Hold Country Breakfast

May 5

A Country breakfast is planned for Sunday, May 5 at VFW Post 6763, 155 Front Street from 8 to 11 a.m. Donation is \$5.00, children's menu is available.

For more information phone (908) 668-9751 after 3 p.m. daily and after 12 noon on weekends.

Pf'd. 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.

McEducator Night Fundraiser to Help Roosevelt School

May 8

McDonald's will be hold a McEducator Night on Wednesday, May 8 from 5 to 8 p.m. to benefit Roosevelt School.

All students in the South Plainfield school system will be receiving a flyer which they must hand in at their time of purchase that evening. McDonalds has pledged to donate 15 percent of all the sales to Roosevelt School.

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. til midnight.

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

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

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

Rainbow Academy Childcare Center Plans Open House

May 18

Rainbow Academy, located at 2177 Oak Tree Rd. in Edison will be holding an open house on Saturday, May 18 from 10 a.m. til 2 p.m.

There will be a professional face painter who will paint characters and animals for free on all the children who show up while their parents are getting a tour of the school.

For more information call (908) 769-3224.

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 Ring-side 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.

— Out of Town —

Trash, Treasure and Bake Sale

May 4

Oak Tree Presbyterian Church will hold its annual "Trash, Treasure and Bake Sale" on Saturday, May 4 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 455 Plainfield Ave., Edison.

Items for sale include: household goods, small appliances, toys, games, books, jewelry, sports items, infant and children's good, holiday décor and many types of baked goods.

All proceeds go to the church. NO EARLY BIRDS!!

For information call, Mrs. Hannah at (908) 769-6553.

Chinese Auction Planned

May 5

The theme for this year's Chinese Auction is "Mother's Day." The auction will be held Sunday, May 5, at the Resurrection of Christ Church, located on 649 Bound Brook Rd., Rt. 28 in Dunellen.

Doors open at noon and auction begins at 2 p.m. Donation is \$5. There will be door prizes, great gifts, dinners, jewelry and much more!

For more information call (732) 873-1731.

Trenton Kennel Club Dog Show

May 5

The 73rd annual Trenton Kennel Club all-breed dog show and obedience trials will be held Sunday, May 5 from 8 a.m. to approx. 6:30 p.m., rain or shine.

Mercer County Park at Old Trenton and South Post Rds., West Windsor, will host between 3,000 and 4,000 dogs representing over 156 breeds and varieties.

Spectators can spend the day watching their favorite breeds of dogs compete for many trophies and awards, including the coveted "Best in Show."

Obedience trials begin at 8 a.m. and continue until early afternoon. Breed judging begins at 8 a.m. and continues throughout the day. "Best in Show" will be awarded approx. 6:30 p.m.

Admission is \$3 for adults and free for children under 12 years of age.

Only dogs entered in the show will be allowed on the grounds.

For additional information or judging schedule prior to the show: www.infodog.com.

Free Charting and Documentation Seminar for Nurses

May 8

On May 8, Bayada Nurses will offer a free seminar for nurses entitled "Charting Smarter: A Clinical, Legal and Practical Approach to Documentation in 2002." The seminar will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Sheraton at Woodbridge Place in Iselin.

The seminar will help nurses appreciate charting from a jury's perspective and gain an understanding of liability insurance requirements for today's nurse.

The seminar is free to all nurses and includes breakfast, lunch and refreshments. Due to the limited space, pre-registration is required and must be received no later than May 3. On-site registrations will be accepted on a stand-by only. Registration brochures can be obtained by calling Ali Simonton at (973) 538-3000.

First Annual Car Enthusiasts Weekend

July 6, 7

On Saturday, July 6 and Sunday, July 7 the Riverview Inn, located at 400 Shay Ln. in Matamoras, Pa., will be hosting a First Annual Car Enthusiasts Weekend.

How Would You Like a Wrap in the Mouth?

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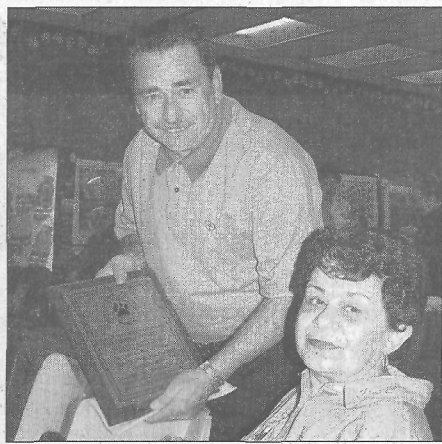
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Marion Gallagher (left), wife of South Plainfield Mayor Dan Gallagher, displays a purchase she made at Vision 2001 Annual Art Auction. Pictured right, this year's honorary chairman Philip Aiello with wife Maryann.



Annual Art Auction Sales Top \$15K

Last Friday evening South Plainfield residents turned out for the Vision 2001 Annual Auction. The fundraising event was held at the high school cafeteria. Some of those attending were Dan and Marion Gallagher, Patrick Diegnan, Dr. John Krewer, Frank Mikorski and Ken LaFrencire. The auction drew almost 60 buyers.

Paintings of every kind were on dis-

play for prospective buyers to look over, giving everyone an opportunity to pick their favorite piece of art to bid on when the auction began.

South Plainfield High School students were on hand to help carry the artwork to and from the bidding table. Helping out were Danielle Lytwyn, Destiny Owen, Jeff McKnight, Genevieve DeLosSantos, Tim Mor-

gan, Jr., Michelle Socha, Alex Huynh, Elayne Russell and Jackie Cox.

The successful evening ended with the super 50/50 drawing. Winning the grand prize of \$1,150 was Barbara Florio. Other winners were: Dennis Cerami won \$446, Leslie Fisher won \$335, Ken LaFrenciere won \$223 and Sue Ashnault won \$112. Almost \$15,000 worth of art was purchased.



Local Lions Keep Busy with Keystone Luncheon

On April 13, the Lions Club of South Plainfield sponsored a lunch for Keystone residents. A "Special Mass" was held at Sacred Heart Church and afterwards, lunch was cooked and served by members of the club.

The luncheon, which served over 100 multiple-handicapped people, consisted of chicken soup with tortellini, Salisbury steaks with corn and

mashed potatoes topped off with ice cream sundaes for dessert.

Head Chef Larry Massaro drew raves for his preparations and the luncheon was well received by everyone. Lion President Bob Desch received a special award from the residents.

The Lions Club of South Plainfield,

which has been serving South Plainfield since 1947, encourages family participation in charitable events. It is worth noting that several of the members' children and grandchildren participated in this fine event.

Good work gang, we look forward to seeing you next year!

Scholastic Book Fair at Riley

Riley School will hold a Scholastic Book Fair April 24-26, from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. in the Riley School gymnasium.

Give the gift of reading to your children, friends and relatives for incentives, party gifts and summer reading fun. There will be many wonderful books and exciting products.

All Book Fair purchases benefit the school library and PTSO activities. Most importantly, these outstanding books encourage your child to be excited about reading and learning, the keys to future success.

