

# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 5, NO. 41

50 CENTS

JUNE 7, 2002

## Special Olympians Take 22 Medals

Over the past weekend, Special Olympians from South Plainfield took part in the 2002 New Jersey State Special Olympics at The College of New Jersey in Ewing. The accomplishments of our athletes were truly remarkable.

The weekend started off with a bit of a disappointment as the opening ceremonies were postponed due to a severe weather warning by local forecasters. Although the athletes were looking forward to the evening ceremony, they were soon uplifted as one of the athletes, Jason Desantis, literally offered to pull out a few bags of tricks. Jason's magical talents left everyone amazed as he performed a live magic show for the group.

On Saturday, the first day of events began. The athletes from South

Plainfield started out by quickly gathering numerous medals from the field events. In the standing long jump, Anthony McLean and Thelma Morgan secured gold medals, Mike Tabachnick and Charlie Clark won silver medals and Dave Micabalo leaped to a fourth place finish in his competitive event. That evening, South Plainfield's three relay teams took to the track. In the first race, South Plainfield's "green" team, which consisted of Jason Desantis, Anthony McLean, Thelma Morgan and Mike Tabachnick, took an early lead and used the crowds cheers to coast to a gold medal performance.

Next up for the South Plainfield Special Olympians was the Unified 4x100 relay. The teams consisted of

*Continued on page 10*



Coaches and Special Olympians preparing to board the bus to victory last Friday.



(L-R) Gale Pastula, Madeline Oliphant, Linda McGrath, Mario Barbieri, Barbara Florio, Sharon McGrath and Bill Mosca, not pictured Linda Elster.

## Seven Earn Governor's Teacher Recognition Award

The South Plainfield Education Association announced that the following members were honored as Governor's Teacher Recognition Program Award Recipients for 2001-2002. Every year a teacher from each school is honored. This year's winners are:

Gail Pastula-SPHS, William Mosca-Middle School, Barbara Florio-Grant Central Sixth, Linda McGrath-John F. Kennedy, Madeline Oliphant-Franklin, Linda Elster-John E. Riley and Sharon McGrath-Roosevelt.

*Continued on page 7*

## Police Say Carjacking Was a Hoax

According to South Plainfield Police Capt. John Ferraro, the carjacking and robbery which occurred on May 22 at the intersection of Hadley and Stelton roads never happened.

Alfred J. Lesniak, Jr. of North Brunswick told police a story of how, while he was stopped at the traffic light on Stelton Rd., he was approached by two black males, one brandishing a handgun, ordered out of his car at gun point and asked to hand over his wallet and sneakers.

At first detectives believed his story, however they later discovered that his phone call to the police came from a payphone across the street from where his car was recovered in Piscataway.

Capt. Ferraro said that Lesniak has some "personal issues" which were cause for this hoax. The police have one year from the incident to charge him with filing a false.



## MTV Comes to Our Prom

Senior Class Officers and Committee, along with MTV contest winner Christine Martinez and a member of the band "B2K" at last Friday's SPHS senior prom. The event was filmed and televised by MTV after Martinez won the station's prom contest. See next week's issue for full coverage.

## Stuntman, Songwriter Follows His Dream Home to So. Plainfield

By Patricia Abbott

With a dream in his heart and just \$52 in his pocket, Dennis "Danger" Madalone, SPHS class of '74, left for Hollywood two weeks after his graduation. His goal was to become a stuntman in a land where fierce competition is a way of life. Within a year he was on his way. His hard work and perseverance paid off and he realized his dream. Dennis has been stunt coordinator for numerous "Star Trek" series TV shows for 14 years.

Dennis is now in pursuit of a new dream; that of a singer/songwriter. His song, "America We Stand As One," has emotional roots for Dennis. "The song was an inspiration in the summer of 2001, a gift of words, the lyrics just came to me," he explained. "After September 11, I picked up the guitar and played the song. Suddenly new lyrics intertwined and it evolved into a song for all America. It was a song about our loved ones telling us 'to carry on, hold on and be strong,

*Continued on page 12*



Dennis "Danger" Madalone

## Bogus Solicitors At It Again

In February, we published a story about solicitors who say they represent members of our police, fire or rescue squad. We have heard reports that they are back on the phone, calling residents and asking for donations once again.

These callers say they represent members from our police or fire department, but they are not willing to provide any more information about their organization. Seniors seem to be the most targeted segment.

According to Police Chief Bob

Merkler, our police and fire departments do not solicit by phone, only by mail.

Chief Merkler also added that anyone who receives a call asking for a donation should tell the caller they want to check them out with our police department or the charity they say they represent. Most likely the caller will hang up rather than answer any questions.

The best advice to follow is, if you want to contribute to the South Plainfield police, fire department or rescue squad, do so directly.

# Mark your calendars

Log on to [southplainfieldnj.com](http://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**  
..... Thursday, June 6  
Monday, June 17 ..... Thursday, June 20  
Monday, July 8 ..... Monday, July 15

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, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641  
June 11, June 25, July 9, July 23, Aug. 13, Aug. 27, Sept. 10, Sept. 24, Oct. 8, Oct. 22, Nov. 12, Nov. 26, Dec. 10, Dec. 24 (no meeting)

## zoning board of adjustment

Meets on Thursdays  
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641  
June 13, June 27, July 18, July 25, Aug. 15, Aug. 29, Sept. 12, Sept. 26, Oct. 3, Oct. 17, Nov. 14, Nov. 21, Dec. 5, Dec. 19

## taxpayers advisory group

The Taxpayers Advisory Group (TAG) meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave. at 7 p.m. Questions? 908-668-0538

## siteplace sub-committee

June 20, July 18, Aug. 22, Sept. 19, Oct. 24

## recreation commission

Meets once a month on the first Tuesday of the month, except July and August  
PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716  
Sept. 3, Oct. 1, Nov. 12 and Dec. 3

## environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday except August)  
Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7621  
June 12, July 10, Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec. 11

## 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.-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

## trafficsafety 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, Dec. 18

# IN MY OPINION

## 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](mailto: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.*

## Dear Neighbor:

For the past 58 years, the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, has served the South Plainfield residents, business owners and their employees, as well as the thousands of commuters that pass through the borough everyday. Whether it is a motor vehicle accident, chest pains, heart attack, stroke or any other medical emergency, the Rescue Squad is here for you, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year.

As we kick off our spring fund drive for 2002, we face many challenges. The cost of operating an *All-Volunteer* squad increases each and every year. South Plainfield has also experienced rapid growth in the past two years and we now additionally provide service to over 800 new single family homes, garden apartments and condominiums.

In order to keep the South Plainfield Rescue Squad operating as an all-volunteer organization, we need your continued financial support. Every dollar we receive goes towards operating expenses, upkeep or replacement of our equipment, medical supplies, training and insurance. The cost of insurance alone exceeds \$20,000 annually. The training requirements for our members are mandated by the State of New Jersey and our members are required to have up-to-date certifications such as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) or as First Responders. Certification in CPR, Defensive Driving and Bloodborne Diseases are some of the additional training also mandated by the state of New Jersey.

During 2001, we answered over 1,800 calls for medical assistance. We are your neighbors, friends and co-workers, who volunteer our time to assist you and your family in your time of need. While many of the surrounding communities must now rely on paid medical services, South Plainfield does not. How is this possible? Donations - YOUR DONATIONS - make this possible.

In addition to needing your monetary support, we are also sorely in need of new members. If you or someone you know may be interested in becoming a member, please call 908-754-2343, leave a message and someone will get back to you.

Thank you for your support.  
**THE FUND DRIVE COMMITTEE**

## Dear Mayor & Town Council

Congratulations on finding such a highly qualified candidate for CFO of South Plainfield.

I have a few questions. One, where was this position publicly advertised?

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Second, you boasted that there were over 100 people to choose from, when will the list and qualifications be made public?

Third, although he is well qualified, there was no other candidate that was certified? Wasn't this the problem with the last person who held this position?

How is it financially responsible to pay him \$84,000, while we the taxpayer will have to also pay for his education?

**YOURS,**  
**GEOFFREY CHAMPION**

## To the Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in making this year's South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club Casino Night a success. It was held at the VFW on Saturday, May 11, and a good time was had by all.

The Women's Auxiliary would like to extend a special thanks to Cindy Eichler, April Wasnick, Joan Jaghab and Dave Eichler whose help in setting up and putting the night together was greatly appreciated. We would also like to thank the people and organizations who so generously donated gifts and prizes: Bagel Stop, Bunchie's, Century 21 Moretti Realty, Ciccio's Pizza, James W. Conroy Funeral Home, Creative Kids Academy, Custom Creations & Gifts, Inc., Charlie Decker, Di-Lex Trucking, Inc., Hall Trucking, Dawn Jeffries, Kisko's, Mohn's Flowers, Peter Pan Pharmacy, Physical Therapy Center of So. Plainfield, The Razor's Edge, Rita's Italian Ice, Sal's Spirit Shoppe, Santoro & Santoro, Scoops The Ice Creamery, SportsWorld, Somerset Patriots, The South Plainfield Observer, T & C Nails, Tre Bella, Unitemp, Inc. and April Wasnick.

Without these donations, we would not have had the great door prizes that our members were able to receive. Again, thank you. Also, a special thanks to Rudy at the VFW. Your help was greatly appreciated! To everyone who attended the evening, we're glad you enjoyed it.

