

FILE

JUL 12 2002

# South Plainfield Observer

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50 CENTS

JULY 12, 2002

## Car Plows into Krauszer's



The storefront of Krauszer's Food Store on Oak Tree Ave. was destroyed after a woman drove her car into it. There were no injuries.

Last Friday morning, a 74-year-old South Plainfield woman drove her Toyota Corolla through the front window of Krauszer's Food Store on Oak Tree Ave. The store-front window was destroyed. No injuries were reported.

According to South Plainfield Police Officer Richard Rogers, the elderly resident said that she had parked her car in front of the store and for some reason it took off and plowed into the store.

The usually crowded area in the store where the car hit was unoccupied at the time. Store employees had to flee the counter to avoid the flying glass and debris. The barricades located in the parking lot, along with the metal frame of the building, were dented or demolished. The storefront was also destroyed.

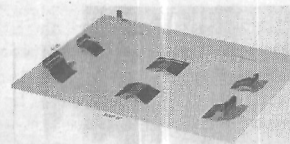
The driver was transported to the hospital after complaining of being sore. Surprisingly, her vehicle sustained little damage.

Also on July 1, Krauszer's reported an attempted robbery; however, nothing was taken.

## Skate Park Contract Vote Due Monday

After almost a year after Deanna Fredericks, her sons and a group of skateboard lovers and their parents asked the council to investigate the plausibility of building a skateboard park in South Plainfield, the park is about to become a reality. At next Monday evening's council meeting, a vote will be taken to award a contract in the amount of \$34,268 to General Recreation, Inc.

During the past year, several towns around New Jersey have erected skateboard parks. Skateboarders from



South Plainfield have been forced to go out of town in order to skateboard. Others have been skateboarding in local parking lots and businesses, much to the residents' displeasure.

The Recreation Commission sent out a survey to see if there was any interest in a skate park. About 752 kids returned the survey, voting a resounding 'yes' to a skateboard park. Recreation Commissioner Mike English visited nearby skateboarding parks to see how they were run. He also found a location for the park, behind Borough Hall, which was used as a tennis court years ago. The property is 120x140, has the perfect surface, is already fenced in and has enough space for future expansion, if needed.

In April, sales representatives from General Recreation, a company that designs and installs skate parks, gave a presentation of their product. The council then voted to go out to bid on the skate park.

Funding for the park will come from the surplus funds of the PAL weight room. Since the PAL expansion, the weight rooms have increased their membership and the extra funds will be used to build the park. The contract the council will be voting on covers the cost of the equipment needed to construct the skate park.

English said skateboarders will be required to wear helmets and younger children will need full gear. A fee will be charged per child and a decal to be worn on helmets will be issued. He added that anyone who does not follow the rules will not be allowed in the park for a full year.

The park will be open to South Plainfield residents only. Rules will be clearly posted in the skate park, along with a sign saying "skate at your own risk." Special hours will also be set aside for young skaters to use the park exclusively. The rules at the park will be self-governing and someone from the PAL will be visiting the park twice a day when it is open.

## Borough News

### Council Notes

■ Plainfield Area Humane Society was awarded a contract through 3/31/03 for animal control services.

■ DMS Systems, Inc. was awarded the contract for school crossing guard services for the 2002-2003 school year.

■ One Call Electrical Services, Inc. has been awarded a \$4,500 contract to evaluate the electrical layout of the municipal building.

■ Council President Jim Vokral will be acting mayor July 21-26.

■ The borough has donated a 1981 Hahn 1205 GPM fire pump truck from the fire department to the Middlesex County Fire Academy in exchange for \$2,500 in training credit.

■ Walter Pasacrita has resigned from the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee effective immediately.

■ A lien of \$499.43 has been placed on the property at 2008 Bell Place for costs incurred by the Borough to abate a public health nuisance.

■ Tommaso Grasso has been hired as a seasonal employee for the Department of Public Works starting on July 16.

■ Linda Galya has resigned her post as principal clerk typist in the Public Works Department effective Aug. 23.

■ Block Parties have been authorized for Virginia Popik on Randolph Ave. between Adeline and Leonard avenues on Aug. 10; for Kathy Molinaro on West Elmwood Drive from Park Ave. to Joan St. for Sept. 7; Bette Schiavi on Morton Ave. between Poe Place and Dumas Ave. on Aug. 31.

## EMS Bikes Could Save Lives

Story/photos by Patricia Abbott

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad recently joined the ranks of the approximately 240 EMS bike teams across the United States. The purchase of two mountain bikes came after a year and half of research by Bob Dolan, Eric Milstein and Bike Team Captain Sgt. Jill Tener. They began by contacting other towns who currently operate successful EMS bike teams.

The International Police Mountain Bike Association responded to their query with a packet of information on EMS bike teams.

After compiling the research, the squad brought the topic to the floor at a meeting, and the majority agreed that bikes would be an asset to the squad and the community. More research was conducted to find the right bikes for the program. The bikes were purchased at Summit Cycle Shop, and

then equipped with the same supplies carried in an ambulance, such as oxygen, first aid supplies and an automated external defibrillator.

The team consists of eight volunteers who attended a mandatory training session given by Woodbridge Bike Team Officers Joe Goodheart and Len Gigantino. The officers donated their time to instruct the team in everything from road hazards and basic bike safety

*Continued on page 12*



South Plainfield Rescue Squad Bike Team attends a training session on bike safety and proper riding techniques.

# 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, August 5 Thursday, August 8

Monday, September 3 Thursday, September 5

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

## planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641

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

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

## site plan sub-committee

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 8 p.m.

July 16, Aug. 20, Sept. 17, Oct. 15, Nov. 19

## 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

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. - Special meeting on Tuesday, July 23

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. - 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

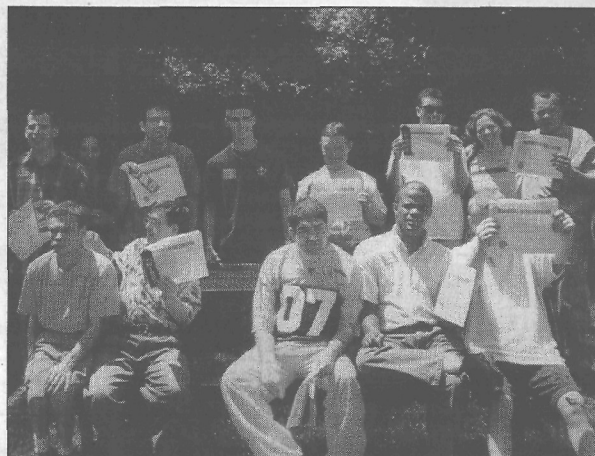
Meetings, held at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room, Borough Hall

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

# Life Scout Holds Outing for Keystone Residents



Troop 207 Life Scout Joe Reach completed his Eagle Project on June 8. He invited 10 Keystone residents to Veterans Park for a field day/picnic. The residents arrived at 10:30 a.m. and were greeted by a group of volunteer scouts. Various games and activities were set up within the park. Events ranged from bean bag tossing and soccer, to an arts and crafts project. At noon, a lunch consisting of pizzas, subs, and desserts was served. After lunch, activities were continued, ending with an awards ceremony. Each



guest was given a certificate for their participation, as well as a prize.

Joe said, "It was very rewarding to see everyone having such a great time. Not only was it fun for everyone involved, but a learning experience for the scouts."

Joe would like to thank Hometown Heros, Domino's Pizza, Ciccio's Pizza, Subway, Carmen's Trattoria and Pizza, Here's the Scoop, Freihofer's Baking Company and CVS for their donations. Their support made this project a success.

# IN MY OPINION

Dear Editor,

For the readers who are looking for something to do during those long hot, hazy, humid days. Look no further, a great place to "cool off" and join in the social conversations with your friends and neighbors is the South Plainfield Community Pool, located on Maple Ave. next to the PAL Building. If you are not a member, you can come for the day. The day pass rates are reasonable. New this year are the "Toy Time" periods at 2:30, 4:30 and 6:30. They last for one half hour when young people and adults join in the fun using floatation devices.

The pool also hosts the South Plainfield Tiger Sharks Swimming and Diving teams. Both are award winning teams often featured in the *Observer*. Next time you are looking for something to do, come spend the day, you may just want to become a member. There are great plans for the future.

CHERYL NAGEL-SMILEY

To the Editor:

Last March, the non-certified Chief Financial Officer suddenly resigned and as he was leaving was quoted as saying, "I will support the Democrats in South Plainfield in any way I can support them." (*Home News Tribune* 3/13/02) Apparently, the feeling is mutual because the South Plainfield Democrats are appointing DeRosa to "facilitate a proper financial transition" with his contract calling for a fee of \$28,000.

Exactly why are his services required? The Democrats just hired a Chief Financial Officer at a salary of \$84,000. At that price, he needs help? Perhaps if the new CFO was certified and had some experience in government finance, this \$28,000 payment to DeRosa would not be necessary. The new Finance Officer was paid top dollar as a starting salary. It should not be necessary to pay out \$28,000 to give him on the job training, particularly if that someone has such close

ties to the local Democrat party and who is himself not certified as a Finance Officer. To make matters worse, they hired DeRosa without seeking competitive bids.

This is another example of the arrogance of the all Democrat Mayor and Council. They are using your hard earned tax dollars to appoint their cronies to positions for which they are not qualified. Are you going to let them get away with it?

You can put an end to abuses of power such as this by bringing back two party government to South Plainfield.

GWENN KURILEW

To the Editor,

After several years our dream has come true. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Mayor and Council for keeping their promise to the seniors of South Plainfield.

I would especially like to thank Jack Morris for his gift of our new Senior Center. It's so beautiful, we never expected anything like this. I can sum it up with one word, WOW. I am sure it will fill the needs of our seniors for many years to come. Mr. Morris, you should be very proud of this build-

ing.

I would like to thank the following people; Architect Joseph DeAndrea, who designed the new Senior Center and incorporated the recommendations made by the Senior Advisory Committee; Councilman Ray Petronko, who worked diligently with the Senior Advisory Committee to ascertain the proper requirements for the building; Recreation Chairman Mike English, who spent many hours purchasing furnishings and making sure things were going smoothly at the site and finally to all the seniors who worked with me to help make this day finally become a reality.

During our working years, we looked forward to the time when we could retire and do all those things we were unable to do before. Unfortunately for many of us, those plans have to be cut short because of failing health or financial restraints. Now we have a place where we can enjoy our golden years with friends. A place where activities can be provided to keep us both physically and mentally healthy, productive members of our community.