When you visit the Book Fair, please consider donating a book as a special gift to your child's classroom library. As a token of appreciation, every gift will be recognized with a bookplate identifying your family or child as the donor. Please look for the Classroom Wish List display at the Book Fair.



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Saturday evenings 5:30 PM
Sunday mornings 8 & 11 AM

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Here's the latest news from the South Plainfield Library:

Today is the last day of availability for this month's group of Circuit videos. This month's titles include *A Bug's Life*, *Pollock*, *Anywhere but Here*, *Under Siege*, *Far from the Madding Crowd* and, on DVD, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. Videos and DVDs may be borrowed, four at a time, for two days. They may be borrowed for free, but be aware that the overdue fine is \$2 per day per item.

Elsewhere on the Circuit front, we've just added a new group from the Audiobook Circuit. Titles in this group include *Thank you, Jeeps* by P.G. Wodehouse, *Family Man* by Jayne Ann Krentz, *Singing My Him Song* by Malachy McCourt, *Easy Prey* by John Sandford, and, on CD, *The Cat Who Saw Stars* by Lillian Jackson Braun. Audiobooks may be borrowed, four at a time, for two weeks.

Today, being Arbor Day, is also the time for the Friends of the Woods Tree Planting Ceremony. That takes place this afternoon at 3:30. A new tree will be placed in the developing Historic Tree Grove next to the Library. Everyone is invited to attend.

We're returning to our normal schedule of children's Storytime programs next week. For those few individuals unfamiliar with that schedule, the programs are 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. They're for children age 3 and over; you don't need to register

in advance. If you'd like more information, please call us at (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda.

Here's news about our National Library Week raffle. The winner of the South Plainfield Library sweatshirt was Matthew Waters; while Eric Pantaleon won a Library tote bag. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all who participated.

We've just added a new collection of CD-ROMs. Most are educational discs for children on subject like math, phonics and geography. (Sorry, kids; no video games.) CD-ROMs may be borrowed for two weeks. You just pick out the display box of the one you want from the basket in the juvenile video section, then you pick up the disc at the Circulation Desk. This collection is something new for us, and we'd appreciate your comments on it.

We're accepting donations for our collection of Inkjet and LaserJet cartridges. These cartridges are recycled by the educational fundraising group the Funding Factory, which will provide us with free A/V and computer equipment in exchange. Just drop the cartridges in the collection box next to the Children's Room. We'll be accepting them until further notice.

Finally, please be advised that, when the Library is closed, you can still return items in our drop boxes. One of them is meant for books and periodicals, while the other is for A/V items. These drops are locked up when the Library is open, though. If you have a problem putting something in the boxes, let us know right away and we'll take that into account.

That's about all for this week. See you next time for more.

2002 Site Plan Sub-Committee Change in Meeting Dates

May 28 • June 25 • July 23 • August 27
September 24 • October 22 • November 26

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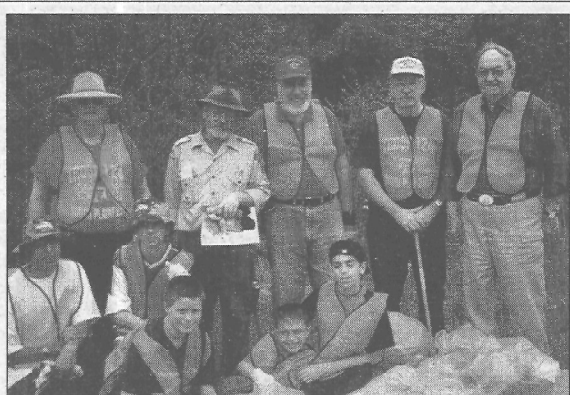
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Members of Troop 124 participated in South Plainfield's annual Community Clean-up Day on April 20. Troop members cleaned litter from both sides of South Clinton Ave. from Sylvania Place to Montrose Ave. When they finished they, along with other volunteers, enjoyed pizza and soda at Borough Hall. They also were part of a raffle whose prizes included baseball hats, shirts, tote bags and plants. Pictured above standing are Harry Chiovarou, Sr., George Smith, Tony Sarao, Bill Ball, Frank Kraus. Seated: Prasanna Sridharan, Colin Slattery, Steve Wagner, Tim Ratti, Christopher Izzi. Not shown is Harry Chiovarou, Jr.

Community Clean Up Draws Over 200 Volunteers



Pictured are Amanda George, Jen Butrico, Nathalie Londono, Kristen Mazellan, Alex Huynh, Kristina Lotonio and Dale Goverdhan, who participated last Saturday in the Earth Day Cleanup by cleaning up in Spring Lake Park. Other groups were scattered throughout town. We will have more pictures and information in next week's Observer. Photo by Bill Tuthill

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Roosevelt Delivers Earth Day Grocery Bags

Roosevelt Elementary School computer teacher, Anne Marie Stoeckel, found an interesting way for the students to celebrate Earth Day on April 22.

Stoeckel found a project on the Internet called 'Earth Day Groceries' and contacted the manager of the A&P on Park Ave. and borrowed enough paper grocery bags for each student to decorate. During Glenda Posey's art classes, the children decorated nearly 450 paper bags with colorful environmental messages.

Teacher Allison Ferraro, along with student council members traveled to the A&P on Friday to personally deliver their masterpieces.

Beginning on Monday, customers started receiving their groceries in these specially decorated bags. This is a way for the people in our area to get a clear and positive message that the students at our schools care about their environment.

This is the ninth year this international educational effort has been coordinated on the Internet. Please see the project's website at: <http://www.earthdaybags.org>



www.earthdaybags.org for complete information.

A report from Roosevelt will be added to their website, so others will know about the effort at our school. This is one of the largest and most well established educational projects on the Internet. It is a nonprofit, grassroots effort. The project started in 1994, with 43 schools reporting the decora-

tion and distribution of 13,000 Earth Day Grocery Bags. In 1999, the number of schools reporting in reached nearly 1,200 with students decorating almost 400,000 Earth Day Grocery Bags! Every report from all the previous years is on the website. There are also pictures of schools from around the world involved in this project.

Unity Bancorp Announces Record Earnings

Unity Bancorp, Inc., parent company of Unity Bank, reported a net income of \$822 thousand or \$0.15 per diluted share, for the quarter ended Mar. 31, 2002, compared to \$128 thousand or \$(0.00) per diluted share for the same period last year. Return on average assets and return on average common equity for the 2002 quarter were .87% and 13.19%, respectively.

On a pre-tax basis, earnings for the March 2002 quarter were \$1.3 million compared to \$134 thousand for the same period a year ago and \$589 thousand for the fourth quarter of 2001. Earnings for 2001 benefited from the reversal of tax valuation reserves. The significantly improved operating results were attributed to the increase in net interest income and non-interest income and ongoing expense control.

"The record earnings for the quarter reflect our continued revenue growth," said Unity President and Chief Executive Officer, Anthony J. Ferraro. "As previously reported, all Regulatory Agreements have been lifted this quarter, so we can now focus all of our efforts on achieving higher returns in the future."