**SINCERELY,**  
**STACY LAKE, PRESIDENT**  
**SPJBC WOMEN'S AUXILIARY**

## An Open Letter to the People of South Plainfield

South Plainfield has always enjoyed a small-town atmosphere. In fact, one of the great things about living here is the sense of community. Sadly, this is starting to change. Overbuilding is starting to choke our small town and we are beginning to feel the effects of overgrowth. We need to do something to stop it now.

Growth is important. Unbridled

growth, on the other hand, strangles our town's resources: things like our schools, roads, and police services. Over the last decade developers threw together hundreds of new housing units on the south side. Furthermore, plans are in the works to cram in hundreds possibly thousands more. This needs to change if we expect to salvage the quality of life we've come to enjoy.

Unfortunately, the current administration is unable to manage development. It squandered the chance to plan the town's expansion in a sensible way. What's more, developers rather than our elected leaders are steering South Plainfield's growth. We need to take back control.

As candidates for mayor and council, we believe this is a key issue for South Plainfield's future. If elected, we plan to restore the sense of balance that is so sorely lacking. We don't want to stifle all development, but we do want to rein it in. And more importantly, we want to manage growth—rather than letting it manage us. We need to plan, we need to move cautiously and we need to work together. How our town reacts now will have consequences for decades to come. If you agree and want to get back on the right course, we ask for your vote in November.

**JAKE CATALDO, CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR; MARJORIE REEDY AND GEOFFREY CHAMPION, CANDIDATES FOR COUNCIL**

## Our Apologies to Mr. Petronko

In last week's story about the Canada Geese, we implied that Councilman Ray Petronko said that residents 'should put up or shut up' about the geese. These were not Petronko's words, but an editorial interpretation. In our enthusiasm of urging residents to express their opinions on the geese, we used our own way of saying that residents should write in. Petronko did say that a decision will be handed down in five weeks and if any of our readers have an opinion on what to do about the geese, write or email your views to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services now. Comments should indicate whether you want the geese to be controlled or left alone. Please just let your opinion be heard.  
Write to

## Correction

In an article entitled, "May Crowning at Our Lady of Czestochowa" in the May 24 issue, we omitted the name of Brittany Megan Foran, who was the crown bearer at the ceremonies. We apologize for the omission.

## South Plainfield Observer

The South Plainfield Observer is published every Friday

G&G Graphics, Inc.  
1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B  
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

(908) 668-0010 • FAX (908) 668-8819

Web page:  
[www.spobserver.com](http://www.spobserver.com)  
For subscriptions, advertising or information, call (908) 668-0010.

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The South Plainfield Observer (U.S.P.S. 018253) is published weekly, except Thanksgiving week, by G&G Graphics Inc. 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080-2004. Second class postage paid at South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080-9998. POSTMASTER: Forward change of address orders to G&G Graphics Inc. 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080-2004. Subscription rates \$25 per year in South Plainfield; \$30 per year out of town. To subscribe: 908-668-0010.

## 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:

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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](mailto:spobserver.com) or [ggnan@aol.com](mailto:ggnan@aol.com) or [ngrennie@ix.netcom.com](mailto: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](mailto: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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Pictured are members of VFW Post 6763 and other area posts who attended the installation ceremonies.

## VFW Installs Officers for 2002-2203

VFW Post #6763 held their 56th installation of officers ceremonies last Friday evening. Attending were many members representing VFW posts in the surrounding communities.

Officers installed were: Commander Julius Peterson, Sr. Vice Commander Metro Kopchak, Jr., Vice Commander Rudy Poczak, Chaplain Michael Panca, Quartermaster Carl Zakzeuski (his 26th year), Post Advocate and Officer of the Day Arthur Bullwinkel, Post Surgeon George Jepson. Trustees are Bruce Bird, Jake Martinez, Philip Cortese. Guard is Edward Robinson.

Commander Cortese, who served as the VFW Commander 34 years ago, received the same pin that has been handed down from one com-



Pictured past officers Rudy Poczak and Dorothy DeWolf, with 2003 Commander Julius Peterson and Auxiliary President Marianne Cortese.

mander to the next.

Officers for the Woman's Auxiliary are: President Marianne Cortese, Senior Vice President Joan Jepson, Jr., Vice President Marilyn Bird, Treas-

urer Mary Ann Rauer, Secretary Viola Gratta, Chaplain Carol Farkas, Conductress Mary Zak, Patriotic Instructor Alice McHugh and Historian Harriet Square.

The Woman's Auxiliary also awarded five year pins to Donna Bolivia and Mary Zak and 40 year pins to Dorothy DeWolf, Patricia Verdesa and Helen Rickett.

The South Plainfield VFW was formed in April, 1946. A portion of their building located on Front St. was made out of barracks from Camp Kilmer. The remainder of the building was built by the hands of the veterans of South Plainfield. Membership has been decreasing in the past few years, with the average age of a member at 72.

## southplainfieldpeople Milestones

### Linda Palmer and Walter Adenau Engagement Announced

Virginia Palmer of South Plainfield has announced the engagement of her daughter, Linda Marie Palmer of South Plainfield, to Walter Josef Adenau of Edison, son of Willie and Sandra Adenau of Parsippany. Miss Palmer is also the daughter of the late Richard Paul Palmer.

The future bride graduated from South Plainfield High School and Montclair State University, where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Art Education. She is an art teacher for the Piscataway Board of Education at Randolphville Elementary School, where she teaches kindergarten, first, second and third grade.

Walter Adenau graduated from Parsippany Hills High School and Rutgers University, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and The Rutgers Graduate School of Education, where he earned a Master's degree in Elementary Education. He is



Walter Adenau and Linda Palmer

a third grade teacher, also at Randolphville Elementary School and a Sergeant in the Army National Guard.

An August 2003 wedding will be held in Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in South Plainfield.

### Pat Vargo Selected to Address Supreme Court of Virginia

South Plainfield Court Administrator Pat Vargo has been asked to address the supervisors and managers of the Supreme Court of Virginia at their Annual Conference in Williamsburg, Va. Also speaking will be Robert Helik, Administrative Analyst, Municipal Court Services, Administrative Office of the Courts in Trenton. Their topic will be Limited Jurisdiction Courts; Accountability & Professionalism—Certification of Judicial Personnel. They leave for Virginia on June 12, attending the two day seminar and will speak on opening day.

At the present time Virginia has no certification program, but is currently in the process of instituting one of their own. They want to fashion it after New Jersey's program.

A few years ago Vargo and Helick

were asked to speak in Norfolk on the certification program used in New Jersey, which at that time was only a few years old. Since then Virginia has been contemplating a program for their district clerks. Vargo and Helick were asked to address this year's conference to expand on New Jersey's program.

Accountability and professionalism is the basis of New Jersey's certification program. It is composed of a three-part program, consisting of a written test, oral exam and a court project which must be completed and approved by the certification board.

"As one of the first certified court administrators in New Jersey, I am honored to represent the Municipal Courts, the State of New Jersey and the Borough of South Plainfield," said Pat Vargo.

## BOE Hires Two Principals, Asst. Business Administrator

The Board of Education recently announced the hiring of principals at Roosevelt and Grant Central Sixth Grade schools, as well as an assistant business administrator.

Jacqueline Keogh will become the new principal of Roosevelt School effective July 15. Without a principal since March, the school has had temporary principals, currently Adult School Principal Sophia Domogal is sitting in until the position was filled.

Keogh has been the principal at H. Ashton Marsh School in Abescen since 1999. Prior to that she served as vice principal at the Deerfield Township School in Rosenhayn.

She has New Jersey certification as a principal, school administrator, supervisor, school business administrator, elementary school teacher and teacher of the handicapped. She received both her M.A. and B.A. degrees from Georgian Court College.

Janice Burchell has been appointed

principal at Grant Sixth Grade effective Aug. 1. She will replace Robert Doggett, who is retiring.

A resident of South Plainfield, Burchell has served as principal at Washington Community School in Plainfield. She was also principal at Brentwood Middle School and vice principal at St. John's High School, both located in South Carolina.

She holds an M.A. in Education Administration and Supervision from Kean College and a B.A. in English Education from Manchester College.

Loren MacIver will become assistant business administrator, replacing Richard Calhoun, who recently resigned.

MacIver has been the business administrator in Roselle Park for two years. He also worked in the Ocean Township School District as well as in Newark.

He holds a B.A. degree in accounting from Stockton State College.

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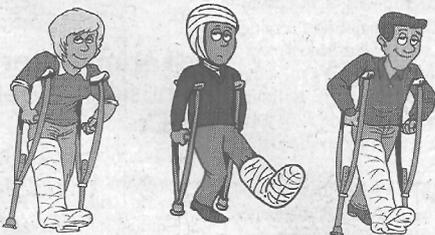
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# Around Town

## Senior Citizens Meeting

June 7

The South Plainfield Senior Citizens (the Adult School Group) will hold a meeting at the PAL building on Friday, June 7 at 10 a.m. Refreshments will be served. For information, call (908) 754-1097.

## Republican Club Monthly Meeting

June 10

The reorganization meeting of the South Plainfield Republican Organization will be held on Monday, June 10 at 8 p.m., at the American Legion building on Oak Tree Road.

The public is asked to come out, meet the candidates and become aware. Voice your concerns on the issues that are important to South Plainfield.

## SDW Announces Footloose Auditions

June 10, 11 and 12

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.