JOSEPH ZEKAS  
SENIOR ADVISOR COMMITTEE  
MEMBER

## South Plainfield Observer

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## SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in South Plainfield Observer:

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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South Plainfield Observer  
1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B  
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Letters may be submitted by email at our website at sposerver.com or faxed to 908-668-8819. Deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. We reserve the right to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the publisher.

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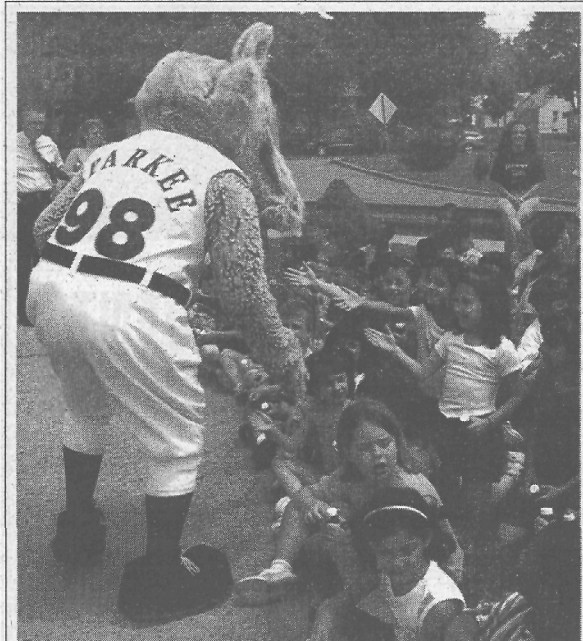


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Sparky, Somerset Patriots mascot, greets Kennedy School students at the recent dedication of the new playground equipment.

## From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Here's more news from the South Plainfield Library:

We'll start off with a review of our Children's programs. Our Game Gang program meets this morning at 11 a.m. Children may play one of our board games, or bring in one of their own. (Remember, we mean *board* games. Leave the wiffle ball and bat at home.) There will be a special Kidcraft program for children age 6 and older on Monday night at 6:30; the craft will have a safari theme, in conjunction with our Summer Reading Club. We'll also feature our usual schedule of Storytime programs next week. These programs are for children ages three and older; no pre-registration is required. The programs are held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday night at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. Each program lasts about an hour and features stories and a craft activity. For more information about our Children's programs, please call us at (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda.

Oh, and as mentioned last week, you can still sign up your child for the Summer Reading Club. If you're interested, stop by the Children's Room or the Circulation Desk for details. And, you can still place an order for Summer Reading T-shirts. They cost \$8 each and come in all sizes. Place your order at the Circulation Desk.

We have a new exhibit on our display wall. It's an assortment of hand-spun, hand-woven items provided by South Plainfield resident Jewel Lunna. You can see them here throughout July. Also, if you'd like to arrange a display of your own at the Library, please call us and ask for Millie.

At times, some people have asked why we don't update the printed A/V lists at the Circulation Desk more often, to reflect new additions to the

collection. This is true, and the reason for this centers on economics. Specifically, the cost of paper and ink are such that we simply cannot afford to print up new lists every time we add something. We do try to do regular updates of those lists, though. In any event, there is a way to keep track of new additions to any of our collections, including A/V items. Just go to one of our catalog terminals (or go to the catalog section of our website) and click over to the "Best Sellers" area. In addition to the Best Seller list, you'll be able to access lists of all of our new additions. These lists are updated each time new items are added. Any questions? Don't hesitate to ask.

Finally, we must admit that we at South Plainfield Library are not the only organizations mounting special programs this summer (or year-round, for that matter). In our vestibule, we maintain a large supply of pamphlets and fliers from local organizations describing their programs and events. This supply is kept as up to date as possible. Feel free to browse this display and take a copy of a pamphlet you're interested in. And, if you belong to an organization that has a handout of its own and would like it displayed, please drop off a copy at the main desk. Pending the approval of our director, we'll get them displayed as soon as possible.

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

## Tino Fontes Appointed Manager, Unity Bank

Anthony Ferraro, President, Unity Bank, announced the appointment of Tino Fontes as assistant vice president and branch manager of the South Plainfield office of Unity Bank. Ferraro commented, "Mr. Fontes is active in his community and in our bank. We are delighted with his work and accomplishments."

Fontes has been with Unity Bank for two years, most recently as the assistant manager in South Plainfield. He is a proactive officer who makes a point of reaching out to both the consumer and business members of the community.

For his community, Fontes has been an officer of the South Plainfield Business Association and now serves as a chairman of their Membership Committee. He is also an associate member for the South Plainfield Vision 2001 Education Foundation, and he takes an active role in various programs at the local schools.

Said Fontes, "It is my goal to provide the best possible customer service to Unity Bank customers present and future. I want everyone who walks in to feel at home here." Indeed, he seems to greet many, many customers by name, and he clearly sets the tone for his staff.

Located at 2426 South Plainfield Ave., the South Plainfield branch has a popular display celebrating a local "Business of the Month." For the convenience of customers, it is open on Sunday mornings, and on Friday it serves pizza to anyone who walks in at lunchtime—possibly the only bank branch in the county to do so.

Unity Bank is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Unity Bankcorp, Inc., and has served New Jersey since 1991. The bank provides a full range of commercial and retail banking services through twelve retail financial service centers across Central New Jersey.

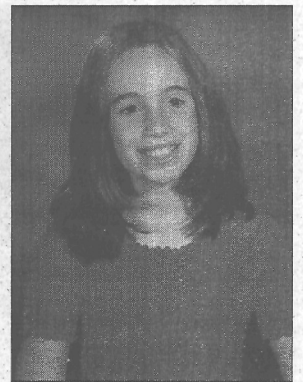
## BOE Announces Special Meeting

Please be advised a Special Public Meeting of the South Plainfield Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, July 23 at 8 p.m.

This meeting will take place in the gymnasium at the Grant Central Elementary School on Cromwell Place. Formal action may be taken in the areas of Personnel and Finance, as well as any other matters that may come before the Board.



Danielle Dembia



Meredith Ferguson

## Local Students to Visit New Zealand and Australia

South Plainfield residents Danielle Dembia and Meredith Ferguson will depart for New Zealand and Australia, on Saturday, July 13, as participants of the People to People Student Ambassador Programs. Danielle and Meredith, who will be entering the seventh grade at South Plainfield Middle School in September, were among 42 selected students from 200 applicants. Each student ambassador is selected on the basis of recommendations, including school references and personal interviews. Once students are accepted into the program, they prepare for their trips by attending orientation meetings and by studying background materials on the region they will visit. The program allows students in the United States to travel in an effort to promote greater intercultural understanding.

They will begin their 16-day journey in Auckland, New Zealand, journey to the Great Barrier Reef in

Calms, Australia and end their stay in Sydney, Australia.

Along with their parents, Meredith and Danielle are very proud to be part of a select group of students, who represent the youth of the United States.

The People to People Student Ambassador Program was founded by former President Dwight D. Eisenhower during his administration. Student Ambassadors experience unparalleled opportunities for personal growth through an enriching program of educational and cultural interaction.

Participants gain an appreciation for the world in which they live, build their self-confidence, enrich their education through reaming in the global classroom and develop increased levels of maturity and independence.

The People to People Student Ambassador Program provides students a world of international opportunities and travel experience that's fun and educational.

## Freeholders Sponsor 2002 Music In-The-Parks

### Spring Lake Park to Host Concert Series

South Plainfield residents are invited to attend the summer Sunday concerts in Spring Lake Park, sponsored by Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders Department of Parks and Recreation. The concerts take place on Sundays from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. and are free. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy the music.

#### JULY

- 7 Fred Weshe's "Billion Dollar Sound" (Frank Wolfe Conductor)
- 14 George Krauss Memorial Concert Band (Barbara Santoro Conductor)
- 21 The Live Sounds of "Magic" (Rich Aiello Leader)
- 28 The Paul Sturm Ensemble (Paul Sturm Leader)

#### AUGUST

- 4 The Big Band Express (Pat Mas Leader)
- 11 The Verstyles Polka Band (Nick Novicky Leader)
- 18 The Associates (Art Smith Leader)
- 25 The Chet Varner Band (Chet Varner Leader)



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# Events Around Town

## Piano Recital at St. Stephen's Church July 12

A benefit piano recital by Rev. Richard A. Mathisen will be held at St. Stephen Lutheran Church on Park Ave. on Friday, July 12, at 7 p.m.

Rev. Mathisen is the former pastor of St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Dunellen and is now Interim Pastor at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Levittown, Pa.

For information, contact St. Stephen Lutheran Church, (908) 757-4474.

All proceeds benefit the "Stand With Africa" campaign of the Lutheran Church to stop AIDS and alleviate hunger. Suggested donation is \$7. Refreshments will be served.

## Republican Club Mtg. July 17

The regular monthly meeting of the South Plainfield Republican Organization will be held Wednesday, July 17, at 8 p.m. at the American Legion Hall on Oak Tree Rd.

The public is invited to come and meet the candidates and discuss issues concerning the community.

## Riley Hubner Bone Marrow Drive Planned July 20

A "Rally for Riley" softball tournament and bone marrow drive is planned to help Riley Hubner, a nine-year-old South Plainfield resident with leukemia. (See ad below.) on Saturday, July 20, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at SPHS ballfield on Lake Ave. Rain date is Sunday, July 21.

The blood drive will be held SPHS cafeteria. Residents are encouraged to come out and enter into a national bone marrow registry and help Riley Hubner.

The softball tournament will consist of two divisions. Teams can register at the PAL on Maple Ave. or by contacting Det. Gary Cassio at (908) 226-7663 or Bill Ashnault at Twin City Pharmacy (908) 755-7695.

## Free Car Seat Safety Check July 20

The South Plainfield P.D. Traffic Safety Unit will host a Child Passenger Safety Seat Check Point in the parking lot of Staples on Hadley Rd.

Technicians will inspect child safety seat for recalls and demonstrate the proper techniques for installing child safety seats. The check point takes place on Saturday, July 20, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., 7000 Hadley Road (across from Middlesex Mall).