Net interest income was \$3.6 million for the first quarter of 2002 compared to \$2.7 million a year ago and \$3.5 million for the prior quarter. Net interest margin was 4.02% for the quarter compared to 3.21% a year ago and 4.04% for the prior quarter. The Company's net interest margin increased from the prior year as higher costing time deposits reprised in a lower rate environment and an improved product mix. The provision for loan losses for the quarter was \$600 thousand compared to \$150 thousand a year earlier and \$825 thousand for the prior quarter. The increase in the provision from a year ago was due to loan growth and the increased level of charge-offs. Net loan charge-offs for the quarter were \$585 thousand compared to \$531 thousand in the prior quarter and \$158 thousand a year ago. The charge-offs in the prior and current quarter were primarily due to losses on third-party lease loans.

Total assets at March 31, 2002 were \$394 million, a 7.4% increase from a year ago and a 4.0% increase from the prior quarter. The increase in assets were primarily due to loan growth. Total loans at Mar. 31, 2002 were \$280 million, a 24.8% increase from a year ago and a 2.6% increase from the prior quarter. The growth in the loan portfolio occurred primarily in

commercial loans, which totaled \$313 million at Mar. 31, 2002, an increase of 52.9% from a year ago and 10.3% from the prior quarter. SBA loans held for investment were \$38 million at Mar. 31, 2002, an increase of 44.1% from a year ago and 5.8% from the prior quarter. Both the commercial and SBA loan portfolios are expected to increase in 2002. Due to significant prepayments, retail and residential mortgage loans declined from the prior quarter and the prior year.

Total deposits at March 31, 2002 were \$354 million, an increase of 6.9% from a year ago and 4.1% from the prior quarter. The increase was primarily a result of growth in "Opportunity Checking," Unity's interest-bearing checking product. Non-interest bearing accounts totaled \$62 million at Mar. 31, 2002, up 17.3% from a year ago and down 3.8% from the prior quarter. There are approximately \$33 million of municipal accounts, which is consistent with the prior quarter and prior year.

"This quarter we have again realized strong loan and deposit growth,"

said Mr. Ferraro. "We intend on achieving our earnings targets with continued growth in both areas. We have a robust loan pipeline and as we continue to build these earnings assets, we expect to continue to report improved operating results."

Total shareholders' equity was \$259 million at Mar. 31, 2002 a 19.3% increase from the prior year and a 4.1% increase from the prior quarter. The increase in equity over the prior year was due to retained profits and \$1.1 million Private Placement issuance. The increase from the prior quarter is due primarily to retained profits.

Unity Bancorp, Inc. is a financial service organization headquartered in Clinton, NJ, with \$394 million in assets and \$354 million in deposits. Unity Bank provides financial services to retail, corporate & small business customers through its 12 retail service centers located in Hunterdon, Middlesex, Somerset and Union counties in NJ. For additional information about Unity visit our website at www.unitybank.com or call (800) 618-BANK.

Community Pool Open House

Mark your calendar! The community pool is planning an open house on Memorial Day, May 27. Residents are invited to spend the entire day at the pool and enjoy the many facilities they have to offer, including the snack

bar, picnic area, kiddie pool and the playground and game area.

Recreation Director Mike English explained that this will be a great way for residents who are thinking of joining to try it out firsthand.



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Hello, Dolly!



Allison Provaire as
Dolly Gallagher Levi



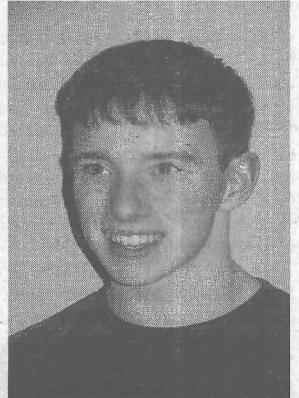
Josef Rodriguez as
Horace Vandergelder



Tammy Dombrowski as
Irene Molloy



Natasha Kurilew as Minnie Fay



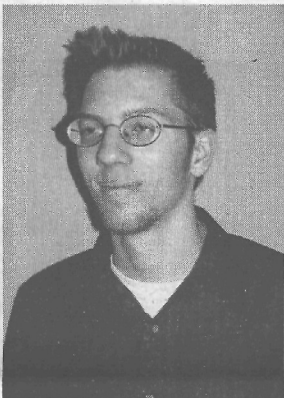
Chris Imbroschiano as
Barnaby Tucker



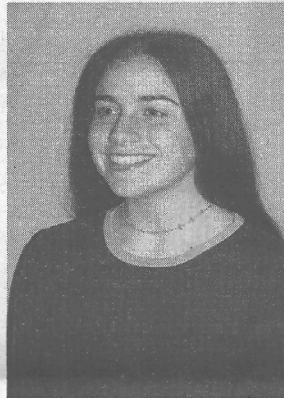
Chris Baron as Cornelius Hackl



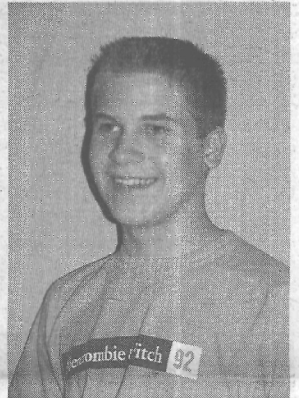
Pam Cianfrocca as Ermengarde



Dave Garatino as Ambrose Kemper



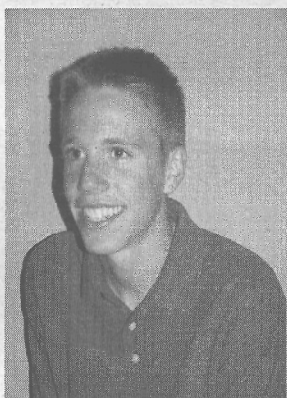
Jamie Morris as Ernestina



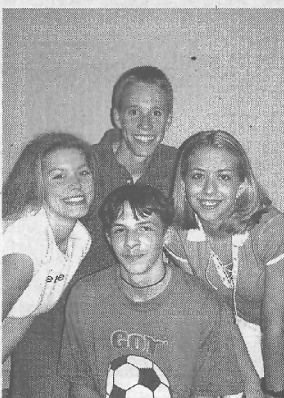
Greg Publik as Rudolph Reisenweber



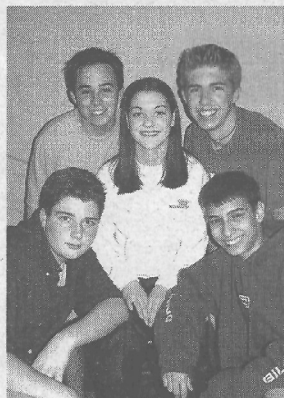
Takara Kaczowski as Mrs. Rose



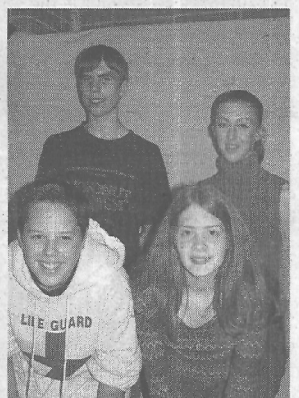
Dave Allara as Judge



(Clockwise) Dave Allara, Megan Wilson, Chris Abbott, Ariel Curtis



(Top) Alex Tierney, Kristie Butrico, Danny Sierzega (Bottom) Paul Nicolosi, Vinnie Carubia



(Top) Patrick Pryor, Jessica Musolino (Bottom) John Roesch, Kristin Nietzer

Cast & Crew Gear Up For Thursday's Opening

By Patricia Abbott

The magic of a full scale musical on stage is a wondrous sight to behold. The stage is a kaleidoscope of action, color and light; performers singing and dancing in an array of colorful costumes, music, eye-catching sets, props and much more. The results are the combined skills and efforts of many talented individuals who helped

bring words in a script to life. This weekend's production of *Hello, Dolly!* is sure to delight it's audience.

