

FILE

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 5, NO. 49

50 CENTS

AUGUST 9, 2002

Gallagher Vows Veterans Park Clean-up Will Take Place

Speaking about Veterans Park at Monday night's agenda meeting, Mayor Dan Gallagher vowed to clean up the park no matter what it takes. "In my 19 years that I have been in service for the people of South Plainfield, I have always asked the council members to consider whatever they do, it is always done with our ability to pay, that is not binding in this case for Veterans Park. Whatever it costs, we are going to pay to get it corrected," said Gallagher.

Veterans Park has been temporarily closed due to a black sludge which has appeared in various sections of the park and the discovery of asbestos tiles along the creek.

For the past year, the black sludge had been tested by both the EPA and PMK Group and both found that it was not an oil-based product, but they needed to test it further to determine what it was and how best to remove it.

However, Robert Spiegel, executive director of the Edison Wetlands Association, investigated and brought in EMSL Analytical, a nationwide testing laboratory. In one week their testing found several substances, including PCBs.

John Johnson from the PMK Group will be giving a formal presentation to the council at this Thursday night's regular council meeting. He will address the latest testing and findings from the DEP, EPA, Middlesex County and PMK and will let the public know just where we stand on Veterans Park and what action should be taken to clean it up.



Despite Blackout Footloose Continues

By Patricia Abbott

Friday night's storm brought down trees and power lines and even took out a transformer that powered the high school, but it did not take down the Summer Drama Workshop's production of *Footloose*.

Minutes before the second act was to begin, the lights flickered and the room was plunged into darkness for a few seconds. In those brief moments, before the generator kicked in, panicked screams were heard. As lights came on, a handful of people dashed for the door, only to discover a powerful storm, complete with lightening to rival a laser show. Most opted for a safe haven and returned to their seats. With cell phones in hand, many lingered in the dimly lit hallway reassuring family of their safety. In 1995 a similar storm closed the final Summer Drama Workshop performance of *Oliver* before the first curtain.

Backstage the actors experienced a

different kind of nervousness. The young cast members were anxious for the power to return and the show was delayed in anticipation of regaining lights and sound. As the minutes ticked by a decision was made to continue the show without the benefit of stage and spot lights, microphones, equipment such as electric guitars, and other niceties that enhance a performer's hard work. Director Eric Hafen spoke to a jittery cast encouraging them to overcome the obstacle and give their all. As the first scene began the raging storm paled in comparison to the energy on stage. The actors pulled out all the stops and poured out their heart and soul in song and dance. The stage crew came through for the cast and audience seeing to important details. Stage Manager Lory Alcaro directed the crew to move the sets closer to the audience. They used flashlights to spot the solo numbers.

Lory said, "The mood backstage

Continued on page 6

Labor Day Parade Route Changed Due to Veterans Park Closing

5K Labor Day Run and 1.5 Mile Family Walk Also Change

Due to the temporary closing of Veterans Park, the Labor Day Parade Committee voted last week to change the route of the parade as well as the 5K Run and 1.4 Family Fitness Walk.

The parade theme "Celebrate Our Freedom" rings of patriotism. Red, white and blue will be the colors of the day and hopefully everyone will join in and wear patriotic clothing and bring a flag with them.

The new route will take parade marchers down Maple Ave. to the PAL building. The parade will be a bit shorter, 1.4 miles, in the past, the route was 1.6 miles. 5K runners will also be running a new route, but it will encompass the same length as last year, as will the 1.5 mile walkers.

The parade will begin further up on Plainfield Ave. at the intersection of Merchants Ave. The parade route is the same as in the past, they will proceed down Plainfield Ave. past Borough Hall, the Rescue Squad and at the Fire Dept. then turn left onto

Maple Ave. At this point the route will change from years past. They will march straight down Maple to the PAL building. The parade will not be going through any of the downtown area nor to Veterans Park.