## Rainbow Academy Open House August 3

Rainbow Academy Child Care Center, located at 2177 Oak Tree Rd., will hold an Open House on Saturday, Aug. 3, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Rainbow Academy offers a variety of programs to fit your child's needs, from ages six weeks to 10 years. There is limited space available for the September school year in the infants, nursery and pre-kindergarten programs. homework assistance as well as organized activities for school aged children from five to 10 years. Hours are 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and or 3:30 p.m. to

## What's happening in JULY

## Daily Events 9-11 AM Coffee & Cake 9 AM-4 PM Cards & Pool

The South Plainfield Senior Citizens Center is open Monday through Friday 8:30am-5pm.

| Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday   |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| <b>To Sign Up for Membership in the Senior Citizen's Center, visit the PAL Building on Maple Ave.</b> |   |   |   |  |
|   |   |   | 11  | 12   |
|   |   |   | Walking Club 9 AM<br>9AM-3:30 PM Pool & Cards<br>NO SHOPPING                      | Walking Club 9 AM<br>Bingo 10AM-3:30PM<br>Pizza Lunch 11:30 AM (\$2)     |
| 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19   |
| Walking Club 9 AM<br>Sign up for Pizza on Friday<br>Sign up for aerobics&yoga                         | 9AM-3:30 PM Pool&Cards<br>9 AM - 3:30 PM Bingo<br>Sign up for Pizza on Friday                   | Walking Club 9 AM<br>Movie 11:30 AM<br>AARP Crafts 1 PM | Walking Club 9 AM<br>9 AM-3:30 Pool & Cards<br>9:15 AM Shopping                   | Walking Club 9 AM<br>Bingo 10 AM-3:30 PM<br>Pizza Lunch 11:30 AM (\$2)   |
| 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26   |
| Walking Club 9 AM<br>Yoga Demo 10:30 AM<br>Sign up for Pizza on Friday<br>Sign up for aerobics&yoga   | 9AM-3:30 PM Pool Cards<br>9AM-3:30 Bingo<br>Sign up for Aerobics<br>Sign up for Pizza on Friday | Walking Club 9 AM<br>Movie 11:30 AM<br>AARP Crafts 1 PM | Walking Club 9 AM<br>9AM-3:30 Pool & Cards<br>9:15AM Shopping<br>Aerobics 10:30AM | Walking Club 9 AM<br>Bingo 10 AM - 3:30 PM<br>Pizza Lunch 11:30 AM (\$2) |

6:30 p.m.

Come visit during normal operating hours 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday or at the Open House.

For directions and additional information, visit their website at [www.rainbowacademy.com](http://www.rainbowacademy.com).

## SPHS Tigers To Host Eighth Golf Open August 7

The South Plainfield Golf Association has announced plans to hold this year's South Plainfield Open on Wednesday, Aug. 7, at Bunker Hill Golf Course. This is the eighth annual golf tournament held for the benefit of the SPHS Golf Team.

Entry fee of \$85 includes greens fee, golf cart, prizes, food and beverages. Check-in at 7 a.m., as a continental breakfast is served. A dinner and awards ceremony will follow, with food and beverages available throughout the tournament.

Play will begin with a shot-gun start at 8 a.m. Prizes will be awarded for both men and women, including low gross, low net, low tea.

Corporate sponsorships are encouraged. Proceeds go to support the activities of the high school golf team and the SPGA's college scholarship program. A Platinum sponsorship includes entry fees for one foursome. Gold, Silver, Bronze, Hospitality and Beverage sponsorships are available.

Registration deadline is July 21. For information, call Ken Martin (908) 769-4305 or Dick DeAndrea (908) 755-1700, or register on-line and find out about the corporate sponsor programs at [www.spga.org](http://www.spga.org).

## Wesley Methodist Bible School August 12-16

Wesley United Methodist Church, located on Plainfield Ave. announced that they will hold a Vacation Bible School entitled, "God's Great Gallery."

Register now for the program which takes place Aug. 12 through 16 each evening from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. There will be plenty of music, crafts, games and fun. Call the church office at (908) 757-2838 and register early!

## Tickets for Mets and Yankees Available August 15 & September 3

Let's Go Out to A Baseball Game! Mets or Yankees... A trip to Shea is scheduled to see the Mets! When? On Thursday, Aug. 15. The bus leaves at 10 a.m. Cost is only \$30 per person!

Also, a trip to Yankee Stadium is planned to see the Yankees vs. the Red Sox on Tuesday, Sept. 3. Bus leaves at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$25 per person!

Tickets may be purchased at the PAL.

## SPHS Class of 1969 Reunion Planned August 31

SPHS Class of 1969 will be reunited on Aug. 31 at Willows Restaurant, 1013 N. Washington Ave. in Green Brook. For information, call Jody Buccellato at (404) 847-0960 or Elizabeth Don at (732) 942-5170.

## Bus Trip Planned by Wesley Methodist September 7

Wesley United Methodist Church is running a bus trip to Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster, Pa. to see the new stage production of *Daniel, A Den, A Dream and A Deliverer* on Saturday, Sept. 7.

Bus leaves Wesley Church at 9 a.m. Tickets for the 1 p.m. performance include dinner at Good and Plenty Restaurant in Lancaster. Tickets are limited; reserve now. Cost is \$85 per person. For more information, call Paula Kowalski at (908) 668-7845.

## OLC Rosary Society Plans Trip October 17

Our Lady of Czestochowa Rosary Society is sponsoring a trip to see *Daniel at the Sight and Sound Theater* on Oct. 17.

\$80 per person includes bus trip, Amish style lunch, theater spectacular, taxes and tips. Checks made payable to "OLC Rosary Society" by Aug. 10. Mail your check to: Maria Seliga, 1710 Pershing Pl., South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Contact: Maria (908) 769-7735.

## — Out of Town — Middlesex East WOWS Plan Dance July 12

Middlesex East WOWS Carteret Chapter will hold a dance for widows and widowers on July 12, St. Demetrius Community Ctr., 681-691 Roosevelt Ave., Carteret. \$8. Live music & refreshments, 7:30-11:30 p.m.

For more information, call (732) 969-1123 or (908) 757-0515.

## RSVP Annual House And Garden Tour July 14

RSVP (Residents Supporting Victorian Plainfield) will host their annual House and Garden tour on Sunday July 14, noon to 4 p.m. This year's tour will feature eight spectacular homes and gardens throughout Plainfield. Admission fee is \$20 for the public; \$15 for RSVP members and

includes an after party at The Pillars, 922 Central Ave., Plainfield. Participants will also gain free admission to the Drake House Museum, a city landmark that was Washington's headquarters during the battle of Short Hills.

Tickets are on sale at Rena's Diner, Swain's Gallery, Antique Castle, Dairy Queen, Margie's Cake Box, and at Eclectic Connection Fine Art Gallery in Summit. Tickets will be available on the day of the event at the RSVP welcome station at the Netherwood train station.

## Woodbridge Area WOW's Plan Dance July 21

Woodbridge Area Widows Or Widowers (WOWS) will hold a dance/social on Sunday, July 21 from 7:30-11:30 p.m. in the Elk's Hall, located at 665 Rahway Ave. in Woodbridge. There will be a live band and refreshments. Cost is \$8.

For information, call (732) 297-1775.

## RALLY FOR RILEY!

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### AND

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### WHEN: SATURDAY, JULY 20<sup>TH</sup>

### 9 AM - 3 PM

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BLOOD DRIVE IN THE CAFETERIA

RAINDATE: SUNDAY JULY 21<sup>ST</sup> @ 9 AM

### \*\*PLEASE REGISTER BY JULY 16\*\*

Teams can register at the PAL on Maple Ave. (908) 226-7714 or by contacting Det. Gary Cassio at 908-226-7663 or Bill Ashnault at Twin City Pharmacy (908) 755-7696 (day), (908) 296-3067 (eve)

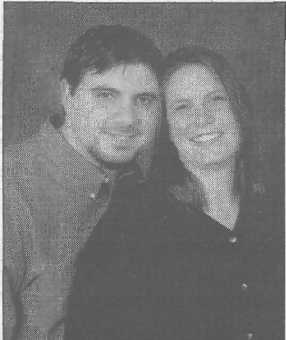
ANY AND ALL DONATIONS WILL HELP DEFRAY MEDICAL COSTS

Make all checks payable to: South Plainfield PAL Rally for Riley Fund

# southplainfieldpeople

## Milestones

### Brian Prybella and Darcy Betts Announce Their Engagement



Brian R. Prybella and Darcy Betts

Brian R. Prybella, son of Angela and Robert Prybella of South Plainfield, became engaged to Darcy Betts, daughter of David and Rose-Ann Betts of Middleport, New York.

Brian is a 1998 graduate of William Patterson University and is currently an associate editor for Pearson Publishing.

Darcy is a 1997 graduate of the University of Dayton and is currently a publishing sales rep also for Pearson Publishing.

A beach wedding is planned for August 24, 2002 in Avalon, New Jersey.

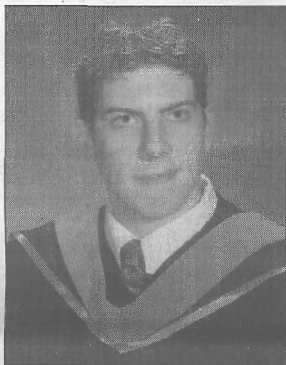
### Nicholas Prybella Graduates from Stevens Institution of Technology

Nicholas G. Prybella, son of Angela and Robert Prybella, graduated from Stevens Institution of Technology in Hoboken with a Bachelor of Engineering Degree.

While at Stevens, Nicholas was a member and very active in the Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

Nicholas was risk manager in 2000 and president of the fraternity in 2001.

At the beginning of July, Nicholas started working with Turner Construction Company in construction management.



Nicholas G. Prybella

### Miele Awarded \$1,000 Scholarship By Suburban Woman's Club

Sarah Miele, a 2002 South Plainfield High School graduate and borough resident, was recently awarded a \$1,000 scholarship by the Suburban Woman's club of South Plainfield during the high school awards program held June 4.

The club presents this scholarship annually to a deserving South Plainfield High School senior.

Miss Miele, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Miele, is a member of the teaching team at the Highland Avenue Woods Environmental Reserve, a selected participant in the Teen Arts program, was involved in the French Club and National Honor Society and is a

talented artist whose work has been exhibited in a variety of venues. Among her other activities, she is also an Associate Member of the South Plainfield Environmental Commission, active in the South Plainfield Historical Society and Watchung Nature Club and was president of the high school Environmental Club.

She will be attending Stockton College this September, majoring in Environmental Science.

The Suburban Woman's Club scholarship committee consisted of Education Chairwoman, Filomena Viola; Loretta Conroy, MaryAnn Iannitto and Margaret Riedy.



Leigh Ann Gregory

### Leigh Ann Gregory Graduates from Kean University

Leigh Ann Gregory recently graduated from Kean University with a double major in Elementary Education/History and a minor in English.

Leigh Ann was named to the Dean's List in the fall of 2001, as well as the fall of 2000 and the summer of 2000.

Leigh Ann has spent her summer months as a counselor at Camp Ricochet since 1998 and she had been a counselor-in-training since 1994.

Leigh Ann is the daughter of Kenneth and Claire Gregory of South Plainfield.