While the performers and artistic staff bask in enthusiastic applause, the many behind-the-scenes workers often go unnoticed. Their hard work gives depth and detail to the production. The two dozen members of the orchestra conducted by Mr. Mark Tweed have been rehearsing for six weeks. The stage crew and construction team are probably the hardest working units in any show. Without their work the actors would perform on a bare stage. The *Hello Dolly!* crew has been busy for many weeks, designing, building, painting the sets that put

the actors in 1800's New York.

Set construction for the musical was done by SPHS teachers Greg Genz and Bob Diehl, along with Bob Alcaro, Joey Lammi and Greg's father whom everyone calls "Grandpa Genz."

Stage Manager for the show is Lory Alcaro and Assistant Crew Chief is Jason Jackson. The Running Crew consists of; Tom Campanella, Christopher Egan, Michael Fry, Drew Hedler, Alex Huynh, Brian Johansen, Bryan King, Mike Kasmer, Chris Kelly, Aaron Leszcynski, Brandon Lindgren, Rich Muglia. Valarie Pasquarella, Harsh Patel, Brian Publik and Stephen Schramm. The entire

crew has been hard at work painting the sets and assisting with some construction.

Art for the sets was done by: Lory Alcaro and Valarie Pasquarella. Students from Mrs. Timinski's art classes volunteered their time to do the artwork for a train. Spot Lights are run by Jenn Gold and Nina Byard. The lighting was done by Tara Kusky and the sound by Marty Schreck.

Mrs. Janis Nietzer has the enormous job of coordinating the dozens of period costumes as well as sewing, altering costumes and seeing to a myriad of little details.

Add the parent volunteers taking on a variety of responsibilities also con-

tributing to the success of the show. Mostly unseen by the audience, all of these people, along with Director Mrs. Gloria Naso, Assistant Director Mrs. Dolly Cammarere, Vocal Director Mr. Tracy Murray and Producer Maureen Imbroschiano, can be proud of the cast of *Hello, Dolly* and of the great show they will be presenting to South Plainfield this weekend.



SPHS Auditorium
April 25, 26, 27 • 7 p.m.
For tickets, call 908.745.4620



By Sharon Miller

It was a beautiful day as the weather cooperated for the beginning of the Girl's Ponytail softball season. It was a fun and exciting day and everyone had a great time.

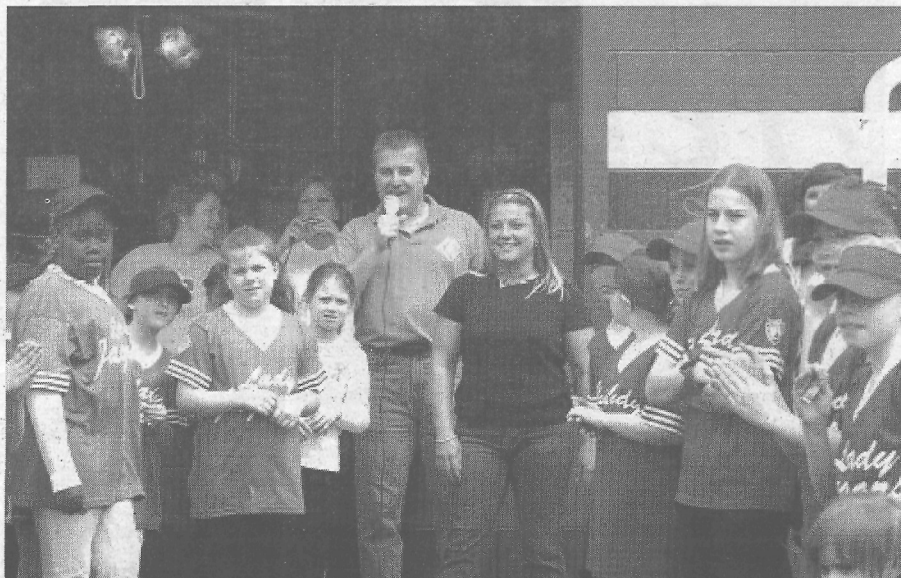
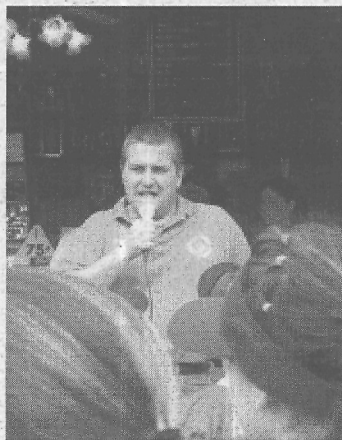
There was a large crowd on hand for the Opening Day ceremonies led by SPPPA executive board members President Steve Senz, Vice President Mark Sutherland, Rosa Szeliga-Secretary, Ron Bosse-Treasurer and Sharon Miller-Public Relations. Council president Jim Vokral and council members Ray Petronko and Charlie Butrico attended the ceremonies. Also on hand for the festivities were Recreation Director Mike English and Recreation Commission members Bill Cochrane, Mildred Waldon, and Mike DiMeglio. In attendance were SP High School assistant varsity coach Leanne Roudi and JV coach Laurie Matticola as well as team members Jessica Miller (JV 1st base), Jessica Senz (V pitcher) and Kelly Eustice (V left field).

The festivities began with Ray Petronko thanking the members of the SPPPA for volunteering their time and all of their support and hard work that goes into making Ponytail softball so successful. He also thanked all of the parents for encouraging their daughters and for attending the games and cheering on all of the players. He reminded everyone that teaching kids how to have fun is what is really important.

Steve Senz honored coach Mike DiMeglio with an award from the Ponytail Parents' Association for his many years of dedication to Ponytail softball. From the SPPPA.... a special thank you for all of your contributions to our program

On a personal note.... thank you, you have certainly made a difference and instilled in your players a love of the game of softball and the skills they need to succeed at the high school level and beyond.

Leanne Roudi was chosen to throw out the first pitch of the season to Melissa Szeliga. Leanne played on the SPHS varsity team and went on to play softball at Kean College before becoming SPHS assistant varsity coach. We are now off to a great start of another wonderful season of softball.



LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD PUBLIC NOTICE RETURN OF PERFORMANCE BOND

TO NORTHEAST DEVELOPERS INC. for public improvements at 614 Delmore Avenue - Lot 2.03, Block 366.

A public meeting has been scheduled by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield to hear objections, if any, to the release of a Performance Bond posted by NORTHEAST DEVELOPERS INC. for public improvements at 614 Delmore Avenue known as Lot 2.03, Block 366 listed on the official tax maps of the Borough of South Plainfield. Said public hearing will be held on Monday, May 20, 2002 at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

Northeast Developers Inc.
201 Shevchenko Ave.
South Plainfield, NJ 07080
\$35.00 1T April 26, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD ORDINANCE NO. 1590A

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

Ordinance #1590A entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 1440E ENTITLED: AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD AND THE METHOD OF PAYMENT OF SUCH COMPENSATION FOR THE YEARS 2001 THRU 2005 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 18, 2002 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk
\$22.00 April 26, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

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

WHEREAS, the need exists to review and audit our telephone billings from the telephone company, and

WHEREAS, the Borough has received a proposal from Telecom Plus to review the Borough's telephone billings for accuracy, and

WHEREAS, Telecom Plus' proposal does not call for any up-front cost to the Borough. Their fees are based on 50% of the savings to the Borough for 18 months, and

WHEREAS, this contract is being awarded without competitive bidding as "Professional Services" in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield that a professional services contract is hereby awarded to Telecom Plus to review and audit the Borough's telephone billings and secure any and all refunds due to the Borough.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough of South Plainfield agrees to distribute 50% of the permanent monthly savings secured for 18 months to Telecom Plus. Subsequent to the 18 months, the Borough will retain 100% of the savings realized.

Approved April 18, 2002

Daniel J. Gallagher/Mayor

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$40.00 April 26, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD ORDINANCE NO. 1592

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

Ordinance #1592 entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 48 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD ENTITLED "POLICE DEPARTMENT" 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 18, 2002 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$20.00 April 26, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

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

WHEREAS, a professional services contract was previously entered into with Lori Dvork, Attorney, to represent the Borough in certain legal matters, and

WHEREAS, a need has arisen to extend the contract with Ms. Dvork, as the matter she is representing the Borough is ongoing, and

WHEREAS, the retainer should be increased for an additional \$5,000.00, and

WHEREAS, funds have been certified and are available in the SFY 2002 Legal Budget.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield that the professional services retainer with Lori Dvork, Attorney, is hereby increased by \$5,000.00.

Approved April 18, 2002

Daniel J. Gallagher/Mayor

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$30.00 April 26, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD ORDINANCE NO. 1593

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

Ordinance #1593 entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5 ARTICLE VIII OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD ENTITLED "BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS" 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 18, 2002 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$21.00 April 26, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

April 17, 2002

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on April 16, 2002.

A. Case #62-01/SN/A-SPRINT SPECTRUM, LP.-Block 450 & 458; Lots 2 & 1 & 7; M-3 Zone; 1500-A Seymour St.-Applicant's request for modification of condition number seven of their approved resolution was hereby GRANTED, with conditions.

B. Case #17-02-ROBERT MERGNER-Block 472; Lot 18; M-3 Zone; 326 Shevchenko Ave.-Applicant's request for a use variance and side yard variances for the erection of a wood shed, deck and porch, were hereby GRANTED, with conditions.

C. Case #20-02-PAUL PANZARELLA-Block 346; Lot 8; R-10 Zone; Kosciusko Ave.-Applicant's request for a waiver of the requirement of Ordinance number 1220, was hereby GRANTED, with conditions.

ATTEST: Janice Muccilli

Secretary Zoning Board of Adjustment

\$28.00 April 26, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Arch Personal Care Products requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a portion of the lot for temporary use (6 month max) of an office trailer to be used for training reasons. Trailer not permitted in the zone and any other variances that may be required, said property being located on Block 467.01, Lot 33 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, May 18, 2002 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

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

\$35.00 1T April 26, 2002

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Professional**

**Section every Friday
for \$15 per week.
Call 668-0010 for details.**

Sports



Ponytail Softball Batters Box

By Sharon Miller

Softball Jackets—Ordering Deadline is April 28—Sportworld is offering a light lined nylon jacket in green with the players name on the front and the ponytail logo on the back. There are two styles available, zip-down and pullover. The jackets are available in both adult and youth sizes. Don't forget to use your five-dollar discount coupon supplied by the Ponytail Parents' Association. The coupons were distributed to the players on opening day. If you did not receive one, please see your coach. This coupon must be presented to Sportworld at the time you place your order. The last day to place orders is April 28.

All-Star Try-outs on May 4—Try-outs for the summer All-Star 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, 12 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.

Recreation Tag Day is May 9, 10 and 11—Our annual tag day will take place on May 9, 10 and 11. We need the participation of all players in order to make this fundraiser a success. Coaches will advise teams of their scheduled date and time.

Ponytail Softball Association Meeting on May 27—The South Plainfield Parents' Association will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, May 27 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 May 27. New members are always welcomed. Please note time change to 8 p.m.

Pool Party on 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 info will be provided in upcoming publications of the Batters Box.

All-Star Tag Day is 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 tag 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 days (please see your coach to arrange this).

Ponytail Softball Website

Visit Ponytail Softball online anytime at our website...SPONYTAIL.com. You will find the latest news/events, team rosters/schedules, game highlights/pictures, information on our Parents' Association, and All-Star teams. Please feel free to contact me by keying on the email link Webmastersponytail.com, found on our home page.

Tiger Sharks Swim and Dive Team Registration/ General Information

Registration for South Plainfield Recreation Swim/Dive teams will be Wednesday, June 5 at the pool picnic grove at 6:30 p.m. (inside PAL building if raining). The teams are free to any child ages 4-18 whose family is a full member of the pool.

The season runs from June 5 through Saturday Aug. 3. Practices are available in the mornings and evening and meets are Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.

Parental involvement is necessary to make these teams successful. Fund-raising and helping at meets is required of all families. Team suits will also be available on this evening as well as optional team wear including sweatsuits and t-shirts, etc.

If you need any other information, please call Rosanne Hardo at (732) 878-8877.

Recreation Bus Trip to See Mets

The South Plainfield Recreation Department is planning a bus trip to the New York Mets at Shea Stadium on Thursday, Aug. 12. The bus leaves the PAL at 10 a.m. The cost is \$30 per person.

Their are only 45 tickets available, on a first come basis. Register at the PAL Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m to 5 p.m.

SOCCER



Sonics Tie Summit Shadows

Playing at home, the Sonics U9 Boys played the Summit Shadows to a 3-3 draw.

The Shadows struck first with an own goal by the Sonics. On the ensuing kickoff Danny Hunt took the ball, dribbled through the center defense and scored.

The Shadows scored on a penalty kick and then a loose ball in front of the goal to go up 3-1 at halftime. Undaunted and determined, the Sonics roared back scoring on a pen-

alty kick and a goal by Anthony Cardoso.

