

Open House at
the Community
Pool Monday

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 5, NO. 39

50 CENTS

MAY 24 2002

MAY 24, 2002



A garbage truck burns in a smoking blaze on Sylvania Place last Friday. Firemen has a difficult time extinguishing the blaze, which kept flaring back up each time they got it under control.

Fleet Bank Robbed

Suspect at Large; FBI Investigating

According to FBI sources, on Monday, May 20, the Fleet Bank on Stetson Road was robbed by a lone black male.

The perpetrator, who handed a demand note to the first available teller, was described as a black male in his late 20's or early 30's, 5'2" in height, medium build wearing a hooded sweatshirt and a baseball cap.

After receiving an undisclosed sum, he apparently fled on foot in an unknown direction.

There was one customer and sev-

eral employees in the bank during the robbery, but no injuries were reported.

The suspect displayed no weapon. The FBI is working on the photo. They are looking into whether this was the same man who has robbed nine banks in the area.

Anyone with information should contact the FBI Franklin Township office at (732) 469-7986 or South Plainfield Police Department Det. Gary Cassio at (908) 226-7663.

High School Track Team Competes on New Track

Monday afternoon was a milestone day for the boys and girls of the South Plainfield High School Track Team.

Since the spring of 1999, the SPHS

track team has not been able to play one home game, because the track was declared unsafe.

Continued on page 10



SPHS Boys and Girls track teams take their first lap on the newly completed track at Jost Field.

Kaplan Withdraws Townhouse Plans

The Borough Courtroom was packed last Thursday night for the continuation of an informal hearing concerning the proposal to build 59 townhouses on Oak Tree Ave.

Residents who live nearby the pro-

posed site of the townhouses cheered when Michael Kaplan withdrew his unpopular plans to build the three-story townhouses.

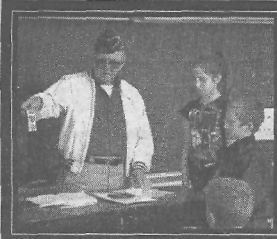
The crowd sat patiently through the early proceedings while other

residents and businesses cases were heard.

Kaplan's case had been carried from a previous meeting and at that time a few neighbors had also attended that meeting. However, with a month to get the word out, over a hundred concerned citizens were on hand to object to the building of townhouses around them.

Bob Smith, Kaplan's attorney explained that it was just an informal meeting and no definite vote would have been taken that evening. He further explained that Mr. Kaplan wanted to get a feel from the resi-

Continued on page 10



Veteran Rudy Poczak explains the role of veterans to Roosevelt School students.

**Memorial Day
is Monday, May 27.**

See page 10 for story.

Baseball Complex Becomes Smoke-Free Environment



Standing in front of the newly unveiled no-smoking sign at the Junior Baseball complex are Councilmen Ray Petronko, Jim Vokral and Dennis Cerami, Jr. Baseball Commissioners Kevin Lykes and Dennis Moskal and Mayor Dan Gallagher, along with players from the small fry Diamonds, Marlins and Yankees.

Dennis Cerami isn't just a councilman from South Plainfield, he is also the Middlesex County Tobacco Control Coordinator. Part of his job is traveling around Middlesex County educating people about the hazards of smoking.

Cerami took his job a step further by persuading the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club (SPJBC) to establish the entire baseball complex as a smoke-free environment.

Cerami met with Commissioner Kevin Lykes and the Executive Board of the SPJBC and they voted to apply the no smoking rule.

A new mahogany sign which was commissioned was just unveiled at the complex, along with other no-smoking signs. They will be posted all around the complex to encourage spectators to refrain from smoking on the grounds.

The mayor and council echoed their support of the SPJBC efforts by passing a resolution earlier this month.

Funding for the sign was obtained from the Master Tobacco Settlement Fund Grant and it was sponsored by

the Middlesex County Health Department.

"The executive board of the SPJBC deserves the credit, along with the mayor and council, for making a positive impact on the health and livelihood of our young athletes by dedicating the SPJBC smoke free," explained Cerami.

He added that cigarette smoking is the single most preventable cause of death and disease in the nation.

"This smoke free complex sends a positive message to our children and more importantly their parents. Parental actions, attitudes and opinions about smoking have a great deal of influence on whether or not kids smoke. Everyday some 6,000 new youths try smoking for the first time. They experiment as early as the fourth grade and statistics show that 3,000 kids will become regular smokers. If current trends continue, roughly one third of these youth smokers will die prematurely from their smoking. We need to fight back and do whatever is necessary so that doesn't happen," said Cerami.

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, June 3 Thursday, June 6

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

planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month

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

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

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.

site plan sub-committee

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

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

June 10

board of education meetings

Grant School Gymnasium on Cromwell Place unless otherwise noted

Committee of the Whole meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m.- 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 Tuesdays, at 8 p.m.-May 21 (SPHS auditorium), June 18, July (no meeting), Aug. 20, Sept. 17, Oct. 15, Nov. '19, Dec. 17, Jan. 21, 2003, Feb. 18, March 18, April 8.

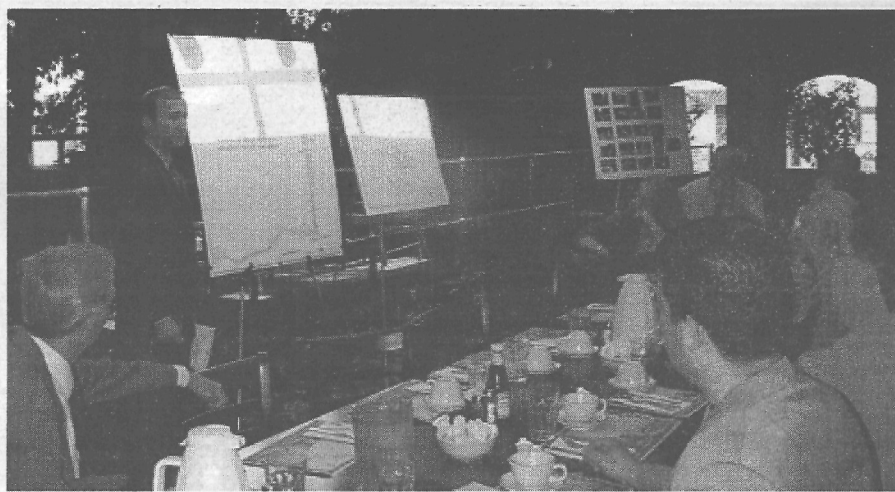
business advisory group

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
June 26, July 24,
(Aug. no meeting), Sept. 25, Oct. 23, Nov. 27 and Dec. 18



Michael McClelland, a partner at CME Consulting, was the guest speaker at the South Plainfield Business Association meeting last week to talk about the renovations planned for Hamilton Blvd. Middlesex County will be doing a complete renovation of Hamilton Blvd. sometime next year.

IN MY OPINION

Dear Editor,

My name is Kristi Moniz and I work for Print Finishing Systems on Sylvania Pl. in South Plainfield. Last Friday, May 17 a Pinto Brothers garbage truck caught on fire in front of our premises. I would just like to commend the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department for their quick response and concern for the citizens and businesses of South Plainfield.

I myself have never been this close to any type of fire before and after watching the fire departments brave and quick response, I now have a new found respect for all of the volunteers.

I, being a lifelong resident of South Plainfield, would like to take this time to thank everyone of the volunteers. I can honestly say I am proud to be a resident of South Plainfield.

SINCERELY,
KRISTI MONIZ

Dear Editor,

Recently South Plainfield had three impressive arts events in a ten-day period. First, the SPHS Players Drama Club presented "Hello, Dolly!" with an impressive cast, crew, and orchestra. Chris Baron, Chris Imbrosciano, Allison Provair, Josef Rodriguez, and the others were highlights in an entire cast of talented students.

Then, the next week, the SPMS Drama Club presented "Males Order Brides," a gold-digging, quick-change comedy that takes place during the Colorado Gold Rush. Mr. Salisbury, the Middle School staff, and other helpers should be proud of this group of kids—everyone enjoyed the show—both onstage and in the audience.

The following Saturday brought "The Broadway Kids" to the high school stage. These talented youngsters sang and danced their way through an hour of Broadway hits, and stayed around to answer questions from the audience. While attendance could have been better, I congratulate Suzanne Lyte and the Cultural Arts Commission, and hope they don't get discouraged and will continue to bring in different performing arts events for all ages.

This past weekend, "Spotlight on Dance" had their annual recital with many talented dancers of all ages enjoying the chance to perform in front

A Special Thank You

The SPJBC Women's Auxiliary would like to acknowledge and thank Rudy Poczak, Commander of the VFW in South Plainfield for his help during our Casino Night. He gave us special attention for our event and also presented the Women's Auxiliary, on behalf of the VFW, a \$350.00 donation check to our organization. Rudy, thank you again. We enjoyed working with you and Carol.

of family and friends.

In the coming weeks, there will be school concerts, more dance recitals, and other entertainment events in the borough. There are also bus trips to see a Broadway show. It's great to see South Plainfield support the arts in so many ways.

Keep encouraging the arts. Who knows? The neighbor you see on stage this spring may come back some day as "A Broadway Kid" to where it all started, where he or she first got a chance to perform on stage and hear that applause.

SINCERELY,
BILL SEESSELBERG

To the Editor,

I would like to extend my thanks to Rosanne Ilardo and my daughter, Gwenn Kurlew, for their time and effort in making local citizens aware of the Zoning Board meeting on May 16.

Application from K-Land Corporation at 433 River Road, Highland Park to erect 59 three-bedroom town houses in an M-3 Zone which is zoned for business.

We all are aware that the school budget was just approved enabling us to provide more classrooms and a new school, for our expanding student population.

More construction means more taxes, more traffic, plus bigger demands on our police department, rescue squad and fire department. Let's not forget our sewerage system that is at capacity.

The timeless effort that Rosanne and Gwenn put into this project clearly indicates that we do not need anymore condos or apartments. It also proves that when we get involved it does make a difference. This is our town and we must protect it and our families and most of all our quality of life.

Ronaway Construction only brings in people, who benefit financially, then when the project is over, we are the ones that have a financial burden. April 16 was well attended and did display public out-cry. Let's hope the message was heard loud and clear.

JAKE CATALDO

Submit Letters to the Editor:

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

Letters may be submitted by email at our website at spobserver.com or faxed to 908-668-8819. Deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. We reserve the right to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject. *Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the publisher.*

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in South Plainfield Observer:

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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southplainfieldpeople Milestones

Taryn Billich Named Pre-Teen America Finalist

Taryn Ashleigh Billich, daughter of Paul and Michele Billich of South Plainfield, has been selected as a finalist in the Pre-Teen New Jersey Scholarship and Recognition Program to be held August 15-18 at the Hilton Hotel in Parsippany.

Pre-Teen New Jersey is a by-invitation only Scholarship and Recognition event involving young ladies seven to 12 years of age based on their school academic records, awards and honors won and/or their participation in outside activities. Additionally, young ladies are invited who have been recognized publicly for their outstanding personal achievements, volunteer services, school involvement, leadership abilities or creative talents.

State finalists will be evaluated on academic achievement, volunteer service to community, school honors and activities, development of personal skills and abilities, general knowledge-ability, communicative ability and on-stage acknowledgment of accomplishments.

Pre-Teen New Jersey will award more than \$5,000 in educational bonds, prizes and awards. Taryn is very grateful to the *PM Parts & Equipment* (her sponsor) who have enabled her to attend this very prestigious state event.



Peter and Josephine Maniscalco

Maniscalco's Celebrate 65th Anniversary

Peter and Josephine Maniscalco celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on May 15.

The Maniscalco's were married in St. Rocco's Church in 1937 in Newark.

Mrs. Maniscalco is the former Josephine Facciponte.

The couple has lived in South Plainfield for the past 45 years.

Mr. Maniscalco retired from

PalNut Company in Mountainside in 1980.

The couple has two children, a daughter, Diana Scioscia Zaslow, who is married to Dr. Leonard Zaslow and a son, Peter Maniscalco, Jr., who was married to the late Diane Krupnick.

The Maniscalco's also have three grandchildren, Jennifer Scioscia and Adam and Jessica Maniscalco.

