

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 5, NO. 36

50 CENTS

MAY 3, 2002

THISWEEKEND

SATURDAY

◆ Spring Craft Fair

The South Plainfield Elks Lodge #2298 on New Market Ave. will hold a craft fair on Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 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 Perform at SPHS

The South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission in Association with The South Plainfield Friends of The Arts proudly presents *The Broadway Kids* on Saturday at SPHSAuditorium 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.

Come out to support your schools. Profits will go to South Plainfield Elementary Schools' Playground Funds!

For information, call Susan Lyte at (908) 753-0444.

SUNDAY

◆ VFW Country Breakfast

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

For information, call (908) 668-9751 after 3 p.m. daily, noon on weekends.

◆ Animal Hospital 50th Anniversary

The Plainfield Animal Hospital is celebrating its 50th Anniversary. To honor this milestone, the animal hospital is hosting an "Open House" on Sunday, 1-4 p.m. The event will feature tours of the hospital, pet-related information, giveaways and a barbecue lunch.

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

Last Chance to Register to Vote!!

Clerks Office Open Monday Evening

The Borough Clerk's Office will be open Monday, May 6, from 5-9 p.m. for voter registration.

This is the last day to register for the June 4 primary.



SPHS Winter Guard and Indoor Marching Percussion Line both took First Place in last weekend's competition at Wayne Valley High School, competing in the Chapter 10 Scholastic Novice Division. The Winter Guard scored 85.7 and the Drum Line, 81.6, in the Haddon Heights competition held the previous week. Winter Guard scored 83.7 and the Drum Line, 72.3 This weekend's competition, the Championship Finals in Wildwood may well bring home two new SPHS Champions. Watch next week's *Observer* for the SPHS version of *WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!*



Riley Read-A-Thon Benefits Classmate

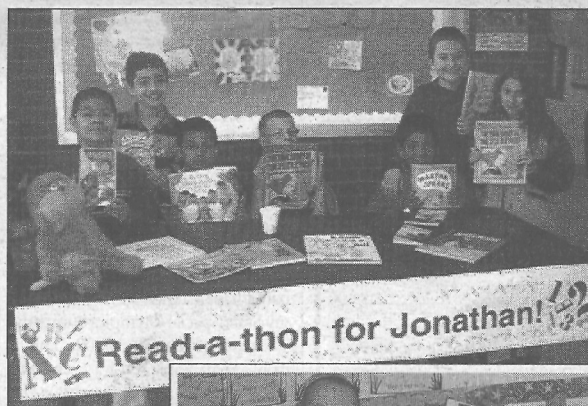
Local Family Victim of House Fire, Classmates Rally to Raise Funds

Two weeks ago, Roosevelt School third grader Jonathan Romero and his family were victims of a house fire that destroyed their home on Belmont Ave.

They were forced to flee their burning house with nothing more than the clothes on their backs. Jonathan ran from his home without the shoes on his feet. The Romero's, suddenly homeless, didn't have renters insurance.

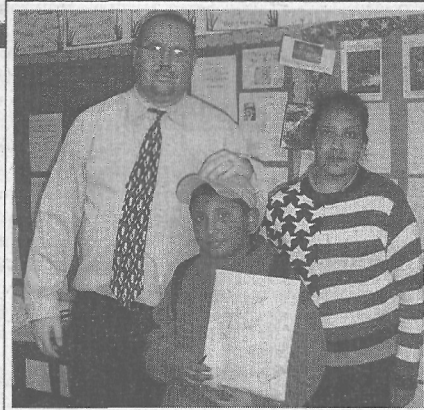
Fourth grade Roosevelt School Student Council member Britney Alvarado came up with the idea of holding a Read-a-Thon to help her fellow classmate. Students were asked to get pledges of fifty cents per hour and to dedicate 30 minutes of reading time for Jonathan. The enthusiastic students collected \$1,591, which was given to his grateful mother after school that same day.

School Counselor Margaret Mosley said that Jonathan's classmates also collected clothing for him and that teachers were pitching in to buy a suit for Jonathan's upcoming First Holy Communion.



(Above) Jonathan Romero is seated bottom right, with his classmates at the recent Read-a-Thon held for his benefit.

Pictured right are Jonathan Romero, Riley School teacher Michael Bertram and Jonathan's mother, Anna Maria Morales.



Hadley Center A&P Closing Pathmark on Hadley Blvd. to Relocate

A recent trip to A&P in Hadley Center on Stelton Rd. revealed shelves that are becoming quite bare. *The Observer* has learned that the store is slated to close in about three weeks. Merchandise is being redistributed to other nearby A&P stores. The exact date for closing has not yet been set.

After the A&P closes its doors, renovations will take place and a Pathmark store will open.

According to the Store Manager,

Jim Szymczyk, Pathmark on Hadley Rd. will be closing on May 24 and reopening in early June at the Hadley Center location. However, Rich Savner, from the Pathmark public relations office in Carteret, said that no contract has been signed as of this date.

Several Pathmark stores, including the one on Hadley Blvd., have recently posted signs saying that they will no longer be open 24 hours a day due to the lack of volume.

Man Dies After Auto Accident

On Monday morning a 1989 Honda Accord operated by Mohammed Samiuddin, age 31, of Edison, was struck by a 2001 Hyundai Tiburon operated by Jennifer Resil, age 25, also of Edison, at the intersection of New Durham Rd. and Durham Ave.

According to the police, the vehicle operated by Samiuddin was apparently turning left from eastbound New Durham Ave. in front of the vehicle operated by Resil, who was westbound on New Durham Ave.

Samiuddin was transported to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick and admitted in extremely critical condition, suffering from a head injury. On Wednesday, May 1, he died from those injuries.

Resil was transported to John F. Kennedy Medical Center in Edison for treatment of a laceration to her head and a leg injury and released.

Neither driver was wearing a seatbelt, but airbags deployed in the Hyundai. The Honda had no airbags.

Police from South Plainfield and Piscataway responded, along with the South Plainfield Rescue Squad and Fire Department. An ambulance from Rural Metro and Paramedics from Muhlenberg Hospital Mercy 6 also responded.

Sgt. Kevin Murta of the South Plainfield Police Traffic Safety Unit is asking any witnesses to the crash contact him at (908) 226-7679. There are no charges are pending.

Man Found Dead in RV Identified as Frank Squero

South Plainfield police have identified the man found dead in an RV camper last Tuesday as 55 year-old borough resident Frank Squero.

Squero, who had lived on Sprague Ave., reportedly moved into a camper which was parked in his brother's driveway on Sampton Ave. on April 4. Apparently no one had seen nor heard from Squero for several days and no one had a key to the camper. Concerned, his brother called the police. The door to the camper was forced open and Squero's body was discovered. Apparently he had been dead for some time.

According to relatives, Squero had been in poor health for some time. An autopsy report showed nothing suspicious about his death.



Parents were at the Kennedy School on Saturday starting to erect their new playground equipment. See story on page 7.

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, 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 (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Avenue.

planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. (starting in May at 7p.m.) • Questions? 908-226-7641

May 14, May 28, June 1, June 25

zoning board of adjustment

Meets on Thursdays (see new dates)

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

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

New Dates

The fourth Thursday of the month as follows:

May 28, June 25, July 23, Aug. 27, Sept. 24, Oct. 22 and Nov. 26

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.- May 14, June 11, July (no meeting), Aug.

13, Sept. 10, Oct. 8, Nov. 12, Dec. 10, Jan. 14, 2003, Feb. 11, March 11, April 1.

Regular Board Mtg., held on Tuesdays, at 8 p.m.-May 21, June 18, July (no meeting), Aug. 20,

Sept. 17, Oct. 15, Nov. 19, Dec. 17, Jan. 21, 2003, Feb. 18, March 18, April 8.

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

May 22, June 26, July 24,

(Aug. no meeting), Sept. 25, Oct. 23, Nov. 27 and Dec. 18

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 sposerver.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 sposerver.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.

To the Editor,

On behalf of the students, staff and PTSO at John E. Riley School, I would like to thank Mary Hendri from Rita's Italian Ice in South Plainfield, for her generous donation of Italian Ice, cups, book covers, pencils and coupons for our Read-a-Thon Italian Ice party which was held on April 19 at John E. Riley School.

Not only did Mary donate everything we needed for our party, but she also sent two of her employees to school to help us serve the ice. Without their help, we never would have been able to serve 400 children in such a short period of time.

The party was a great success. The children enjoyed the ices, the girls who came to help were great and working with Mary was a real pleasure. It is people like Mary Hendri who make South Plainfield the wonderful, family oriented town that it is.

Thank you Mary!
**SINCERELY,
JAN PARELLO AND HOPE
COTONE**

Dear Editor,

On March 27, the Special Olympians of South Plainfield took part in the 2002 Middlesex/Union County Track & Field Special Olympics at Carteret High School. The results of this day were exceptional.

Throughout the last six weeks, the athletes put in countless hours of training and preparation for their events. Although some of the days were brutally hot, the athletes continued to practice and sharpen their skills for all of their events. In the end, the athlete's hard work and dedication proved worthwhile. At the end of the day, the bus ride back to South Plainfield was once again a proven success. The fourteen athletes managed to secure 13 gold medals, nine silver medals, six bronze medals, one fourth place ribbon and one fifth place ribbon. With the help of the unified team, which included parents and high school students, the athletes won four more gold medals and eight silver medals. The results were one of the best finishes by any South Plainfield team in recent memory. Every athlete that participated has qualified for the New Jersey State Special Olympics during the weekend of May 31, 2002. This is truly a remarkable feat for such dedicated individuals. Throughout the beautiful day, the athletes managed to push themselves to reach personal goals, while portraying exceptional sportsmanship.

The Special Olympics oath is, "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt." Each one of our athletes portrayed this oath fully and should be commended for their courage, sportsmanship and joy in each event they participated in. Every athlete pushed their limits and managed to secure positive results.