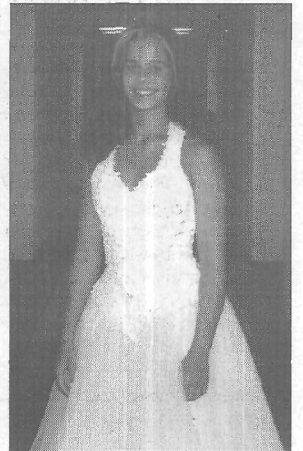
### Jacqueline Ortega Places Second Runner-up in State Pageant

Jacqueline Ortega, 14, daughter of Cecilia Baita, competed in the state finals in the Miss New Jersey American Jr. Teen Pageant which was held on July 3 and 4 at the Parsippany Hilton in Parsippany. The pageant is open to girls ages 13 through 20.

Jacqueline was second runner-up in the pageant and will be heading for the nationals to be held Nov. 26 through Dec. 2 in Orlando, Fla.

Thousands of dollars in cash awards, scholarships, trophies and prizes were awarded during the state pageant weekend.

According to pageant officials, since 1983 the Miss American Coed Pageant System has awarded more than ten million dollars in scholarships and awards to deserving young ladies. There is no makeup allowed.



Jacqueline Ortega

### Melody Hogan Named to Dean's List

South Plainfield resident Melody M. Hogan has been named to the Dean's List for the 2002 spring semester at Messiah College.

Hogan, a sophomore music education major, is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Hogan of South Plainfield.

Dean's List is earned by receiving a 3.6 GPA or higher on a 4.0 scale.

Hogan is a 2000 graduate of New

Life Christian School.

Messiah College, a private Christian college of the liberal and applied arts and sciences, enrolls more than 2,800 undergraduate students in 60 majors. Established in 1909, the primary campus is located in Grantham, Pa. near the state capital of Harrisburg. A satellite campus affiliated with Temple University is located in Philadelphia.

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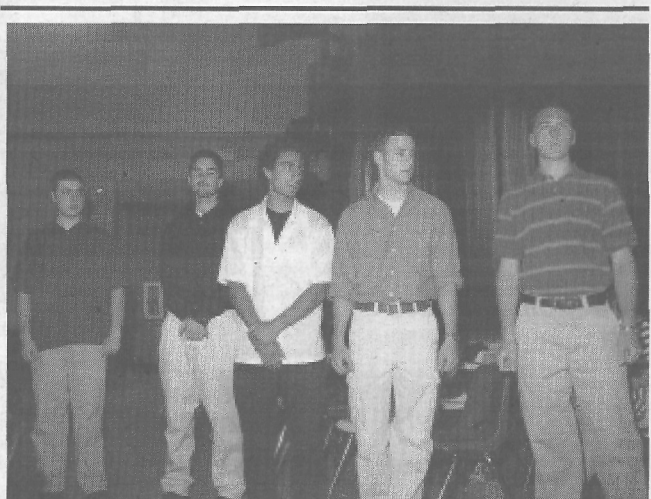
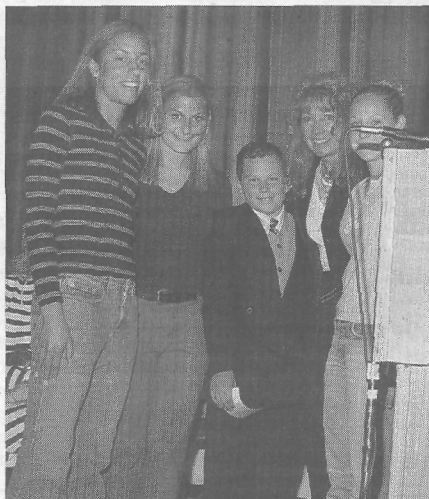
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# Congratulations SPHS Scholarship & Award Recipients Class of 2002



*Sarah Miele*-Suburban Women's Club (\$1,000) presented by Mrs. Philomena Viola. (See page 5)  
*Kim Kulick, Puja Amin, Krystal McCullen*-VFW and Ladies Auxiliary #6763 Scholarship (\$2,000, \$1,000, \$500) presented by Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Pozzak.  
*Michelle Oppelt, Sally Serago, Billie Jean Sarullo*-American Association of University Women (\$700, \$700, \$500) presented by Mrs. Judy Hartpence and Mrs. Mildred Neylon.  
*Jeffrey McKnight*-Franklin School PTA/Thomas B. Lenahan Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000) presented by Mrs. Jayne Mott, PTA Treasurer.  
*Sarah Miele*-Roosevelt School PTA/ Austin Huslage Memorial Scholarship (\$750) presented by Mrs. Lori Jankoski, PTA President.  
*Thomas Sniscak*-Alice Boffa Memorial Scholarship (\$500) *Danielle Schweers*-The Jim Tietjen Memorial Scholarship (\$500) presented by Mrs. Lori Chabnak, John E. Riley School PTSO.  
*Joseph Dezmin Jr.*-John F. Kennedy School PTSO Scholarship (\$500) presented by Mrs. Sue Barry, Mrs. Lisa Roibal, Mrs. Sue Murtogh-PTSO Presidents.  
*Kimberly Kulick, Christopher Catalfamo*-John F. Kennedy School Joyce Papp Memorial Scholarship (\$500 each) presented by Mrs. Sandy Dayon and Mr. Greg Papp.  
*Billie Jean Sarullo*-Henry Banker Memorial Scholarship, presented by Miss Jessica Ardis.  
*Danielle Lytwyn*-MaryAnne Helfrich Memorial Scholarship (Jr. Woman's Club), presented by Mrs. Mary Helfrich Roncoroni and Mrs. Shannon Jefferys.  
*Danielle Schweers*-Christian DeRose Memorial Scholarship (\$500), presented by Mrs. Jean Tietjen, Middle School PTA President.  
*Sarah Miele, Matthew Bizup, Sally Serago, Gina D'Urso*-The Plainfield's Chapter of Unico Scholarship, presented by Mr. Joe Cappuccia.  
*Robert Merkler Jr., Rafael Diaz, Michelle Socha, Adina Ramos*-South Plainfield Pop Warner Football Eagles (\$500 each), presented by Ms. Doreen Darr, President



and Mr. Darren Gorman, Commissioner.  
*Jennifer Smith and Tamara Dombrowski*-Polish National Home Scholarship (\$750 each), presented by Mr. Lee Dombrowski.  
*Martin Seiz*-South Plainfield Education Association (\$1,500), presented by Mrs. Lois Crespy.  
*Thomas Sniscak*-Arthur K. "Red" Hoffman Caddie Scholarship (\$2,500 renewable), presented by Ms. Nadine Knight.  
*Cassie Bosse, Joseph Seirzega, Jr., Jessica Honeywell*-South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Co. Scholarship, presented by Mr. Edward Silhanek.  
*Billie Jean Sarullo, Robert Merkler, Jr.*-South Plainfield PAL Scholarship (\$700 each), presented by Sgt. John Alles.  
*Kimberly Bishop, Danielle Marie Schweers*-South Plainfield Parent's Ponytail Association (\$500 each), presented by Mrs. Sharon Miller.  
*Nakia Tate*-Delta Sigma Theta Sorority (\$1000), presented by Ms. Catina Jackson.  
*Martin Seiz, Edward Donnelly, Gina D'Urso, Rula Kanj*-South Plainfield High School PTA (\$750 each), presented by Mrs. Janet Miller.  
*Jason Jackson*-South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop (\$300), presented by Mrs. Gina Troia and Mrs. Kathy Winner, Scholarship Co-Chairpersons.  
*Matthew Peloquin, Martin Seiz, Daniel Lahey, Thomas Troia, Jeffrey McKnight*-Adele deLewu Scholarship Fund (\$2,000, \$2,000, \$1,000, \$1,000, \$1,000), presented by Mr. Dick DeAndrea and Mrs. Sally Young.  
*Fideltia Uko*-National Association of University Women Scholarship (\$1,000), presented by Mrs. Beverly Harris.  
*Matthew Peloquin, Thomas Sniscak, Jonathan Fredericks*-South Plainfield Golf Association (\$1,000, \$500, \$500), presented by Mr. Dick DeAndrea.  
*Scott Doerr, Adina Ramos, Edward Donnelly, George Demarest, Matthew Anderson, Richard Ringle*-South Plainfield Wrestling Club Scholarship, presented by Mr. Jim Conroy.

*Christopher Catalfamo, Thomas Sniscak, Alan Graziano, Joseph Seirzega, Jr.*-Vision 2001 Scholarships (\$1,000 each), presented by Mrs. Cindy Povall  
*Danielle Schweers, Kimberly Bishop, Shannon Dabrio-James and Doris Boyle* Memorial Scholarship (\$5,000, \$1,000, \$1,000), presented by MaryAnn, Deborah, Meghan and Michael Boyle.



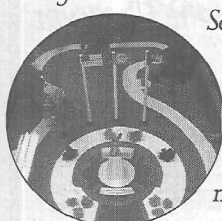
*Sally Serago, Daniel Lahey, Dwayne Walker*-Robustelli Family Foundation Scholarship (\$1,000 each), presented by Ms. Stacey Robustelli.  
*Stephanie Golonka, Michelle Oppelt*-Guidance Department Memorial Scholarship (\$400 each), presented by Eileen Boettger.  
*Danielle Schweers*-Drew Forgash Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000), presented by Mrs. Cindy Povall.  
*Krystal McCullen*-The Club at Richochet Scholarship (\$1,000), presented by Ms. Sharon Rowland.  
*Jessica Honeywell*-Vision 2001 Phone-a-Thon Scholarship (\$50), presented by Cindy Povall  
*Christopher Cornish*-Jeannette Smalley Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000), presented by Cindy Povall.  
*Destiny Owen, Michelle Oppelt*-Vision 2001 Scholarship

(\$1,000 per year for 4 years), presented by Cindy Povall  
*Edward J. Bloustein Distinguishes Scholars Program*: This award is given to a select number of students in New Jersey who are ranked in the top 10% of their classes and who have a combined SAT score of 1260 or higher. They will receive \$1000 annually if they attend a New Jersey College or University.