The area behind the PAL Building will be used for the vendors, food and games. There is plenty of parking near the pool area and the PAL Building. Floats will turn right on Cady La. and on to Avon Ave. to exit the area. Avon Ave. will be closed to parking and traffic to accommodate the floats.

The 5K Run and 1.5 Mile Family Walk will begin at the PAL and take the same route as this year's parade, going up Maple Ave. and onto Plainfield Ave. and return to the PAL. The exact turnaround street has not yet been determined.

The Labor Day Parade Committee is in the process of sending out letters to all of the parade marchers and participants, informing them of the pa-

Continued on page 6

Candle Light Memorial Planned For September 11

A memorial candlelight vigil will be held at Spring Lake Park on Sept. 11 at 7 p.m. It will be similar to the beautiful service held last year after the Sept. 11 terrorist attack.

The event is the inspiration of Marion Gallagher, who was instrumental in planning last year's vigil.

Plans call for a stage to be set up near the gazebo in the parking lot, which will be closed that day to set up. The South Plainfield High School Band, bagpipers and clergy, will lead the crowd in prayer and songs. The event will last about a half hour. Residents are asked to bring their own candles and to plan on placing them around the lake as was done last year.

Heat Causes Power Outages and Brush Fire

By Jane Dornick

Last Friday's excessive heat may have been the cause of a 13,000 volt power line to snap nearby a transformer located at the end of Hancock

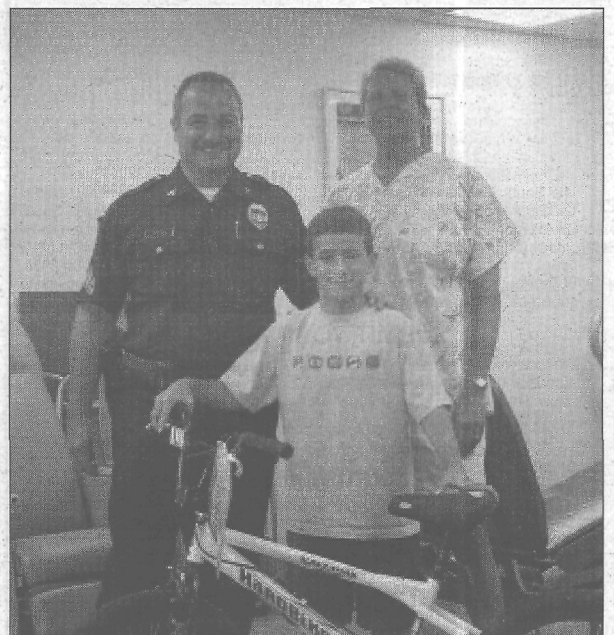
St. off New Market Ave.

The downed wire ignited the dry grass and brush on the ground causing a fire which had to be carefully contained, while PSE&G worked to

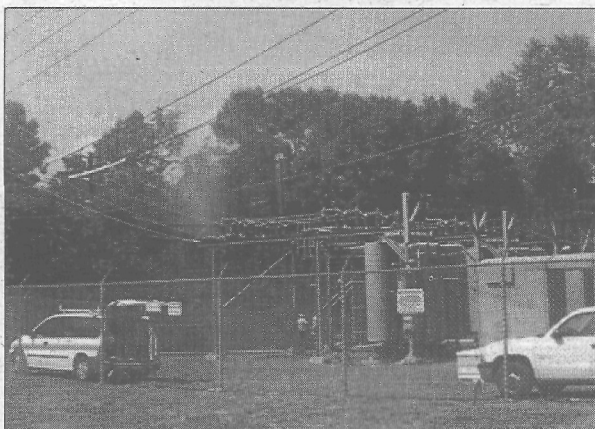
cut off power to the live cable. Conrail service running through the area was temporarily suspended for a short period of time because of the smoke condition on the track.

The downed wires also caused a power outage to many residents in the New Market area, with traffic lights not functioning at the intersections of New Market and South Clinton, Hamilton and New Market and Sampton and Plainfield avenues. The power outage went as far as Spring Lake, including the municipal building, the fire department and the rescue squad. Power to these areas was restored within the hour.