Ted Malecki Records First Hole in One

Retired South Plainfield Police Officer Ted Malecki, now residing in Palm Coast, Fla., recorded his first ever "Hole In One" on May 13.

The shot was made on the second hole, a par 3-164 yards. Malecki was using a five iron at the

Cypress Knoll Golf Club at Palm Coast Golf Resort, where Ted is a member of the Monday Skins Group.

According to his wife Patti, "There will be no living with him now." Congratulations Ted.



May Crowning at Our Lady of Czestochowa

The annual May Crowning was held at Our Lady of Czestochowa Church earlier this month. Those participating in the ceremony were Kaitlyn Pollock, who was the crowner, Gina Butrico, Kristina Mascolo, Courtney Sacco, Becky Watts, Nicole Succi and Megan Wilson were in the court.



Seniors Get Advice on Eye Care for the Aging

South Plainfield seniors had a special guest, Senator Barbara Buono, who was in attendance at their regular weekly meeting.

Senator Buono explained that she will be making periodic visits when she has information pertaining to the seniors. This visit was to educate seniors on eye problems that affect the aging.

She introduced Dr. Bruce Kastner, an ophthalmologist, who gave a short talk on the typical problems that effect the eyes of the aging and what can and cannot be done to help. He covered topics such as, macular degeneration, cataracts, dry eyes, tearing and diabetes.

Dr. Kastner explained the symptoms and prognosis of each condition and gave a few hints on prevention. He said that with modern medicine, most eye conditions can be treated. After his talk he answered questions from the audience for a short time.

For more information or a brochure, call Senator Barbara Buono's office at (732) 819-8141.



Senator Barbara Buono addresses seniors at their weekly meeting.

Buckle Up or Pay Up

The South Plainfield Police Dept. will be participating in the "Click It Or Ticket" campaign from May 20-27 as part of the Operation ABC Mobilization.

This campaign will be a zero tolerance effort for unbuckled children and other seat belt violations. The high profile law enforcement effort is two prong; enforcement and education in an effort to save lives and decrease injuries through the increased use of seat belts and child safety seats.

Educational material such as post-

ers and morning announcements will be provided to the South Plainfield High School.

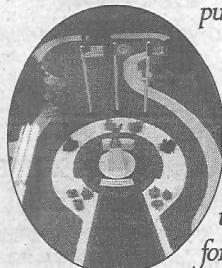
In an effort to increase child safety seat usage, the police department has received a limited number of child booster seats that will be provided to residents only, free of charge.

The fine for failure to buckle up, for drivers or passengers, is \$44.

For further information contact Sgt. Kevin Murtagh at (908) 226-7679 or Officer Vincent Campagna at 226-7693.

Have You Purchased Your Brick Yet?

Show your support for our local firemen. Your purchase of a brick will help fund the South Plainfield Firemen's Memorial to be built next to the Senior Citizen Center. Your brick will be engraved with the name of your choice and placed on the path to the memorial. Bricks can be purchased for only \$75 for individuals or \$175 for businesses.



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

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Events

Around Town

VFW Installation Dinner

May 24

The 55th Installation of Officers of VFW Post 6763 and its Ladies Auxiliary will take place on Friday, May 24, at the Post Home on Front St. Hot and cold buffet and music by Billy Phillips. The public is invited and the event is free.

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

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.

SPHS Music Booster Awards Dinner

June 14

South Plainfield High School Music Booster Awards Dinner will be held

on June 14 at 6:30 p.m. at MacAteers Restaurant in Somerset.

The cost of the dinner is \$25 per person. The dinner is open to all music students at South Plainfield High School and their parents, relatives or friends. All students are encouraged to attend. Please send payment to SPHS Music Boosters, c/o Marge Reedy, 2122 Oxford Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Any questions, please call (908) 561-3951.

Retirement Dinner for OLC Pastor John Skwara

June 23

A testimonial retirement dinner will be held in honor of Father John M. Skwara, pastor of Our Lady of Czesochowa Church, who will retire as of June 1, on Sunday, June 23, at The Pines Manor in Edison, at 2 p.m.

Father John has been administering the parish for the past 30 years.

For information and tickets, call Carolyn at (908) 755-2516 or drop by the Rectory Office, Monday through Thursday from 2 to 4 p.m.

The Special Committee for the occasion is headed by Frank Mikorski, Ed Kubala and Carolyn Yankoski.

A remembrance/good wishes booklet is also planned. Information or forms are available by contacting Carolyn at the number above.

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 Class of 1969 will be reunited on August 31 at the Willows Restaurant, 1013 North Washington Ave. in Green Brook.

For more information, call Jody Buccellato at (404) 847-0960 or Elizabeth Don at (732) 942-5170.

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 through Nov. 1.

If you are interested or have questions, 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-Illardo at (732) 878-9877. Please log onto www.classmates.com for more reunion information.

— Out of Town —

Gardening Show at Rutgers

June 1

If *Plants Could Talk* the Rutgers Cooperative Extension gardening show will be airing it's beach episode on Saturday, June 1 on NJN Public Television at 12:30 p.m.

Experts from around the state will offer tips on plants that will tolerate the harsh conditions at the shore. Our hosts will also visit Long Beach Island and Island Beach State Park to see what gardeners there have had success with. You'll even learn a bit about New Jersey's aquaculture industry.

More gardening information and promotional material for the program is always available at www.ifplants.couldtalk.rutgers.edu.

Sons of American Legion Rummage Sale

June 1

The Sons of the American Legion, Post #102 are sponsoring the Second Annual Giant Rummage Sale benefiting the Cerebral Palsy League. The event will be held at 112 West Elizabeth Ave. in Linden on Saturday, June 1, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Rain date is Sunday, June 2.

Items such as clothing, toys, games, household goods and bric-a-brac will be available. Vendors and Volunteers needed! Vendors can rent a space and sell their wares. Though hurry, space is limited! Call Dean at (908) 862-9721.

Volunteers are needed to help run the rummage sale and should call Jenna at (908) 709-1800 x147.

Bible Discussion At Alliance Bible Church

June 2

Israel and the Middle East Crisis — What does the Bible have to say about these events and what is going to happen next?

On Sunday, June 2, at 7 p.m., Dr. Bryan Widbin will be discussing these issues and more at Alliance Bible Church in Warren.

Dr. Widbin is the vice-president of Academic Affairs, the Dean of Seminary and a Professor of the Old Testament at Alliance Theological Seminary in Nyack, NY.

The current conflict in the Middle East has many wondering, is this the end of times? Whose side is God on? What does the Bible say will happen in the future? What started this conflict anyway?

Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy this informative session on Sunday, June 2 at 7 p.m. This is no charge for this event. Refreshments will be served. Alliance Bible Church is located at 52 Mount Horeb Road in Warren. For directions or more information, check www.alliancebiblechurch.com or call 732-469-1425.

E-Commerce Workshops

June 6, 13, 20

To identify industry best practices that small businesses can replicate, the Mercer/Middlesex Small Business Development Center and the Middlesex County Office of Economic Development are cosponsoring a series of three, two-hour breakfast workshops on June 6, 13 and 20 to help small businesses plan, develop and market their website.

All three sessions, Managing E-Commerce, Developing a Winning Web-Site and Marketing Your Web-Site will be at the Middlesex County Planning Board Bldg., (the Elks building) at 40 Livingston Ave. in New Brunswick, 9 to 11 a.m. Fee of \$20 per session or all three for \$50.

The SBDC provides free management consulting and affordable training services to small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs.

For info, call Gail Eagle at (732) 445-6134 or email www.eagle@yourbizpartner.com.

Small Business Seminar

June 7

On Friday, June 7 the Mercer/Middlesex Small Business Development Center (SBDC) will present a program designed to provide individuals that are in business or thinking of starting a business with information on the business loan programs and technical assistance programs offered by the SBA.

The program, titled *Building And Financing Your Business/Financial And Technical Assistance For Small Business*, will run 9:30 a.m.-noon, (registration begins at 9 a.m.) at the Food Manufacturing Technology Facility, 120 New England Ave. (off Centennial Ave.), in Piscataway.

Leading area bank lending officers will also be on hand to discuss their role in the SBA's Guaranteed Lending Program. Representatives from the SBA, SCORE, the SBDC and local lenders will be available for indi-

vidual consultations.

Participants will have the opportunity to review their business plan with a small business counselor, discuss their loan application and learn about SBA's 7(a) Guaranty Loan Program, the Pre-Qualification Loan Program and the 8(a) Minority Small Business Set-Aside Program.

There is no registration fee for this seminar.

For registration information, call (800) 432-1565, or visit www.yourbizpartner.com.

UNICO Plans Golf Outing

June 17

The Plainfield Chapter of Unico will be holding their Fifth Annual Golf Outing on Monday, June 17.

This is the day after Father's Day and it would make an ideal Father's day gift, but ladies are also welcomed. The tournament is being held at Beaver Brook Golf Club in Clinton.

The cost for each golfer is \$135 (early bird registration is \$125). This includes green fees, cart, buffet dinner, and locker storage. Shotgun starts at 1 p.m. Prizes to be awarded are for the longest drive, closest to the pin, low net and low gross. Gold and silver corporate sponsors are still available. Individual holes are also available at \$100 per flag, except flags #1 and #18, which is \$125 each.

For further information please contact Frank Licato at (908) 757-5500 or Renato Biribin at (908) 561-9898.

The proceeds from this year's outing go towards scholarships and to sponsor the Christmas parties for the handicapped and other charities. If you are interested in joining Unico, call Rick McNally (908) 755-8686.

First Annual Car Enthusiasts Weekend

July 6, 7

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

The weekend's events will include a swap meet, featuring various auto related vendors, outdoor riverfront barbecue, paddle boat rides, volleyball games, horse shoe games, fishing, watermelon pit spitting, classic car show with prizes featuring all years, makes and models, a 1950's sock hop dance party and a Top 40 dance party.

For details on being a vendor or entering the car show call either Killeen Quick at (800) 988-7941 or Jessie Cavalone at (570) 491-511.

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From the South Plainfield Library
Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Today, we're between groups on the Video Circuit. A new group of Circuit videos and DVD's will be available in a few days.

We'll be closed on Sunday and Monday in observance of Memorial Day. Also, please be advised that beginning Sunday, June 9, we'll be closed on Sundays throughout the summer. Sunday operating hours will return in September.

We'll be presenting our normal schedule of children's Storytime programs next week. The programs are for children ages three and over; pre-registration is not required. The programs are held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. Each program lasts about an hour and features stories and a craft activity. If you'd like more information, please call us at (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda.

As of this writing, there's still some room available in our next Job Information Center class, "Interviewing 101." The class is scheduled for Wednesday evening at 7:30. It's being presented free of charge, but there's limited space available, so we ask that you pre-register. For more information, please call us and ask for Allan or Marcia.

As has been noted previously, we once again have a notary public on staff. There are a few points to review, though, if you wish to make use of his services. Our notary is not an attorney or a legal professional; his job

is to verify a person's identity and witness their signing a document, as well as to insure that the signature is being made willingly and with full knowledge. If you have a document you want notarized, DO NOT sign it ahead of time; the signature must be made in the notary's presence, and this applies to all parties who must sign. You'll also need to bring along valid proof of identity, like a driver's license or other official ID. (A photo ID is preferred.) Also, our notary is only able to notarize documents in English; he's not bilingual, as our previous notary was. Finally, we charge a fee of \$1 per document for his services. We also ask that you call ahead to check on his availability, as his work schedule can be a bit flexible. Thanks very much for your consideration on this.

Finally, a reminder about book donations. We ask that you only donate books that are in good condition. By that we mean books that aren't moldy, don't smell, aren't warped out of shape, and with pages that aren't brittle. Books that are in bad shape don't sell and aren't appropriate for our collection. Regretfully, we ask that you toss such books in a recycling bin, rather than give them to us. Also, we don't accept encyclopedias or textbooks, whatever their condition. We ask that you donate those books elsewhere. Again, thanks for your consideration.

That wraps it up for now. As always, feel free to send us your questions and comments. See you next week.