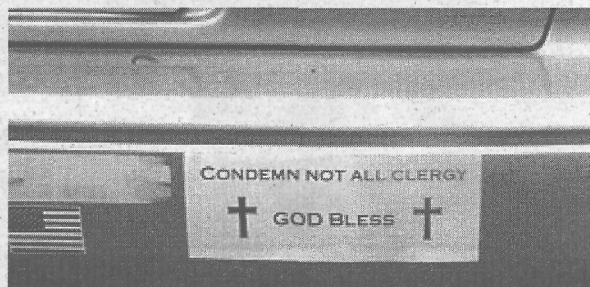
Without their coach, Addison Williams, the athletes would not have been able to participate, nor have as much fun as they did. Coach Addison's heartfelt dedication to his athletes is truly inspirational.

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 sposerver.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.

IN MY OPINION



Have you seen this bumper sticker on a car around South Plainfield? It says "Condemn Not All Clergy." When asked, the driver, who didn't want us to use his name, said he made the bumper sticker to remind people that we should not be condemning all clergy for the sins of a just few.

I would personally like to thank Kathy Boyle, whose cheers and encouragement in practice and on the day of the event, helped push the athlete's to accomplish remarkable results. Also, I would like to thank the high school students who spent their day with the athletes and provided them with support and care.

Once again I would like to congratulate all of the athletes for a job well done. Your exceptional poise and commitment to success on the day of the event proved to be well worth the hard work. I am personally honored to be a part of such wonderful athletes. The determination and commitment that was portrayed on April 27, will definitely extend on to The College of New Jersey for the New Jersey State Special Olympics. Good luck at States!

KEVIN HAJDUK, VOLUNTEER

To the Editor,

I am the fiercely proud mother of a very talented student at the South Plainfield High School. My son, along with his fantastic fellow performers, put on a show last weekend that had the audiences cheering night after night.

I never miss an opportunity to tell people about the deep well of talent, heart and dedication we have in our kids in the arts programs in our schools, but I was very happy after reading Patricia Abbott's wonderful *Hello Dolly* article featuring the incredible work of the orchestra and the stage crew.

Our performing kids are the heart and soul of these plays, but those hardworking kids in the shadows are the backbone that keeps them all standing straight and tall. I want to personally thank stage manager Lory Alcaro and all of the parents who worked tirelessly to make our actors shine on stage.

And Lory, thanks forever for that

generous piece of your heart you give to all of our kids. And, for anyone in South Plainfield who didn't attend a performance of *Hello Dolly*, boy, did you miss the best our town has to offer.

**THANK YOU ALL,
N. J. BARON**

To The Editor

I want to take the time to say thank you to the voters of South Plainfield for their support for myself and the school budget on April 16. It is now time to go forward with all the items that need to be addressed, such as the education initiatives, building programs, budget issues and maintenance of facilities.

I will be the chairperson for the Curriculum/Technology and student activity. We hold our meetings on the first Wednesday of the month. This is a COW meeting, which means that it is open to the public as well as all the Board members. I invite you as the voters of South Plainfield, to attend.

Thank you again and I am looking forward to serving the voters and the children of South Plainfield for the next three years.

KEN LAFRENIERE

To the Editor,

On the evening of April 11, I attended a meeting with other concerned parents of the Future Stars preschool program, Future Stars teaching staff, Administrators, representatives from the police, fire dept., BOE and the construction company to brainstorm suggestions and solutions to the parking problem at the Future Stars/Grant School Six School. I thought the ideas would be researched in the next few weeks which would result in a more convenient and safe method of dropping off and picking up our young children. A plan that

Continued on page 12

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Oven Gold		Pepper Jack Cheese	6 ⁹⁹
Turkey Breast	6 ⁹⁹	Provolone Cheese	3 ⁹⁹
Cheddar Cheese	5 ⁹⁹		
Cappicola	6 ⁹⁹	Fresh Salads	
Roast Beef	7 ⁹⁹	Homemade	
Bologna	4 ²⁵	Potato Salad	3 ⁵⁰
Spiced Ham	4 ²⁵	Macaroni Salad	2 ⁵⁰
Genoa Salami	6 ⁹⁹	Coleslaw	2 ⁹⁹
Pepperoni	5 ⁹⁹	Roasted Pepper Salad	3 ⁹⁹
Maple Turkey Breast	6 ⁹⁹	Fresh Mozzarella	5 ⁹⁹

908-757-5855 • Fax 908-757-7735

Breakfast • Lunch Hot & Cold Sandwiches

Kennedy, Riley Schools Offer Kindergarten Orientation

'Get Acquainted' at Kennedy School

John F. Kennedy School PTO will be holding 'Get Acquainted' classes for all students who will be attending kindergarten at JFK in September.

The purpose of the class is to familiarize the students with the school and staff. Hopefully any anxieties the children may have about coming to a new school will be alleviated.

Some of the activities during the program are visits to the school nurse, principal and taking a mini-bus ride.

The sessions for Get Acquainted

will be held on Friday, May 10, 17 and 24, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. and 12:30 to 2 p.m.

Parents may register for the program in the Kennedy School main office between 9 and 11 a.m. or 1 and 3 p.m., from Monday through Friday. Registration must be completed by May 3.

If you need more information about 'Get Acquainted,' please call the Kennedy School office at (908)754-4620.

John E. Riley School to Offer Three Sessions

The John E. Riley PTO will be holding Kindergarten Orientation on consecutive Wednesdays on May 8, 15, and 22. This program is designed to acclimate incoming kindergarten school children.

Registration for kindergarten will be in person on May 6, 1:30-2:30 p.m. in the lobby of Riley School, for any child who will be entering Kindergarten at Riley School in September 2002. Parents should bring the child's birth certificate.

The cost of registering for orientation is \$3 for each child.

There will be two sessions, Wednesday in the morning from 9 to 10:30 a.m. and in the afternoon from 12 to

1:30 p.m.

Each session will introduce incoming kindergarten students to the Riley kindergarten teachers, physical education, art, music teachers, principal, school nurse, etc. The transportation department will be on hand to speak to the children about school bus safety and will take the children on a bus ride. Crafts, stories and snacks will be provided.

This is a fun program designed to take the anxiety out of entering a new school environment in September.

If you have any questions please contact Dawn Jefferys 755-3986 or Jennifer Gonzalas 226-0686.



Kenneth Quin and Andrew McCarthy help Alice Tempel plant a tree behind the South Plainfield Library last Friday in celebration of Arbor Day. The tree, from the Famous and Historic Tree Program, was donated by the Friends of the Woods and the South Plainfield Environmental Commission. The River Farm Chaste tree is a specimen from the renowned Potomac River horticultural site, once owned by George Washington. This is the second year a tree was planted behind the library.

South Plainfield in National Spotlight

People all across the United States are reading about South Plainfield in the *National Wildflower Week* (NWW) brochures. A full page is devoted to the borough, applauding the community's example and celebration of this annual event, which is recognized May 5-11, the first full week in May. The cover of the brochure was designed by Sara Miele, a talented student at SPHS.

National Wildflower Week was founded by its present national coordinator, Charlie Spencer, SFO, and was originally sponsored in 1989 by the American Wildflower Society. When the AWS disbanded in 1992, National Wildflower Week was left without a sponsor. The Secular Franciscan Order, USA, adopted sponsorship in 1995 through Spencer's suggestion and proposal. Today, the list of sponsors includes the National Council of Women of the US, Environmental Alliance for Senior Involvement, The Groundwater Foundation, Center for Plant Conservation, Penn State University Urban Extension, Eastern Native Tree Society, and Tree of Peace Society.

The focus of the organization is to encourage the observation, cultivation, and study of native wildflowers as a means of deepening humankind's relationship, and commitment to protect and care for the ecological integrity of "Mother Earth."

Mayor Dan Gallagher has officially recognized NWW with a proclamation and with the help of local officials and representatives of contribut-

ing organizations, will dedicate the new Children's Wildflower Garden on May 4. The garden will be installed at the Public Library by the High School Environmental Club and National Honor Society. Girl Scout Troop 116 will paint the plant identification markers.

The library will showcase a month-long botanical art exhibition by local students, and will feature books on wildflowers and related subjects in the display cases. A volume reference of plant species found at the reserve, compiled over six years by Sarah Miele, a senior at the high school, will also be displayed. Miss Linda, the Children's Librarian, will conduct "Storytime" programs on wildflowers and incorporate flower crafts. Packets of wildflower seeds will be given out to the children to plant at home. A coloring book of local native wildflowers found in the reserve will be available for duplication by the library, schools and scouting groups.

The Friends of the Woods will give two programs: a Wildflower Walk at Highland Woods Environmental

Education Reserve on Sunday, May 5 at 1 p.m.; and a Birdwatching Walk on the grounds of the Middlesex Water Company on Saturday, May 11 at 7:30 a.m. Birdwatchers will meet at the corner of Park and Sprague avenues near Burger King in South Plainfield and utilize the Park Lane entrance to the MWC.

Two National Wildflower Week Meadow Gardens will be planted on the grounds of the High School, and the Terra Nova Garden will plant gardens at Borough Hall and the Public Works building. Drought tolerant species are recommended for all community plantings.

The Highland Woods Reserve is located on Sylvania Pl., off South Clinton Ave. For more information, call Dr. Alice Tempel, (908) 226-7621 or Dorothy Miele, (908) 754-3073. E-mail questions to: SPNatureTrails@cs.com or visit our website at: <http://community.nj.com/cc/friends-of-the-woods>. The National Wildflower Week brochure can be found at: www.nationalwildflowerweek.com.

Parents' Ponytail Association Offering College Scholarships

The Parents' Ponytail Association is sponsoring two \$500 college scholarships. Applications are currently being accepted and may be obtained from SPHS Guidance office. To qualify for the scholarships the applicant must be a high school senior graduating this June, a current resident of South Plainfield, and have played for

a minimum of three years in the South Plainfield Recreation Department's Ponytail Softball League.

Filing deadline is May 17. All completed applications should be returned to SPPPA, P.O. Box 441, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Verification of school enrollment is required prior to funds being awarded.



The South Plainfield Police Department were at Bright Horizons Day Care recently giving car seat checks. Officer Dave Franchek is checking Anna Rupakula Ashwin's car seat.