Outstanding defense was played by Mike Dispenziere, Shaun Alers, Nick Okoszko and Nick Ross. Midfield duties were shared by Jeff Gillen and Danny Hunt.

A well balanced offense was manned by Steve Lanza, Ryan Billich and Anthony Cardoso. Goal keeping duties were by Nick Ross, Steve Lanza and Danny Hunt.

Great job Sonics!

Jersey Stallions Basketball Off To a Good Start

By Greg Machos

The High School baseball season is in full swing and the Tiger Baseball Team is off to a 7-4 start as of Saturday, April 20th. However, South Plainfield Basketball is still kicking as Mike Lanza has put together a 16 and under AAU team called the Jersey Stallions. The roster is made up of 11 players, most of which are from South Plainfield.

Many of these players played junior varsity basketball at SPHS, with the exception of Ian Robinson, Corey Gilmore and Gary Houston, who all made contributions to this past season's 14-11 campaign under Jeff Lubreski. Jerry Williamson, who plays for Bishop Ahr, is the only player that didn't play at South Plainfield this past year. Meanwhile, Mike Allocco and Jonathan Buggey did see some play at the varsity level as reserves.

Mike Lanza, who had devoted much of his free time to helping kids play basketball in South Plainfield for

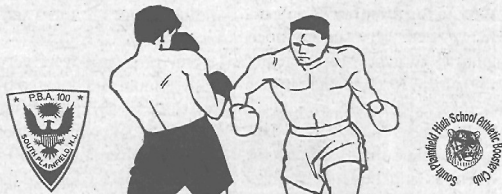
the past 15 years or so, has been really pleased with the work done by these kids. "We have had 100% attendance in practice and games. So it shows that they take it seriously. After all, most of these guys will be varsity players next year," said Lanza. In addition to the solid attendance by the players, parents and fans alike have been coming by the Anthony J. Cotoia Gymnasium for Tuesday and Thursday night games.

The starting lineup consists of Robinson, 6'4" center, Allocco, 6'2½" forward, Houston, 5'9" guard, Buggey, 5'11" guard and Corey Gilmore 5'7" point guard. The rest of the team is rounded out by Dan Pivovar, Mike Richards, Darren Smith, Ryan Decker, Derrick Smith and Jerry Williamson.

The Stallions have victories over Roselle's Running Rebels, while playing tough in a loss to Iselin's Jersey Tornados. The Stallions have gotten off to a 7-4 start and will be playing in the upcoming Iselin AAU Tournament this coming weekend.

2002 GOLDEN GLOVE SEMI FINALS

All bouts sanctioned by: NJ Association of USA Boxing Inc.



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Saturday, May 18, 2002

South Plainfield High School 200 Lake Street, South Plainfield, NJ

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Obituaries

Michael G. LaPoint, 43

Michael G. LaPoint died Monday, April 15 at Robert Wood Johnson University Medical Center in New Brunswick.

Born in Westfield, Mass., he had resided in Edison for the past 18 years.

Mr. LaPoint was employed as a sanitation worker with the Edison Twp. Public Works Department for 18 years.

He was a graduate of Westfield, Mass. High School and was an avid sports fan. He was also a member of St. Matthews RC Church in Edison.

Surviving are his wife, Rebecca L. (Mann); an aunt and uncle, George and Rose Whalen of Westfield, Mass. Also surviving are two additional aunts and several cousins.

Funeral services were held by McCriskin Home for Funerals.

formerly of Plainfield for 25 years before retiring in 1988.

William served his country during WWII in the United States Army.

He was a member of the Cedarcroft Bible Chapel in South Plainfield, where he served as a trustee for 10 years and was active with the youth group for many years. He was a former Scout Master for Troop 117 in North Plainfield and Troop 325 in South Plainfield. He was a volunteer at Franklin School in South Plainfield with the Senior Reading Program.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Margaret Eyan Flynn; two sons, William Flynn Jr. and Craig and his wife Cari Flynn, both of South Plainfield; a brother, Edward of Port Charlotte, Fla.; two sisters, Catherine Flynn and Thelred Dudick, both of Wilkes Barre, Pa.; his grandchildren, Daniel, Adam, Maghan and Kaitlin Flynn.

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

William G. Flynn Sr., 78,

William G. Flynn Sr. of South Plainfield died on Wednesday, April 17 at the Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

He was born in Wilkes Barre Township, Pa. and was a former resident of North Plainfield, before moving to South Plainfield 30 years ago.

Mr. Flynn was a construction worker for the Laborers International Union of North American Local 394,

Evelyn E. (Warren) Biglan, 88

Evelyn E. (Warren) Biglan, a most beloved grandmother and mother, died on Saturday, April 20 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Mrs. Biglan lived in South Plainfield with her granddaughter, Dawn, for the past seven years and had previously resided in Linden for many years.

She was the strength, the courage and the love of her families lives.

She is predeceased by her husband, Robert and her three children, David, Linda Smith and Diane Pintozzi.

Surviving are a daughter, Lorraine Dinardo of Roselle Park and a son, Robert of Florida; 17 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

The Broadway Kids to Perform

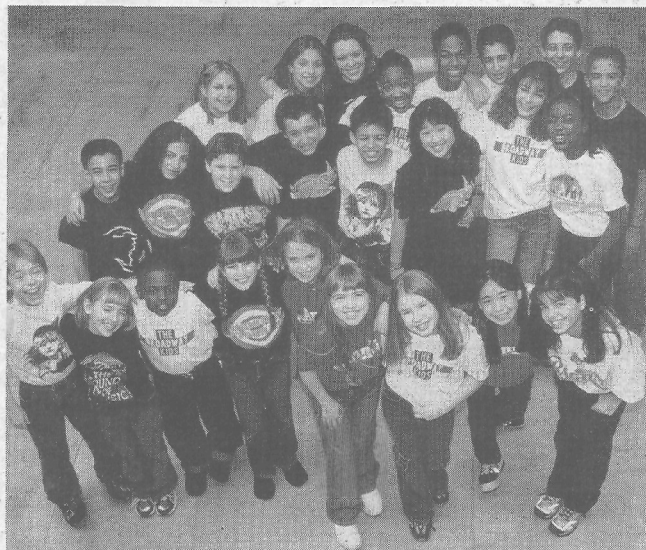
The South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission in Association with The South Plainfield Friends of The Arts, proudly presents *The Broadway Kids*. On Saturday, May 4 *The Broadway Kids* will perform at the South Plainfield High School Auditorium at 1 p.m.

The Broadway Kids, Broadway's most talented young stars, became an instant hit in 1994 when they recorded their first album, *The Broadway Kids Sing Broadway*. The group was started by New York ophthalmologist Dr. Julius Shulman when his 10-year-old son, Michael, was cast as Gavroche in *Les Miserables* on Broadway. When Dr. Shulman couldn't find an album of songs sung by kids on Broadway, he produced the group's first album with Michael and seven of his young colleagues.

Since then, The Broadway Kids have recorded four other albums. They are currently releasing *The Best of Broadway* CD.