Brownie Troop #136 from Franklin School, recently visited Animal House Pet Grooming located on South Plainfield Ave. Owner Laura Searles showed the girls many different pets including cats, dogs, birds, fish and an exotic chinchilla and iguana. Troop leaders are Terry Cianfrocca and Dortha Bohn. Pictured are: (back) Laura Searles, Jennifer Tercek, Melissa Perrine, Janice Treesch, (middle row) Crysta Hay, Alexis Cargill, Jena Cianfrocca, Jessica Bohn and Katie Staynings and (bottom) Jena Bohn, Samantha Tercek, Meagan Yaninck, Allyson White and Olga Tarnawska.



Mary, Dan and Jen Ratti (left to right) look forward to celebrating the second anniversary of Oak Tree Buy Rite Wines & Liquors.

Oak Tree Buy Rite Celebrates Second Anniversary

In June, it will be two years since Vito Ratti and his sons opened their second store, Oak Tree Buy Rite Wines & Spirits, located at 902 Oak Tree Road. The venture has been a great success and a Second Anniversary "Gift Give-Away" will take place throughout the month of June.

The Ratti's have resided in South Plainfield for 37 years. Sons Dave and Dan, who are partners in the businesses, live in the community and have children in the town's school system. Vito and Dan operate Oak Tree Buy-Rite, while Dave runs VW Liquors Bar located in the Wick Plaza in Edison on Route 1. Both stores are customer-friendly and always fully stocked.

To show their appreciation for two successful years at Oak Tree Buy-Rite, a special anniversary celebration is planned for the entire month of June. One of the following prizes will be raffled off each Saturday during the month of June: week one, a color television; week two, a mountain bike; week three, two Coleman outdoor fireplaces; week four, a Honda lawnmower and week five, a patio bar, stools and umbrella. This is the Ratti family's way of saying "thanks" for the support received from their many loyal customers.

Oak Tree Buy-Rite clearly has the largest selection of beer, wine and spirits in the area. The store is recognized as Central Jersey's leading "specialty" beer shop. If you are looking for a particular beer or micro brew, just ask Dan. Chances are your beer is already in the store or on its way.

Wine Manager Chin Veghla reigns over the huge wine selection and is always ready to share his knowledge and answer any questions the customers may have. If you are seeking a hard-to-find wine, just ask Chin. If it's out there, he will acquire it for you.

Are you looking for a unique gin? Look no further! Beautifully crafted gin baskets by Jen are available, ready to go, or can be made up quickly while you wait.

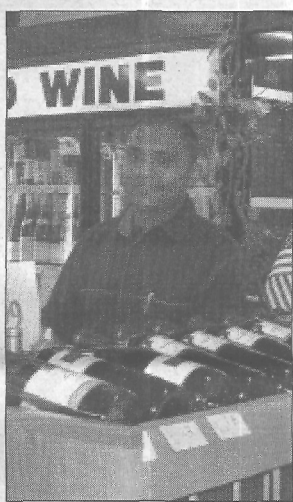
The store is spacious and clean with a huge selection of wine, beer and spirits. You will find a friendly staff who is eager to assist in any way. Parking is plentiful and easily accessible at the traffic light on Oak Tree Road at McDonald's.

Premium cigars are available and kept fresh in the store's two humidors. Snacks, soda, juice, mixers and liquor-related specialty items are always in stock. A five percent senior discount is available on Monday and Tuesday for any items not already on sale.

Oak Tree Buy-Rite is a "lucky" New Jersey Lottery agent, having sold two winning Jackpot Pick-5 tickets and a Big Game winner for \$150,000. A \$5,000 winning Crossword instant ticket was also recently purchased. Over the past two years, thousands of dollars have been won on instant tickets.

A "Club Card" membership has been initiated entitling customers to everyday discounts on different items, which change each month. Oak Tree Buy-Rite has hosted several successful wine lasting dinners. Look for notices of upcoming events.

Hours are Monday to Wednesday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Thursday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Congratulations and happy second anniversary to Vito and his family. Be sure to stop in and join in the celebration!



Wine Manager Chin Veghla



Interior of Oak Tree Buy Rite Wines & Liquors



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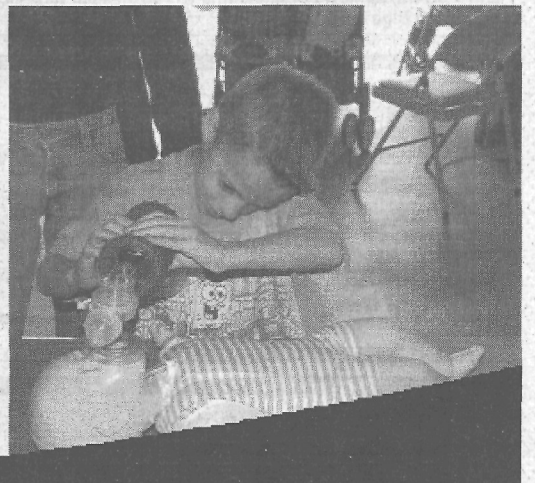
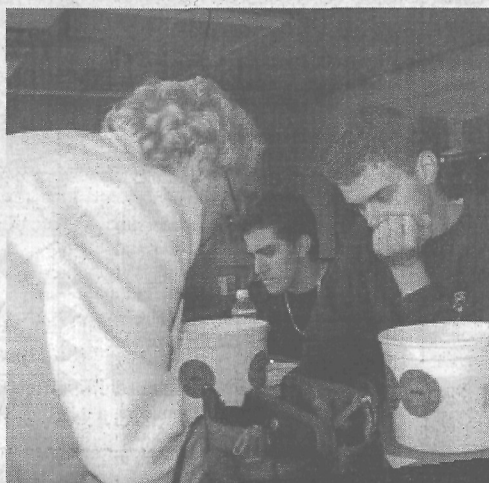
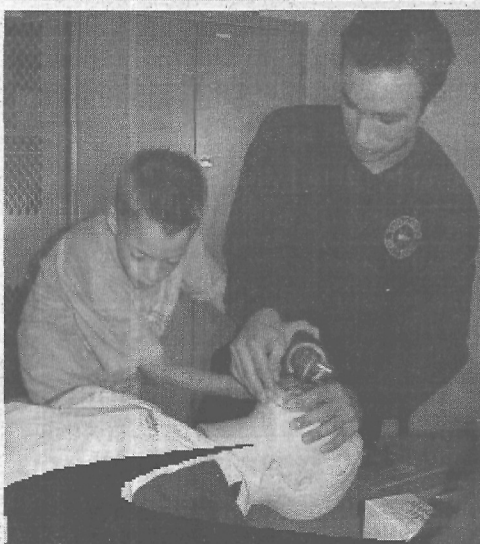
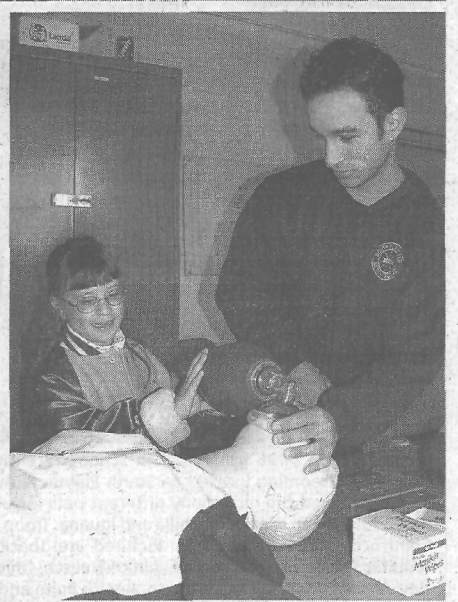
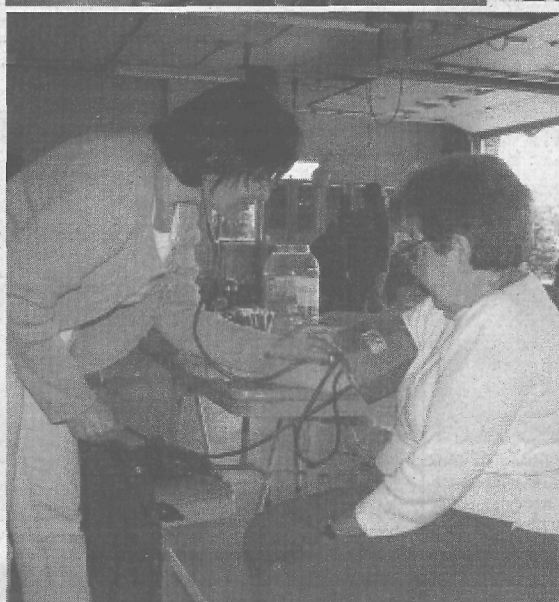
Linda Evans

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Rescue Squad OPEN HOUSE

The weather cooperated, providing the South Plainfield Rescue Squad's Second Annual Open House with a breezy, sunny day, bringing over 100 residents to visit before day's end. Activities included a demonstrating an extrication with the jaws of life, tours of an ambulance, blood pressure screenings and CPR demonstrations. They offered a variety of informative brochures from heart disease, to child safety. Children between four and eight arriving early in the day received a free booster seats. Officer Vincent Camgana inspected residents child car seats and found more than 62 were not installed properly. One wasn't even attached to seat belt. Fifty-nine seats were given away to South Plainfield residents. They were donated by the South Plainfield Police Department, Traffic Safety Division and the Ford Motor Co. Guests enjoyed free hamburgers and hotdogs, chips, popcorn and cold drinks. The Cadet Corp. sponsored a 50/50 drawing, won by Councilman Ed Kubala. Kubala donated his winnings back to the squad. The open house coordiantor was Kate Baron.



Social Studies Fair Studies Facts on the United States

By Patricia Abbott

Franklin School fifth grade teacher Nancy Donahue has her Social Studies Fair down to a science. She has been organizing the annual fair which highlights students state projects for nearly 20 years. The event teaches far more than facts and figures on a chosen state. The students are learning how to research, compile their findings and present a final work.

The students have six weeks to complete the project. After selecting a state, the students visit the library as well as ferret out information on the Internet. Throughout the process Mrs. Donahue conducts meetings with the students to monitor progress. Armed with detailed notes of their newfound knowledge, the youths create visual displays to be presented at the fair. They range from simplistic posters to highly creative and detailed works of art. The student body and parents are invited to visit the fair which is set up in the school's gym.

Superintendent Dr. John Krewer and Asst. Superintendent Mario Barbieri accepted the student's invitation and enjoyed a tour of the country through the students displays.



Free Poetry Contest Open To Residents

The International Library of Poetry has announced that \$58,000 in prizes will be awarded this year in the International Open Poetry Contest. Poets from the South Plainfield area, particularly beginners, are welcome to try to win their share of over 250 prizes. The deadline is July 31. The contest is open to everyone and entry is free. "Any poet, whether previously published or not, can be a winner," stated Christina Baylon, contest director.

To enter, send one original poem, any subject, any style to: The International Library of Poetry, Suite 19914, 1 Poetry Plaza, Owings Mills, MD 21117. The poem should be 20 lines or less with poet's name and address on the top of the page. Entries must be postmarked or sent via the Internet by July 31. Enter online at www.poetry.com

The International Library of Poetry, founded in 1982, is the largest poetry organization in the world.

Unity Bancorp Announces Record Earnings

Today many banking customers wake up to find that the name of the financial institution on their checks no longer matches the name on the bank's sign. Large financial institutions are purchasing smaller ones. Two large banks merge to form one huge company that is often managed from a headquarter office that is several states away from many of its customers. However, some banks have decided to remain local and independent. Unity Bank, headquartered in Clinton, is an independent, locally owned and managed bank with a great success story.

"A lot of banks today want to be all things to all customers," commented Unity President and Chief Executive officer Anthony J. Feraro. At Unity, we believe in the old-fashioned values of putting the customer first. Many big banks have either forgotten that idea or don't even include it in their companies' philosophy.

Unity Bank's traditional way of doing business is working. Unity Bancorp, Unity Bank's parent company, reported record earnings for the quarter ending March 31. On a pre-

tax basis, earnings were \$1.3 million compared to \$134 thousand for the same period a year ago. Total assets increased to \$394 million, a 7.4 percent increase from the previous year. The gain was primarily due to loan growth, especially in the commercial loan and SBA loan portfolios. Commercial loan volume increased 52.9 percent from the previous year, and SBA loans held for investment totaled \$38 million, a 44.1 percent increase.