*Cassie Bosse, Joseph Dezmin, Violet Huynh, Rula Kanj, Elliot Kaplan, Jeffrey McKnight, Michelle Oppelt, Matthew Peloquin, Martin Seiz, Sally Serago, Joseph Seirzega, Thomas Sniscak*-Cooperative Education Scholarships presented by Mr. John Larto and Ms. Dee Falato, totaled \$128,650.  
*Social Studies Department Awards*, presented by Mrs. Donna Timko  
*Jenevieve DeLosSantos, Joseph Dezmin*-Outstanding Achievement in Social Studies  
*English Department Awards*, presented by Mrs. Donna Timko  
*Cassie Bosse*-Outstanding Achievement in English  
*Kathy Almanzar*-Outstanding Achievement in Journalism  
*Physical Education Awards*, presented by Mr. Bill Schulte  
*Danielle Schweers, Ryan Ventura*-Outstanding Achievement in Physical Education  
*Business Education Department Awards*, presented by Ms. Ann Zajkowski  
*Pamela Cianfrocca*-Outstanding Achievement in Business  
*Mathematics Department*, presented by Mr. Cameron Green  
*Matthew Peloquin*-Outstanding Achievement in Mathematics  
*ESL Department Awards*, presented by Mrs. Barbara Boyer  
*Valeria Pellegrino*-Most Improved ESL Student  
*Dipika Patel*-Outstanding Achievements in ESL  
*Science Department Award*, presented by Mr. Tom Seiz  
*Jeffrey McKnight*-Outstanding Achievement in Chemistry  
*Elliot Kaplan*-Outstanding Achievement in Physics

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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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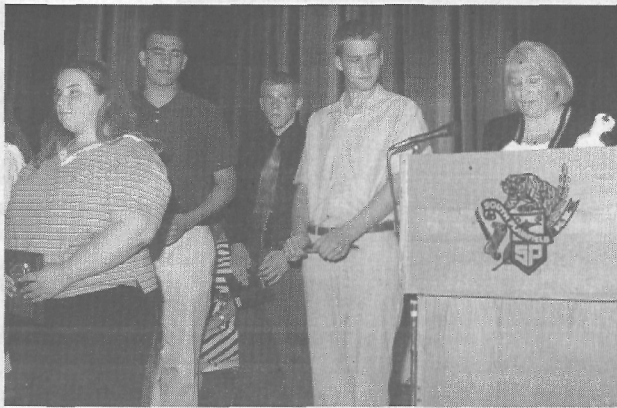
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**Rula Kanj**-Outstanding Achievement in Biology  
**World Languages Department Awards**, presented by Mrs. Helen Gottlieb

**Richard Ringel**-Outstanding Achievement in Spanish  
**Scott Doerr**-Outstanding Achievement in French  
**Art Department Award**, presented by Mrs. Helen Gottlieb

**Julio Lopez**-Outstanding Achievement in Art  
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**Malika Aaron, Allison Provaira**-Vocal Music, presented by Mr. Tracy Murray

**Matthew Vance**-Instrumental Music, presented by Mr. B. Mikolon

**William Humber, Malika Aaron**-Instrumental Music,



presented by Mr. Mark Tweed

**Julio Lopez**-Fine Arts, presented by Mrs. Helen Gottlieb  
**Presidential Award for Educational Achievement**  
Recognition of educational growth, improvement, commitment or intellectual development.

**Stephanie Veerasammy, Thomas Troia, Liane Gawroriski, Michelle Socha, Allison Kravetsky, Jessica Irber, Janelle Kenny, Devin Jittan, Sabrina Hollis, Rodney Gateau, Puja Amin, Christopher Catalfamo, Christopher Cornish, Jason Jackson, Lauren Scaduto, Jacqueline Wong, Matthew Vance, Dwayne Walker, Billie Jean Sarullo, Nakia Tate, Fidelia Uko, Catherine Sylvester, Michael Tutor.**

**South Plainfield High School Leadership Program**, presented by Mrs. MaryEllen Martko and Mr. Tom Baker

**Malika Aaron, Christine Martinez, Billie Jean Sarullo, Sally Salih, Maria Sivo, Taniel Britton, Sabrina Hollis, Gina D'Urso.**

**Academic Team Awards**, presented by Mrs. Marjorie Kopacsi and Mrs. Dolly Cammarere

**Edward Donnelly, William Humber, Elliot Kaplan, Sally Serago Joseph Sierzga, Jr., Jenevieve DeLosSantos, Jeffrey McKnight, Rula Kanj, Harsh Patel, Alex Huynh, Heather Barrett, Elayne Russell, Jaime Glowacki, Anuj Patel, Wajdi Kanj, Christine Ognowski, Ravi Patel, Earl Marcelo, Danny Sierzga, Jenny Cai, Amit Kalia, Dave Allara, Alain Amazon**

**Edward Donnelly, Meghan Elsmann-ETS/NJSIAA Scholar Athlete Award**, presented by Mr. Michael Buggey

**Elliot Kaplan, Alan Graziano-Jerusalem Masonic Lodge No. 26 of Free and Accepted Masons-Jerusalem Charities Foundation (\$1,500 each)**, presented by Mrs. Cheryl Fox.

**Matt Noll**-South Plainfield Elks Gery Fantazir Memorial Scholarship 2298 (\$500), presented by Mrs. Cheryl Fox.

**Kevin Petrocelli**-Middlesex County School Counselor Association, presented by Mrs. Cheryl Fox.

**Sally Salih, Maria Sivo, Norma Guevara, Kathryn Katsifacas, Mary Nguyen, Joseph Smela**-Peer Leadership, presented by Mrs. Cheryl Fox.

**Jeffrey McKnight**-Star Ledger Scholar: Star Ledger Scholars are chosen from a committee of educators appointed by the State Department of Education. The selection committee considers the difficulty of courses pursued, class rank, GPA, summer programs, courses taken at colleges, SAT II and College Board Advanced Placement scores. Awards are based on strictly academic merit, presented by Dr. Ken May.

**Billie Jean Sarullo**-Middlesex County Principals and Supervisors Association, For demonstrating academic success and significantly contributing to the secondary school community by participating in a variety of school

activities, presented by Dr. Ken May.

**Sarah Miele, Thomas Sniscak, Elliot Kaplan**-The Presidential Spirit of Community Awards Certificate of Merit presented to students who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to serving our community, and are recognized as top student volunteers.

**Presidential Award For Educational Excellence**. This Award is presented to students who have attained a 3.5 to higher grade point average and achieve in the 85th percentile or higher on the SAT's or receive recommendations.

**Jeffrey McKnight, Joseph Sierzga, Matthew Pelloquin, Thomas Sniscak, Cassie Bosse, Elliot Kaplan, Violet Huynh, Rula Kanj, Scott Doerr, Michelle Oppelt, Joseph Dezman, Jr., Martin Seiz, Kimberly Pfeiffer, Megahn Elsmann, Timothy Morgan, Jr., William Olson, Pamela Cianfrocca, Brielle Anderson, Sally Serago, Jaclyn Cox, Danielle Lytwyn, Kevin Petrocelli, Gina D'Urso, James Nguyen, Cheryl Hoh, Tamara Dombrowski, Victor Pichardo, Jenevieve DeLosSantos, Justin Gaynor, Michelle Socha, Edward Donnelly II, Matthew Bizup, Danielle Schuevers and Luis Dimacje.**

**Olson, Pamela Cianfrocca, Brielle Anderson, Sally Serago, Jaclyn Cox, Danielle Lytwyn, Kevin Petrocelli, Gina D'Urso, James Nguyen, Cheryl Hoh, Tamara Dombrowski, Victor Pichardo, Jenevieve DeLosSantos, Justin Gaynor, Michelle Socha, Edward Donnelly II, Matthew Bizup, Danielle Schuevers and Luis Dimacje.**

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2. A lamp of learning pin is given to a student for the second and third years for having been on the honor roll three out of four marking periods each year.
3. A student who has been on the honor roll for three out of four marking periods each year for four years will receive a plaque.



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## East Crescent Ave. Holds Fourth of July Block Party

Story and photos by Jane Dornick

Despite the searing 95 degree heat, the 500 block of East Crescent Ave. held their second annual 4th of July block party last Wednesday night.

A kiddie pool and sprinkler was set up in the street for the little ones, while the adults enjoyed dips in a neighbor's backyard pool.

A big buffet table filled with the usual picnic barbecue items was set up. Each family donated their own speciality to the picnic.

The kids also enjoyed a handmade prize wheel game, where they won candy and other small toys. Even a pinata was hung from a neighbor's tree.

The block party gives neighbors the

opportunity to enjoy each other's company, both old and young alike. The day made for another memorable July 4 celebration.

The families participating in the block party were the Maniaci's, Jazetta's, Massaro's, Huezik's, Reo's, McCoid's, Slover's, Waldron's, DeLair's, Zelinski's, Bayous' and Cesaro's.



## Summer Safety Tips From the Red Cross

School's out, pools are open and people across the country are looking for fun ways to cool down as summer temperatures heat up. As you head to the beach, to the pool or to the mountains for a camping vacation, the American Red Cross of Central New Jersey encourages you and your family to keep safety in mind.

The Red Cross has many water safety tips, but the most basic is to learn to swim. The best thing anyone can do to stay safe in and around the water is to learn to swim. Remember also to always swim with a buddy, never swim alone. Some more tips for the water are:

- Swim in supervised areas only.
- Obey all rules and posted signs.
- Don't mix alcohol and swimming. Alcohol impairs your judgment, balance and coordination, af-

fects your swimming and diving skills and reduces your body's ability to stay warm.

- Pay attention to local weather conditions and forecasts. Stop swimming at the first indication of bad weather.

Whether you are a captain or a passenger on a ski boat, following safety guidelines ensures your safety and that of others seafarers.

- Be weather wise; sudden wind shifts, lightening flashes and choppy water all can mean a storm is brewing. Bring a portable radio to check weather reports.

- Bring extra gear you many need, including a flashlight, extra batteries, matches, a map of where you are, flares, sun tan lotion, first aid kit, extra sunglasses. Put those that need to be protected in a watertight pouch or

a container that floats.

- Tell someone where you're going, who is with you and how long you'll be away.

- Then check your boat, equipment, boat balance, engine and fuel supply before leaving.

Summer means fun in the sun! But be safe - don't let a heat related illness ruin your day. Always drink plenty of water and take frequent breaks when working or playing in the hot weather.

Many families will head to parks and forests this summer to enjoy the great outdoors. But if you're not prepared to rough it in the woods, hiking or camping can be a rough experience. The best way to help guarantee a good time for all is to plan ahead and follow common sense safety precautions.

For more information on summer safety and being prepared for the heat, please contact the American Red Cross of Central New Jersey at (609) 951-8550 or for a complete listing of all summer safety tips, go to our website at [www.njredcross.org](http://www.njredcross.org).

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# Sports

## SWIMMING

## Tiger Sharks Battle the Frogs in the Hollow

After a resounding win over Piscataway last week, the South Plainfield Tiger Sharks had a difficult fight on July 3, battling and losing to the Frog Hollow team of South Amboy, 161 to 110 in their rival's home pool.