Auditions will be held June 10, 11 and 12 at the Middle School from 6:30 to 9 p.m. South Plainfield students who have completed sixth grade through first year out of high school are eligible. Prepared audition songs are not necessary, but if you will be performing your own selection, bring sheet music. An accompanist will be available. Scripts are available for review at the library and in the schools.

Students interested in the stage crew or orchestra should come to the auditions and register. For more information, call (908) 561-5255.

## Historical Society Plans Meeting

June 11

The South Plainfield Historical Society will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 11, at 7:30 p.m. in the SPHS library. Residents are encouraged to attend.

Planning will begin for the Labor Day Parade, along with acquiring the quilt which is raffled off at the parade. We will also discuss plans for the Historical Society float.

All are welcome.

## Knights of Columbus Hawaiian Dinner/Dance

June 14

The Knights of Columbus will hold their annual Hawaiian Dinner/Dance on Friday, June 14, at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$18 per person and include a classic Hawaiian dinner and drinks. All are invited.

For tickets or information, contact Mark O'Brien at (908) 757-2513 or Joe Scudato at (908) 754-0869.

## 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 and parents 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.

## SAFTE Fishing Club and Rec Holding Fishing Derby

June 15

The South Plainfield Recreation Department and the South Plainfield High School S.A.F.T.E. Fishing Club invites all under the age of 18 to participate in their Annual Fishing Derby.

The Derby will take place on Saturday, June 15, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. It will be held in Spring Lake Park, and prizes will be given out to the winners. If you are planning to attend this event, please bring your own fishing equipment.

## Roosevelt Skate Nite Fundraiser Planned

June 18

Roosevelt School will be holding a Skate Nite on Tuesday, June 18, to help raise money for the 2002/2003 fifth grade project.

The event takes place at the new U.S.A. Skating Rink from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and is open to children ages pre-K to fifth grade. Cost is \$6 per skater.

All elementary school and pre-K classes are welcome. A flyer will be

distributed in the schools in the near future with information on how and where to purchase advance tickets. Skate rentals will be available.

## AARP Chapter #4144 to Meet

June 21

AARP Chapter #4144 will meet at the Willows on Washington Ave. in Green Brook on June 21 at 12 noon. Installation of new officers will be held at this meeting. This will be the last meeting until September, 2002. Wishing everyone a safe and happy summer.

In September, 2002, Chapter #4144 meetings will resume at a new meeting place. We will meet at the newly constructed senior building on the corner of Lake and Maple avenues. Further details will follow.

## Knights of Columbus "All American Day"

June 22

The First Annual South Plainfield Knights of Columbus "All American Day" will be on Saturday June 22, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Hamilton Blvd.

The Knights will be honoring the flag and the United States of America. Tentative events include raising the Colors. There will be representatives from the city and state in uniform.

Also there will be a disposal of non-usable "American Flags. Hot dogs, hamburgers, lemonade and desserts will be served for a price of \$3 a person and \$5 a family.

Call Pat Bonaventura for more details at (908) 755-6203 or (732) 382-

## Retirement Dinner for OLC Pastor J. Skwara

June 23

A testimonial retirement dinner will be held in honor of Father John M. Skwara, pastor of Our Lady of Czestochowa 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.

## — Out of Town —

### E-Commerce Workshops

June 13 & 20

The Mercer/Middlesex Small Business Development Center and the Middlesex County Office of Economic Development are cosponsoring a series of three breakfast workshops on June 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.

For information, call Gail Eagle at (732) 445-6134 or email [www.eagle@yourbizpartner.com](mailto:www.eagle@yourbizpartner.com).

### Small Business Seminar

June 7

On June 7 Mercer/Middlesex Small Business Development Center 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 individual 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 fee.

For information, call (800) 432-1565, or visit [www.yourbizpartner.com](http://www.yourbizpartner.com).

### People for Animals Annual Meeting

June 9

People for Animals, a nonprofit animal welfare organization serving New Jersey, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, June 9, 2-4 p.m. at the Westfield YMCA in the Kellogg Room on the second floor, 220 Clark St. Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting to hear about the good works that People for Animals has accomplished in the past year. Coffee and cake will be served. For directions and information, call People for Animals, (908) 964-6887.

In addition, Jonathan Rosenberg, the founder and president of Tabby's Place, will be the special guest speaker. Tabby's Place will be a cageless, no-kill sanctuary that provides long-term shelter and care for homeless cats. Groundbreaking for Tabby's Place is expected in the next few months and the facility should be operational by early 2003.

## Plainfield Youth Jam Weekend

June 14-15

The Calvary Baptist Church of Plainfield is having a celebration designed for its inner city youth. This weekend event is scheduled for June 14-15. Reverend Terry Woolard, Youth Minister of Calvary, describes the event, "This is a weekend where we declare war-war on drugs, war on violence and war on anything and everything that is effecting the youth of Plainfield and our surrounding communities."

On Friday, June 14, there will be a concert extravaganza, featuring several youth choirs of Plainfield. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. "We want to raise the roof with worship and praise to our Lord," explains Woolard. "We want our young people to know that there is more to life than the streets and we know that God is the answer," Woolard continued.

Saturday, June 15, will feature rappers, steppers, dancers, food, fun and much, much, more.

The weekend of events will all take place at Calvary Baptist Church, 324 West Fourth Street, Plainfield. For more information about this event or any other information about Calvary Baptist Church, please contact Minister Terry Woolard or Sister Carmen Caldwell at (908) 561-5187 or e-mail them at [tevooldary@yahoo.com](mailto:tevooldary@yahoo.com).

## UNICO Golf Outing

June 17

The Plainfield Chapter of Unico will hold the 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.

Proceeds 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 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 spinning, 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 Killeen Quick at (800) 988-7941.

## 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.

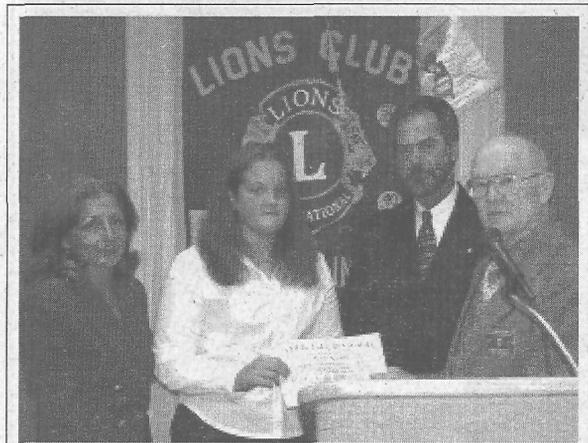
**SUBMIT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** to allow readers to discuss and react to issues.

**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](mailto:ggnan@aol.com).

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

# Students Earn Degrees, Awards



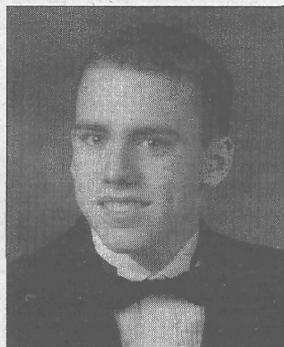
Lions President Bob Desch (right) presents Kristal McCullen with a \$1,000 scholarship from the South Plainfield Club as her guardians Bob and Jackie Weaver proudly look on.

## Pleasant Brothers Receive Masters

Gerard Pleasant of Metuchen and Mark Pleasant of Germantown, Md., sons of Barbara and Melvin Pleasant of Cedarbrook Ave., both recently received their masters degrees.

On May 18, Mark received a master of information technology degree from the University of Maryland and on May 23, Gerard received a master of music degree from Rutgers the State University/Mason Gross School of Fine Arts.

Mark is employed by GE in Maryland. Gerard is a faculty member/instructor at the Rutgers Community Music Program in New Brunswick, and also teaches piano privately.



Tim Morgan Jr.

## Morgan Named "All-American Scholar"

The United States Achievement Academy (USAA) has announced that Timothy I. Morgan, Jr. has been named an "All-American Scholar" as well as a "United States National Award Winner in Journalism."

The USAA has established the "All-American Scholar Award Program" to offer recognition to superior students who excel in the academic disciplines. The scholars must earn a 3.3 or higher GPA; Tim has maintained a 3.94 GPA. These are awards that few students can ever hope to attain.

Tim's award in Journalism is a prestigious honor. The Academy recognizes fewer than ten percent of all American high school students. He was nominated for his award by Bonnie Schoonover, an English and Journalism teacher at SPHS. He will appear in the "All-American Scholar" yearbook and also in the "United States Achievement Academy" Official Yearbook, which are both published nationally.

The Academy selects USAA winners upon the exclusive recommendation of teachers, coaches, counselors, and other qualified sponsors, and upon the standards of selection set forth by the Academy. The criteria for selection is a student's academic performance, interest and aptitude, leadership qualities, responsibility, enthusiasm, motivation to learn and improve, citizenship and recommendations from sponsors.

Recognizing and supporting our own youth is more important than ever before in America's history. Dr. George Stevens, Executive Director of USSA concurs to this, stating, "Certainly, the United States Achievement Academy's winners should be congratulated and appreciated for their dedication to excellence and achievement."

Tim, the son of Ann and Tim Morgan, Sr. from South Plainfield, will be attending St. Thomas Aquinas College in Spark Hill, NY, where he was awarded a full academic and athletic scholarship. His grandparents are Joe Lazar of Edison and Mary Morgan of East Brunswick.