During the same period, total deposits also increased significantly to \$354 million, a 6.9 percent increase

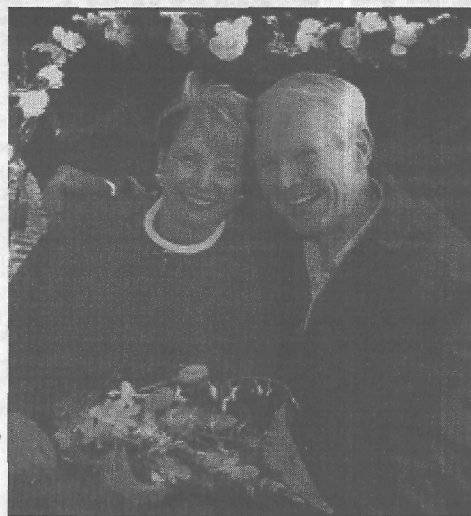
from the prior year. Unity attributes the growth in core deposits to an increase in "Opportunity Checking," its interest-bearing checking account. We intend to achieve our earnings targets with continued growth in both areas. We pride ourselves in being an old-fashioned bank and will continue our philosophy of providing our clients with traditional banking services at a competitive price and exceptional client-service. It's evident we're on the right track. Our client-base continues to grow, our earnings are up, and our loan and deposit volume are increas-

ing. We have a robust loan pipeline and anticipate continuing our upward trend. Now we can focus our efforts on achieving higher returns in the future," Feraro added.

Unity Bancorp, Inc. has \$394 million in assets and \$354 million in deposits. Unity Bank provides financial services to retail, corporate and small business clients through its 12 retail service centers in Hunterdon, Middlesex, Somerset and Union Counties. For additional information, visit their website at www.unitybank.com or call 800-618-BANK.

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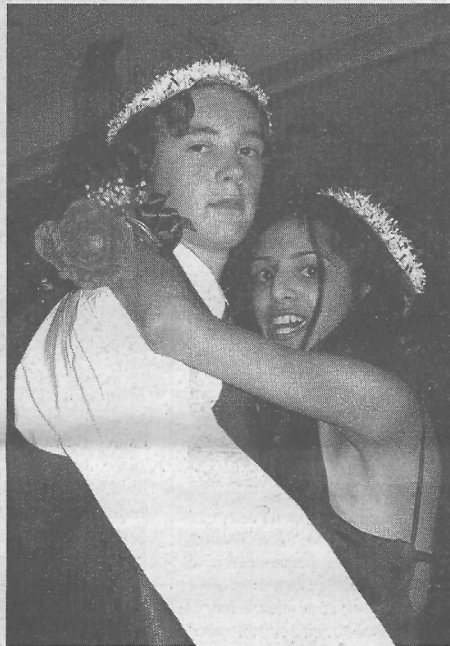
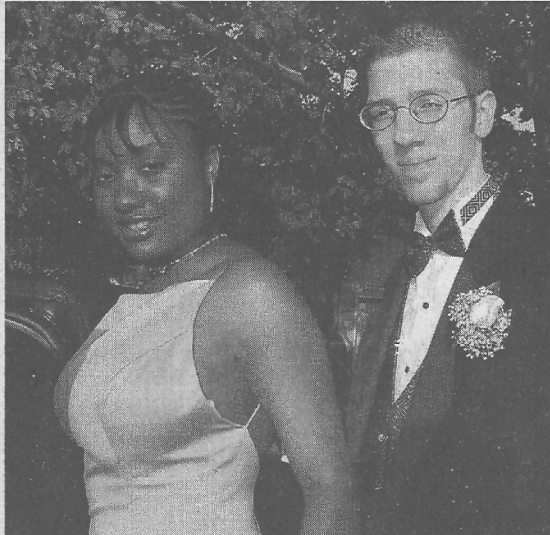
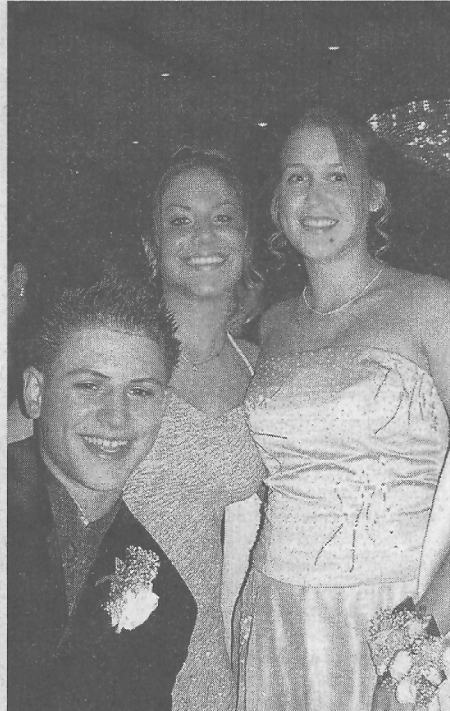
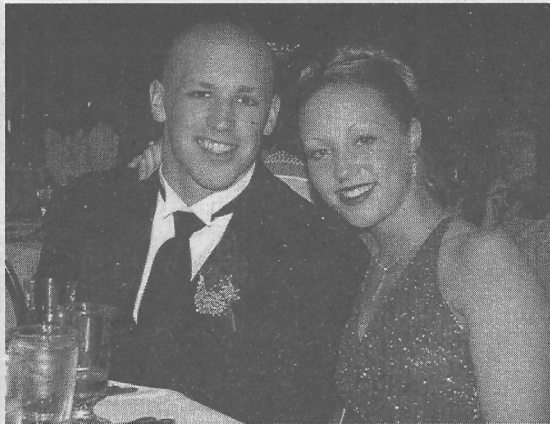
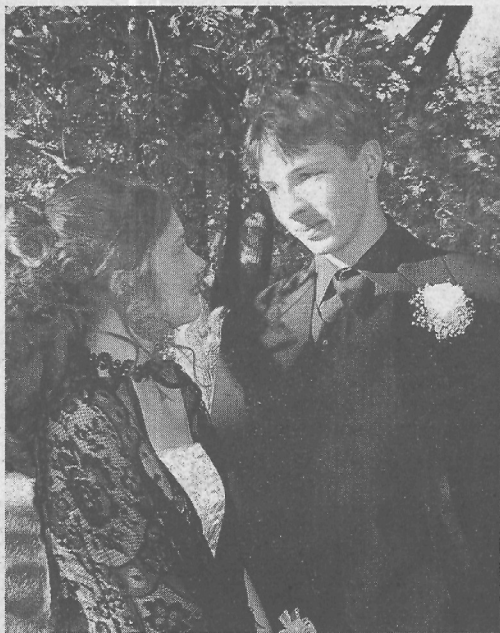
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SPHS Juniors Enjoy "A Night in Hollywood"

By Chris Baron, SPHS Junior

Think for just one second about all of the stress-causing issues and events in the life of your average high school junior; school, relationships, sports, parents, and the like. Then, think of the relief upon the mind, heart and soul of this student as the burden is lifted for one spirit-lifting, glorious evening. On May 10, amidst amazingly beautiful weather, the juniors of South Plainfield High School and their significant others enjoyed their junior prom.

To appreciate the drive and determination of the junior class which led them to excel in preparing for this night, a short history lesson is appropriate. Before last year, it seemed as if the accepted idea was to have a junior/senior prom; one large event in which both the senior and junior classes were invited. However, last year, the Class of 2002, managed to break away from that tradition. They held their own prom in the SPHS gym, creating an amazing facade depicting "A Night in Hollywood," a mask which provided for a magical night.

In the opposite direction from last year's junior prom, which was held in the gym, this year's juniors opted for the catered luxury of the Pines Manor. The switch provided for, to say the least, another magical night.

Looking behind the scenes we focus our attention on the leadership behind the planning of the Prom. Junior Class Advisors Cheryl Fox and Gale Pastula, as well as the Junior Class Board of Officers, President Nicole Woo, Vice President Christopher Baron, Secretary Alexander Huynh and Treasurer Nathalie

Londono. Through the efforts of these individuals, the night turned out as a huge success—the defining moment and culmination of the junior class's hard work and organizational planning.

"The prom was incredible. I had the best time and it got me into the art of dancing," quipped Junior Amit Kalia. Amit was not the only one who found himself inspired by the music—the dance floor seemed to be full all evening—as kids and teachers alike were entranced by the musical entertainment provided by professional

DJ, The Party King.

Music, the universal language, seemed to be the language that people were indeed speaking on the evening of May 10.

This article was written by SPHS junior Chris Baron, who is vice president of his class. I discovered his flair for writing when I inquired about some of the characters in the recent musical Hello, Dolly! His descriptions were exciting and vivid. I asked him to write about the prom, despite the fact that I was there. His words brought to life the enthusiasm of the Junior class and all who attended.—Patricia Abbott

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Students Receive Degrees, Awards, Scholarships

Matthew Stanislas Receives BA From Kean Univ.

Matthew A. Stanislas, the son of Anthony and Connie Stanislas of South Plainfield, graduated from Kean University Cum Laude on May 9 with a B.A. in Criminal Justice.

Based on his academic performance, Matthew was chosen to receive the Symbolic Degree in the college of Business and Public Administration.

Matthew will be employed as a police officer for Boonton Township in Morris County, and was sworn during the May 20 council meeting.

Deanna Brooks Graduates From Rutgers Univ.

Deanna Leigh Brooks, daughter of William L. and Denise Brooks of South Plainfield, has graduated



Deanna Brooks

from Rutgers University with a double major in Philosophy and English.

Deanna's paternal and maternal grandparents are William D. and Marian Brooks and John P. and Ann Zazzara.

Among her accomplishments was placement on the Dean's list every semester and induction into the Golden Key National Honor Society in September of 2000.



SPHS Seniors Michael Jaghab and Krystal McCullen receive scholarship awards from American Legion Post 243.

American Legion Chaumont Post 243 Awards Two CE Seniors \$1,000

The South Plainfield American Legion Chaumont Post 243 has created an ongoing partnership with the South Plainfield High School Cooperative Education/School to Careers Program. During the past ten years members of the American Legion continue to run an essay competition to honor CE seniors excelling in both academics and on-the-job training during their senior year. This year was highly competitive with almost three times as many candidates competing for two \$1,000 scholarships. The committee members review essays, grades,

resumes, recommendations, employer ratings, and school and community activities.

Finance Officer John Blanchard announced the two winners this week. They are Michael Jaghab, son of Joan and George Jaghab of Park Ave. Mike will be attending Middlesex County College for teacher education, and Krystal McCullen, who will be attending Centenary College on a full scholarship, majoring in Sports Management. She has been recruited to be their starting varsity soccer goal keeper next fall.

Lauren Darr Named USAA Award Winner for Cheerleading

The United States Achievement Academy announced today that Lauren Darr from South Plainfield, has been named a United States National Award Winner in cheerleading.

Lauren Darr is the daughter of Robert and Doreen Darr of South Plainfield. The grandparents are Rita Lambert of South Plainfield and Mr. and Mrs. B. Darr of Springfield.

This award is a prestigious honor very few students can ever hope to attain. In fact, the Academy recognizes fewer than 10 percent of all American high school students.

Lauren Darr, who attends South Plainfield High School, was nominated for this national award by Lecann Roudi, a coach at the school.

Lauren Darr will appear in the United States Achievement Academy Official Yearbook, which is published nationally.

The criteria for selection are a student's academic performance, interest and aptitude, leadership qualities, responsibility, enthusiasm, motivation to learn and improve, citizenship, attitude and cooperative spirit, dependability and a recommendation from a teacher or director.

Andrew Falocco Earns Eagle Scout Award

Andrew Falocco, son of Tom and Vicky Falocco of South Plainfield, was presented with the Eagle Scout Award, the highest award in Boy Scouting, last Friday evening before a crowd of more than 100 guests at Wesley Methodist Church. Guests included Mayor Dan Gallagher and several members of the Borough Council.