South Plainfield swimmers who took home points and ribbons for the Tiger Sharks included the following:

Individual Medley: Anthony Baldasare took second place in the 10 and under, 100 meter; Matt Moates, took first place in the 11-12 year-old, 100 meter. For the older boys, Calvin/John Smiley took first place and Adam Timberlake got second, in the 200 meter, 13-18 year-old race.

In Freestyle races, Emily Piekarski came in third in the 10 and under, 100 meter and Nina Byard took third in the 13-18 year-old, 200 meter.

In the boys Freestyle, the Tiger Sharks picked up more points with a handful of winners: Dylan McDermott took first in the eight and under, 25 meter; Brian Babinetz took second in the 9-10 year-old, 50 meter; Michael Boyle claimed first in the 11-12 year-old, 50 meter; Philip Luzny took third place in the 13-14, 100 meter and in the 15-18 year old race, Adam Timberlake claimed second place and Karim Motani placed third.

In the eight and under girls division, Tiger Shark swimmers swept first, second and third in the same order in both the 25-meter backstroke race and the breaststroke, with Katie O'Brien in placing first, Maggie Valentino in getting second and Gracie Piekarski winning third. Other winners in backstroke were Sarah Konops getting third place for the 9-10, 50 meter; Abigail Petritsch received second for the 11-12, 50 meter and Nina Byard, who also came in second in the 15-18, 100 meter race.

Breaststroke winners were Chelsea Cullen placing second and Emily Piekarski coming in third, in the 9-10, 50 meter; Leah Konops placed third, in the 13-14, 100 meter and Shannon Dabrio was second, in the 15-18, 100 meter race.

Boys' Butterfly races had the following winners: Dylan McDermott, won first place and Patrick Boyle, came in third, in the 8 and under, 25 meter; Matt Moates came in first and Michael Boyle was third, in the 11-12 year old, 50 meter; Philip Luzny, first, in the 13-14, 100 meter. Calvin/John Smiley took second and Karim Motani placed third, in the 15-18, 100 meter race.

In the relay races, the team of Gracie Piekarski, Maggie Valentino, Katie O'Brien and K. McLaughlin got the win for the eight and under, 100 meter freestyle girls' relay.

Two Tiger Shark boys' relay teams came in first in their age group: for the eight and under, 100 meter medley relay: Dylan McDermott, Liam McDermott, David Brzozowski and Patrick Boyle and in the 13-18, 200 meter race winners were Philip Luzny, Calvin/John Smiley, Adam Timberlake and Anthony Baldasare.

The Tiger Sharks are always looking for new swimmers to join their team, no previous team experience is necessary. Practices are held frequently and at varying times so that swimmers can attend the ones that are convenient. Coaches work with swimmers at practice sessions, teaching breathing techniques and strokes and all levels of swimmers are encouraged to find out about the team.

For more information, visit or call the Recreation Department or stop in at the pool and see a manager.

Submitted by Donna Egan

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South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul  
Alvarado, Pastor

### Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.

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

Weekdays 9:00 a.m. (church)

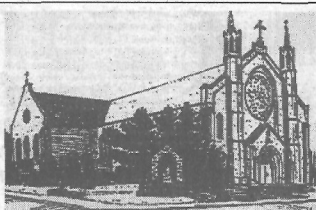
Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.

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

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

and after 5 p.m. Vigil Mass



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# Sports



## Ponytail Softball Batters Box

By Sharon Miller

All-Star Parkway Invitational Softball League Season  
Week of July 14

The All-Star softball season is in full swing. This year we have entered a new league, the Parkway Invitational Softball League. The other teams in this league are from North Edison, Westfield, Clark, North Plainfield, Cranford, Union, Scotch Plains, Colonia, Roselle Park, Metuchen, Elmora, Warren, New Providence, Dunellen and Berkley Heights. There are two divisions in this league. Our 14U, 12U and 10U "A" teams are in the American League while our second 12U "N" team is in the National League. Our 14U "A" will be playing in Union on July 16 at the Pitt Street Park Complex. The July 18 game will be against Scotch Plains-Fanwood in Scotch Plains.

Our 12U "A" team will be playing Roselle Park on July 15 in Roselle Park. The July 17 game will be against Metuchen in Metuchen. On July 19 they will be playing against Colonia at the Pitt Street Park Complex.

Our 12U "N" team will be playing North Plainfield on July 15 in North Plainfield. On July 17 they will be playing against Dunellen at the Pitt Street Park Complex.

Our 10U "A" team will be playing North Plainfield on July 16 in North Plainfield. The July 18 game will be against Colonia at the Pitt Street Park Complex.

All games begin at 6 p.m. unless noted above. Please come out and join us for another wonderful season of All-star softball. Good luck to all players and coaches for a great season.

• **14U North Brunswick Tournament, July 12, 13 & 14**—Our 14U team will be competing in the North Brunswick Tournament on July 12, 13 and 14. July 13 (Saturday) game times are 8 a.m., 1:15 p.m. and 4:45 p.m. Players should arrive at the field 30 minutes prior to game time. Snack Bar information is not known.

• **14U Union Tournament, July 20, 21**—Our 14U team will be participating in the Union Tournament on July 20 and 21. July 20 (Saturday) games times on field 1 are 8 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 4:45 p.m. There is a complete snack bar facility located at the complex.

• **12U and 10U Readington Tournament, July 20 & 21**—12U and 10U teams will be participating in the Readington Tournament on July 20 and 21.

• **14U, 12U and 10U Monroe Tournament, July 26, 27 & 28**—Our 14U, 12U and 10U teams will be competing in the Monroe Tournament on July 26, 27 and 28. The main complex is located on Gravel Hill Spotswood Road. The Thompson Park complex is located on Perrineville Road. The main complex has a snack bar, which offers light snacks and drinks. The Thompson Park complex does not have a snack bar facility.

**Please Note:** Directions to the fields will be provided by the coach. Additional information on these tournaments will appear in the Batter's Box as they become available. Please come out and support our teams.

**SP Summer Softball Camp, July 15-July 19**—The South Plainfield recreation department will be running a summer softball sports camp for girls ages 7-15. The camp will run from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on July 15 through July 19 at the SP 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.

**Ponytail Softball Association Meeting** will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, July 23 at 8:15 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 July 23. New members are always welcome. Please note time change to 8:15 p.m.

By Kevin Lykes

## juniorbaseballclubnotes

### 2002 Season Wrap Up

Our regular and post season in-house tournaments have now concluded. Many thanks are due to the many individuals too numerous to mention by name for contributing to the successful completion of our baseball season.

All of you, from the coaches, snack stand organizers and captains, league directors, and buildings and grounds people, right down to each player should be proud of the recently concluded season.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our post season double elimination tournament champions:

**C League 8-9 year-old**—first place Orioles, second place Orioles, third place Marlins; **B League 10-11 year-old**—first place Rockies, second place Dodgers, third place Reds; **A League, 12 year-old**—first place Orioles, second place Dodgers, third place Marlins; **Pony B 13 year-old**—first place Dodgers, second place Braves, third place Orioles; **Pony A 14-17 year-old**—first place Devil Rays, second place Diamondbacks, third place Yankees.

Our invitational tournament which continues through the month of July, has now begun with teams from all over Central Jersey visiting our complex. Don't hesitate to stop by for some good baseball and to root on our local South Plainfield teams.

On a special note, I want to congratulate Larry Hughes and his 10-year-old traveling all star team for winning the Cal Ripkin District 9 championship last week; with a 7-5 extra inning victory over Edison Boys. Our 10-year-old team, led by Larry and his staff, will be headed into the state tournament in North Bergen this week.

Fall baseball registrations are now being accepted. Stop by and see one of our board members or tournament staff members for an application. Enrollment is open to all South Plainfield residents, as well as out of town individuals only.

Please make note: Our annual picnic and trophy presentations will be held on Saturday, Sept. 7 at 12 Noon at the complex.

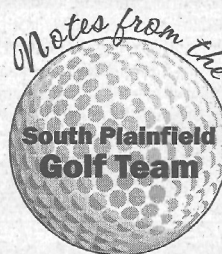


Pictured are the Lady Lions who were the winners of the A League Championship playoffs. Left to right are Katie Hardy, Becky Watts, Tiffany Roth, Cory McGovern, Stacy Carrasca, Amanda Vignot, Kim Arki, Christina Schuetz, Katelyn Conrad, Dorothy Cameron and Brianna M. Missing from the picture is Victoria Plase.

Hummel held on to its slim first-place lead in the American Division of the South Plainfield Golf League despite losing to Twin City, led by Jerry Minlionica, by a score of 12-8.

Plainfield Animal Hospital moved into sole possession of second place in the tight American League race with a 13-7 win over Aiello Chiropractic. Stan Lipka shot a fine one-over-par round of 34 and Fred Kirchofer of Aiello, chipped in with an impressive 36 in a losing cause.

Kevin Bickunas of Witty's Liquors gave another of his strong performances with a solid round of 35, but Witty's only managed a 10-10 tie with Pornovets.



In the National League, Sport & Social claimed first place after defeating South Plainfield Police, 12-8, while Masters, who dominated the division early in the season, lost for the second week in a row, this time to Hank's Hackers, 12-8. Kevin

Boyce's 36 and Wayne Hanrahan's 37, sparked Hank's as their team climbed into third place. Dan Griffin added to his string of good rounds with a 35 as Masters slipped a game behind Sport & Social.

Mike Behr continued his steady improvement for Patties Construction with a three-over par round of 36, as Patti's squeaked past VFW, 11-9.

With just five weeks remaining in the regular schedule, only two games separate first-place Hummel from last-place Twin City in the American Division, while the National Division seems to have settled down to a two-team race between Sport & Social and Masters.

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## Obituaries

### Anna DeLuca, 94

Anna DeLuca died on Tuesday, July 2 at the Genesis Elder Care Center in Plainfield.

Born in West New York, Mrs. DeLuca resided in Europe as a young woman before returning to the United States, residing in Hoboken. She lived in Newark and South Plainfield during the early 1960's and in Edison before settling with her son for 12 years in Middletown. She entered Genesis Care Center in 1997.

Mrs. DeLuca was employed as a seamstress for Canadian Furs, now known as Canadian's, in Menlo Park Mall in Edison retiring at the age of 62.

She is a former communicant of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield.

Her husband, Philip DeLuca died in October of 1964 and her daughter, Carol Kummer died last year.

Surviving are a daughter, Jenny Niebyskie of Monmouth Junction; three sons, Joseph of upper Mt. Bethel, Pa., Vincent of Manahawkin and Frank DeLuca of Colonia. Also surviving are 23 grandchildren and 39 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

10 years for J&H Berg Company in South Plainfield.