## DeLosSantos Wins Statewide Essay Contest

SPHS senior Jenevieve DeLosSantos was the winner of the statewide Project Law 2002 Essay Contest, sponsored by the Middlesex County Bar Association. Jenna was made aware of the contest through her AP English teacher, Mrs. Timko. The contest was given to the class as a mandatory assignment that would be sent into the contest. Each student had the option of choosing from three topics that included the debate over zero tolerance in school systems, a report on a famous legal trial and the preparation of a closing argument either for or against the federal funding of stem cell research.

up to the MLA standards of writing. During that time Jenna concluded her research and attained the thesis against the usage of federal funds to support stem cell research. After a few revisions from Mrs. Timko and class "peer" editing sessions, the papers were sent away.

In March Jenna received the news that her paper was chosen out of about 500 entries as the first place winner in her division. She received a laptop computer and a citation of recognition from Senator Corzine, at an awards dinner where her paper was read by a judge to an audience of teachers, other winner and attorneys.



SPHS history teacher Mr. Diehl and senior Jenevieve DeLosSantos

Jenna chose the third topic for her winning essay. She conducted extensive research on the procedure and controversy over stem cell research. Students were allowed a month to work on the paper, which had to hold

"Writing the paper and winning this honor was a great experience," says Jenna. "It allowed me to combine my interests of law, writing and biology into one very successful paper."

# Carousel Hair Salon Plans Cut-a-Thon for Sunshine Kids

Marty Papa, owner of Carousel Hair Salon on Oak Tree Ave., is selling gift certificates for haircuts as a fundraiser for the Sunshine Foundation.

By selling gift certificates, Marty feels that she can raise more donations than hosting a one day haircutting event. The certificates will be good for a year. She is also accepting donations from customers who may not wish to buy a gift certificate.

Marty noticed posters for the Sunshine Foundation on a few occasions and decided she wanted to help give these children a chance to fulfill some of their dreams. She decided she would hold a cut-a-thon and donate all of the proceeds. Then she got the brilliant idea to sell gift certificates for haircuts which could be used at any time throughout the year. This way she could raise more money than holding a one day fundraiser.

The Sunshine Foundation was founded in the 1960's, when a Philadelphia police officer named Bill Sample had been assigned to protective duty at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children.

Many of the patients he came in contact with were chronically or terminally ill children, suffering from such afflictions as cancer, cystic fibrosis and kidney disease. Over the years, Sample came to know many of the children, as well as their families, who had been drained both financially and emotionally. He wished constantly that he could do something to ease their suffering.

Then one evening in October, 1976, a dream of an idea occurred to him. "Every one of these kids must have some special dream. I can't do anything to make them physically better, but maybe I can help make some of their dreams come true." Sample enlisted the help of nine men and women who also shared his concern. In 1976, this small group dug deep into their own pockets to form the Sunshine Foundation. They were, and still are, the original *Dream Makers!*

A 4-year old boy named Bobby was

the first child to feel the warm rays of Sunshine. Bobby had but one wish; to see the mountains and play in the snow. As simple as this sounds, Bobby's family could not afford such a trip. With the help of the newly formed Sunshine Foundation, Bobby lived his dream and played in the snow just two months before he died.

Since its founding, the Sunshine Foundation has granted the dreams of over 28,000 special children.

Sunshine's mission is to answer the dreams and wishes of suffering children. All children need something to believe in, to know dreams can come true. Whether the dream is a visit with a celebrity hero, a family outing, a trip to Disney World, or a special gift, the Sunshine Foundation has granted over 28,000 dreams to children, ages three to 21, with an endless list of diseases and disabilities.

Unlike most wish-granting organizations, Sunshine grants the dreams and wishes of chronically ill children, as well as terminally ill children. Sunshine recently began granting dreams to children who are victims of physical and sexual abuse as well. Over 91 percent of every dollar donated to the Sunshine Foundation goes directly to making dreams come true for these children.

Sunshine also has a Dream Village in Loughman, Fla. near the Orlando attractions, where families stay during their trips to the Central Florida attractions.

Sunshine is supported by 17 all-volunteer chapters located throughout the United States, who do fundraisers to provide the means to spread "Sunshine" all year long.

Most of their support comes from individual donations, corporate donations, foundation grants and fund-raising activities.

If you would like to learn more about the Sunshine Foundation, look them up at their website: [Sunshinefoundation.com](http://Sunshinefoundation.com).

If you would like to purchase a gift certificate or donate to the Sunshine Foundation, can call Marty Papa at the Carousel at (908) 668-8397.



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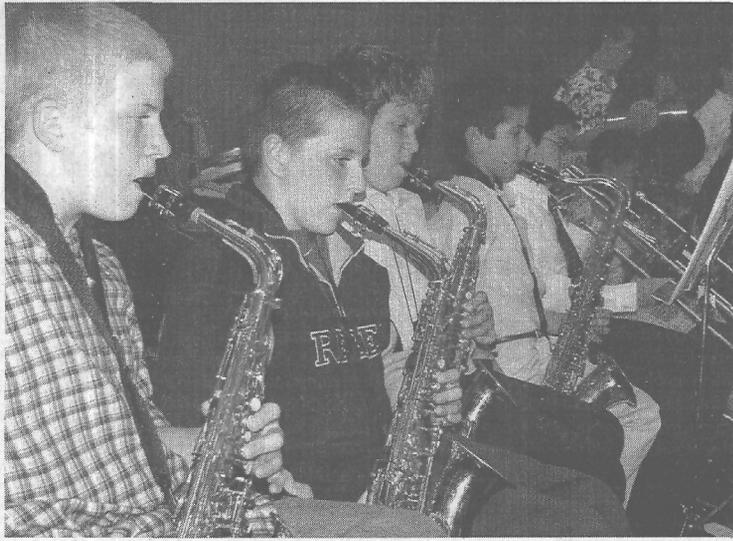
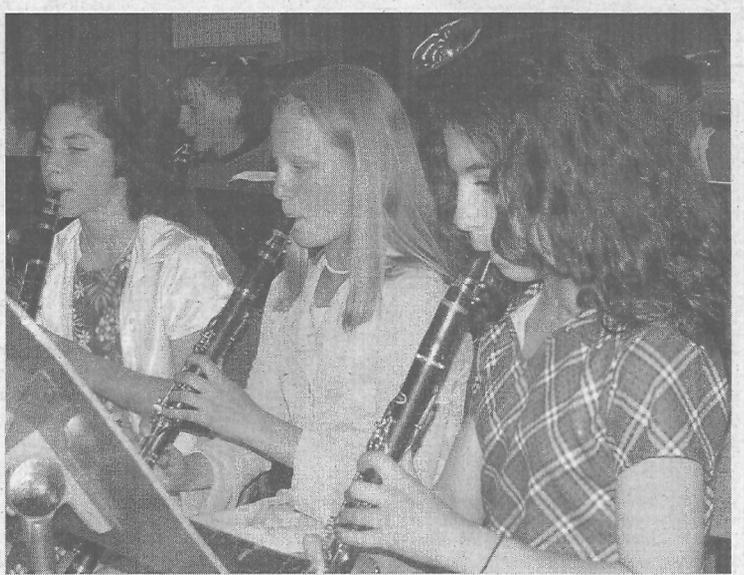
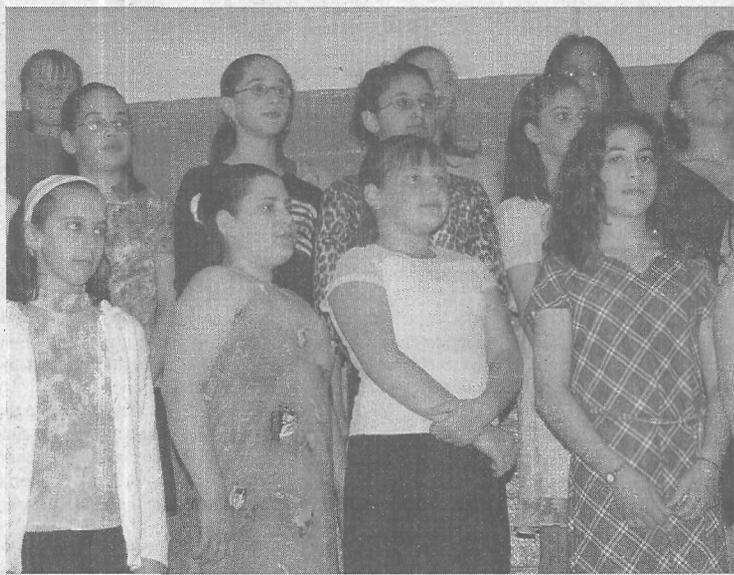
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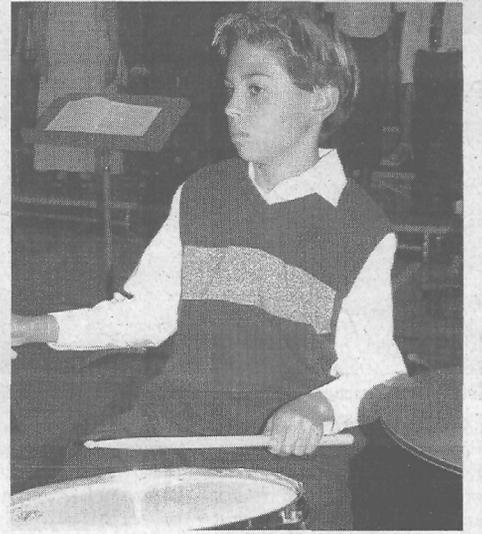
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### Patriotism Included at Grant School Concert

The second annual Grant Central Sixth Elementary School concert featured the band, chorus and string ensemble. Soloist Diana Nasar opened the evening with the "Star Spangled Banner." The string ensemble was conducted by Carleen Tedeschi, the band by Joan Stasio and the Sixth Grade singers by John Zazzali. The final number, "God Bless the USA" was a joint effort of all three groups.