Andrew, a member of Troop 309, joined scouting in 1995 and never looked back, moving up the ladder in rank until reaching the highest goal of Eagle Scout. Troop 309 has one of the highest number of scouts who have earned Eagle Scout. Andrew Falocco is the 25th scout from Troop 309 to earn this high award.

Over the years, while at Troop 309, he has served as assistant patrol leader, patrol leader, troop scribe, 1997 Scout of the Year, a Red Cross Life Guard and senior assistant patrol leader.



Eagle Scout Andrew Falocco

taken to the transfer station.

In the weeks and months that followed the clean-up, he maintained the area with regular grass cutting, trash removal and assorted other activities



Eagle Scout Award Recipient Andrew Falocco with his parents, Vicky and Tom.

While attending South Plainfield High School, his accomplishments are just as impressive. He was captain of the varsity tennis team, goalie in varsity soccer, a member of the chorus, traveling choir and Jades. He serves on the SPHS student council, is a member of the French Club, Ski Club, SADD and worked on the stage crew in Drama Club.

To earn his Eagle Scout Award, Andrew chose to adopt-a-spot as a community service project. He adopted the stream annex at Spring Lake Park, a site that really needed adopting. This area is located between where the future Fireman's Memorial and the future Veteran's Memorial are going to be placed.

Andrew recruited his friends, family and fellow scouts to assist in the cleanup of the spring bed located east of the park. The group removed seventy pounds of litter. Recyclables were separated and taken to the recycling center. Shrubs, trees and brush were taken to the landfill and the trash was

to enhance the area.

Andrew was encouraged by the rebirth of the wildlife that is now beginning to inhabit the area. It gave him a sense of self-pride in seeing the area take on a new value and importance to South Plainfield.

During the ceremonies, Andrew received many accolades from all over the country. Some of the commendations include President George Bush, United State Senators Robert Toricelli and Jon Corzine, Representative Michael Ferguson, Governor James McGreevey, Senators President John Bennett and Barbara Buono, Assemblymen Peter Barnes and Patrick Diegnan, Freeholder John Pulomena, Mayor Dan Gallagher and Council President James Vokral.

Certificates for recognition were also received from the New Jersey State Senate, South Plainfield Elks, Veteran of Foreign Wars, the Mayor and Council and the Knights of Columbus.

SPHS Students Compete in Poetry Contest

The English Department of South Plainfield High School would like to congratulate Pam Cianfrocca, Dominick Mascolo, Gina D'Urso and Takara Kaczowski for their impressive performances at the Kean University Contest in the Reading of Poetry, which was held on May 6 on the East

Campus.

This annual competition brings together many New Jersey high school students for an all-day contest of oral interpretation.

This year, Pam Cianfrocca, who read selections by contemporary poet Sharon Olds and Dominick Mascolo,

read a trio of poems by Langston Hughes, progressed all the way to the semi-finals.

Alissa Pecora and Donna Timko, teachers in the English Department, volunteered their time to coach the students for this competition.

Congratulations to All!

Curriculum/Technology/ Student Activities Committee Meetings

Please be advised of the following Curriculum/Technology/Student Activities Committee meetings which will be held in the Grant Central Sixth Elementary School on Cromwell Place in the Curriculum Director's Office at 7 p.m.

Wednesday, August 7

Wednesday, September 4

Wednesday, October 6

Wednesday, November 6

Wednesday, December 4

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Wednesday, April 2, 2003

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Kaplan Withdraws Plans

Continued from page 1

dents of the area what they would like to see happen to the property which use to house WERA radio station. It is in zoned M-3, which is industrial/manufacturing.

Smith said that the Zoning Board requires a complete site plan when an applicant appears before it. This

could cost up to \$50,000. Thus an informal hearing was requested to find out what the neighbors would like and what the board would require for buffers, etc.

Joe Papa seemed to sum up what everyone was thinking when he said, "Why not retain what is now in the area—single family housing."

High School Track Team Competes on New Track

Continued from page 1

Through the efforts and persistence of the parents, coaches and members of the Board of Education, a brand new state of the art track has been constructed.

On Monday the SPHS track team competed against North Brunswick, their first home game since 1999. For many seniors this was the first time they were able to compete on their home turf before graduating next month.

Many dignitaries were on hand to watch the ribbon cutting followed by the team streaming onto the field and running a lap. They were Superintendent of School Dr. John Krewer, Assistant Superintendent

Mario Barbieri, Business Administrator Ed Izbiski, Board of Education members, Frank Mikorski, Dawn Jeffereys and Ken LaFreniere, Athletic Director Mike Buggey, Tom Loesner and John Rayho. Also on hand was Stanley Werchinski, an engineer at Stilo Excavating, who ripped up the old and track and disposed of it at no charge to the community.

The original track, built in 1975 was redone in 1980. In 1999 it was declared unsafe and no one could even practice on it. The track used to be host to the State Championship Meet and everyone is hopeful that in 2003 the championships will return to South Plainfield.



Ribbon cutting ceremonies took place on Monday for the new track at Jost Field. Pictured are Mario Barbieri, Tom Loesner, Ken LaFreniere, Dawn Jeffereys, Mike Buggey, Stanley Werchinski, Dr. John Krewer and Frank Mikorski.



VFW Post Commander Rudy Poczak with Mrs. Santelli's fourth grade class at Roosevelt school. The children designed the bulletin board behind them with information given to them about veteran's who died during the war.

Fourth Graders Learn About Veterans

Mrs. Santelli's four grade class at Roosevelt School are probably some of the most informed students in South Plainfield this Memorial Day, when it comes to veterans.

VFW Post Commander Rudy Poczak has been visiting the class, educating the students about what a Veteran is and what they have contributed in the past to protect our freedom.

According to Mrs. Santelli, the students were so fascinated and impressed by Poczak's first visit, they invited him back to the class two more times.

Poczak brought along various medals, memorabilia, books about wars and photos of some of the soldiers who have died in combat. He explained that several of our streets have been named for these veterans.

The enthusiasm of the students could be seen by just looking around their classroom. The students made a beautiful bulletin board with ribbons, flags and poppies, all surrounding the poem *Flanders Field*.

In the hall just outside their class they decorated a bulletin board in tribute to the veterans who died during

the war, complete with photos and personal stories about each soldier.

Poczak taught the students the significance of Memorial Day. He explained what the VFW and American Legion organizations were about and the significance of the poppy we all wear around Memorial Day.

When he returned to the class on Tuesday, the students presented him with written notes, letters and illustrations they made to thank him for taking the time to talk with them.

Two of the students surprised him when they brought in their own memorabilia. Lee Stranzenback brought in a medal belonging to her grandfather, Richard Stranzenback from the Korean War. Nina Visaggio had the purple heart presented to her grandfather, Donald W. Shuman.

Both Mrs. Santelli and Rudy Poczak felt that this year's classroom visit was so successful that they are planning to make it an annual event for the fourth grade class.

Remember Our Veterans This Memorial Day

On Monday, May 27, VFW Post #6763 and American Legion Chaumont Post #243 will observe Memorial Day Services.

Opening services begin at 9 a.m. at the VFW on Front Street. Ceremonies continue on with a visit to each cemetery, where a wreath will be laid and taps will be played. Cemeteries to be visited are the Jewish Cemetery, Samptown Cemetery, both located on New Market Ave., Holy Redeemer Cemetery on Clinton Ave. and Veterans Park. The closing ceremonies will be held at the American Legion Post #243 located on Oak Tree Ave. An open house with refreshments will be served at the American Legion.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend these services. Let's not forget our Veterans, without them we would not be enjoying the freedom we take for granted.

JUST A COMMON SOLDIER

He was getting old and paunchy
And his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion
Telling stories of the past,
Of a war that he had fought in
And the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies
They were heroes, every one.

Tho' sometimes to his neighbors,
His tales became a joke,
All his Legion buddies listened,
For they knew whereof he spoke,
But we'll hear his tales no longer,
For old Bill has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer
For a soldier died today.

He'll not be mourned by many,
Just his children and his wife,
For he lived an ordinary
Quiet and uneventful life,
Held a job and raised a family,
Quietly going his own way;
And the world won't note his passing -
Though a soldier died today.

When politicians leave this earth, Their
bodies lie in state,
When thousands note their passing

And proclaim that they were great,
Papers tell their life stories from
The time that they were young,
But the passing of a soldier
Goes unnoticed and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution
To the welfare of our land
A guy who breaks his promises
And cons his fellow man?
Or the ordinary fellow who,
In times of war and strife
Goes off to serve his country
And offers up his life

A politician's stipend and the
Style in which he lives
Are sometimes disproportionate
To the service that he gives,
While the ordinary soldier
Who offers up his all
Is paid off with a medal,
And perhaps a pension, small.

It's so easy to forget them,
For it was so long ago
That the "Old Bills" of our country
Went to battle, but we know
It was not the politicians,
With their compromise and ploys,

Who won for us the freedom
That our country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger
With your enemies at hand,
Would you want a politician
With his ever-shifting stand?
Or would you prefer a soldier
Who has sworn to defend
His home, his kin and country,
And would fight until the end

He was just a common soldier
And his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us
We may need his like again,
For when countries are in conflict
Then we find the soldier's part
Is to clean up all the troubles
That the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honour
While he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him hom-
age
At the ending of his days,
Perhaps just a simple headline
In a paper that would say:
"Our Country Is In Mourning -
For a Soldier Died Today."

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- Track (K-8)
- Cross Country (4-8)
- Girls' Softball (5-8)
- DARE Program (5)

Registration is
still open
for pre-K,
kindergarten
& grades 1-6

For further information: School (908) 756-0632 ext. 32 or 33
Convent (908) 756-0631
Parish Center (908) 756-0633 ext. 10

Sister Maria Cornelia Ramirez, RVM
PRINCIPAL

Rev. John Paul Alvarado
PASTOR

Sports



Ponytail Softball Batters Box

By Sharon Miller

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.

Appreciation Day—June 2—The recreation Appreciation Day softball game will be held at 1 p.m. on June 2 at the Pitt Street Park complex. Coaches will be selecting five players from their teams to participate in this game. The girls selected will then be divided into two teams for the Appreciation Day game. Please join us on Sunday, June 2 for this exciting softball game.

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).

Sponsorship Program—This year we have revised our sponsorship program. Our sponsors will be able to have an advertising sign placed on the outfield fences of our fields at Pitt Street Park. The sign will be four feet by eight feet in size. Sponsors will be able to design their sign with any information or logo they choose. The signs will be up for our spring, summer and fall programs (now thru end of October). Sponsors will have the choice of a one-year agreement at a cost of \$300 (includes cost of sign) or a two-year agreement at a cost of \$400 (includes cost of sign). After the initial agreement period is up, the annual renewal fee will be \$175. This new program offers our sponsors a cost-effective advertising opportunity which will reach hundreds of families. All of the funds, which are collected from our sponsors and fundraisers, goes directly towards improving and upgrading the Pitt Street softball facilities as well as benefiting the girls who play recreation and all-star softball. If you are interested in funding a sign, please contact any member of the South Plainfield Ponytail Association or contact us via our website as indicated below.

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 Webmasterspponytail.com, found on our home page.

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.

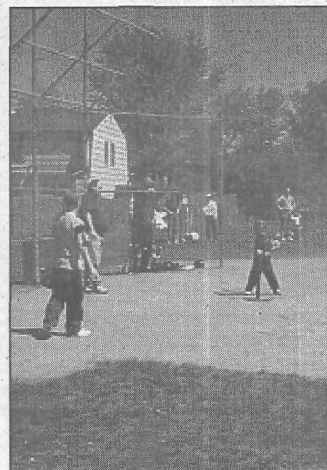
The supervised activities are free and for resident children who are in the first through sixth grades. The parks are open from 8:30-11:30 a.m.

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.



T-ball and Teener-ball are underway. Children ages 5 to 8 are learning the fundamentals of baseball without the pressure of competition. These programs are sponsored by the South Plainfield Recreation Department.



Freestyle Wrestlers Place at State Tournament

By Bob Hunter

South Plainfield Freestyle wrestlers had a good day at the USA New Jersey State Freestyle Championships this past weekend, held at the Rahway Recreation Center.