The Broadway Kids Sing Broadway presents samplings from some of America's best-loved musicals including *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Oliver*, *Peter Pan* and *Les Miserables*. They have been featured on *The Rosie O'Donnell Show*, *Live with Regis and Kathie Lee* and *The Lena Horne 80th Birthday Tribute* and have performed at the NBA All-Star game at Madison Square Garden, The Presidential Easter Egg Roll at the White House and have performed for thousands at the closing ceremonies of the Goodwill Games.

Performing on May 4 will be *Melissa O'Malley* who originated Kate in the 20th anniversary production of *Annie* (national tour and Broadway). Her theater credits include *Hansel and Gretel* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Television credits include *Soul Man*,



Bloopy's Buddies and the pilot of *Cooking With Cartoons*.

Gemini Quintos has played a munchkin in *The Wizard of Oz* and Young Fan in *A Christmas Carol*. She portrayed Kate and was the understudy for Molly in the 20th anniversary Broadway production of *Annie*. Gemini also appeared in the staged reading of *King Island Christmas* and performed in *Nothin' Like a Dame*.

Jesse Nathanson Greenwald has played the role of Jason in *Falsettos* and appeared as David Herskowitz in *Rags*. He also performed in New York Voices of 2000; The Band on Broadway. He has other community theater credits also.

Max Tuma was recently seen on Broadway playing Gavroche in *Les Miserables*. His other theater roles include *Mame* and *Scrooge*. He appeared in the films *The Sixth Sense* and *Jesus' Son*.

Ryan Rumbaugh had the opportunity at age 15 to dance on MTV's

Video Music Awards with NSYNC and is currently dancing with the NY Knicks Kids. Theatrical credits include *Les Miserables*, local community theater in *Oliver*, *Gypsy*, *Flower Drum Song*, *The King and I*, *Thing of a Garden* and *Oklahoma*.

Kathleen Curran was most recently seen on the New York stage as Jinny in the York Theatre Company reading of *Homespun* and *Hogwash*. She made her professional debut at age seven as Molly in *Annie* and has appeared *A Christmas Carol*. Other productions include *Gypsy* and *The Music Man* and frequently appears with the Sugar Bears.

Tickets are available for \$10 at The Bagel Stop, Ralph's Italian Ice and Law Office of Suzanne Lyte, all located on South Plainfield Ave. Support our schools. The profits will be donated to the four South Plainfield Elementary Schools' Playground Funds!

For more information call (908) 753-0444.

IN MY OPINION

Continued from page 2

everyone know what kind of teacher our kids are dealing with.

My daughter had a blouse and skirt on the other day and the teacher thought the blouse was a little low in the front and she told her so. I'm her mother. I should know what my daughter is wearing in the morning and it was not low. They made her put a pin on it, which I let slide because she didn't need a pin, but what came after that was unbelievable. The teacher said that my daughter looked like a slut and that she should go walk the streets of Harlem and 42nd. Can you believe a teacher telling this to a thirteen year-old? I was appalled when I got the phone call from my daughter who was crying and upset, she did not want to stay in school. She wanted to leave she was so embarrassed.

The teacher is lucky that I did not get out of work and go right to the school and kick her. When it comes to my kid, no one, and I mean no one, messes with my kids, they are my life. I'm sure everyone who has kids would feel the same way. I always said that the Middle School teachers have a problem when it comes to dealing with the kids at that school. They should go and get some pointers from the South Plainfield High School teachers who are caring and understanding and know how to handle children of that age group. Mr. Superintendent, my daughter better get an apology from the school and the teacher better stay clear of my daughter because this will be your responsibility. You are the one who hires these type of teachers.

AN ANGRY MOTHER

To the Editor,

As the director of Jo-Anni's Dance Studio - The Performing Arts Centre, in South Plainfield, and on behalf of Le Centre Dance Ensemble, our resident dance company, I would like to take this opportunity to express my most heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make our Benefit Performance for Autism Awareness on Saturday, Apr. 6, a huge success. With your help we were able to realize our ambitious goal of \$5,000, which will be donated to the Center for Outreach and Services for the Autism Community (COSAC). But even more importantly, we were very successful in bringing an awareness of the many faces of autism to the people in our community.

A very special thank you to Tara Faulkner-Catalina, the artistic director of Le Centre Dance Ensemble and also to Jill Cookingham. Kim Miller and Cheryl Biggins, who donated their time and their artistic talents to help choreograph and stage this wonderful display of dance and gymnastics which was enjoyed by all 300 people who attended this performance. A great big thank you also goes to Trish Suthphen, director of Feigley's School of Gymnastics, for allowing us the use of the gym for our performance, and for lending us the talents of Feigley's own award-winning Bridgettes Gymnastics Team.

To Pattie Abbott, we so appreciate all the time and energy you put into this event with your wonderful and heartwarming articles and photos, which appeared in several newspapers. To Nancy Grennier, editor of *The*

South Plainfield Observer, thank you, once again, for the fantastic coverage you've given us for this event. Thank you to Cindy Rayho for doing a great job with publicity. To Hometown Heros and Sunnyside Deli, thank you for donating food and drink for our performers. To Ellen Langreth of Gym Bin, your generosity and contributions from the profits of the sale of dancewear and gymnastics apparel is greatly appreciated. To Corona Hanley, a great big thank you for the very special trophies for the kids who attend the Gymnastics Class for the Developmentally Disabled students. It meant so much to them and to their parents.

Our programs were very generously printed and donated by Richie and Jeannie DiPinto from Presto Printing in S.P., while Domenick and Johanna Salvemini (from Johanna's Creations in S.P.) donated their time, talents, creativities and the use of their sound system, for this worthy cause. Thank you also to the many local merchants who donated cash, raffle prizes and door prizes.

But most of all, I thank all of our students and their parents for their dedication, generous contributions and hard work in putting together this successful production. And lastly, to the people who came out to enjoy the evening and to support us in this endeavor, we hope you enjoyed yourselves as much as we enjoyed putting it together and performing for you. THANK YOU!

SINCERELY,
JO-ANN FAULKNER

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Couple Charged With Child Endangerment

Mariana Balladares-Ganan, 46 of Plainfield and Pablo J. Chico, 36 of North Plainfield were arrested on Wednesday and charged with endangering the welfare of a child.

The two were shopping at Home Depot on Hamilton Blvd. when a good samaritan noticed an infant alone in a vehicle with the windows closed and called police.

When Police Officer Wendall Born arrived, the nine month old girl had been taken out of the car by the caller. Police identified the owner of the vehicle through DMV and were paged inside Home Depot.

Bail was set by South Plainfield Municipal Court Judge John Jorgensen at \$10,000. Ganan and

Chico were remanded to the Middlesex County Adult Correctional Facility in lieu of bail.

The baby, who was unharmed was placed under the care of the NJ Division of Youth and Family Services.

Rescue Squad March Calls

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad announced that they answered 152 calls during the month of March, for a total of 362 man hours.