Photos by Patricia Abbott



**Daddy & Me T-Shirt Project**  
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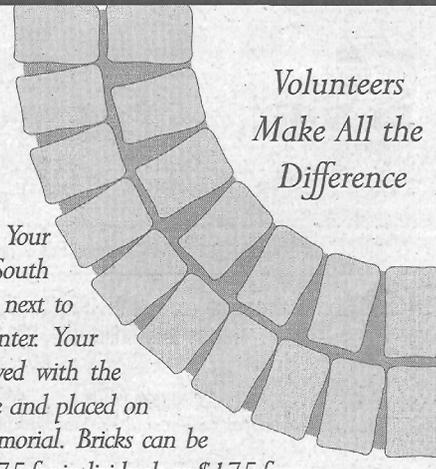
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## Have You Purchased Your Brick Yet?

*Volunteers Make All the Difference*

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.



**CALL JOHN COTONE AT 908-756-4761 TO PURCHASE YOUR BRICK**

# Seven Earn Governor's Teacher Recognition Award

The teachers joined other Middlesex County honorees at a reception and awards ceremony at Middlesex County College last Wednesday.

• **Linda Elster** began her teaching career 28 years ago, where her ideals led her to the South Plainfield school district. At Newark State College, where she earned her undergraduate degree in Early Childhood Education, Elster was especially inspired by a history professor who presented materials in an unique and interesting way. He made history come alive and she wanted to learn more. She realized she wanted to do this for young children.

At the end of this school year, Elster will have completed 23 years in South Plainfield, teaching supplemental, third, fourth and fifth grades. She is currently a second grade teacher at John E. Riley. She has been a Safety Patrol Advisor at Roosevelt and is a member of Science Teachers Association, as well as SPEA, MCEA, NJEA and NEA.

• **Barbara Florio** currently teaches sixth grade Social Studies at Grant Central. During her 16 years as a South Plainfield teacher, with a total of 21 years in education, she has taught second and third grades at Roosevelt and seventh grade geography/sixth grade US History at the Middle school. Florio graduated from Newark State College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education, K-8. She is a member of NEA, NJEA, and SPEA and volunteers for Vision 2001. She has also been a team leader at her school.

Barbara proudly states that she has lived in town for 23 years and that her daughters all went through the South Plainfield school system, from where they graduated.

• **Linda McGrath** is a first grade teacher at Kennedy School. McGrath says her greatest blessings are three-fold: a 30 year marriage to her husband Peter; three grown daughters, Shannon Colucci, an instructional aide at Riley School, Lauren McGrath a fifth grade teacher at Riley School and Erica McGrath, a Seton Hall University Junior/Army ROTC Cadet and her students who amaze and inspire her year after year.

McGrath, who has been an educator for 20 years, 15 of them in South Plainfield, has also taught pre-school at Future Stars and Title I Remedial Reading/Math.

• **Sharon McGrath** began her teaching career eleven years ago, teaching fifth grade at Roosevelt School. She received her BS in Elementary Education/Developmental Disorders from Seton Hall University and her Masters in Special Education from Kean University. She is a Roosevelt SPEA representative and a member of Kappa Delta Phi and Mended Hearts Society. For the past ten years she has served as Safety Patrol Advisor and has also been the Stokes Coordinator for Roosevelt.

McGrath has attended numerous out-of-district workshops to enhance her professional development. She proudly notes that her class has received the Poetic Achievement

Award. She enjoys traveling to South Carolina, tennis and "loving my cat."

Family role models inspired her to become a teacher. McGrath said, "My mother and my aunt are both teachers. When I was a child, I wanted to be just like them. I have such fond memories of visiting my aunt's classroom and wanting to follow in her footsteps. My mother was a natural and was always working with children in various settings."

• **William Mosca**, a seventh grade Mechanical Drawing teacher, graduated from Montclair State University with a degree in Industrial Art and Technology. He has also taught sixth and eighth grade Mechanical Drawing and Special Education Wood Shop at the Middle School.

Mosca has helped co-ordinate student-faculty basketball and softball games and "Battle of the Classes." He has also served as chaperone for a dozen eighth grade class trips, and along with other colleagues, has taken Special Education classes on camping trips to High Point State Park. For his contributions to the school, Mosca received the PTA Caring Award in 1994. While at South Plainfield High School he coached basketball for 15 years and baseball for 24.

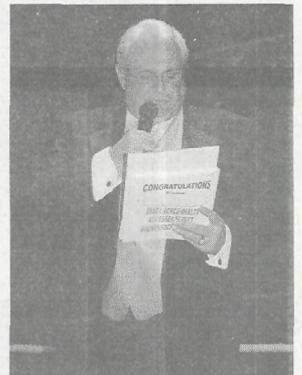
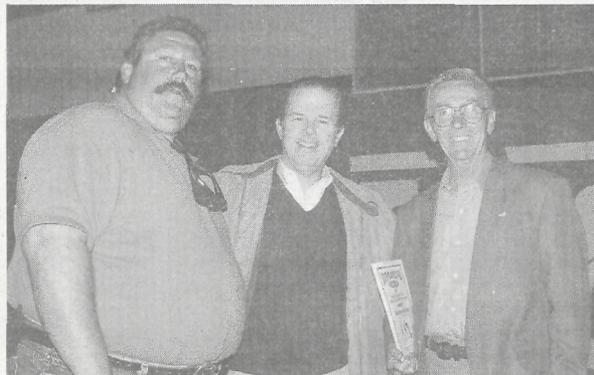
• **Madeline Olyphant** received her degree from Montclair State University, where she majored in Speech Sciences and minored in Speech Arts and Dramatics. She also did advanced speech therapy practicum at St. Barnabas Hospital. In addition to her teaching certification, she is licensed as a Speech Language Pathologist by the State of New Jersey. Two years prior to joining the South Plainfield school system, she worked in Scotch Plains-Fanwood as a speech correctionist, high school speech arts teacher and high school drama coach, as well as the Title I Summer Program.

While teaching in South Plainfield, she has worked as a speech correctionist at all the schools, although she has been a member of the Franklin faculty for the past eighteen years. She also taught at summer school and has been a member of the Title VI Summer Program Child Study Team.

• **Gail Sopher Pastula** credits a former South Plainfield High School English teacher with being her inspiration. "When I first began teaching here, Barbara Federer helped and guided me. I learned a lot from her. She was my mentor," she said.

Pastula was raised in South Plainfield and graduated in 1974 from Elizabethtown College in Elizabethtown, Pa. with a B.A. in English and a minor in Education. She completed her student teaching at Hershey Junior High School in Hershey, Pa. She began her teaching career at South Plainfield in the spring of 1974 as a permanent substitute and continued as a full-time teacher in the English Department in the fall of that year.

During the course of her teaching career, Pastula has served as class advisor for more than twenty years. Last fall she helped organize a car wash with the junior class for WTC Relief Fund, which netted \$1,600.



## PBA Annual Golden Gloves Event

South Plainfield PBA Local 100 and the South Plainfield Athletic Booster Club recently sponsored the Golden Gloves Semi-Final bouts at South Plainfield High School. The evening began with a dinner at Cafe Piancone, attended by special guests who had purchased the special Gold tickets. The matches took place in the high school gym, which was well attended. Announcing for the event was Middlesex County Sheriff Joe Spicuzzo. PBA members assisting during the evening at the event were: Chief Merkler, Paul Wylan, Gary Cassio, Jim Parker, Wendell Born and Athletic Booster Club members: Mickey Wrublewski, Cathie Keller, Margaret Celentano, Gary Predergast and Tim Dzombia. Pictured right below are ring girls (left to right) Michelle Demcoe, Natasha Morris, Kelly Werrlein and Lexie Bagley, all of South Plainfield.



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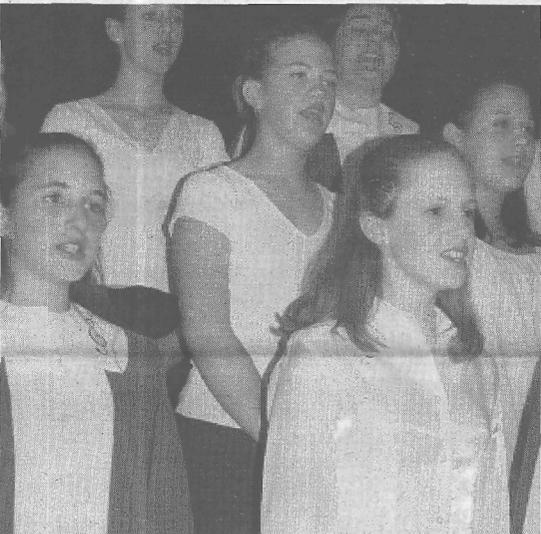
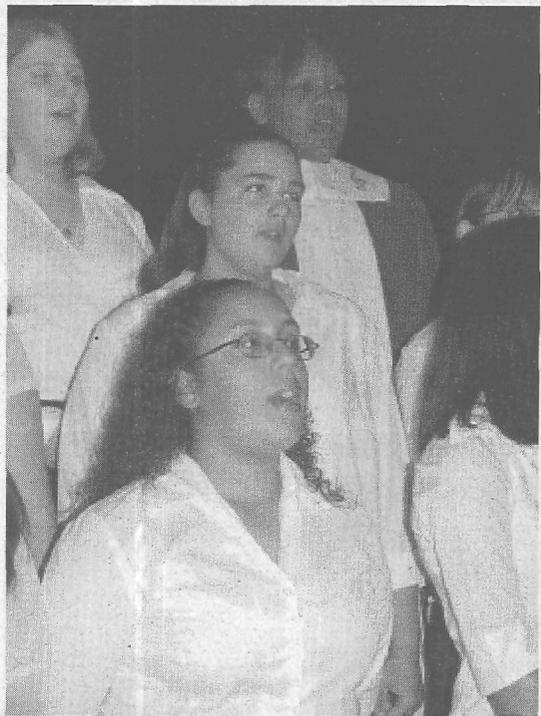
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# Middle School Students Sing of Spring



The Middle School recently presented their spring concert featuring the Concert Choir, Gems and the Middle School Orchestra. The Gems, conducted by Tess Bell opened the evening with the Star Spangled Banner. The concert choir was conducted by Thomas Fox with Joan Stasio as accompanist and the orchestra was conducted by Carleen Tedeschi.