Patrick Hunter, Novice 75 pounds, won his second freestyle championship in dominating fashion, by winning his semifinal match by tech fall over Tommy Ross of Watchung 14-2. In the finals, Hunter again won by tech fall over Darren White of

South Brunswick 16-4.

Robert Gentile, Schoolboy 70 pounds, won his opening match 8-3. He then lost his next match, but came back strong winning his consolation match for third place.

Anthony Feirro, Cadet 145 pounds, also had a good day winning his first two matches by decision. Feirro lost his next match, but dominated his consolation final, winning by tech fall 14-2 for third place.

Nick Heilmann, Novice 70 pounds,

wrestling in his first freestyle tournament had good showing, finishing in fourth place and qualifying him for the Northeast Regionals, which will be held in East Stroudsburg, Pa. in June.

In other freestyle news Scott Whalen, Bantam 51 pounds, qualified to advance to the Middle Atlantic Freestyle and Greco Roman Championships. Whalen, wrestling in his first freestyle tournament, won the bantam 52 pound title by tech fall 13-0.

Comets Fly Ahead, Win Against Pumas

The Comets 12-U girl's soccer team won their game on Sunday against Millburn Pumas. In the first half the Comets' offense Katie Baldasare, Claire Kelly, Brooke DeNitzio, Stephanie Szeliga, Chelsea Moubarak, Victoria Plasse, Stephanie Lanza and Jackie Bosse kept Millburn on their toes keeping most of the action down near the Puma's goal.

Millburn's goalie was unable to block a beautiful shot made by Claire Kelly.

Strong defense by defenders Alyssa Sutherland, Lindsey Fredericks, Allison Whitefleet and Rachel Senz kept the Pumas at bay. Good goal tending by Kate Reichert kept

Millburn from scoring in the first half.

In the second half the girls played strong. Once again the Comets offense and defense were unstoppable. Claire Kelly scored for the second time making the score 2-0. The defense again kept Millburn at bay only letting them score once. Final Score 2-1, Comets.

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, located on Maple Ave. For more information, call (908) 226-7714.

Be Part of the Most Popular Sport in the World!

South Plainfield Soccer Club will hold tryouts for boys and girls teams for the Fall and Spring 2002/2003 season on May 28-31. For complete details, visit the try-out section of our web site: www.soplfdsoccerclub.com.

How You Can Be a Part of the South Plainfield Observer.

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

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

IF THERE IS SOMEONE YOU KNOW WHO MAKES A DIFFERENCE in South Plainfield? Thank them by letting us know.

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

SUGGEST A BUSINESS FOR US TO SPOTLIGHT. If you have had great service in South Plainfield share it with your neighbors through the newspaper.

SUBMIT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR to allow 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.

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LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Dominick Cirilli requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the erection of 12' x 16' patio enclosure and a 12' x 20' wood deck, proposed deck lacks the required 20' rear setback, 19.62' being proposed; proposed deck and patio enclosure exceeds lot coverage by 189 s.f. or 2.2%, and any other variances that may be required, said property being located on Block 429, Lot 6.05 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, June 13, 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 May 24, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Wendell Born requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the erection of a second story addition with a 3.5' front cantilever and a 2' rear cantilever and a 5' x 32' front porch. Proposed addition needs a front setback variance, 30' required and 22.5' proposed and side setback variance 8' required and a 7.8' proposed. Proposed front porch needs a front setback 30' required and 21' being proposed and side setback variance 8' required and 7.8' proposed, and any other variances that may be required, said property being located on Block 180, Lot 6 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, June 13, 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 May 24, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by David and Jody Nissel requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the erection of 900 s.f. addition, proposed addition lacks the required 8' side setback, 2' being proposed and exceed lot coverage by 52 s.f. or .58%, and any other variances that may be required, said property being located on Block 154, Lot 10 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, June 13, 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 May 24, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Kevin Flannery requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the existing 15' x 14' irregular deck; deck lacks the required 30' front setback from Kaine Ave., 19' exist, and any other variances that may be required, said property being located on Block 261, Lot 8 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, June 13, 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 May 24, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids will be received by the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey on JUNE 12, 2002 at *** 10:00 AM *** prevailing time in the Council Chambers of the municipal building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey at which time and place bids will be opened and read in public for:

SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD SERVICE SCHOOL YEAR 2002-2003

Specifications and other bid information may be obtained at the Municipal Clerk's office in the municipal building at the above address during regular business hours 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Only bidders who have picked up specifications will be allowed to submit bids. All bids must be submitted on the Proposal Forms furnished by the Borough. A bid bond in the form of a certified check, cashier's check or bid bond payable to the BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD in the amount equal to 10% of the highest bid amount, including alternates, if any, but not to exceed \$20,000 and a duly executed Consent of Surety Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of P.L.1975, c.127 (N.J.A.C. 17:27 et seq.), the New Jersey Prevailing Wage Act, N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.25, Employment on Public Works N.J.S.A. 10:2 EOE, ADA.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$38.50 May 24, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Bill and Barbara Cochran requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the erection of a 32' x 32' add-a-level; proposed addition lacks the required 8' side setback, 5.65' exist, and any other variances that may be required, said property being located on Block 35, Lot 1 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, June 13, 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 May 24, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

ORDINANCE No. 1595

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

Ord. #1595 entitled: AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE: A PORTION OF JACKSON AVENUE WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD be adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, May 24, 2002 and that a public hearing be held at 7:00PM on Thursday, June 6, 2002 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield New Jersey 07080.

ORDINANCE NO. 1595

AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE A PORTION OF JACKSON AVENUE, WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Borough Council as follows:

SECTION 1. Whereas, the Board of Education wishes to construct a new grammar school on the site of the old Roosevelt School and use the existing school as their Administration Building, and

Whereas, the Borough believes that the Board of Education Expansion Project would be enhanced by the vacation of a portion of Jackson Avenue, and

Whereas, the Mayor and Borough Council hereby vacates said portion of Jackson Avenue, as shown on the Tax Map on file with the Borough of South Plainfield and which is described below:

BEGINNING at a point being the intersection of the northerly sideline of Belmont Avenue (50' ROW) with the westerly sideline of Jackson Avenue (50' ROW) (unimproved street) and running:

(1) Leaving Belmont Avenue, North 13 degrees 57 minutes 00 seconds West 41.85 feet to an angle point in lands of the South Plainfield Board of Education, known as Tax Lot 8 in Block 355; thence

(2) Continuing along lands of the Board of Education, (Lot 8 Block 355), North 43 degrees 57 minutes 00 seconds West 636.96 feet to a point; thence

(3) Crossing the right-of-way of the unimproved portion of Jackson Avenue, in-line with the southerly sideline of Garibaldi Avenue (50' ROW) North 46 degrees 03 minutes 00 seconds East, 50.00 feet to the northwest corner of Lot 1, Block 351, n/f Italian/American Progressive League of South Plainfield; thence

(4) South 43 degrees 57 minutes 00 seconds East, 650.21 feet parallel with course #2, along Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and a portion of Lot 7 in Block 351 to an angle point in the right-of-way line; thence

(5) Continuing along a portion of Lot 7 in Block 351, South 13 degrees 57 minutes 00 seconds East, 54.50 feet, parallel to the first course to a point on the northerly sideline of Belmont Avenue, also being the southwest corner of Lot 7 Block 351; thence

(6) Westerly across the intersection of Jackson Avenue @ Belmont Avenue, South 75 degrees 11 minutes 32 seconds West, 50.01 feet to the southeasterly corner of Lot 8, Block 355, the place of Beginning.

The above described parcel contains 34, 592 S.F. (0.794Ac.) more or less, all as shown on a map entitled "ROAD VACATION PLAN - ROOSEVELT SCHOOL JACKSON AVENUE" PREPARED BY DeMuro Associates Consulting Engineers & Surveyors.

SECTION 2. If any section, paragraph, subdivision, clause or provision of this ordinance shall be adjudged invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to the section, paragraph, subdivision, clause or provision so adjudged and the remainder of the ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective.

SECTION 3. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with or in conflict with the ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall take effect 20 days after final passage, adoption and publication according to law.

Approved May 23, 2002
Daniel J. Gallagher/Mayor

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$106.00 May 24, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

May 21, 2002

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

A. Case #28-02—ROLANDO HERNANDEZ—Block 58, Lot 23; 231 Fairmount Avenue—Applicant's request for a 6.21' side setback and exceeding lot coverage variance for the erection of a 40' x 14' wood deck, was hereby GRANTED.

B. Case #29-02—EDWARD & LORRI CIHAN-OWY—Block 367; Lot 2.10, 705 Delmore Ave.—Applicant's request for a 7.5' front setback from Green Street for an 18' above ground pool, was hereby GRANTED.

C. Case #8-02—ANGEL ROBLES—Block 192, Lot 1; R-10 Zone; 505 Edgar Avenue—Applicant's request for front yard setback variances to construct an addition to the second story, was hereby DENIED.

D. Case #3-02/S SULLIVAN'S AUTO BODY—Block 420; Lot 10; M-3 Zone; Hamilton Blvd.—Applicant's request for a use variance, preliminary and final site plan approval to reconstruct their public garage was hereby GRANTED with variances and conditions.

E. Case #25-02—JACK GIARETTA—Block 7; Lot 39; R7.5 Zone; 1226 So. Ninth St.—Applicant's request for a lot width and lot coverage variances to construct a single family dwelling, was hereby GRANTED.

F. Case #19-02/C—ANTONIA GRASSO—Block 347; Lot 8.03, Smith St. & Tremont Ave.—Applicant's request for a waiver with regard to road improvements to Borough standards was hereby GRANTED, with conditions.

Janice Mucilli
Secretary Zoning Board of Adjustment

\$48.00 May 24, 2002

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SUMMARY OR SYNOPSIS OF 2001 REPORT OF AUDIT OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AS REQUIRED BY N.J.S.A. 40A:5-7

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE - CURRENT FUND

REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME REALIZED	JUNE 30, 2001	JUNE 30, 2000
Fund Balance Utilized	\$1,800,000.00	\$2,206,000.00
Miscellaneous - From Other		
Than Local Property Tax Levies	7,451,297.84	6,909,271.85
Collection of Delinquent Taxes and		
Tax Title Liens	31,608.91	183,402.57
Collection of Current Tax Levy	46,846,959.71	43,726,408.46
Total Income	55,929,866.46	53,025,082.88

EXPENDITURES

Budget Expenditures:		
Municipal Purposes	18,185,185.66	17,410,617.03
County Taxes	7,309,700.08	7,043,135.21
Local School Taxes	27,529,095.00	26,572,445.00
Other Expenditures	20,520.47	176,928.87
Total Expenditures	53,544,501.21	51,203,126.11
Excess in Revenue	2,385,365.25	1,821,956.77
Expenditures to be Raised by		
Future Taxes		7,500.00
Statutory Excess to Fund Balance	2,385,365.25	1,829,456.77
Fund Balance - Beginning	1,951,272.69	2,327,815.92
	4,336,637.94	4,157,272.69
Less:		
Utiliz. as Anticipated Revenue	1,800,000.00	2,206,000.00
Fund Balance - Ending	\$2,536,637.94	\$1,951,272.69

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE - SEWER UTILITY FUND

REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME REALIZED	JUNE 30, 2001	JUNE 30, 2000
Fund Balance Utilized	\$220,000.00	\$220,000.00
Collection of Sewer Service Charges	2,767,729.11	3,180,515.79
Miscellaneous - From Other than		
Sewer Service Charges	341,087.14	596,279.17
Total Income	3,328,816.25	3,996,794.96

EXPENDITURES

Budget Expenditures:		
Operating	2,254,213.00	2,181,076.64
Debt Service	763,110.87	616,608.31
Deferred Charges & Stat. Expend.	64,000.00	57,225.39
Capital Improvements	300,000.00	96,000.00
Total Expenditures	3,381,323.87	2,950,908.34
Excess in Revenue	(52,507.62)	1,045,886.62
Adjustments to Income Before Surplus:		
Expenditures Included Above Which are		
by Statute, Deferred Charges to Budget		
of Succeeding Year	52,507.62	
Statutory Excess in Revenue		1,045,886.62
Fund Balance - Beginning	1,159,300.30	333,413.68
	1,159,300.30	1,379,300.30

Less:		
Anticipated Current Fund Revenue	350,000.00	
Util. as Anticipated Revenue	220,000.00	220,000.00
Fund Balance - Ending	\$589,300.30	\$1,159,300.30

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE - SWIM POOL UTILITY FUND

REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME REALIZED	JUNE 30, 2001	JUNE 30, 2000
Fund Balance Utilized		
Deficit General Budget	\$83,917.47	\$37,204.28
Membership Income	133,432.00	172,174.00
Miscellaneous - From Other		
Than Rental Income	29,757.83	27,233.71
Total Income	247,107.10	236,611.99

EXPENDITURES

Budget Expenditures:		
Operating	161,707.00	181,079.39
Debt Service	82,322.18	58,627.49
Deferred Charges & Stat. Expend.	29,888.00	16,943.26
Total Expenditures	273,917.18	256,650.14
Excess (Deficit) in Revenue	(26,810.08)	(20,038.15)

Adj. to Income Before Fund Balance:		
Amounts to Be Raised in		
Budget of Succeeding Year		22,000.00
Operating Deficit to be Raised in		
Budget of Succeeding Year	26,810.08	
Statutory Excess to Fund Balance		1,961.85
Fund Balance - Beginning	21,948.59	19,986.74
	21,948.59	21,948.59

Less:		
Utiliz. as Anticipated Revenue		
Fund Balance - Ending	\$21,948.59	\$21,948.59

RECOMMENDATIONS

We Recommend the Following:

That the Borough maintain and retain centralized records regarding the determination of whether the expenditures in any category will exceed the quotation and bid thresholds within the fiscal year.