She enjoyed trips to Atlantic City. She was predeceased by her husband, Bernard Szumski, who died in 1976 and her son, David Szumski who died in 1993.

She is survived by two daughters, Lucy and her husband John Adorna and Debbie Spooner; a son Alan and his wife Laura Szumski, all of South Plainfield; her mother Lucy Schiappa and a brother, Bernard Schiappa, both of Las Vegas; her long time companion John Dorko of Piscataway, her beloved grandchildren, Nicole, Michelle, Joseph, Ryan, Monica and Justin.

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

### Carolyn Calvey, 63,

Carolyn Calvey died on Saturday, July 6 in St. Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick.

Born in Frenchtown, she resided in Irvington and Bloomfield, before moving to South Plainfield in 1983.

Carolyn was employed for the past 13 years as a machine operator for The Sherwood Packaging Co. of Edison.

Surviving are her husband, John Calvey, Sr.; three daughters and sons-in-law, Patricia and Paul Celentano, Susan and Michael Miller, both of South Plainfield; Geraldine and Eric Mueller of Union Beach; a son and daughter-in-law John, Jr. and Janine Calvey of South Plainfield. Also surviving are seven grandchildren.

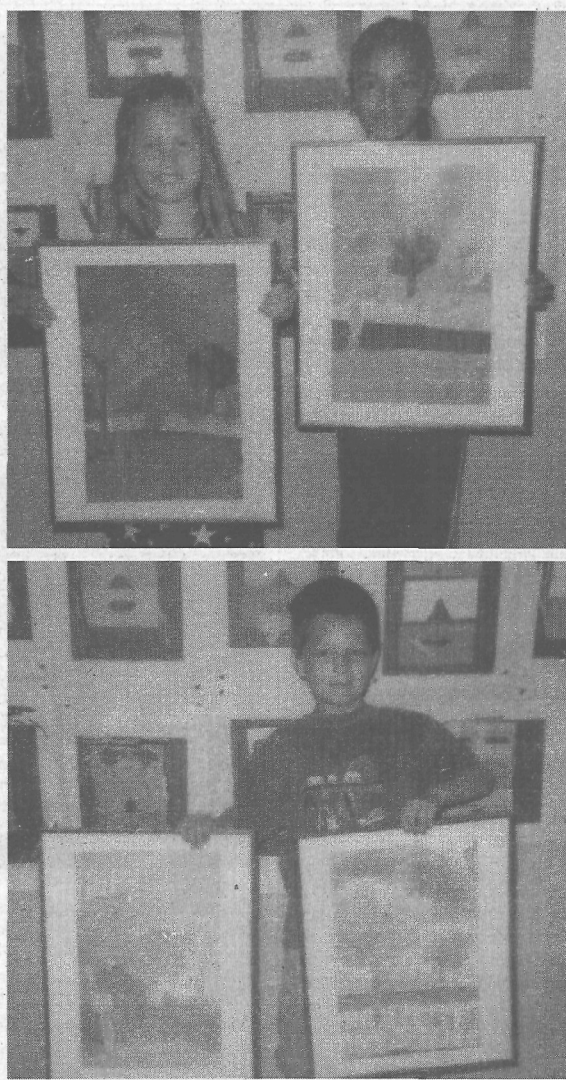
Private Funeral Services were arranged by the McCriskin Home for Funerals.

### Dolores A. Schiappa Szumski, 66

Dolores A. Schiappa Szumski of Piscataway died on Wednesday, July 3 at her home.

She was born in Plainfield and was a former resident of South Plainfield before moving to Piscataway.

Dolores was a former secretary for



## Riley School Holds Third Art Exhibit

The third exhibit of "Art for the Main Office" at Riley School is currently underway and will continue through the summer and into the beginning of the next school year. This display was organized by Barbara Harris, art teacher at Riley. The students whose works have been selected are all second graders. They are Maggie Jainarine, Kristopher O'Connor, Emily Sella and Luke Sprenger.

The art works, which are water-color landscapes, grew out of a unit on 19th Century European Art that Mrs. Harris taught to all her students. In second grade one period of the 19th Century, Romanticism, was emphasized. The children studied the work of several artists, but especially George Inness's painting "Mill Pond," which inspired their paintings.

Pictured left displaying their artwork are (above) Emily Sella and Maggie Jainarine. Left is a painting by Kristopher O'Connor (not pictured) and Luke Sprenger. Artwork in the background is by the first grade students in Mrs. Jennifer Pietrewicz's class. They are "Mixed Media Faces" based on a detail of Pablo Picasso's painting, "Three Musicians."

## Emergency Services Plans Test Exercise

Emergency Management Coordinator Mike Zushma recently held the first of several meetings to begin planning a test exercise for this fall.

The main focus of the exercise is for personnel from the police and fire departments, the rescue squad, as well as emergency management to be kept on their toes, ready for any and all emergencies.

By holding this exercise, personnel for all departments will be able to find out where their weaknesses and

strengths lie and to make plans accordingly.

The public will be kept informed as to exactly when this exercise will take place, so that no one becomes alarmed when they see emergency personnel swarming around the high school. Plans call for the drill to take place on a Saturday or Sunday inside the high school.

The scenario involves an incident in the high school where a shooter is on the loose in the halls of the school

and all of the emergency services are called in to participate.

Zushma said that he will be applying for grant money to cover the costs of most of the drill.

Attending the first meeting with Mike and Linda Zushma were Mayor Dan Gallagher, Rev. Charles Mingle, Councilman Bob Cusick, Gail Dougherty of social services, representatives from the police and fire department as well as the rescue squad.

Preliminary plans call for two shooters causing 30 to 40 injuries and five deaths. Several students will be trapped under the bleachers, causing a need for a rapid rescue of the injured students from a hazardous area. This will also include homicide crime scene processing, counselors to assist uninjured students and parents, the need for stress sessions and handling of public information.

### Consideration

It is far easier for the family if a family plot is arranged prior to need. The considerate staff at Hillside Cemetery will assist your selection. 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

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Summer Fun

Please Note:

The Observer will close at 1 p.m. on Fridays during the month of July.

Summer Fun

## LEGAL NOTICES

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Todd Sacco requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit proposing to erect a 38' x 40' (28' x 40' at front) 2 car garage with a second story addition. Proposed addition lacks the required 30' front setback from Schindler Ave., 6' proposed; lacks required 20' rear setback, 15' proposed and exceeds lot coverage by 123 s.f. or 1.2%; and other variances that may be required, said property being located on Block 232, Lot 4 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, August 15, 2002 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

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

\$35.00 1T July 12, 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 AUGUST 1, 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:

#### STREET SWEEPING AND CLEANING

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  
\$36.75 July 12, 2002

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### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD LEGAL NOTICE

July 9, 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 June 27, 2002.

A. Case #31--02/TU-Able Labs, Inc.-Block 390; Lot 5.0-3; 6 Hollywood Court-Applicant's request to dismiss this application for a temporary use permit was hereby APPROVED.

B. Case #35-02-Kevin Flannery-Block 261; Lot 8; 323 Mill Street-Applicant's request for a 16' front setback for an existing wood deck was hereby GRANTED.

C. Case #38-02-Robert & Dianne Martucci-Block 528; Lot 6; R-10 Zone; 1312 Yurget Drive-Applicant's request for a use variance to construct an addition for a mother/daughter dwelling was hereby GRANTED, with conditions.

D. Case #42-02-Bill & Barbara Cochran-Block 35; Lot 1; 1415 Central Avenue-Applicant's request for a side yard setback to construct a second level addition was hereby GRANTED.

E. Case #44-02-Raymond & Helen Majewski-Block 207; Lot 4; 287 South Plainfield Ave.-Applicant's request for a front setback to construct a front porch was hereby GRANTED.

F. Case #45-02-Dominick Cirilli-Block 429; Lot 6.05; 124 Pomponio Ave.-Applicant's request for a rear yard setback and lot coverage variance to construct a wood deck and patio enclosure is hereby GRANTED.

G. Case #46-02-Wendell Born-Block 180; Lot 6; 609 Ritter Ave.-Applicant's request for four bulk variances to construct a second story addition and front setback for a front porch was hereby GRANTED.

H. Case #38-99/S/A-Skyline Management Corp., 1/6 Golden Acres-Block 254, Lot 2.02; OBC-3 & M-3 Zones; Oak Tree Ave. & Park Ave.-Applicant's request for clarification and location of pylon signs is hereby APPROVED.

I. Case #2-00/S/A-Bell Atlantic-New Jersey, Inc.-Block 528; Lot 46.08; M-2 Zone; 1001 Hadley Road-Applicant's request for a use variance and front yard setback variances to construct two primarily underground concrete precast vaults was hereby GRANTED, with conditions.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Janice Muccilli,  
Secretary Zoning Board of Adjustment  
\$62.00 July 12, 2002

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD LEGAL NOTICE

July 9, 2002

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Planning Board at its meeting held on June 25, 2002.

A. Case #657-Northeastern Products Company-Block 467.02; Lot 2; 3500 South Clinton Avenue-Applicant's request for preliminary and final site plan for the removal of the existing refrigerator condenser unit from the roof and replace it with a new unit on the ground was hereby GRANTED.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Janice Muccilli,  
Recording Secretary, Planning Board  
\$20.00 July 12, 2002

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# IN THE OPINION

## Riley Students Ask Their Representatives to Measure Up

Mrs. Gaffney's fifth grade Math Class in John E. Riley School has written these letters to the NJ Representatives and Senators. The reason for these letters is that the math class thinks the United States should change from Customary Measure to Metrics. We hope you enjoy reading their letters to the Honorable Representatives and Senators.

Dear Senator Corzine:

My name is Kara Thomas. I'm in fifth grade at John E. Riley School. My math class has been talking about measurement lately and we think America should start using Metric measurement. First, no one else in the world uses customary measurement. If everyone used Metrics we'd be able to communicate better. Second, Metrics are much easier to learn. Prefixes such as kilo, centi, deci and milli are all you need to learn. Third of all, people would have a greater understanding of science because scientists use Metrics. The problem is that customary measurements are no longer customary.

Please take my suggestion into consideration.

Sincerely,  
Kara Thomas

\*\*\*\*\*

To Senator Corzine:

I think we should use the metric system instead of the customary system. Metrics are easier to learn and simpler to remember. Metric units make more sense than customary units. For example, "milli" means one thousand and there are one thousand millimeters in a meter. Inches, feet, yards and miles do not have any relationship that makes sense. The final reason to use metrics is the rest of the world (or most of the rest of the world) uses metrics. So it would make more sense for the U.S. to use metrics. By the way, I'm eleven years old, I'm in fifth grade and I go to Riley School in South Plainfield, NJ. I was also wondering approximately how much would it cost to change to metrics?