Photos by Patricia Abbott

## From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Time for more news from the South Plainfield Library.

We've suspended our Sunday operating hours for the season. Sunday hours will return in September. Meanwhile, we'll continue our normal operating schedule for Saturday (9 a.m.-5 p.m.).

We'll feature have an abbreviated schedule of children's Storytime programs next week. The program normally held on Tuesday morning has been cancelled. The other programs will be held as usual on Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. The programs are for children ages three and over; no pre-registration is required. We also have this month's Kidcraft program for children age 6 and over. It's set for Friday afternoon, June 14, at 4 p.m. Please sign up in advance for this program. Finally, the Summer Reading program, "Go on a Sofa-Read" will be starting soon. Registration for the program begins on June 17 and the kick-off for the program is set for June 24. It's a special sing-along with Mr. Kurt at 6:30 p.m. Pre-registration for the sing-along is requested. For more information, please call us at (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda.

The next meeting of the Library Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday evening at 7:30. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

The next class from our Job Information Center, "Job Searching on the Internet", is scheduled for Wednesday evening at 7:30. The class will be presented free of charge, but pre-registration is required. For further information about the job classes or our ongoing series of computer instructional classes, please call us and ask for Allan or Marcia.

The latest group of titles from the Video Circuit is now available. Titles this month include "Bowfinger", "The Last Waltz", "Malcolm X", "A.I.", "The Indian in the Cupboard" and, on DVD, "Enemy at the Gates". Videos and DVDs may be borrowed, four at a time, for two days.

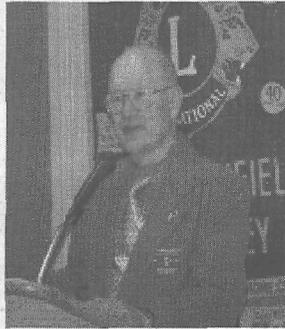
In response to some inquires, the answer is yes, we will be getting a copy of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" for our own video collection. We haven't determined which exact format we'll get (though View Master reels can probably be ruled out). We'll let you know when it's available. Also, if you have any suggestions for additions to our A/V collection, feel free to pass them along. While we can't guarantee that we'll add the ones you want, all suggestions are read and evaluated.

Finally, a word about reserves. We will usually order multiple copies of more popular or more requested books in order to better satisfy the number of reserves placed on them. In addition, though, we'll also fill reserve requests with any large print copies of those books we've ordered or received via the Large Print Circuit. We know that some patrons prefer not to have LP copies, even of books that they've reserved. If you'd rather not have your reserves filled via LP editions, please let us know and we'll make a note of it for future reference.

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

## Lions Club Holds Annual Installation Dinner

The South Plainfield Lions Club recently held their installation dinner at the Holiday Inn. The dinner was well attended, with about 75 members, friends and relatives. The Lions Club also presented their annual scholarships to this years recipients. The Lion's \$1,000 scholarship was presented to Krystal McCullen. The \$2,000 Paul Pompa Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Destiny Owen. Both girls will be graduating South Plainfield High School next week.



Bob Desch, President of the South Plainfield Lions Club.

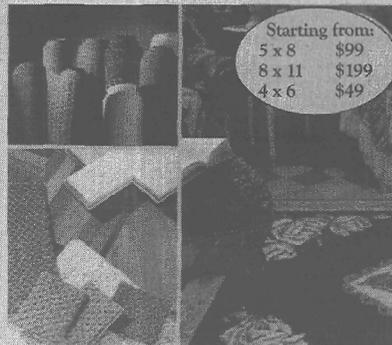
Officers sworn in were: President Bob Desch, First Vice President Mike Zushma, Second Vice President Roy Kaplan, Third Vice President Peter Walsh, Secretary Hank Grbarz, Treasurer Steve Cecchetti, Tail Twister Ron DeSclafani and Lion Tamer Brian Capperelli. One year directors are George Reinhardt and Bill McCriskin, two year directors are

Larry Massaro, Harry Popik and Dieter Hollain.

The Lions Club is a service club which is dedicated to helping people. One of their best known functions is helping people in need of eye and ear care, by acquiring glasses and hearing aids and through financial support.

.....  
KATIE MOTT  
May 29  
Happy Belated  
15th Birthday!  
Ms. Pattie  
&  
Almost  
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# Sports



## Ponytail Softball Batters Box

By Sharon Miller

**POOL PARTY, JUNE 7**—The Ponytail Parents' Association will be sponsoring an end of season pool party. This event is open to all Recreation Ponytail softball players so please join us on Friday, June 7, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the South Plainfield Community pool.

**ALL-STAR TAG DAY, JUNE 8**—All-Star tag day will take place on Saturday, June 8. It is a mandatory requirement that every All-Star player participate in two 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. Team times are as follows: 10's "A" and 12's "A" are from 9 to 11 a.m., and 14's "A" and 12's "N" are from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**ALL-STAR PRE-SEASON SCRIMMAGES, JUNE 15**—The Ponytail Parents' Association will be hosting pre-season scrimmages on Saturday, June 15 at the Pitt Street Park Complex. In addition to our South Plainfield All-Star "A" 14's, 12's and 10's teams, teams from Colonia, Cranford, and Scotch Plains will be participating. Please join us in support of our All-Star players for this exciting day of softball.

### Scrimmage Schedule

So Plfd Team	Time	Opposing Team
14U	9:00 am	Scotch Plains
14U	11:00 am	Colonia
—	1:00 pm	Colonia vs. Scotch Plains
12U	9:00 am	Colonia
—	1:00 am	Colonia vs. Cranford
12U	1:00 pm	Cranford
10U	9:00 am	Cranford
10U	11:00am	Colonia
	1:00 pm	Cranford vs. Colonia

**REMINDER:** Players all completed paperwork must be turned into your coaches prior to June 15 in order to participate in these scrimmages.

**Ponytail Softball Association Meeting, June 25**—The South Plainfield Parents' Association will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, June 25 at 8:15 p.m. in the South Plainfield Middle School library. If you are interested in becoming a member and getting involved in girl's Ponytail softball, please join us on June 25. New members are always welcomed. **Please note time change to 8:15 p.m.**

**SP SUMMER SOFTBALL CAMP, JULY 15-JULY 19**—The South Plainfield recreation department will be running a summer softball camp for girls ages 7-15. The camp will run from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on July 15 thru July 19 at the high school varsity softball field. The cost is \$35 and includes a T-shirt. Applications are available at the PAL Recreation center. For additional information, please contact recreation director, Mike English. In case of rain, the camp will be held in the SP High School Gym.

**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 4 feet by 8 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, go 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 S.P. Parents' Ponytail Association or contact us via our website as indicated below.

**PONYTAIL SOFTBALL WEBSITE**—Visit Ponytail Softball online anytime at our website. [SPONYTAIL.COM](http://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 [Wehmastersponytail.com](mailto:Wehmastersponytail.com) found on our home page.

## 2002 Ponytail Softball All-Star Teams are Selected

By: Sharon Miller

Try-outs for the 2002 summer All-Star softball teams have taken place and the All-Star players have been selected. Congratulations to each of the following players. Good luck and enjoy a great summer of softball!

**14& Under**—Darice Bishop, Megan Boyle, Mallory Cooper, Stephanie Falzarano, Donna Garcia, Kim Gaub, Allison Harty, Carlie Kazimir, Jennifer Little, Jackie Mider, Kathleen Morgan, Lacy Santone, Melissa Szeliga and Morgan Walter.

**12& Under**—Julianne Bosse, Kelly Downes, Elizabeth Flannery, Lauren Fry, Katie Hardy, Amber Hartman, Allison Huffsmith, Lauren Primavera, Tiffany Roth, Christina

Schuetz, Rachel Senz, Gina Rose Seringo and Stephanie Szeliga.

**10& Under**—Gina Curcio, Stephanie DiCindio, Bianca DiDolce, Jenny Disch, Elizabeth Gratta, Caitlin Herriot, Jessica Jazikoff, Jackie Kukuch, Samantha Maiorino, Alyssa McCreech, Katie Muglia and Alyssa Sutherland.