There were 130 emergency calls, 13 motor vehicle accidents, five fire calls and four transportations.

policereport

• On April 16 a Robert Pl. resident reported that while she was out of town a friend, who had keys to her home, had used her credit card which had just come in the mail. She also found her coffee table broken and two phones ripped off the walls.

• A Clinton Ave. resident reported that someone had slipped the lock of her vehicle's passenger front door and stole an AM/FM CD player, camera equipment and 100 CD's.

• On April 17 Vitalino Avila, 35 of Plainfield was arrested for obstruction of justice and resisting arrest after a bar fight at Sal's Spirit Shoppe on Park Ave.

• The Courier News reported the theft of a newspaper vending machine from the corner of Montrose and So. Clinton avenues.

• On April 18 an employee of Fiserv Co. on Cragwood Dr. reported the theft of her wallet from her cubical at work.

• Robert Roth, owner of Silver Creek Landscaping reported the theft of a Stihl chainsaw and backpack leaf blower from a job site at Just Packaging on Oak Tree Ave.

• An employee of Liquid Assets on New Market Ave. reported the theft of her purse from the changing room.

• On Saturday a Central Ave. resident reported that someone had smashed his rear window with a large rock which was found in the back seat.

• On Sunday a Christopher Ave. woman reported the theft of her wallet while she was at Spring Lake Park.

• An employee of Exxon on Park Ave. reported that two black males in their early twenties, walked into the store and asked

for change of a \$20. When the employee removed \$300 in cash from his pocket, one of the men grabbed the money and fled.

• On Monday Jeff Brown, owner of Quality Medical Group on So. Clinton Ave. reported that upon returning to work, he noticed pry marks on the security plate on the outside warehouse door. He also noticed pry marks on the lock of the office entrance door. There was no entrance into the office and nothing was taken.

Classifieds

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Twilight Stroll Benefits Kids With Cancer

By Patricia Abbott

Century 21 Moretti Realty's Twilight Stroll for Life was a healthy choice all around. The late afternoon walk around Spring Lake Park offered not only exercise, but a chance to raise money for children fighting cancer. The successful event raised \$5,000 for The Institute for Children with Cancer and Blood Disorders located at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

Several area businesses supported the walk, donating funds or services allowing Moretti Realty to donate 100% of the money raised to the institute. Lending a hand were Halls Trucking, Manuel P. Sanchez, Esq. and Valley National Bank, all of South Plainfield, along with Lanier Worldwide, Inc. of Monroe Township and Wells Fargo Home Mortgage in Cranford.

The gazebo was filled with activity as Guy and Toni Moretti and other volunteers collected registration fees, sponsor donations and distributed T-shirts bearing the "Open Your Heart" logo. Everyone received a goodie bag containing a rainbow ribbon pin, Forget-me-not flower seeds, literature, candy and a glow stick to light up the twilight sky. Participants strolled, jogged, skated and biked around the lake in support of children with cancer.

Dina Capparelli brought her three daughters and niece Tracey Cihanowyz. The girls were excited to be a part of the walk. Cassie said, "I was in the walk-a-thon because I wanted to help the children with cancer. It also makes me feel good to help others. My sisters Jennifer and Ashley and cousin Tracey and I also had fun asking people to sponsor us." Her cousin agreed with her, Tracey said, "I did the walk-a-thon to help children with cancer. My cousins and I raised \$27. It made me feel good to help sick kids. I hope this will make them better."

Proceeds from the walk will help support the "Our House" project. When a child is ill with a life threatening disease everyday family life disappears as focus is put on the child. "Our House" is a family respite that offers a comfortable place for families of ill children where they can spend a few hours as a family while a child is being treated. The building, located at 121 Somerset St. in New Brunswick, is within walking distance to Children's Hospital and Cancer Institute. Guests can cook a family meal, do laundry, take a shower, participate in support groups, use the internet or just relax.

Guy Moretti explained how they became involved with the institute. "A group of agents were interested in giving back to the community which has supported our business for 40 years. We searched for a cause for about a year." A close friend of the Moretti family has a child with leukemia. All they could offer were prayer when so much more was needed. Moretti said, "I explained to our staff how not only the child was affected but the entire family." The institute fills that need, supporting the family as a whole. Moretti and staff members visited the Institute and spoke with pediatric oncologist Barton Kamen, M.D., Ph.D. who told them about the "Our House" project. They had found the ideal way to give back to the community, helping children.

Moretti Realty sponsored their first fundraiser for "Our House" about 18 months ago, an evening cruise on the Cornucopia Princess

traveling from Perth Amboy to the Statue of Liberty. The event raised \$5,000. A second cruise held six months later raised \$10,000. "Our House" was officially dedicated on Feb. 14, 2002. Moretti Realty's Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer Foundation and other sponsors attended a dinner in their honor that evening. A third cruise, scheduled for Oct. 5, is currently being organized.

For more information on the cruise call Toni Moretti at (908) 755-5051 ext 406 or email MorettiT@C21moretti.com. Information about Our House or Children Battling Cancer Foundation can be found at Institute for Children.org.

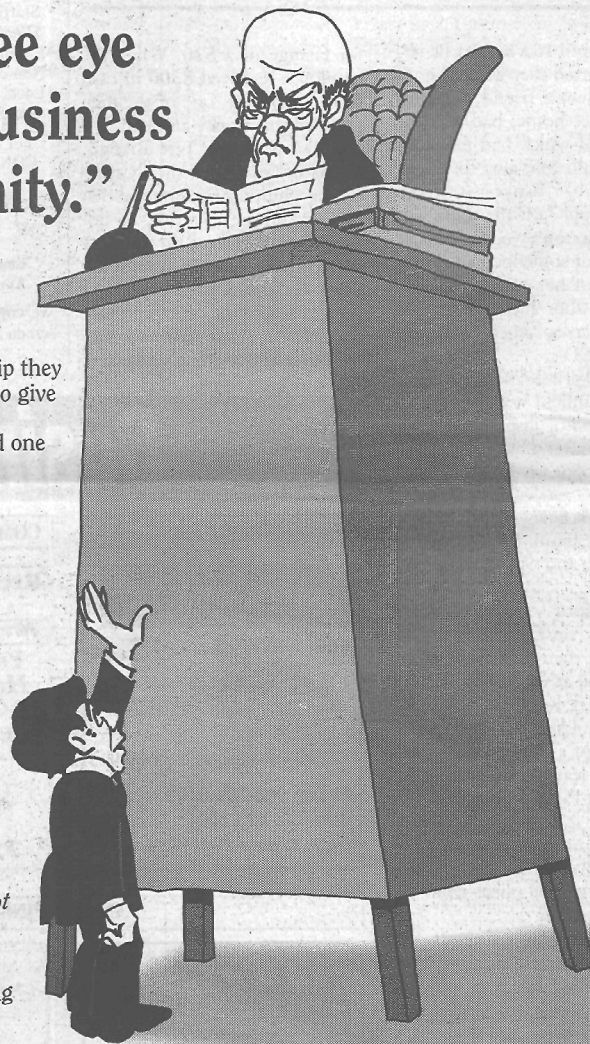


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