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Girl Scout Troop Looking for "Overnight Bag" Donations

South Plainfield High School freshman Cadette Girl Scout Troop #375 are putting together "overnight bags" for children in foster care. They are seeking donations of new and unused small personal size hair care products such as shampoo and conditioner along with brushes, combs and hair ties.

From May 6-17 a box can be found in the mail lobby of Kennedy School for placement of these items. Contributions will be greatly appreciated as this will satisfy the needs of the children and fulfill their Silver Award requirements.

If you have any question please call Nichole Sutherland (908) 754-5283 or Alyssa or Aimee Maiorino at (908) 668-1155.

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Sun 11am-4pm

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Events Around Town

SP Seniors Meeting

May 3

The South Plainfield Senior Citizens (the Adult School Seniors) will meet at the PAL Building at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, May 3. Refreshments will be served. Please call (908) 754-1047 for transportation.

Fundraiser to Help Roosevelt School

May 8

McDonald's will be holding a McEducat 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 Child Care 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 extractions 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.

Sacred Heart Church's Funstival

May 14-18

This year's Sacred Heart Funstival, in it's 26th year, will feature the same great food, popular games and wheels of chance, but a completely new assortment of rides.

The Funstival takes place Tuesday, May 14 through Saturday, May 18. Hours are Tuesday through Friday 6 p.m. until closing and Saturday 2 p.m. until closing.

Freshly prepared foods will be available at reasonable prices. Some of the featured foods include, BBQ sticks, pizza frita, stuffed cabbage, hamburgers and zepoli from Filiponio, Italian, Polish and American food booth.

"Pay-one-price" wrist bands will be sold on Tuesday evening and Saturday afternoon only. Wrist bands will be good on Tuesday until closing and Saturday afternoon from 2 to 5 p.m.

South Plainfield's Back Splash will be the featured band on Saturday evening from 6 p.m. until closing. The group will play from the band stand located in the food court.

Advance rides tickets are available until May 13 at a 50 percent saving. Advanced tickets can be purchased by calling the Parish Center at (908) 756-0633, ext. 10 or Ginny at (908) 757-6057.

The Funstival takes place adjacent to Sacred Heart School on South Plainfield Ave. Plenty of parking is available.

Community Pool Free Open House

May 27

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.

Phantom of the Opera Tickets Still 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.

SPHS Class of 1969 Reunion Planned

August 31

South Plainfield High School Reunion Class of 1969 will be reunited on August 31, 2002 at the Willows Restaurant, Washington Rd., Green Brook. For more information call Jody Buccellato at (404) 847-0960 or Elizabeth Don at (732) 942-5170.

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.

Seniors' Trip to the Woodlock Pines

Oct. 28-Nov. 1

The South Plainfield Senior Citizens are planning a trip to Woodlock Pines from Oct. 28 thru Nov. 1.

If you are interested or have questions please call Leader Mikie Panzarella at (908) 755-2487.

SPHS Class of 1982 Reunion

November 9

South Plainfield High School Class of 1982 announced that plans are underway for their 20 year reunion. The date has been set for Saturday, Nov. 9. If you have a new address or know of other classmates' whereabouts, please contact Rosanne Demico-Ilardo at (732) 878-9877. Please log onto www.classmates.com for more reunion information.

— Out of Town —

Dunellen Theater Presents 'Groucho: A Comice in 3 Acts'

May 3-4

The Dunellen Theater first opened its doors as a silent movie and vaudeville house in the spring of 1922. To celebrate the theater's 80th birthday this spring, Jersey Central Theatre Company, which has been in residence at the theater this past season, will offer a tribute to one of the greatest stars ever to emerge from vaudeville, when it presents *Groucho: A Comice in 3 Acts*, Friday and Saturday nights, May 3-4 at 8 p.m. at the Historic Dunellen Theater.

Jersey Central Theatre Company, a non-profit organization, is currently in residence at the Historic Dunellen Theater, located at 458 North Ave. (Rt. 28), at the corner of Madison Ave. in downtown Dunellen.

Tickets for this production are \$15 per person, students and seniors are \$13.50, groups of 15 or more are \$12 per person, while a special price of \$10 per person has been added for children 12 and under.

For reservations or information, contact Jersey Central Theatre Company at (732) 968-9010, or at www.jerseycentraltheatre.com.

Kings Daughters Day School Gala

May 4

The Fifth Annual Gala for the Kings Daughters Day School will be held on Saturday, May 4 at the Plainfield Country Club. The Honorees this year are Somerset United Way, for their generous contributions and Dr. Charles Wendell, a long time friend of the school.

Tickets are \$150 per person. Some proceeds will be given to the air conditioning fund. The school runs for ten months of the year and a full summer camp for two months. KDDS provides day care for low income families where both parents work.

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.

Resurrection Church Chinese Auction

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.

WOWs Meeting

May 10

Middlesex East WOWs Carteret Chapter will hold a dance for widows and widowers on Friday, May 10th from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. at St. Demetrius Community Center, 681-691 Roosevelt Ave., Carteret. Admission is \$8. Live music and refreshments. For more information call, (732) 969-1123 or (908) 757-0515.

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.

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 information or judging schedule: www.infodog.com.

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

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

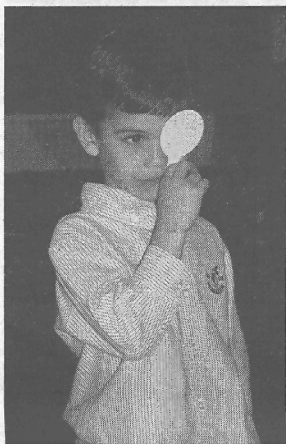
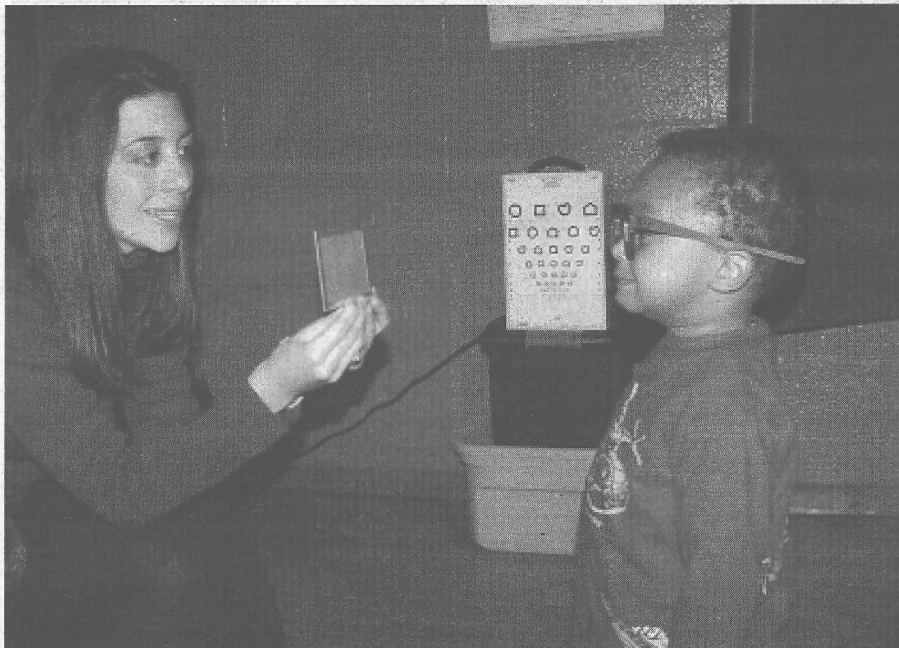
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SUBMIT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR to allow readers to discuss and react to issues.

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

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

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



Comfort Reading Raises \$376, One Dime at a Time

The John E. Riley School 2002 Read-a-thon took place during the month of February. This year, with the tragedy that struck our nation on Sept. 11, we reminded the children that as Americans, we all have the right to vote.

We offered the children the choice of contributing the proceeds of the read-a-thon to either the Children's Room at the South Plainfield Public Library, as they did last year or to Comfort Zone Camps.

"Camp Comfort", which is a bereavement camp for children who have suffered the loss of a parent, sibling or a primary caregiver in a tragedy such as but not limited to 9/11. The children voted that the proceeds should go to Camp Comfort. The read-a-thon then took on the name "Comfort Reading."

The children were asked to bring in a dime for each book that they read.

Books that were read to children in the lower grade levels counted. Any child who was reading a chapter book was asked to bring in a dime for each chapter completed. This also included any books read for book reports.

By the end of February, the participating students (373) raised a total of \$376 for Camp Comfort.

Our traditional "ice cream party" was also voted on. We once again asked the children for their preference: ice cream or Italian ice. The votes were counted and Italian ice was the winner.

Mary from Rita's Italian Ice graciously agreed to donate the Italian Ice for our party.

We are very proud of the students at Riley School for their compassion in making this decision to donate the proceeds to children who are less fortunate.

Submitted by Hope Cotone & Jan Parello

southplainfieldpeople Milestones

Mount Saint Mary Academy Announces Honor Roll

Directress Sister Lisa Gambacorto, principal of Mount Saint Mary Academy in Watchung announces that the following South Plainfield students achieved honor roll status for the second trimester of the 2001-2002 academic year:

Principal's Honor Roll (*straight A's*)

Marsia Palma, grade 10 and Lauren Reed grade 12.

Honor Roll (*overall B+ average*)

Bridget Schirripa grade 11, Katherine Selby grade 11, Andrea Varry grade 12 and Stephanie Stellakis grade 9.

Health Fair Earns Girl Scouts Silver Award

By Patricia Abbott

Ellen Bradley, Kristin Coffey and Jennifer Vasquez, three ambitious Cadette Girl Scouts of Troop 117, recently organized and presented a Children's Health and Safety Fair at Riley School. The event served as the

completion of earning their Silver Award Project, the highest award in Cadette Scouting.