### Pop Warner Eagles and Cheerleaders Medical Forms Due

The South Plainfield Football Eagles and Cheerleaders are being asked to mail their medical forms before July 1, to the following address: S.P.E.C., P.O. Box 7, South Plainfield NJ 07080.

## SOCCER

### Comets vs. West Windsor Bravehearts

The season may be winding down, but the Comets remain fired up. On a hot, summer-like day, better suited for relaxing and cooling off, South Plainfield's U-12 girls' team turned up the heat.

The Comets' starting line up was packed with frontline power fueled by Clare Kelly's footwork, Katie Baldassarre's aggressive moves and Victoria Plasse's unstoppable energy. Chelsea Moubarak provided excellent ball handling, Brooke DeNizio supplied speed up the side and Stephanie

Szeliga's power kicks turbocharged the midfield.

Awesome defense furnished by Allison Whitefleet's strategic passing and Courtney Wilhelm's reliable strength was further enhanced by well-placed throw-ins from Alyssa Sutherland. Sweeper Rachel Senz seemingly appeared from nowhere to boot the ball outside while Kate Reichert has clearly become quite comfortable in her role as Keeper. Numerous shots on goal were hastily pounced upon then quickly blasted to

centerfield! Evenly matched both teams remained determined throughout the game.

In the first half Clare Kelly scored the only goal during a direct kick. And it was a beauty! Substitutions by Coach Senz fortified the Comets' stronghold placing Lindsay Fredericks in the backfield while Stephanie Lanza moved into midfield and Jackie Bosse stepped up to the frontline. The second half remained tight defensively with both teams digging deep. With only minutes left the Bravehearts scored ending the game in a 1-1 tie.

### Blaze Downs Sting 5-Nil

The South Plainfield Blaze U-13 girls traveling soccer team notched their third shutout of the season downing Westfield Sting 5 nil on Sunday. In a much-anticipated rematch at home, Blaze ended their season at 6-1-3 and in contention to win the flight.

Turning aside scoring opportunities for Westfield, keeper Becky Keller had another spectacular day in the net punching out save after save, while Tiffany Roth did a good job late in the second half. Taking attacks wide and playing as tough as ever, fullbacks Ashleigh Gaspari and Tiffany Smith were relentless in shutting down Westfields outside attack. Stellar performances and possibly playing their best game ever, stopper Megan Boyle and sweeper Jackie Miller completely closed down the middle in our defensive third. Controlling our midfield and keys to our successful scoring drives came on strong play from midfielders Dorian Bishop, Joy Maszczak, Lauren Fry, Jenna DeLillo and Elizabeth Flannery.

Tallying our first score of the game in the 34<sup>th</sup> minute, came from left striker Kate Hardy who blasted in a rocket from inside the eighteen. Notching the second score of the game in the 47<sup>th</sup> minute and the first of two, midfielder Jennifer Copeland, who on a breakaway found the back of the net. Ten minutes later in the 57<sup>th</sup> minute, right striker Ashley Little raced her way into the eighteen and sent off a beautiful ball putting Blaze up three-nil. The fourth score in the 65<sup>th</sup> minute came on skillful touches by midfielder Jennifer Copeland from inside the eighteen and powering her way into the box and putting the game out of reach in the 69<sup>th</sup> minute Kim Marin scored her first goal of the season.

In another display of hard work, dedication and team work Blaze again finds themselves facing another successful season and one we are all proud of. Congratulations girls and well done!

Visit the So. Plfd. Soccer Club web site at [www.soplfdsoccerclub.com](http://www.soplfdsoccerclub.com).

## Fall Ball Registration Announced

Registration for the 2002 fall baseball season will be held at the SP Junior Baseball complex on Friday, June 14 from 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, June 15 from 12 to 3 p.m.

Age groups range from 9 & 10, 11 & 12 and 13 & 14. Registration fee is \$50 per player and includes fall-shirt and hat. Registrations will be accepted informally from July 1 thru Aug. 15.

For further information call (908) 754-2090.

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*Obituaries*

**Stephanie Lentini Pino, 88**

Stephanie Lentini Pino of South Plainfield, died on Thursday May 30 at the Cedar Oaks Care Center in South Plainfield.

She was born in Messina Sicily and came to the United States in 1920, settling in Brooklyn. She was a former resident of Warren before moving to South Plainfield 48 years ago.

Mrs. Pino was a seamstress for the former Middlesex Dress Company in South Plainfield for 20 years, before retiring in 1985.

She was a member of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union and a communicant of Scared Heart Church in South Plainfield.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Anthony Pino Sr., who died in 1998.

She is survived by a son, Anthony Pino Jr. and his wife, Kathy of South Plainfield; a brother, Charles Lentini of Toms River; two grandsons, Tim Pino of Bridgewater and Gary Pino of Middlesex and a great grandson, Kyle Pino.

Funeral Services were held at James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

**Marlene A. Heacock, 57**

Marlene A. Heacock of South Plainfield died on Thursday May 30 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

Born in East Orange, she had resided in Union, Fanwood and North Plainfield before settling in South Plainfield in 1967.

She had attended Middlesex County Community College, where she earned her Registered Nursing Degree.

Marlene had been an active member of the Watching Poodle Club, where she had been the breeder referral contact in the regional area for the past six years. She had also been active with the Portuguese Water Dog Club. Marlene extended her love of these animals by "pet therapy work," a socialization in which she would bring her standard Poodle to area nursing homes and hospitals for visits and contact with people.

She is predeceased by her husband, Robert, who died in 1984.

Surviving are two sons, Scott and his wife, Donna of Bridgewater and Chris Heacock of South Plainfield; her parents, Bob and Angelina (Pallante) Beller of Fanwood; her mother-in-law, Katherine Heacock of Fanwood; a brother, Robert L. Beller of Morris Plains; a granddaughter, Morgan Ann and her standard Poodle, Ted E. Bear.

Funeral Services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Watching Mountain Poodle Club, c/o 3 Harter Rd., Morristown, NJ 07960 or the Portuguese Water Dog Club Assoc., 33 Hennessey Ridge Rd., St. Helena, Calif. 94574.

**Josephine Famularo Ogonowski, 80**

Josephine Famularo Ogonowski of Edison, died on Saturday June 1 at the JFK Medical Center in Edison.

She was born in Jersey City, was raised in South Plainfield and was a former resident of Martinsville, before moving to Edison 15 years ago.

Josephine was a clerk for the Pyramid Bookstore in Metuchen for years before retiring in 1994. She volunteered at the Inman Grove Senior Residence in Edison as the librarian and as the truant desk receptionist. She was also active with the decorating of the Center during the variants holiday seasons.

During the 1960's and 70's she was very active with sprint car racing and owned several sprints cars with the legendary driver Bill Holland as a member of her driving team. She was the former secretary for the Checkered Flag Fan Club of Kutztown, Pa. and the International Racing Fan Club of Martinsville. She also served as social director and fundraising chairperson and banquet coordinator for both organizations.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, John Ogonowski Sr., who died in 1986.

She is survived by her son, John M. Jr. and his wife Irene of Toms River; two daughters, Barbara Jean Savage and Debra Ann Betschman, both of Bedminster; a brother, Dominick Famularo of South Plainfield; two sisters, Virginia Colangelo of Edison and Lucy Miglin of South Plainfield; four grandchildren John III, Toni Marie, Timmy and Jessica and four great grandchildren.

Funeral Services were held at James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

*Beauty*

Hillside Cemetery's gentle slopes are dotted with stately trees and evergreens. The serene landscape is meticulously attended and renowned for its care and upkeep. All lots are in fully developed areas and include perpetual care. Located on Woodland Avenue in Scotch Plains, a non-profit organization. 908.756.1729

**Hillside Cemetery**  
www.hillsidecemetery.com

**Carpet Place Opens at Inman Grove**

There is a grand opening going on now for a new carpet store called Carpet Place located at Inman Grove Shopping Center, 1125 Inman Ave. in Edison.

Owner and Edison resident Shariq Amanullah says the Carpet Place carries a huge selection of carpeting, area and antique rugs, wood flooring, laminates, vinyl tiles, remnants and hand-made Oriental wool rugs. He also has authentic 40-year-old Persian rugs and others from the Middle East.

He also carries popular name brand flooring items from Kathy Ireland, the Laura Ashley Collection and coming soon rugs and wall to wall carpet from the Martha Stuart Collection. Milliken and Mohawk are also among his selections. For the little ones in your family he has the kid-proof "Dennis



Carpet Place owner Shariq Amanullah is celebrating the store's grand opening.

the Menace" carpeting from Beaulieu.

The Carpet Place offers convenient shop at home service as well as commercial flooring. For more information call (908) 668-0784.

**So. Plfd. Special Olympians Take 22 Gold Medals**

*Continued from page 1*

special athletes matched with coaches, volunteers and parents. In this event, two of South Plainfield's relay teams were matched head to head with two teams from Lacey Township. The "red" team consisted of Robert Fallet, Jason Seay, Lizette Seay, and Kevin Hajduk. The "blue" team consisted of Charlie Clark, Michael McLean, Karen Baymen, and Dave Micabalo. The anticipation was heated as the two teams took their places on the track. Who would win the battle of two towns? The race was close all the way around the track but at the finish, South Plainfield's "red" team secured the gold medal, while the "blue" team edged out the eager Lacey Township relay team for a bronze medal.