That the Borough revise the Uniform Claims Procedure, where required, to acknowledge amendments to the Local Public Contracts Law.

That the surety bond coverage for the Municipal Court be maintained in compliance with the statutory requirement.

That the Tax Collector continue to review all delinquent taxes, sewer utility charges, and assessments receivable to determine the status of all delinquent accounts for proper disposition.

That interfund loan amounts be cleared by cash transfers where feasible.

That all Funds collected by the Municipal Court be deposited in accordance with the statutory 48-hour deposit requirement.

That a formal review and proper disposition of all Cash in Lieu of Performance and Maintenance Bonds reported on the financial accounting records as of June 30, 2001 be performed to ensure proper accountability and reporting of all Cash in Lieu of Performance and Maintenance Bonds on deposit for compliance with the amended Developer Escrow Accounting Law requirements.

That the Borough establish a centralized accounting and reporting of Compensated Absence information in compliance with Division of Local Government Services requirements.

That all Funds collected by all Outside Offices and Departments be deposited in accordance with the statutory 48-hour deposit requirement.

That the Borough centralize the management of its grants to insure full compliance with all grant program and statutory requirements.

That the Borough comply with the amended Developer Escrow Accounting Law in all respects.

That Bond and Interest bank accounts be reconciled through June 30, 2001 and on a monthly basis thereafter and presented for audit.

That the Borough comply with Technical Accounting Directive Number 85-2 (General Fixed Asset Accounting and Reporting), issued by the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey, in all respects.

The above summary or synopsis was prepared from the Report of Audit of the Borough of South Plainfield, Middlesex County, New Jersey for the fiscal year 2001. The financial data included in the summary or synopsis is presented in the form prescribed by the Local Finance Board, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey. Readers are cautioned that the summary or synopsis was prepared solely for the purpose of compliance with the public disclosure provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:5-76, and accordingly, the summary or synopsis should not be relied upon for any other purpose. The Report of Audit, submitted by Andrew G. Hodiuk, Registered Municipal Accountant, is on file at the Borough Clerk's office and may be inspected by any interested person.

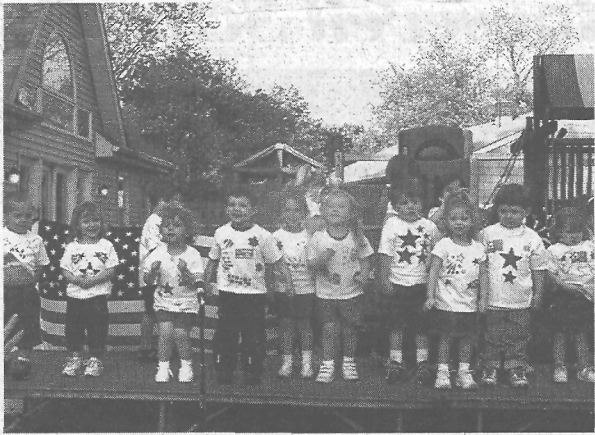
Vincent Buttiglieri, Borough Clerk

\$329.00 May 24, 2002

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Spring Fling Wows Crowd at Creative Kids Academy

The parking lot at Creative Kids Academy was filled with parents, grandparents and friends to see the

Annual Spring Fling Show. Once again the weather God's were kind and it turned out to be a warm, clear evening.

Each year, the Creative Kids put on a show which brings smiles to everyone in the audience.

The kids range in age from two to kindergarten. Some of the performers are real hams, while others never open their mouths during their performance, they just look for mom and dad. A few even shed a tear or two, but all in all it is always a show to remember.

This year all of the performers wore red, white and blue and most song's all had a patriotic theme.



Winter Guard Wins Bronze at Tournament

By Patricia Abbott

Dreams do come true and Silver Dreams, the SPHS Winter Guard has the bronze to prove it. They can be proud of their placement in the Scholastic Novice Division of the Tournament of Bands Indoor Championships. Throughout the season they competed with 39 other guard units in their division. That's a lot of competition for this four-year-old group. They came in first in the Chapter 10 Division and received a third place bronze medal at Championship finals. Their scores were 81.7 in the preliminaries and 82.2 in the finals.

Winter Guard is similar to color guard but they work with taped music instead of a band. They combine the use of dance, flags, rifles, sabres and streamers to capture the meaning of the music. Their winning show was called The Victory by Bond. The team of 19 girls began preparing in December practicing twice a week. They participated in a total of five competitions. They have eight minutes to set up, perform and be off the floor. Their show ran four minutes and 46 seconds.

Advisor Kathy Petrocelli is elated



with Silver Dreams' success she said, "The girls are great, they are easy to work with and extremely enthusiastic. Working with them is very rewarding." Petrocelli explained how their show was born. "The girls were totally responsible for all the creativity. They handled everything from writing and choreography, to polishing the performance to perfection." Most of the competing guards made use of professional choreographers and writers for their shows. The Silver Dreams hands on approach made their place-

ment in their division and finals a real coup.

Petrocelli also wanted to make note of someone who went above and beyond the call of duty. Equipment manager, Nicholas Sigler, a SPHS sophomore, worked tirelessly to coordinate the equipment necessary for the show. Leadership of the guard are: Tiffany Boyle, Sabrina Hollis, Wendy Kollarik, Jaci Noonan and Danielle Servidio. Other advisors for the winter guard are Mark Tweed and assistant Kara Giorgio.

SDW Announces Auditions for Footloose

The South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop will hold auditions for *Footloose*, the hit Broadway musical that will be presented this summer for the group's 31st season.

Footloose tells the story of a boy from Chicago that moves to a small town in Texas where dancing and rock music is prohibited by local law. The boy from Chicago works with the youth in Bomont, Texas to bring back the good times they enjoyed before a tragic accident fumed the town fathers against public dancing. Based on a true incident and inspired by the 1984 movie of the same name, *Footloose* features the songs Let's Hear It For The Boy, Holding Out For A Hero,

Almost Paradise, I Can't Stand Still, and Somebody's Eyes.

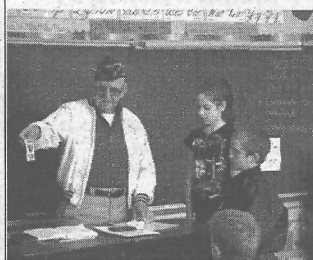
Auditions will be held June 10, 11 and 12 at the South Plainfield Middle School from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Students who reside in or attend school in South Plainfield and have completed sixth grade through first year out of high school are eligible to audition. Please wear comfortable clothes and shoes, and bring a non-returnable photo. Prepared audition songs are not necessary, but if you will be performing your own selection, please bring sheet music. An accompanist will be available. Scripts are available for review at the South Plainfield Library and in the schools.

Students interested in being on the stage crew or orchestra should come to the auditions and register.

For more information, call (908) 561-5255, or check out the SPSDW website at www.spsdw.com. Sign-up forms are available for downloading.

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Music Filled the Halls of Roosevelt School

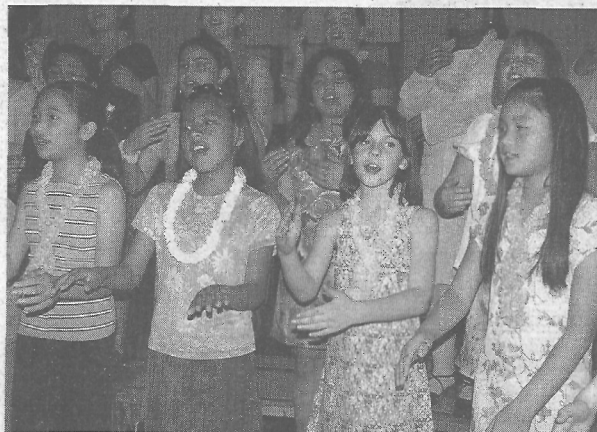


Story/photos by Patricia Abbott

Roosevelt School's recent spring concert was the result of hard work and talent of over 100 students. Acting Principal Sophia Domogala, welcomed the audience and introduced the music teachers as well as the art teacher. The concert began promptly and ran smoothly from start to finish.

The Roosevelt School String Orchestra under the direction of Bruce Mikolon played four selections. Some numbers featured more advanced students and another the beginners. Following the Orchestra, band director Tobie Baldwin and the Roosevelt School Band played four selections. Again, some highlighted the talents of the more experienced older band members.

The concert closed with the Roosevelt School Chorus, conducted by Sharon Perez.



Obituaries

Madeline Boffa, 93

Madeline Boffa died on May 19 at The Woodlands Care Center.

Mrs. Boffa was born in Jersey City and moved to Roselle Park in 1931. She had resided in South Plainfield for the past 11 years.

She is predeceased by her husband, William.

Surviving are two sons, Sal Boffa of South Plainfield and William, Jr. of Roselle Park and a daughter, Lillian Cienniecki of Arizona. She is also survived by 10 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held on Friday morning. Viewing will be held on Thursday, May 23 from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. at the Mastapeter Funeral Home in Roselle Park.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad.

Santoro.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Richard Kriek, 83

Richard F. Kriek of Spring Hill, Fla., died Sunday, May 12, at Hernando Pasco Hospice Care Unit in Brooksville, Fla.

Born in Plainfield, Mr. Kriek moved to Florida 14 years ago from South Plainfield.

He was a retired machinist and U.S. Army veteran. He was a member of the New Jersey Club, the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, American Legion and St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church.

He is survived by a son, Richard F. Jr. of Wayne; a daughter, Sharon Ann Mandel of South Plainfield; two brothers, Martin of Dunellen and Robert of Vincentown, NJ and four grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements were by Turner Funeral Home in Spring Hill Chapel, Fla.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Gladys M. DeVico, 79

Gladys M. DeVico died on Tuesday, May 21 in the VA Medical Center in East Orange.

Born in Erwin, Tennessee, she resided in New York and New Jersey before moving to Imperial Beach California for 18 years. She returned to New Jersey, residing in South Plainfield for the past 1 1/2 years.

She was employed as a registered nurse for the VA Medical Center in Lyons. Previously she was employed as a nurse with Mountainside Hospital in Mountainside.

Mrs. DeVico served in the U.S. Army during WWII and was discharged with the rank of Second Lieutenant. She was a former member of the VFW Memorial Post #6763 in South Plainfield.

Her first husband, Peter McConnell, Sr. died in 1978. Her second husband, Alexander Gecko, died in 2000.