About 50 parents and children attended the fair. On hand were the South Plainfield Police offering free fingerprinting as well as The Diabetes Center of NJ with literature focusing on youth diabetes. A pediatrician spoke about the importance of good nutrition and a staff member at Ricochet Health Club demonstrated yoga for children. ATA Black Belt Academy had a booth with literature on their classes. A favorite with the children was the Solaris Health System's Teddy Bear Clinic. Also on hand was the New Jersey Commission for the Blind representative Kelly Doyle, who performed free eye sight screening.

The project completed the requirements for the Silver Award. The ceremony is scheduled for May but the

girls have a prior commitment and have opted to receive their award next March. Troop 117 leader is Nancy Regan.

Community Pool to Sponsor 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 said that this will be a great way for residents who are thinking of joining to try it out firsthand.

Sign up for Golf Outing

Business Association
Networking Event
Rescheduled

The South Plainfield Business Association Golf Outing will take place as planned next Tuesday, May 7. There is still time to sign up to participate. There are currently 65 golfers registered. Anyone who is interested should contact Bob Longo at (908) 753-7004, ext 106.

The Business Association is still seeking door prizes. If members have anything they would like to donate, such as merchandise, gift certificates, golf balls, those unused Devils play-off tickets, etc., please contact Bob Longo as well.

Due to scheduling conflicts with other events, the "Taste of the Town" networking function has been rescheduled. The new date is Wednesday, May 22, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Hamilton Boulevard.

This event is free and is open to all South Plainfield Businesses with the hope of attracting new members. Business cards are required to attend.

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Eric Reidel Branch Manager of Commerce Bank (left) presents a check for \$1,500 to Superintendent of Schools Dr. John Krewer for the Roosevelt School Playground Fund.

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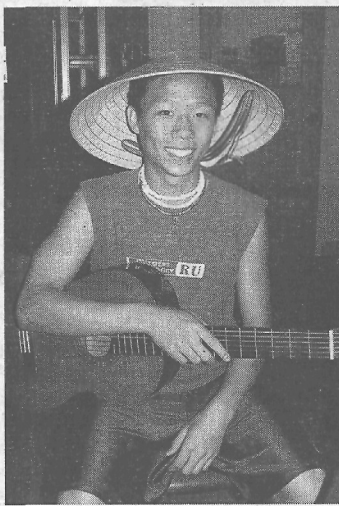
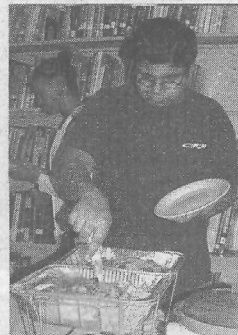
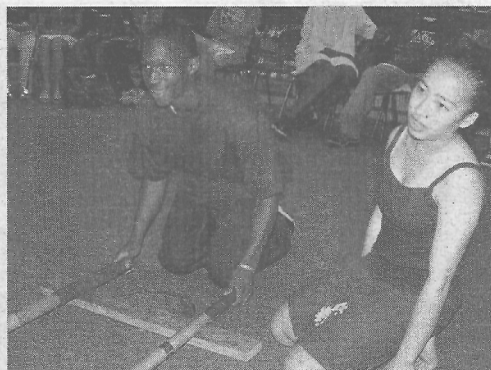
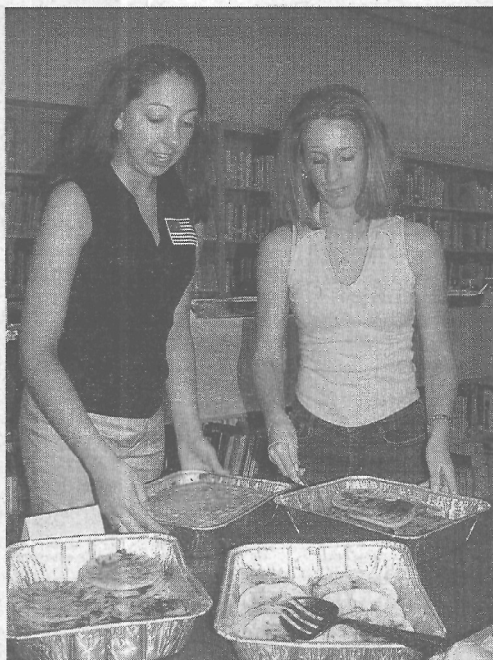
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Multi-Cultural Day Visitors Experience the World

By Patricia Abbott

South Plainfield High School's fourth annual Cultural Heritage Day took students, staff and visitors on an amazing trip around the world. Traditions and lifestyles from distant corners of the globe came together in the SPHS library with students representing countries from Ireland to India, Circassia to the Caribbean Islands, our countries Native Americans and everything in-between. Antarctica was the only continent not represented.

The Cultural Heritage Day, sponsored by the school's Jerseyan History Club, featured heritage displays, traditional clothing, songs, dances and over 300 different hot and cold foods and desserts. Displays included flags, posters, personal photos albums, family books, dolls, coins and

much more. Greece, Lebanon and Columbia had especially detailed exhibits. Guests were treated to traditional dances from the Philippines, Latin America and India. Junior Chris Baron sang an Irish lullaby, sophomore Josef Rodriguez sang a Filipino song and Sophomores Wajdi Kanj, Dave Garatino and Chris Baron offered the audience an Italian song, *Houna Casa*. Throughout the day History classes filled the room with students fanning out in all directions. Response from the student body was positive. Students were already discussing the following year's event.

Librarian Pat Massey enjoyed a front row seat to the day's festivities. She commented, "It was an outstanding program that allowed students and staff the opportunity to recognize the numerous ethnic groups and cultural diversity that exists in South

Plainfield High School."

Over 40 students and faculty members wore traditional dress. Several parents attended dressed in their national costume.

In addition to the diverse displays the event featured over 300 different hot and cold foods and desserts. Future plans include the possibility of a cookbook of the recipes the students prepared. Jerseyan Club advisors are Tony Barca and Fran Flannery. Barca was one of the club's advisors when Flannery was a member of the club in the late 60's and early 70's. English teacher Gale Pastula said, "It's great to watch SPHS students shine. The food was delicious, the entertainment wonderful."

Fran Flannery said, "To me, the most important thing is that the kids get some appreciation of the many cultures that have contributed to our

modern American culture. Our society has been evolving with every new group that arrives. Everyone who comes here brings his or her traditions and joins them to the American culture. Everyone who comes here takes the best that we have to offer: our commitment to the ideals of freedom and equality. That's the bottom line of what it means to be an American. I can dress in any clothes, eat any food and have any name; if I believe in freedom and equality, I can be an American."

Planning for 2002 event took about a month with the last two weeks being extremely hectic. While the entire club assisted with organizing, kudos went to Alex Huynh, Rula Kanj, Stephanie Tackach, Christina Lorraine, Elayne Russell, and Heather Barrett for their extra effort in making the event a success. Heather

Barrett, co-secretary of the club said, "It was an awful lot of hard work, but even after the bumps in the road we still had a great time. All our work paid off in the end." Elayne Russell, head of the Public Relations Committee for the club agreed with Barrett, "Even though it was a huge amount of work, Cultural Heritage Day was well worth it. I learned so much about the backgrounds of the students here at SPHS."

Flannery noted, "We have great kids in the Jerseyan Club who are very creative and hardworking and we have terrific kids at SPHS who make all the hard work worthwhile. I think Cultural Heritage Day was a great success because our kids wanted it to be a success. They are proud of their traditions and want to share them with others. And they care about each other. They're all proud to be Americans."

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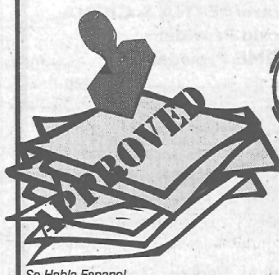
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Riley School Selling Italian Ice on Fridays

The Riley School Playground Committee will be selling Italian Ice on Friday afternoons during the month of May. The ice will be sold, weather permitting, on the black top after school.

The cost is \$1 per cup and all proceeds will go directly to the playground fund.

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Kennedy Playground Equipment Going Up

Last week marked the beginning of phase one of Kennedy School's new playground.

Over the past few months parents have been running fundraisers and asking for contributions to help replace the equipment that was taken down because of safety issues.

Bob Stilo started the project by excavating the area where the new equipment will be placed.

On Saturday dozens of dads were out in full force to begin erecting the new playground equipment.

Phase one, should be completed in a few weeks. Some of the playground equipment being installed are a super dome, a spring-mount action firetruck, bounce buttons, a sidewalk, a u-bounce, lily pods, a monorail, a loop ladder, a sky rocker and wobble wheels.

Community Building Project at Kennedy Still Needs Your Help

As the story above reports, a portion of the new playground equipment at Kennedy School is almost finished. The play area still needs to be filled with mulch, which will protect the children.

If you could spare a little time, a rake and a wheelbarrow your help is needed this Saturday, May 4 starting at 8 a.m. Parents are asked to give whatever help and time they can.



Left to right) SPHS Athletic Director Mike Buggie, Principal Anthony Massaro, past VFW Commander Phil Cortese, PAL Vice President Police Chief Robert Merkler, PAL Treasurer Gene Bataille, VFW Commander Rudy Poczak and prospective Weightroom Coordinator Tom Rizk.

PAL and VFW Contribute to Expansion of SPHS Weightroom

By Jane Dornick

The newly expanded weightroom at the High School is shaping up through the generous donations from the Police Athletic League and VFW Post #6763.

The three year project, which is in its second year, has seen the enlargement of the current room along with breaking through a wall in the gym for a fenced in area. The materials and construction were contributed by the PAL. With the help of a VFW donation of a power rack, valued at \$2,000, along with several pieces donated by

The Club at Ricochet in South Plainfield and donations from the SPHS Athletic Boosters, the new space is filling up quickly.

According to SPHS Principal Anthony Massaro there was a growing demand for the addition of this new equipment and he is appreciative of the efforts of everyone who contributed. He found that more and more students over the years have been interested in weight training to improve their athletic skills, as well as doing something positive for their minds and bodies. This will give everyone a chance for a good workout.