On Sunday, the Special Olympians took part in day two of the State Special Olympics. The first event the athlete's participated in was the softball throw event. For many of the athlete's this event proved to be challenging and the hardest of all the events to master. With this on their minds, the athlete's took the field and pushed their limits to perform their best. In the end, Robert Fallet and Charlie Clark took home gold medals, Jason Seay won a silver medal and Jason Desantis battled a tough competition and grabbed a fourth place ribbon.

After the field events, it was time to take the track one last time for the premiere event, the 100-meter run. For many of the athletes, this event is a favorite. The competition is intense and the crowd is loud. For the athlete's from South Plainfield, this motivation instills greatness. At the end of the event, Robert Fallet, Dave Micabalo, Thelma Morgan and Jason Seay all took home gold medals, Jason Desantis secured a silver medal and Anthony McLean won a bronze medal. These accomplishments are truly remarkable.

The athlete's from South Plainfield completed the 2002 New Jersey State Special Olympics by accumulating an amazing total of 14 gold medals, four silver medals, three bronze medals and one fourth place ribbon. With the ad-

dition of the Unified Relay teams, the team recorded four more gold and bronze medals. The accomplishments this year are astonishing. This performance ranks amongst the best finishes by a South Plainfield team in recent history. Each athlete on the team worked extremely hard to reach his or her ultimate potential. The results of this work proved to be well worth the time and commitment.

Every athlete should be commended and applauded for representing South Plainfield with the sportsmanship and class. It's an honor working with such dedicated young ath-

letes. Their heart and determination is what makes true athletes.

Coach Addison Williams, closely guides the athletes with hard work and he strives for greatness in each of the athletes on the team. His bond with every athlete portrays not only a positive role model, but also a great friend.

Congratulations to every Special Olympic athlete in South Plainfield and the rest of New Jersey. Your intense commitment and dedication is truly an inspiration to all athletes. You all completed gold medal performances in our eyes!

*Submitted by Kevin Hajduk.*

**Hampton Inn Seeks Hotel Variance**

Last Tuesday, Benderson Development Co. appeared before the Planning Board asking to build a five story hotel on New World Way.

Formerly the site of Lean Line, the property is located behind the Days Inn, near Holiday Inn on Strelton Rd. It also borders Rt. 287 and the AT&T training site. It is also on a dead end street, New World Way, which will be widened and repaved by the developer.

The hotel is asking for several variances and approval to build five stories, where only four are allowed.

The hotel will have a pool and approximately 100 rooms. Both Days Inn and Holiday Inn are objecting to the hotel being built so close their buildings.

The Planning Board hearing (open to the public) has been continued until their June 25 meeting, when their planned will testify.

**LEGAL NOTICES**

**BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD**  
June 1, 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 18, 2002.

A. Case #653/V-Multiplex, Inc.-Block 528.1; Lot 46.04; M-2 Zone; 5000 Hadley Road-Applicant's request for preliminary and final site plan, with waivers and variances, was hereby GRANTED, with conditions.

ATTEST:  
Janice Muccilli  
Secretary Zoning Board of Adjustment

\$ 16.00 June 7, 2002

**BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD**  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

**LEGAL NOTICE**

An appeal has been filed by Robert & Alice Eustice requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the 16' x 22' addition, proposed addition lacks the required 30' front setback from Brett Place, 20.64' proposed to walk-out bay and 22.84' to addition, addition lacks the required 8' side setback, being proposed and exceeds lot coverage by 341 s.f. or 6.82%; and other variances that may be required, said property being located on Block 199, Lot 30 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 27, 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 June 7, 2002

**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 18, 2002 at \*\*\* 10:00AM \*\*\* 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:

**SKATE PARK EQUIPMENT**

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 Buttigliero/Municipal Clerk  
\$30.00 June 7, 2002



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## policerreport

On May 29, Lasima T. Pinkney, 31 of Green Brook was arrested and charged with hindering and possession of a fraudulent drivers license after a motor vehicle stop.

Jesco Inc. on St. Nicholas Ave. reported that a person was seen by the night maintenance man operating a small front loader on the property. He ran when spotted. A portion of the fence had been cut and it was unknown if anything was taken.

On May 30, Mario Cantu Flores, 28, of North Brunswick was arrested at the DMV for using a false ID to obtain a motor vehicle document.

On Friday Lilian Godinez, 32

of Plainfield was arrested at the scene of a motor vehicle stop for giving false information.

Sunday a Bound Brook resident reported that his rear license plate had been removed from his 2002 Pontiac Grand Am while parked at Days Inn.

Monday an Orchard Dr. resident reported that someone had attempted to break off his drivers side mirror, as previously done about two months ago.

A Carmine Ave. woman reported that while her car was parked in the parking lot of Home Depot, someone had scratched a profanity about her husband into the paint of the rear bumper.

## Better Hearing a Phone Call Away

Although May was "Better Hearing and Speech Month" is ended, the fight for improved hearing health awareness continues. If you or a loved one suffer from some type of hearing disorder, help is only a free phone call away.

"Dial A Hearing Screening Test" (DAHST), a free, digital recorded telephone hearing screening that allows Middlesex County and surrounding area residents to check their hearing levels. "DAHST" is market approved by the Food & Drug Administration and designed to promote

better hearing health.

By calling (800) 222-EARS (3277) Monday through Friday between the hours of 9 a.m.-5 p.m., you will be connected with the DAHST program. Be sure you place the call from a corded telephone, in a quiet room and have a pencil and paper available.

An operator will connect you to the two minute test and a series of technically-tested tones will sound. If you fail to hear all of the tones, you are advised to seek a more comprehensive hearing test.

Call by 5 p.m. on Monday to guarantee your classified ad gets in Friday's edition: 908-668-0010.

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**LITTLE TYKES TODDLER RACE car bed \$25.** Boys Huffy 16" bike w/ training wheels \$5. Both in good cond. (908) 754-3420.

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**5-PIECE COLONIAL BEDROOM set.** Dresser w/mirror, 2 end tables, 5 drawer dresser. Queen sz. bed/mattress & boxspring. Mint cond. \$600 or B/O. (732) 283-3007.

**HAMMOND ORGAN. MODEL A100** with bench. Two full keyboards, 25 pedals. Exc. condition. (908) 756-4929.

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### GARAGE SALES

## GARAGE SALE

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Dennis Madalone performing at the Sacred Heart Funstival recently.

### Stuntman, Songwriter

Continued from page 1

for we are always together and we will always stand as one."

The song can be experienced in its entirety at <http://www.dennismadalone.com>. The CD single bears a message he wants to share with the country, starting with his hometown. Dennis recently returned to South Plainfield to visit family and friends. He spent a day at the high school speaking to students, encouraging them to follow their dreams. He spoke of his early years as a stuntman and his new ambition. "I made it, you can too!" he advised. "Don't follow trends, be yourself!" He noted it is never late to work towards a new goal. As Madalone signed copies of his CD, he chatted with students and teachers.

Dennis appeared at the Sacred Heart Church Funstival to sing his new song. An autographed CD was available to fairgoers for a donation with proceeds going to the church. The fair offered Dennis a chance to catch up with old friends. Later in the week, Dennis paid a visit to the newly refurbished SPHS track. A one-time pole vault champ, Dennis broke numerous records during his track days. Former Coaches Bill Malone and Ralph Fech greeted Madalone. Fech presented Madalone with several SPHS sweatshirts bearing the logos of various SPHS sport teams. Dennis Madalone is proud to call South Plainfield his home and never misses an opportunity to mention his hometown when appearing on various talk shows.

Dennis grew up in South Plainfield and attended Kennedy School. He was well known amongst friends and

teachers for his daring stunts. Retired fifth grade teacher Len Impagiatelli has a favorite story about one of the day-to-day events that shows Dennis's penchant for getting out of tight situations, literally. "Dennis had arrived late to school," Impagiatelli recalled. "He tried to climb in a classroom window and got stuck. Before I could go for help, Dennis had gotten free of the window. I suggested he use the door next time! Dennis was so fast, so quick to get into things. I'll never forget the day I found out he had become a stuntman, I said 'That's the perfect job for Dennis!'" Retired teacher Bob Hosely has fond memories of Dennis as well. In the summer of 2001 Dennis flew to New Jersey from California to pay a surprise visit at Hosely's retirement party.

The CD single is currently available at numerous businesses throughout South Plainfield. Radio stations across the country are beginning to notice the song and it's getting more and more airplay. Former South Plainfield resident Steve Pisani sings back up on the CD as does Dennis's wife, Linda Colluci.

Dennis reflected on his new career, remembering his track records and the new stunt records he set in Hollywood. He is confident he will succeed again. Dennis said, "I am pursuing music with the same passion and drive I had when I first came to California to start my career." Dennis enjoyed his recent trip home saying, "It was spiritual and emotional and among the happiest days of my life. It was a homecoming many years overdue."

## The Pied Piper Returns to the Delight of Franklin First Graders

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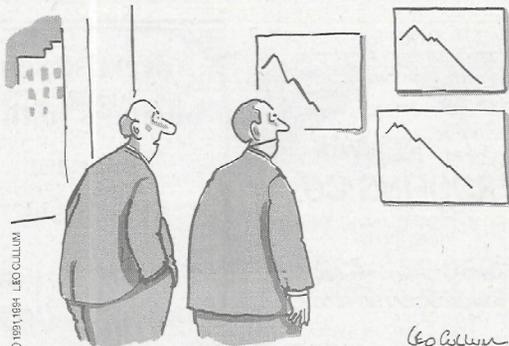
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