Surviving are her son and daughter-in-law, Peter and Debra McConnell of South Plainfield; her stepdaughter and husband, June and Alan Crosta of Roseland; her stepson, Dennis McConnell and his wife, Dolores of Chicago and her sister, Alice Green of Colorado. Also surviving are eight grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Jennie (Amoddio) Santoro, 72

Jennie (Amoddio) Santoro died Wednesday, May 15 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Plainfield, she had resided in South Plainfield for the past 34 years.

Mrs. Santoro had been employed in the bakery department of A&P in South Plainfield for 10 years, retiring in 1995.

She was a member and a past president of the North Plainfield Italian American Club and a communicant of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield.

Mrs. Santoro adored her two grandchildren and enjoyed cooking, as well as the time she spent in Spring Lake Park with her numerous friends.

She is predeceased by two brothers, Dominic and Albert Amoddio.

Surviving is her husband of 49 years, Joseph; three sons, Joseph of Warren, Michael of New York City and Lenny of South Plainfield; a brother, Anthony Amoddio of Maryland and two grandchildren, Brittany and Kyle

Marshal Mackie, 78

Marshal Mackie died Wednesday, May 15, at St. Peter's Medical Center in New Brunswick.

Born in Newark, he had resided there and in Maplewood before settling in South Plainfield 46 years ago.

Mr. Mackie was employed as a fork lift operator with Worthington Pump Inc. of Newark for 35 years, retiring in 1986 and had been an honorary member of the United Steel Workers Union Local #1833.

He served in the U.S. Army during WWII. Mr. Mackie was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church.

Surviving are his wife of 50 years, Helen (Vasell) Mackie; his sister and her husband, Helen and Angelo Orlando of Edison; three sisters-in-law, Margaret Pritchard, Jesse Mackie and Florence Mackie; seven nieces and nephews, Kay Kanshy, James Mackie, Jr., Terri Lynn Guilfoyle, Bernadine Kropp, Glenn Pritchard and Edward and Bernard Grysevicz.

Blanca I. Nunez, 51

Blanca I. Nunez died on Saturday, May 18, at her home.

Born in Cuba, she came to the United States at the age of eight and had resided in Newark before settling in Plainfield in 1962.

She is survived by her partner, Karen Heitz; her parents, Juan and Georgina of Puerto Rico; two brothers, Robert and his wife Denise and John Nunez, both of Plainfield; a niece, Victory and a nephew, Anthony.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

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policereport

• On May 14, a Baker Ave. resident reported the theft of his Nextel two way radio from his locked vehicle. The passenger side window had been smashed out.

• Marsia Lopes, 31 of New Brunswick was arrested at Macy's for shoplifting two pair of pants and a pair of jeans worth \$74.

• On May 15 Patricia Bender, owner of South Plainfield Auto Body, reported receiving a bad check in the amount of \$5,280 from a customer.

• On May 12 David J. Espinal, 19 of Perth Amboy, was struck by a vehicle in the parking lot in front of Burlington Coat Factory at approximately 9:52 p.m. Someone saw the victim lying on the ground and complaining of pain

in his right hip. A newer model four door white Ford Contour ZX2 with a spoiler was seen fleeing the scene. No plate numbers were obtained. A witness said that the victim was running through the parking lot and the vehicle was following behind the victim and stuck him. Espinal claimed he had taken a taxi to the mall and was going to use a pay phone, however he had no shopping bag or money on him.

• On May 16, a Lakeview Ave. resident reported that the air had been let out of his vehicles tires.

• Mike Zushma, Emergency Management Coordinator, had his keys stolen from his unlocked borough-owned vehicle, which was parked in the rear of 226

Hamilton Blvd.

• On Friday, a Plainfield resident reported that the rear window of his vehicle has been broken while parked at Liquid Assets on New Market Ave.

• On Sunday, a Maltby Ave. resident reported the theft of \$600 from his wallet which was on the kitchen counter. He was outside doing yard work when his dog ran out of the yard and down the street. When he returned he noticed his wallet lying in the driveway with everything except the cash. Nothing else was taken from the house.

• A Netherwood Ave. resident reported leaving her pocketbook in a shopping cart outside of K-Mart and drove home. When she returned no one had brought her pocketbook into the store.

• A Montrose Ave. resident reported that someone had removed screws from her backyard shed door which was left hanging. No entry was gained.

• A W. 8th St. resident reported that the rear window of her garage had been broken by an unknown object.

• On Monday Swift transportation on Kennedy Rd., reported the theft of three Compaq Presario hard drives from a locked cage in the warehouse.

• A Foster Ave. resident reported that he had lost his wallet while viewing a movie at the Regal Cinema. No wallet was turned in.

Three Arrested for Selling Counterfeit CDs

An investigation conducted by Officer Vincent Campagna, led to three individuals being arrested and charged with violating the New Jersey Anti-piracy Act.

On the morning of May 9, Officer Campagna observed three individuals at Bravo Supermarket, located on West 7th St. who were selling counterfeit CD's DVD's and videotapes. Further investigation reveal that the 315 CD's, 26 DVD's and 77 VHS tapes were all counterfeit. Arrest warrants were issued for Charles Coleman, 50, Frank Coleman, 39 and Torina Adams, 26, all residents of Plainfield.

On May 16, Charles Coleman and Torina Adams returned to the Bravo Supermarket and resumed selling the counterfeit tapes. They were arrested by Officer Campagna. Additional Counterfeit CD's, DVD's, and VHS tapes were confiscated. The next day Frank Coleman was arrested at his residence.

Charles Coleman and Torina Adams were both charged with three counts of violating the New Jersey Anti-piracy Act. Bail was set at \$40,000. Frank Coleman was charged with two counts, bail was set at \$20,000.

All three were transported to the Middlesex County jail.

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Seven Receive Two of Girl Scouting Highest Awards

Last Sunday afternoon seven girls received two of the highest honors in Girl Scouting, the Gold and Silver Awards at a special ceremony held at Wesley Methodist Church.

The Gold Award, the highest and most prestigious award that can be earned in Girl Scouting, was presented to Mary Otlowski of Troop 259. This is only the second time in six years the Gold Award was earned by a South Plainfield Girl Scout.

Silver Awards, the second highest distinction, were presented to Saira Memon, Dana Chepulis, Kathryn Koury, Melissa Szeliga, Megan Wilson and Brittany Patrusевич.

The Gold Award requires a girl to work closely with an advisor or mentor who helps oversee her final project. Silver Award candidates work closely with their troop leaders and other partners and advisors towards the completion of their projects.

The Silver Award candidate must earn three interest project patches, while the Gold Award candidate must earn four. The interest project patches should be related to the final project the girl has planned.

A Gold Award candidate must earn the Career Exploration Pin. This requirement introduces girls to people working in fields they may want to explore for possible future careers, as well as teach them about leadership, delegation, and follow through. For the Cadette Girl Scout, the second requirement is to earn the "From Dreams to Reality Patch" or the Career Exploration Patch. The purpose of both of these requirements is to help the girls explore and learn about the career possibilities open to women.

A Gold Award candidate must complete thirty hours in at least two different leadership roles, Silver Award candidate must complete 25 hours in a given leadership role. It is here that the girl learns to identify a community need, design a course of action, delegate work, and assure completion of a given task.

The final requirement for earning these two awards, is to complete the Cadette Girl Scout Challenge or the Senior Girl Scout Challenge. This is a challenge to become the best possible person that the girl can be. This challenge involves knowing yourself, developing values, contributing to your community, and knowing about Girl Scouting. For the Senior Girl Scout, this challenge helps them to decide on a final project as well as help them learn to set realistic goals, enhance their communication skills, and introduce them to the many types of community service.

After completing all of the requirements, the girl is ready to begin her final project. She must design, implement, and carry it out the project to its conclusion. It must meet a need within the community and serve those beyond Girl Scouting. The project is a personal action plan for helping others, which builds upon accomplishments made in Girl Scouting, in addition to all that was learned by completing the first four requirements for their respective award.

The Silver Award candidate's project must take at least seven hours, the Gold Award candidate's must total fifty hours. The candidate must present her project for approval to the appropriate council representatives. When completed, the project is something the Girl Scout can take pride in having come so far in Girl Scouting.

The South Plainfield Girl Scout Community is very proud of these young ladies here today who have worked so diligently these past months to earn Girl Scouting's second highest award, the Silver Award and the most prestigious Girl Scout award, the Gold Award.



Mary Otlowski, Saira Memon, Dana Chepulis and Brittany Patrusевич were honored at a special ceremony recognizing their achievements.



Mary Otlowski, who received Girl Scouting's Gold Award, with her parents, Joanne and Wayne.

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Zelko Vodka \$9.99 1.75 Liter		Inver House Scotch 80 \$14.99 1.75 Liter	
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Arbor Valley Chab, Burg, Rose \$6.99 4 Liter		BV Coastal Chardonnay \$7.99 750 ML	
Sutter Home Cabernet \$8.99 1.5 Liter		M&R Asti Spumante \$8.99 750 ML	

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THIS WEEK'S SPIRITS & CORDIAL SPECIALS

E&J VS Brandy 750 ML	7.99	Bacardi Light & Gold Rum 1.75 Liter	16.99
Dekuyper Peachtree Schnapps 750 ML	7.99	Smirnoff 80, Citrus, Orange, Raspberry or Vanilla Vodka 1.75 Liter	18.99
Malibu Coconut Rum 750 ML	10.99	Jim Beam Bourbon 1.75 Liter	20.99
Windsor 1.75 Liter	12.99	Glenfiddich Single Malt Scotch 750 ML	26.99
Seagrams Seven Crown 1.75 Liter	14.99	Ketel One Vodka 80 1.75 Liter	29.99
Gordon's Gin 1.75 Liter	14.99	Dewars White Label Scotch 1.75 Liter	31.99
Kahlua 750 ML	15.99		

THIS WEEK'S WINE SPECIALS

Twin Valley White Zinfandel 750 ML	3.99	Franzia Chablis, Burg, Chianti, Rhine 5 Liter Box	8.99
Fox Horn Cabernet Chardonnay, Merlot 1.5 Liter	5.99	Mondavi Coastal Merlot 750 ML	8.99
Glen Ellen White Zinfandel 1.5 Liter	5.99	Walnut Crest Merlot 1.5 Liter	8.99
Corbett Canyon Reserves Cab, Chard, Merlot 750 ML	5.99	Austin Vale Chard or Shiraz 750 ML	8.99
Rene Junot Rouge & Blanc 1.5 Liter	5.99	Cavit Pinot Grigio 1.5 Liter	9.99
Stock Sweet or Dry Vermouth 1.5 Liter	6.99	Peter Vella Cab, Chard, Merlot, White Zin 5 Liter Box	10.99
Mouton Cadet Red or White 750 ML	6.99	Mondavi Woodbridge Merlot 1.5 Liter	11.99
San Francisco De Mozalazal Cab Reserva 750 ML	6.99	T.G.I. Friday's Blenders All Types 1.75 Liter	13.99
Luna Di Luna Chard/ Pinot Grigio Blend 750 ML	7.99	Veuve Clicquot Brut NV Yellow Label Champagne 750 ML	28.99

Geyser Peak
Sauvignon Blanc
\$8.99
750 ML

An elegant style of Sauvignon Blanc showing distinct varietal character. The nose displays classic gooseberry, grapefruit and grassy characteristics. The vastness of characters reflects the diversity of vineyard locations selected in blending this wine. A beautifully balanced palate finishes with clean, crisp acidity and a lingering aftertaste. An ideal wine as an aperitif or with a variety of shellfish.

Kenwood Sonoma
Zinfandel
\$10.99
750 ML

Medium-bodied with Black Cherry, Spice, and Vanilla Oak Flavors that finish with Classic Peppery Zinfandel Notes. Our Sonoma County Zinfandel is delicious with barbecued meats, rich tomato based dishes and spicy ethnic cuisine.

PRICES EFFECTIVE WEDNESDAY MAY 22ND THRU TUESDAY MAY 28TH, 2002.

VISA, MASTERCARD & DISCOVER NOW ACCEPTED AT SELECTED BUY-RITE STORES FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE. NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS.

Oak Tree

Discount Wine & Spirits

902 Oak Tree Road, South Plainfield (Across from A&P)

908-561-0051

Mon. Tues. Wed. 9-9
Thurs. Fri. Sat. 9-10
Sun 10-6