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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

As we enter the month of May, here's some news from the South Plainfield Library:

We'll start off with a look at our children's programs. Next week, we'll be following our normal schedule of children's Storytime programs. Storytimes are held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. They're for children ages three and over. Also, as of this writing there's still some room available for the special Mother's Day Kidcraft program. It's set for Saturday, May 11, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Space is limited for this program, so you must pre-register. Also, be advised: no moms are allowed to attend this program, so as not to spoil the surprise. To sign up, or for more information, please call us at (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda.

A new group from the Video Circuit is now ready for borrowing. Titles in this group include the remake of *Planet of the Apes*, *Meet the Parents*, *Howard's End*, *Air Bud: Golden Receiver*, and, on DVD, *Tomb Raider*. This group will be available until May 27.

Turning to our own video collection, we've just added a number of items. New additions to our general video collection include *The Outsiders*, a new copy of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, three tapes on stress management, the original version of *The Producers* and, on DVD, *The Mists of Avalon*. In our juvenile video section, we now feature a new tape and a new DVD featuring the *Powerpuff Girls*, a new DVD copy of *A Bug's Life*, the Disney adventure *The Moon Spinners* and *The Princess Diaries*. Videos and DVDs may be borrowed, four at a time, for two days.

In response to several inquiries about our notary service, we have good news. Notary services will be returning to the Library starting Sunday, May 12. (With any luck, our new staff Notary will have his act together by then.) Documents may be notarized at a rate of \$1 per page. Please be sure to call ahead to confirm that the Notary is available.

Here's some unexpected but happy news regarding our Inter-Library Loan system. The regional library cooperative has arranged a contract with the CD&L delivery service to handle the courier work for ILLs. The initial agreement is slated for six months; arrangements beyond that period are pending. There are still some details to be worked out, but we hope to have the ILL system back in operation on Monday. We'll let you know any further developments about this.

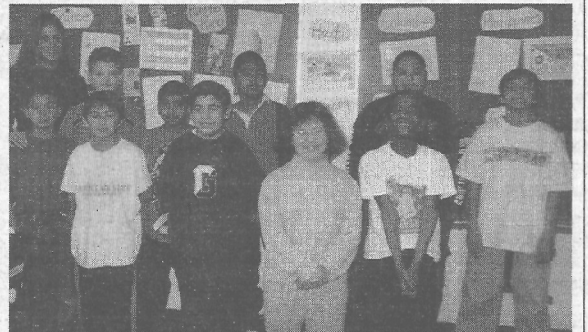
We're continuing to offer courses in both job searching and basic computer use. The next class from our Job Information Center is "Job Searching", scheduled for Wednesday evening at 7:30. Space is limited for these classes, so pre-registration is a must. For details, please call us and ask for Allan or Marcia.

Finally, according to Chase's 2002 Calendar of Events, May is, among other things, "More Than Just a Pretty Face Month", "National Book Month" and "Get Caught Reading Month". To recognize these simultaneous events, we're putting together a display. If you'd like to help, bring in a photo of your favorite pretty face caught reading a book. Make sure your name and phone number is on the back. The display will be up until June 10.

That's about all for now. See you next Friday.



Franklin Elementary teacher Ms. Fanelli tells the students the names of the different foods and asks if they would like to try them.



Ten of the participants with Ms. Fanelli are left to right, front row, Milton Chinchilla, Bryan Gonzalez, Meghan Murphy and Arielle Armand. Back row, left to right, Edwin Molina, Tyler Whalen, Bryan Permaul, Richard DeLeon, Wilfredo Rosado and Danny Alligier.

Franklin Students Share Ethnic Backgrounds

Ms. Fanelli's class from Franklin Elementary School recently shared their ethnic backgrounds with friends and families at an Ethnic Day Luncheon on March 28.

Students brought in favorite foods that originated from the countries of their ancestors. Some of the foods the students made were ravioli and meatballs (Italy), rice and beans (Puerto Rico), tamales (El

Salvador), fried bananas (Philippines), beef patties (Jamaica), kielbasa and sauerkraut (Poland) and potatoes (Ireland).

In preparation for this event students read information about the different countries from which their ancestors were born, shared discussions about these countries, and made flags to represent each country.

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Sports

TRACK

Sacred Heart Track Team Competes in Championship

The Sacred Heart School Spring Track Team from South Plainfield competed in the 2002 Central Jersey Catholic Track Conference Relay Championships on Saturday, April 27, at the Edison Park Track in Edison. Sixty-two Sacred Heart runners grouped into teams of four placed in 18 out of 20 events against eight other schools. The Sacred Heart Team took eight firsts, four seconds, two thirds, three fourths, and two fifths winning 32 gold, 16 silver, and 20 bronze medals and eight honorary pins. In addition, the sixth through eighth grade girls broke three conference records. Congratulations to ALL runners!!!

Proud medal/pin winners are:

Event	Place	Relay Team	Time
Girls K,1,2 4x100	2	J. Aguinaldo, L. Arki, K. Motezuma, A. Muglia	1:20.8
Boys K,1,2 4x100	4	W. Gerlitz, R. Maiure A. Jenkin, K. Whitaker	1:20.4
Girls 3,4,5 4x100	1	G. Pinto, J. Dougherty, A. Forbes, M. Simons	1:05.3
Boys 3,4,5 4x100	2	M. McHugh, J. Edney, Z. Sikanowicz, D. Avery	1:07.9
Girls 6,7,8 4x100	1	K. Whitaker, A. Presley, Q. Ihsaan, W. Henderson	56.79*
Boys 6,7,8 4x100	4	A. Pelle, E. Paley, Y. Leary, N. Bush	1:00.6
Girls 3,4,5 4x200	1	G. Pinto, J. Dougherty, A. Forbes, M. Simons	2:19.1
Boys 3,4,5 4x200	4	R. Hohner, M. McHugh, I. Collins, A. Muglia	2:40.8
Boys 3,4,5 4x200	5	J. Edney, E. Amirault, J. Howard, C. Murry	2:41.3
Girls 6,7,8 4x200	1	K. Whitaker, T. Morgan, Q. Ihsaan, W. Henderson	2:05.1
Girls 3,4,5 4x400	2	A. Novak, A. Maiure, G. Pinto, A. Forbes	6:07.5
Boys 3,4,5 4x400	1	R. Hohner, F. Cem, I. Collins, A. Muglia	5:40.0
Girls 6,7,8 4x400	1	C. Monroe, J. Dougherty, D. Romano, A. Presley	4:52.7*
Boys 6,7,8 4x400	5	J. Cem, J. Maiure, R. DiDario, J. Pierik-Page	4:50.3
Girls 3,4,5 Sprint Medley	1	A. Novak, A. Maiure, M. Simons, J. Dougherty	5:50.4
Boys 3,4,5 Sprint Medley	2	Z. Sikanowicz, M. McHugh, R. Hohner, A. Muglia	5:33.5
Girls 6,7,8 Distance Medley	1	C. Monroe, D. Romano, J. Dougherty, A. Presley	11:30.4*
Boys 6,7,8 Distance Medley	3	J. Cem, J. Maiure, R. DiDario, J. Pierik-Page	10:48.6
Boys 6,7,8 Shot Put	3	A. Pelle, J. Cem	47ft 10in

* Indicates New Record

Veinott Making Strides For Next Year

By Greg Machos

This past basketball season was a modest success for junior forward Phil Veinott of the South Plainfield Tigers. As a reserve, Veinott came off the bench and knocked down a number of big shots from the perimeter. He averaged close to 10 points per game, and played key roles in the Tigers upset win over Sayreville and close loss to New Brunswick earlier this year.

One of the elements in Veinott's game that sticks out is his fine touch from the perimeter. He has one of the better jumpshots of any junior in the White Division, and perhaps the entire GMC. While he still needs to improve in other aspects of his game, and continue to grow, the 6'4" forward has made a big impression in his first year of significant varsity playing time.

In order to make improvements in his game, and step up to the next level of competition, Veinott joined the Newark Celtics AAU team along with South Plainfield Tiger teammate Aaron Parks. Recently, Veinott excelled in competition as he scored an average of nearly 30 points per game in an AAU Tournament that the Celtics participated in. In addition, he has been hitting the weights so that he can get stronger and be able to be more physical. He now weighs 184 lbs., while at the beginning of this past season, he only weighed 175 lbs.

The work has so far paid off as Veinott recently scored 32 points in an AAU game down in Long Branch a few weeks ago. He was then asked to play in an AAU game for the Del Val AAU squad that features Somerville's Kerry Froderingham, who was one of the top player's in Somerset County. Somerville, which knocked off Franklin earlier this year, lost to the Warriors in the Somerset County Tournament, and also lost to South Plainfield in the Bound Brook Tournament in December.

Veinott figures to play a more significant role next year with the losses of Ulysses Russell, David Francis, and Aaron Parks to graduation in June. Along with Veinott, several other players will be coming back including Corey Gilmore, Gary Houston, Ian Robinson, Mike Allocco, and Jonathan Bugeby, who all happen to play for the Jersey Stallions 16 and under team here in South Plainfield. On top of that, freshman sensation, Marquis Jones will also be back next year. So, next year's Tiger team looks strong for next winter.

By Kevin Lykes

juniorbaseballclubnotes

It's been a couple of weeks since opening day and my last message. In case any of you missed opening day... it went very well. I want to thank the police, fire department and the rescue squad for their efforts. Additional thanks to the South Plainfield High School Marching Band. The weather cooperated and we were able to get the entire opening day weekend in for the first time in a number of years. Aside from a few glitches with our new P.A. system, everything ran according to schedule thanks to the efforts of all the committees and individuals, (too numerous to all mention here); who were responsible for the organization of the Opening Day parade and ceremonies, opening of the snack stand and preparation of the fields and complex, not to mention all those great team banners. Let's hope the rest of the season runs as smoothly and trouble free.

Congratulations to Little Miss Baseball 2002, Cassie Prendergast and her court: Christa Hay, Courtney Calvey, Alyssa Scrudato, Jennifer McClary, and Lori Tangorra.