Sincerely,  
Rinita Gulliani

\*\*\*\*\*

To The Honorable Mike Ferguson:

I would like to ask you a huge favor. Our class has recently been studying the metrics and customary measuring systems. In our studies we have found out that the metrics system is a lot easier to learn and use than the customary system. I would be very happy if you could bring up the topic of changing our measuring system in

one of the House of Representatives' meetings. You may say, "Why should America change its measuring system, just because one little kid says so?" Well, they are thousands of reasons why we should change. Two reasons are that the metrics system is easier to learn and a lot more accurate. The numbers make sense and have commonality. In the customary system the numbers are very irregular and don't make any sense. Another reason is that since America is the only country that uses the Customary unit, when Americans go to any other country, they would not know a thing about how tall a building is or what the temperature is. I also heard some disastrous mistakes have occurred due to the Customary system, such as when a probe fell to Mars due to miscalculations blamed on the use of Customary units instead of metrics. I hope you agree with me and talk to your fellow representatives about changing America's measuring system to metrics.

Sincerely,  
Tarun Bhatnagar

\*\*\*\*\*

To The Honorable Mike Ferguson:

Hello, my name is Lindsay Fredericks and I'm in the fifth grade. I

have a suggestion that may sound a little odd, but I want to try and see if it will work. My math class and my suggestion is to get the United States of America to change from Customary measure to the Metrics system. I think that this would be the right choice for a couple of reasons. First of all, if someone who doesn't have a good memory is trying to learn Customary measure, it would be hard for him or her because a lot of Customary measure is just that you have to memorize it. On the other hand, I believe metric measurement is a lot easier to learn, I think it makes more sense. Also, almost everyone else in the world uses metrics. I'm not saying just because other countries do something, we should do it. I'm just saying that it would probably be easier to have the same measurement system throughout the whole world, so it's easy for visitors to know what they're doing if they visit from another country to the U.S. and aren't familiar with Customary measure. Also, if someone sends important information to someone who uses Customary measure in Metrics, they might not be able to read it and there could be a big problem. Please take my suggestion into consideration. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Lindsay Fredericks

\*\*\*\*\*

To the Editor:

Hi, my name is Michelle and my fifth grade class and I were recently learning about the Customary and metrics measuring system. My teacher told us that the rest of the world uses the metric system and we're the only country that uses Customary. We've learned that since we're the only ones using the Customary system, that is has caused problems in the world of science, and in some jobs. For example: A NASA spacecraft on its way to Mars, crashed because of its measuring being off. I bet no one was happy about that. Also, my mother is an inventory analyst, and she has problems dealing with customers from Europe and Asia due to the different units of measurement. I'm writing this letter to ask if our country could have the same unit of measurement as everyone else. I think that would have a great effect on the world. Thanks for listening.

Sincerely,  
Michelle Kobilis

P.S. Please take this consideration. I know I'm just a kid, and kids don't have much say in this world, but maybe this kid could make a change.

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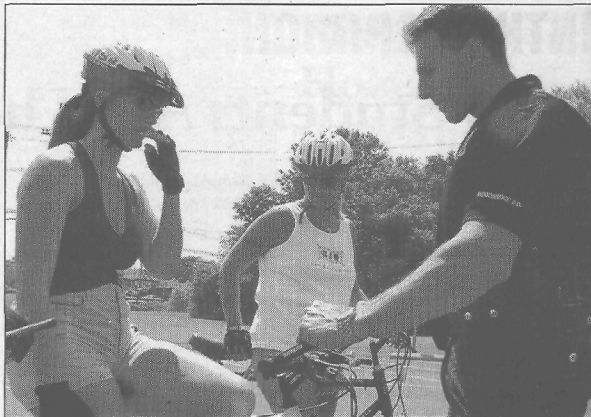


## EMS Bikes

*Continued from page 1*  
to moving mounts and dismounts. They learned how to stop quickly, jump obstacles, maneuver through tight areas and much more. They will also participate in four hours of training a month in addition to regular squad training.

An Orlando, Fla. bike team trial showed that EMS bikes responded in less than one minute 55% of the time, less than two minutes 83% of the time and less than three minutes 95% of the time. This is compared to the average four minutes it takes for an ambulance to arrive.

Although the bike team will only be used for special events (concerts in the park, high school football games, etc.), the EMS bike team's goal is to reach the scene first and begin first aid care. The bikes can easily access congested areas such as parks, fairs, sports events and more; locales where a vehicle would be slowed by the crowds or terrain. Simply put, the time saved with the bikes may save lives. Members of the team are able to provide the same lifesaving efforts as they would with an ambulance on hand, except for transportation to the hos-



Above and left: Rescue Squad personnel receive training for the bike team.

pital.

The benefits to the community are many, including role models promoting bike safety and the use of helmets. There are also benefits to the Rescue Squad and the team. The bikes improve public relations within the community. A team member on a bike is more approachable than one in an ambulance. Bike duty provides exercise and improves morale of team members. The bikes are cost-effective as well, operating at a fraction of the cost of an ambulance.

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad Bike Team is Sgt. Jill Tener-Capt., Bob Dolan, Peter Magnani, John Butrico, Keeley Hayman, Marie Aimone, Eric Milstein and Ed LaFerrera.

The team hopes to expand to a second unit adding two more bikes. Funding is of major importance. Bob Dolan said, "When Sev from Ciccio's heard about the bikes, he donated \$60. He has always been very good at supporting the squad." The SPRS is currently accepting contributions in the name of the bike team.

## policereport

- Vincent Bilotta, 22, of Avenel was arrested for aggravated assault, driving while intoxicated, careless driving and refusal to submit at a motor vehicle stop.
- Nancy I. Oloo, 22, of Perth Amboy was arrested at the DMV for showing a false social security card.
- On July 1 Lawrence Connors, 44, who resided at Days Inn, was arrested for having no drivers license and no permanent residence.
- A Vail Ct. resident returned from vacation and it appeared that someone had been inside the residence.
- CVS on Oak Tree Ave. reported that a possible shoplifter who left with a bag full of items.
- A Clinton Ave. resident reported that someone hit a tree on the front of his property.
- New Era Development reported the theft of three light poles from Freihofer's new building on Hamilton Blvd.
- A Carbray Ct. resident reported the theft of his 2002 Yamaha motor-

cycle.

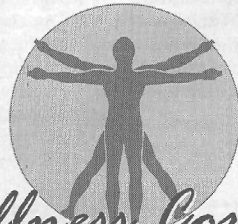
- An Audubon Ave. resident reported several items were missing from her house.
- A Highland Ave. resident reported that her credit card had been stolen and used at Home Depot and Quick Chek.
- A W. 7th St. resident reported a theft from his vehicle overnight.
- A Clinton Terr. resident reported the theft of her son's bike from his friend's house.
- Eckerd Drugs reported that a black male took several items from shelves and left without paying.
- A Murray Ave. resident reported the theft of a woman's Diamond Back bike.
- An Easton Blvd. resident reported that two bikes had been stolen from his yard.
- A Central Ave. resident reported that someone broke into his garage and stole two bikes.
- A Sampton Ave. resident reported that his car had been egged overnight.

## SDW Fundraising This Weekend

The South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop (SDW) will hold their annual canning fund drive this weekend. Cast, crew members and chaperones will be at businesses throughout town on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon.

Work on the 2002 production of the Broadway hit *Footloose* is well underway. Students are involved in all aspects of the show as performers, band and stage crew. Approximately 90 students ranging in ages 11 to 18 are working with a professional staff. The entire group is working hard to produce another Summer Drama hit.

If an energetic teenager smiles and asks you for a donation to the SDW, remember it only takes a few seconds and a bit of change to make a big difference by supporting this 31-year-old youth program.



## Wellness Corner

## The Importance of Monitoring Our Health...

By Dr. Patrick M. Aiello D.C.



Dr. Patrick Aiello, DC

When we take the opportunity to examine our daily habits—the foods we eat, our level of exercise, the manner in which we deal with stress, how much quality time spent with friends and family—it's often surprising to see how little of that day we have for *ourselves*, as opposed to the amount we spend just "getting by." Is it any wonder our energy levels are often chronically low? Do you think that has some long-term effects on our overall health picture?

If not, think again. On my drive home from the office the other night, I was thinking about just this subject—not only as pertained to the daily habits mentioned above, but in addition our failure to utilize such aspects as monitoring and preventative measures so readily available in today's healthcare world. From routine blood work and analysis, to yearly physicals, we often decide we "don't have the time." When was the last time you had a check up? Can't remember?

Maybe it's been a bit too long, then. Unfortunately, the current health insurance landscape (believe me, the alphabet soup of HMOs, PPOs, POSs, etc. is mostly BS to me, too) leaves many people unfamiliar with the coverage they actually *have*, if any.

The questions are legion: Do I have "good" insurance? This is, I want a lot of things to be covered without paying so much money I might as well send the insurance company the paycheck.

What happens if I get sick? Do my doctors deal with my insurance company, or do I? That's a critical concern, after all.

Does my coverage change on a year-to-year basis? The uncertainty can raise one's stress levels immeasurably.

With plans sometimes doing so, keeping informed is a good idea.

While the finances of healthcare dictate that today's patient (i.e., the consumer) switch doctors more frequently, I don't necessarily believe that doing so is a good thing—unless, of course, you are unhappy or dissatisfied with a particular doctor. If you are, though, then, by all means, make the switch. I believe a long-term relationship with one particular doctor or group leads to better healthcare decisions. With proper follow-ups and physicals, they'll get to know your health habits, lifestyle habits and personal health history a lot more in-depth than, say, someone to whom you're a stranger, or simply a chart.

What does all this mean? What do I do with this information? Do I run to the doctors at every sniffle, sneeze, or cough? Not necessarily. While I don't want to instill a fear or panic situation, or worse yet, cause someone to become Felix Unger (Let's see who remembers that *Odd Couple* reference), I don't want people burying their heads in the sand, either.

The point I'm trying to make is that while we all probably have several aspects of our life and daily habits that improving upon will lead to positive changes in our health, we also need to examine or maybe re-examine, the way we monitor our health. Are you the person that takes better care of your car than you do yourself? Do you focus more on family and loved ones on yourself? Then if something were to happen to you, *who would be there for them?* As the saying goes, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." In that context, when was the last time you had a physical? With all the resources at our disposal, it couldn't hurt... it could help a great deal.

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