Back to the subject of Booster Weekend...as you know Booster Weekend was held from April 4-6 which coincided with the end of Easter vacation. Because of this, 45 or so individuals missed Booster Weekend due to previous plans. It costs the club about \$250-\$300 per player each season to play baseball here. Booster weekend is one of several ways available to parents to reduce that cost significantly. Inability to take advantage of this simply increases your registration fee by \$50. This in no way should be viewed as a penalty or fine for not coming to Booster Weekend, but merely as a missed opportunity. Several of you have inquired about the possibility of making that up. After careful consideration by the Executive Board and the Booster Weekend Committee, it was determined that it was just not feasible to schedule another canning date so soon after the first. I should explain that planning Booster Weekend is a huge project undertaking; in addition to picking a date and putting kids with cans out in front of stores. This effort must be coordinated with the local merchants, (often through corporate headquarters) and requires numerous trips back and forth with store owners to obtain the proper permission before it can be approved by the South Plainfield Police Department. There is also the game schedule, which would have been affected as well. By now, those 45 families should have received a letter from the

club explaining our decision and the fact that we have reduced the fee 20% from \$50 to \$40. I hope all of you understand the situation regarding Booster Weekend.

Despite this, and cold weather, our Booster Weekend committee, headed by Al Liscowski, did a great job. They passed last year's budgeted amount.

The Ladies Auxiliary's Casino night is coming up soon (May 11) and a few tickets still remain. Anyone interested should contact the snack stand or Stacy Lake. Joe Corbi Pizza order pick up is on Saturday morning at 10 a.m., at the club house.

Also our annual trip to the Somerset Patriots game will be Friday, May 17. Those of you who ordered tickets can pick them up on Friday, May 10 between 7-8 p.m. at the Clubhouse.

LEGAL NOTICES

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 Thursday, May 16, 2002 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

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

\$35.00 1T May 3, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Grace McGinnis requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the erection of an 8' x 12' wood deck, proposed deck lacks the required 20' rear setback, 12' being proposed, and any other variances that may be required, said property being located on Block 84, Lot 3 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 Thursday, May 16, 2002 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

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

\$35.00 1T May 3, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
Public Notice

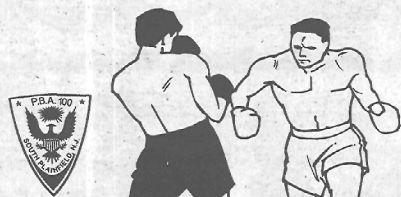
RETURN OF PERFORMANCE BOND

To Stephen and Karen Yorkanis for public improvements at 448 Kosciusko Ave., South Plainfield, New Jersey, Lot 6.01, Block 399. 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 Stephen and Karen Yorkanis for public improvements at 448 Kosciusko Ave., South Plainfield, New Jersey, Lot 6.01, Block 399 listed on the official tax maps of the Borough of South Plainfield. Said public hearing will be held Monday, May 20, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080. Stephen and Karen Yorkanis 448 Kosciusko Avenue South Plainfield, NJ 07080

\$35.00 May 3, 2002

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

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GOLDEN RINGSIDE \$75.

includes **DINNER AT 5 P.M.**
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149 South Plainfield Ave.
South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul
Alvarado, Pastor

Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.

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

Weekdays 7:00 a.m. (except Monday) 9:00 a.m., Church

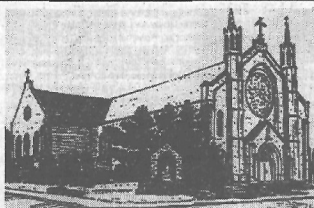
12 Noon, Chapel—(Consult weekly schedule of Masses)

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

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 10-11 a.m., 4-4:45 p.m.



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Sports



Ponytail Softball Batters Box

By Sharon Miller

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 B.

B League Team—Girls must be 12 and under as of 12/31/01. Tryouts will take place on field A.

A League Team—Girls must be 14 and under as of 12/31/01. Tryouts will take place on field C.

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.

College Scholarships Filing Deadline is May 17—The Ponytail Parents' Association is sponsoring two \$500 college scholarships. Applications are currently being accepted and can be obtained from the South Plainfield High School guidance office. To qualify for scholarships the applicant must be a high school senior graduating this June, a current resident of South Plainfield and have played for a minimum of three years in the South Plainfield Recreation Department's Ponytail Softball League. The filing deadline is May 17, 2002. All completed applications should be returned to SPPPA, P.O. Box 441, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Verification of school enrollment is required prior to funds being awarded.

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.

Seventh Annual Branchburg Tournament

The Seventh Annual Branchburg Baseball Club Invitation Tournament will be held June 28 thru July 14. The cost is \$375 per team and supply two new baseballs per game. The games are round robin format, playoffs a four game minimum. Individual and team trophies for first and second place will be awarded. Carded umpires. Age group. Divisions are 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13/14 No AAU teams allowed in 8 to 12 age divisions.

All eight-year-old teams get participation medals and play with modified rules. All other divisions play Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken rules. Games are played at White Oak Park, Branchburg. Full concession stand and overnight lodging is nearby. Manager's meeting third week in June. Entry deadline is June 16.

Call (908) 707-1018 ext. 8 and leave message, email address or mailing address to obtain info.

Recreation Offering Sports Camps

The South Plainfield Recreation Department will be offering a variety of sports camps this summer.

• **Field Hockey Camp** runs from June 24-28 at the Varsity Hockey Field at SPHS.

• **Basketball Camp**, July 1-5 at the SPHS gym. No camp on July 4.

• **Softball Camp**, July 15-19 at the Varsity Softball Field at SPHS.

• **Wrestling Camp**, July 8-12 at the PAL.

• **Soccer Camp**, July 22-26 at the Varsity Soccer Field at SPHS.

• **Baseball Camp**, July 29-Aug. 2 at the SPHS ball fields.

Programs are from 9 a.m. until 12 noon for children seven through 15.

Children must be seven years-old before the camp begins. The fee is \$35 for each camp.

Register at the PAL Building. For information call (908) 226-7714.

Rec Summer Fun Programs

The South Plainfield Recreation Department is sponsoring a Summer of Fun in the Cotton Street, Shady-side, Veterans and Pitt Street Parks from June 25 through August 9.

The supervised activities are free and for resident children who are in the first through sixth grades. The parks are open from 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-3:30 p.m. Free tennis lessons will be held at Spring Lake Park for children ages six through nine from 8:30-10 a.m. Free golf lessons will be given at West Nine for children ages 10 through 14 from 10-11:30 a.m.

For more information call (908) 226-7714.

SOCCER



Comets Hold Montclair

South Plainfield Soccer Club's U12 Girls didn't score one goal this past Saturday... neither did their opponent.

Despite repeated attempts to score, the Montclair Silver Shooters just couldn't get past Keeper Kate Reichert, whose beautifully arced kicks sailed directly to the frontline.

In one of the season's most exciting games the Comets demonstrated what tight teamwork and steady determination could accomplish. All players saw plenty of action and held their ground.

Forwards Victoria Plasse, Clare Kelly and Katie Baldassarre moved the ball deftly past Montclair's front line time and time again. When Montclair reached South Plainfield's midfield they ran headlong into Brooke DeNitzio, Stephanie Szeliga and

Courtney Wilhelm. DeNitzio supplied speed and good ball handling up the side while Szeliga consistently controlled the centerfield. Wilhelm's power kicks gave our forwards all they needed to push toward goal. Fullbacks Alyssa Sutherland, Chelsea Moubarak and Allison Whitefleet provided swift stops, excellent footwork and assertive passes. Sweeper Rachel Senz applied pressure and speed which kept the ball away from the net.

Substitutions placed Jackie Bosse, Lindsay Fredericks and Stephanie Lanza into the mix. Their fresh energy combined with aggressive moves kept the Comets aflame. Although the game ended in a zero-zero tie this was a hard fought defensive victory and a game to be proud of.

Great job, Comets!

Alliance Advance to State Cup Sweet 16

The South Plainfield Soccer Club's 15-year-old boy's team have advanced through to the State Cup Pre-Quarter

Finals by eliminating the highly ranked Hammonton Invader's team 3-0.

Vince Carpentier tallied the first goal with five minutes left in the first half. Miguel Garcia added his first two goals of the season in the second half, to seal the victory.

Dwight Quichua got the job of marking Hammonton's All State striker in the second half, and shut him down. Pete Kelly and Stuart Klaas secured the shutout in goal.

The Alliance has allowed only one goal in its last four games.

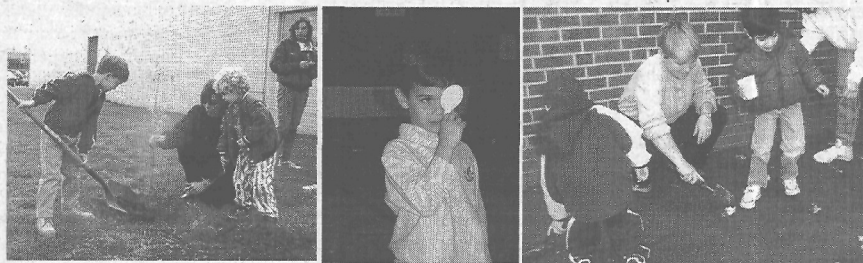
South Plainfield's next State Cup game will be this Sunday against the winner of Randolph v. Parsippany match.

Tickets Still Available for 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.

There 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.

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Obituaries

William J. "Bill" Casterline, 69

William J. "Bill" Casterline, of South Plainfield, died on Saturday April 27 at his home.

Bill was born in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. After his service in the U.S. Army, during the Korean War, he lived in Forty Fort, Pa. He then came to South Plainfield, moved to Plainfield and Bridgewater. He moved back to South Plainfield 25 years ago and has been here ever since.

While in Forty Fort, Pa., he owned and operated a Sunoco gas station and a car lot. He then entered the tire business, which he has worked in for nearly 50 years. He began his career with the Lee Tire Co. of Pa. as a wholesale tire salesman. He then moved to New Jersey and took a position as a district manager with the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. in Elizabeth, while at the same time running the Elizabeth store. He later became affiliated with the Fraebel Bros. Tire Co. in Union, wholesaling tires. He finally moved to the Swift Metro Tire Co. of Linden, which later merged into the BC Tire Co. of Piscataway, at the time of his retirement in 1998. Bill was the general manager of the wholesale division of the company. He was a member of various business related associations.

As a young man, during the 1950's, he was a semi-pro Roller Derby roller skater and had participated in various matches in NJ, Pa. and in Ohio. He also had a passion for racing and racing cars.

Over the years, he attended Seton Hall University and was a former member of the Plainfield Chapter of UNICO. During the 1960's he was active in politics. He was formerly a member of the Plainfield Democratic Club and had run for the City Council.

He was pre-deceased by his sister, Jean Edgerton.

Surviving are his wife, Patricia A. (Guglielino) Casterline; two daughters and their husbands, Barbara and Luke Riznik of Warren, Dawn and Barry Kizmann of Mountainside; two sons, David Casterline of South Plainfield and Daniel Hare and his wife, Catherine of Clark; his mother, Lucy Casterline; a sister, Mary Lou McClain and a brother, Marvin Casterline, all of Mechanicsburg, Pa. Also surviving are five grandchildren, Lauren and Matthew Riznik, Joseph and Jordan Kizmann and Ryan Hare.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Robert J. Gillick, 82

Robert J. Gillick of South Plainfield, died on Sunday, April 28 in his home.

Born in Newark, he resided in Nutley before moving to South Plainfield in 1957.

Mr. Gillick graduated from Seton Hall University, receiving his Bachelor's degree in history and he also at-

tended Pace College.

He was employed by the Bridgewater/Raritan Board of Education as a librarian in the high school for 10 years. Previously he was employed as a librarian for Washington School and a history teacher for the former Holy Trinity High School of Westfield. He retired in 1982.

Bob was a member of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield and was active with Catholics United for the Faith. He served in the United States Air Force during WWII and was an avid reader.

His brother, Father Thomas J. Gillick and his sister, Elizabeth Gillick, have both predeceased him.

Surviving are his wife, Pauline M. (Donaruma) Gillick; a sister-in-law and her husband, Kit and Henry Loeffler of South Plainfield. Also surviving are eight nieces and nephews, and eight grand nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Eleanor Therese Taber, 79,

Eleanor Therese Taber of Angleton, Texas passed away on Saturday, April 27 in Angleton.

Eleanor Therese Taber was born June 15, 1922 in Hoboken, NJ to James Joseph and Julia Quinn Doody. She was a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church and choir and had served as President of Residence Council at Cypress Woods Care Center for three years and was active in activities there.

Mrs. Taber was pre-deceased by her husband, Charles Henry Taber, Sr. and three brothers.

Surviving are a daughter, Patricia A. Taber of Angleton; three sons, William Charles Taber and Charles Henry Taber, Jr., both of New Jersey and Paul Henry Taber of Angleton; two sisters: Margaret Fallon of Morristown and Dorothea Compton of Brady, Texas; 10 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held in Angleton Texas.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Vitas Hospice or Cypress Wood Care Center Arrangement by Palms Funeral Home.

Richard R. Coruccini, Sr., 65,

Richard R. Coruccini, Sr. died on Thursday April 25 at the JFK Medical Center in Edison.

He was born in Walden, NY, where he grew up. After his three years service with the U.S. Army, he lived in Newark before moving to South Plainfield 34 years ago.

Dick had worked as a tank trailer driver for over 20 years for the Atlantic Cement Co. of Bayonne and later worked for a few years as a supervisor with the former Allentown Cement Co. in Bayonne, before he retired nine years ago. He was a long time mem-

ber of the Teamsters Union Local 408 of Newark.

Mr. Coruccini was formerly active with the South Plainfield Pop Warner Eagles football program, where he had served as commissioner. He was an avid hunter and was a member of the Peninsula Rod & Gun Club of Clinton.

Surviving are his wife of 42 years, Linda (Persinger) Coruccini; two daughters and sons-in-law, Teresa and Steven Quadrel of Wall Township and Susan and Joseph Listorti of Dunellen; a son, Richard R. Coruccini, Jr. of Sulphur, La.; seven grandchildren, Anthony Coruccini, Nicholas, Nicole and Samantha Listorti, Amanda and Steven Quadrel and Seth Ardoin; three sisters, Marie Moore of Portland, Oregon, Jeanette Alves of Clark and Angelina Brown of Walden, NY and his mother-in-law, Helen Cicalese of South Plainfield.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Edward L. Schaeffer, 72,

Edward L. Schaeffer of South Plainfield, died on Friday, April 26 at home.

Born in Newark, Mr. Schaeffer had resided in Edison and Highlands, before settling with his son in 1999.

He was a salesman for the former Vincent Metal Goods Co. of Union and had been enlisted in the National Guard.

He is predeceased by his son, Kenneth, who died in 1998.

Surviving are his son and daughter-in-law, Glen and Dawn Schaeffer of South Plainfield and a brother, Gene of Conn.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Bruce C. Blackford, 46,

Bruce C. Blackford died on Sunday, April 28 at his home.

He was born in Plainfield and had lived most of his life in South Plainfield, before moving to South Amboy two years ago.

Bruce graduated from South Plainfield High School in 1973 and had been a self-employed carpenter, known as Blackford Woodworks, in the South Plainfield area for over the 25 years. For the past year, he worked as a carpenter for the Drill Construction Co. of West Orange. He was a member of the NJ Carpenter Union Local 1342 of Bloomfield.

Surviving are his wife: Mary Ann Miller; a daughter, Danielle M. Blackford; a son, Bruce J. Blackford, both of South Plainfield; a stepson, William Lambert of South Amboy; his parents, Albert and Pauline (Herlich) Blackford of Tobyhanna, Pa.; his grandmother Mary T. Blackford of Tobyhanna, Pa.; five sisters, Christine Mihovich of Stafford, Va., Alyson Potts of Tobyhanna, Pa., Denise Humber of South Plainfield, Erin Byrne of Superior, Co. and Tara Kollmar of Green Brook. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

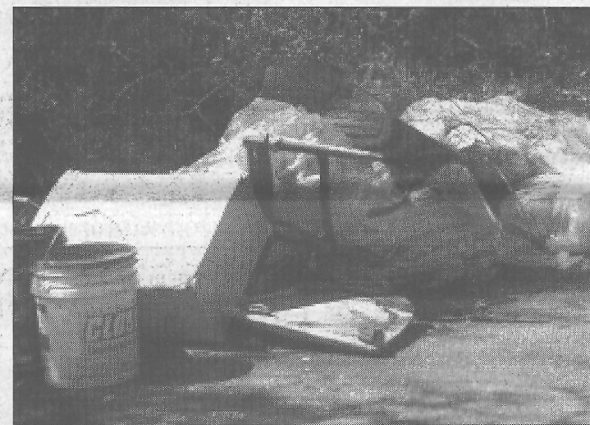
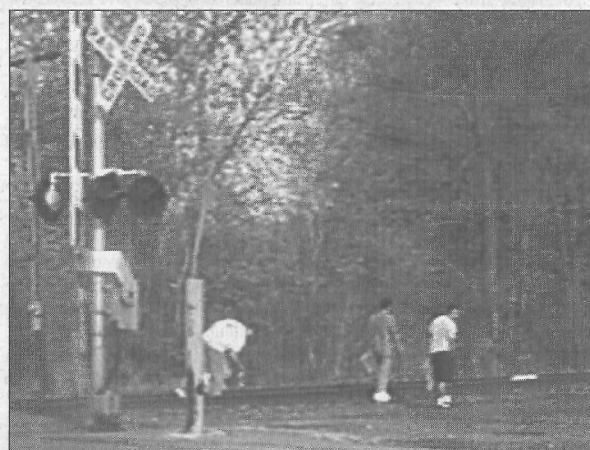
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Hillside Cemetery

www.hillsidecemetery.com

South Plainfield Sparkles After Clean-up Week



South Plainfield residents were out in large numbers a few weeks ago, volunteering to help clean up our streets, parks and creeks. Tons of trash were picked up and hauled away by the Public Works Department. A huge amount of trash was picked up along Metuchen Rd. by Middlesex County Correction inmates, courtesy of Councilman Bob Cusick. The inmates are serving community service sentences on weekends. An exact amount of tonnage is still being compiled, but just a look at all the filled orange trash bags proved the week-long clean-up was a success.

(908) 561-8000



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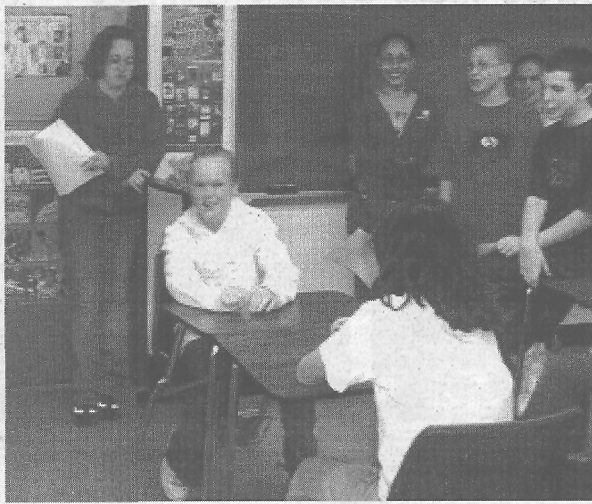
"Consult the Families We Serve"

Peer to Peer Outreach Program Visits Grant School

Two groups of seventh and eighth grade students from the Middle School's Peer to Peer Outreach Program visited classrooms at Grant Central Sixth last Tuesday, sharing what they have learned in their own workshops.

The NJ Peer to Peer Outreach Program was instituted through a grant by Curriculum Director Dr. Janet Munger. Seventh and eighth grade students sign up and a small group is chosen to be part of a bi-weekly workshop hosted by Peer to Peer mentors and teacher chaperones. The program is designed to pass on facts and teaching methods to the chosen group of students, who then take them back to their own friends and fellow students. In turn, they are also instructed on how to teach students in the younger grades about dealing with peer pressure with regard to the dangers of substance abuse, smoking and violence.

A program on Peer Pressure Reversal was presented to the sixth grade Grant students. The classes were conducted by the students without adult interaction, other than a teacher chaperone being present to keep the noise level down. The sixth graders were given bags which contained items such as cigarettes and they were asked to explain how they felt about them. They were also given skits to perform on a particular subject, such as shoplifting and avoiding physical violence. A "tip sheet" was also handed out to the students.



policereport

• On April 24 Miriam Watson, 51, of Plainfield was arrested for driving a stolen rent-a-car.

• First Union Bank on Plainfield Ave. reported damage to their drive-up window mechanism. The cover had been removed from the center and the electrical wires had been cut. The outside cover had been removed but not damaged. Nothing was stolen.

• A W. Golf Ave. resident reported the theft of a bike from his garage.

• Bruce Wayne of EVC Excavation and Utility Contractors of

Piscataway reported that a rock had been thrown threw the window of a Caterpillar excavator, which was parked at the Roosevelt School construction site.

• On Sunday Satish D. Vellanka-Venkata, 29, of Iselin was arrested at Kohl's for shoplifting two Corelle dinnerware sets, worth \$53.98 and trying to return them for a cash refund.

• On Monday Duke Energy on Coolidge Rd. reported that a 2000 Chevy S10 pickup was stuck in the mud and abandoned on their property.

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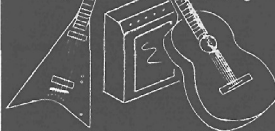
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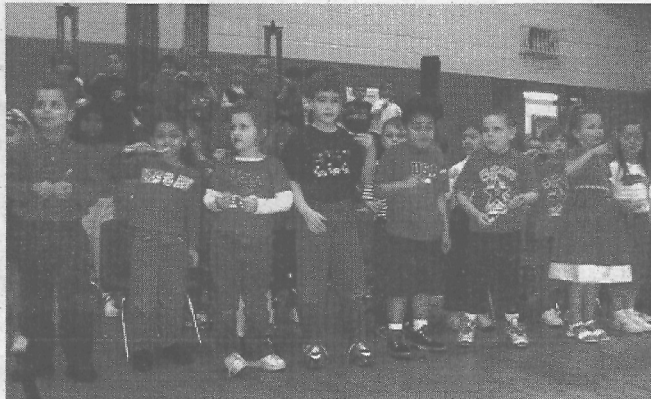
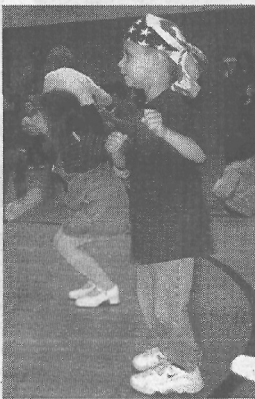
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Future Stars/Sunshine Kids Put on a Patriot Musical Show

The Grant School Gym was packed with beaming parents, grandparents and siblings as the Future Stars and Sunshine classes presented their first ever music recital. The recital was directed by music teacher Joan Stasio. The children were dressed in red, white and blue for the occasion, waved flags and sang patriotic songs such as *The Star Spangled Banner* and *God Bless the USA*. Everyone laughed as the children strutted around to the *Chicken Song* and there were tears in everyone's eyes when they sang *Skinamarink*.



IN MY OPINION

Continued from page 2

could be implemented for BOTH the Future Stars AND the Grant Central Six Schools.

However, this morning, as I arrived late to drop off my three-year-old (because of the lack of close parking and congested areas), I realized that over two weeks later not only is the problem NOT solved, it seems to be worse...we are no closer to a resolution than before. It seems, in my opinion, that the only ones making the sacrifices are the Future Stars teachers and the Marriott Corp. staff who park by the High School, in order to free up additional parking areas closer to the building for the Future Stars parents. The area in front of the school across the street were occupied, as well as most of the parking lot on the opposite side of the Future Stars entrance. I assumed it was parents dropping off, but I was shocked to discover not ONE parent parked across the street and when I left the parking lot at almost 9:30 (nearly a half hour after school started), there were only THREE spots available in the far lot. I was told by the Future Stars office it was because Dr. Munger was holding a meeting (thanks) at the school. In

other words, after all the "sacrifices" the only ones getting to park anywhere NEAR the school are staff and administrators (or visitors attending a meeting or function), of Grant Central Six.

Our children attending Future Stars are ages 2-5 and often are accompanied by younger brothers and sisters. Many of us have strollers and try to navigate a long walk (if you have young children, you know this can be difficult) to school trying to keep them close and avoid the traffic and congestion of other frantic people looking for a parking space. We are forced to look down around the corner, a considerable distance away from the entrance, sometimes driving in a circle in hopes of finding something closer. This upsets me because I sat and listened to the supposedly "concerned" administrators "claim" that their number one priority and concern was for the safety of our children and arriving at a plan. Somehow, I find this hard to believe. The only ones that are inconvenienced now are the parents, students and teachers of Future Stars!

I would like to see more cooperation on the part of Grant Central Six staff and its principal with Mr. Lenox. I am getting the feeling that both

schools are not putting 100 percent into a resolution here. A plan needs to be implemented now! Don't think that by waiting until June and the end of school that it will make it "all better." As we walk (and it is a walk!), our children into school to begin their early childhood education foundation, we would like to believe our tuition will pay for them to learn, be provided social opportunities and most of all, learn manners like how to SHARE! I advise some adults of the Grant School Six to do the same! Remember it is not just your school....it is the Future Stars too and some of us have been going there for quite a few years. These students will eventually become sixth graders here and it's a shame, no, it's SAD, that you make us feel like intruders here.

So, to those who enjoy those "prime" parking spots each morning...remember that mothers with small children are now looking around the corner for a parking spot and trying to walk safely into school, twice in the space of two and one-half hours.

MRS. SCALERA

To the Editor:

May 12 not only marks the celebration of Mother's Day, but also the beginning of National Women's Health Week. Through May 18, special attention will be focused on increasing awareness of the health concerns that uniquely affect women.

I want to urge all women to take an active roll in their health care. Many common diseases and conditions can be cured or prevented with early detection and proper attention. Schedule annual check-ups and mammograms. Insist on clear explanations

from health care providers. Be aware of you family history as a possible factor in your own wellness.

As women you take care of us all. Don't forget that you are important, too, and need special attention.

PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.
ASSEMBLYMAN - DISTRICT 18

Dear Editor,

On behalf of all the families of Kennedy School, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people who helped to make our Scoop Dinner held on April 26 a success.

First, to all our families who cooked, baked, set up, served, cleaned up—and did hundreds of other jobs—big thank you. You are what makes our school a special place. Next, to all those local merchants who generously donated to our dinner—THANK YOU. You are what makes our community a special place. A special thank you to Hometown Heros, Double T's, Quick Chek on Sampton Ave., 7-11 on Plainfield Ave., and Krauszer's on Oak Tree Ave. We appreciate your kindness and hope that all of our families will show their appreciation by supporting your businesses.

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To The Editor,

First I would like to start off by stating I am a former Board member that served in another District, having recently relocated to South Plainfield. I do not know anyone personally who has run or served on the South Plainfield Board of Education.

For the past seven months, I have been attending Board of Education meetings as well as the recent Candidates Debate to familiarize myself with our educational committee.

Needless to say, attendance at these meetings are lousy, just like every other community. South Plainfield you are not unique.

First, I feel the need to comment on Ms. Alexa's response to the question asked at the debate, as it is relative to her letter of April 26. The question asked was "How many meetings have you attended?" Ms. Alexa responded by saying, "A few, but I am busy raising my family and they are involved with activities, so I really don't have time." To quote last weeks letter, "The desire to be a Board Member is more than how many Board meetings or committee meetings one attends."

Surprise Terry!! If you don't have time to attend meetings as a private citizen, you certainly are not going to have the time to attend if you were a Board member, as there are a lot more meetings, as well as a great deal of responsibilities associated with such. I personally do not want a Board member serving a district who does not see the importance of the number of meetings one attends. The fact is,

that is where the real work is done for our children.

Some more of my observations...

To Mr. Smith: In the seven months of attending Board meetings, including the debate, I feel the need to let you know, "There is no television crew filming!!!"—Try a little sincerity; it will go a long way.

To Mr. Bohm: I suggest that if you can't put in the time, then do the right thing in the interest of the children and allow someone to serve that can!! P.S. Please read the Ethics code.

To Mr. Seider: It is unfortunate that you lost your seat on the Board of Ed., because one could see the sincerity and dedication you put forth. As you said at the reorganization meeting, "Being a Board Member is a full-time job and to do it right, you will put in more hours than your regular job."

First and foremost, "It's for the Children."

To all the candidates that ran and to the sitting Board members, your first responsibility should be and is to the children, don't play politics with their futures.

ROBERT J. CLARKE, JR.

Dear Editor:

Many seniors living on fixed incomes are forced to make a choice between paying for prescription drugs or putting food on the table. A new plan offers seniors some relief from the high cost of prescription drugs. Several leading pharmaceutical companies are collaborating with Medicare to offer prescription drug savings coverage with the "Together Rx Card."

This card will allow a Medicare enrollee, who has no public or private prescription drug coverage to purchase prescription drugs, at a 20-40 percent savings, if they qualify. The plan is limited to seniors with incomes below \$28,000 for individuals and \$38,000 for couples. They will be able to receive discounts on prescription drugs for many common illnesses including hypertension, high cholesterol, cancer, allergy, asthma, arthritis, and depression.

The card is free and there is no annual fee for participating in Together Rx. Seniors will see the savings immediately at the time of purchase of over 150 medications. The Together Rx Card is accepted by many pharmacies in the community including Wal-Mart, Rite Aid, Walgreen's, Target and Costco.

Access to prescription drug coverage for seniors has been severely limited until now. The Together Rx Card will assist seniors in greatly enhancing their quality of life. Eligible senior citizens may apply for the Together Rx card by calling 1-800-865-7211 or online at www.together-rx.com.

Yours Truly,
PETER J. BARNES, JR.
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