Because the Rescue Squad building was affected by the loss of power, the heavy doors had to be opened manually, which slowed down their response time. The Plainfield Rescue Squad was on standby if the need arose. However they were not needed once the Rescue Squad was able respond.



Mark Tomei, Jr., (center) proudly holds his new bike, which he won at last week's Bike Rodeo. Presenting the bike are Sgt. Kevin Murtagh and Lynn Sward, owner of Physical Therapy of South Plainfield, who donated the bike. (See story and pictures on page 12)



Smoke can be seen coming from a grass fire, which was caused by a downed power line last Friday afternoon.

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, September 3 Thursday, September 5

Monday, September 16 Thursday, September 19

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

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

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.

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. - 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. - 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

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

South Plainfield Observer

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NANCY GRENNIER

Publisher/Editor

WAYNE GRENNIER

Associate Publisher

SUSAN KANEPS

Art Director/Associate Editor

PATRICIA ABBOTT

Staff Writer/Photographer

TIM MORGAN

Sports Writer

CAROL GRENNIER

Editorial Assistant

JENEVIEVE DELOS SANTOS

KATHY ALMANZAR

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BOBBY HUNTER

Sports Writer

KENNETH MORGAN

Correspondent

ROXANNE CORTESE

JANE DORNICK, WILLIAM TUTHILL

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in South Plainfield Observer:

1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
2. Mail, fax or drop it at: Editorial Department
South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or drop it in the box at Mohn's Flowers on Plainfield Ave. or at (908) 668-8819 or e-mail us at spobserver.com or 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 spobserver.com or faxed to 908-668-8819. Letters should not exceed 400 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. It is the editor's discretion to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject. The opinions expressed in "Letters" do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Observer. Letters must be submitted with name and phone number, even if they request their name be omitted when published.

IN MY OPINION

Dear Editor,

I want to add my congratulations to the cast and crew of the Summer Drama Workshop show of this passed week. I have been to many of these shows and each one seems to be better than the last. I think this years show was terrific. It was great to see so many of our towns young people in such a productive activity. I remember when I served on the Juvenile Conference Committee some kids would say, "There ain't nothing to do in this town." Those were kids that would not get involved in any activities, either in school programs or sports, etc.

Again to the cast and crew, "great job—well done."

BILL TUTHILL

To the Editor,

Another season of the South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop has concluded and this year's production of *Footloose* proved to be the best ever. We had a lot of new faces on stage, backstage and in the audience. The cast had a great time, and more people saw our production than ever before.

The SPSPDW would like to thank all of the students, parents, staff, and others who participated in or helped with the program. We would also like to thank the community for their support by attending the shows, and helping out with our fundraisers.

A special thank you goes out to those who were a part of a very special event—our Friday night performance. After losing power during the powerful storm that night, the audience was treated to an outstanding performance by the cast and orchestra with only minimal lighting and no sound system. We were so proud of our cast, crew and musicians for keeping alive the adage "the show must go on." The audience seemed to agree, and gave us an ovation like we've never had before. This was greatly appreciated by all of us.

This year's show was one to remember and to be proud of. Those who saw any of the performances will keep in mind what our talented youth can offer. Although we are wrapping up 2002, we will soon start planning next year and another successful and exciting season of the South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop.

**SINCERELY YOURS,
BILL SEESSELBERG
PRESIDENT, SOUTH
PLAINFIELD SUMMER DRAMA
WORKSHOP**

Dear Editor:

South Plainfield's borough clerk, now \$10,000 richer, was recently made clerk-administrator by the mayor and council. The question this move raises is whether it was done for government efficiency or for political patronage. Unfortunately, the latter is the more likely culprit.

For years Democrats opposed creating the borough administrator's job. It was originally added as a part-time post filled by the borough clerk. Once

**Submit Letters to the Editor:
South Plainfield Observer
1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B
South Plainfield, NJ 07080**

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

Democrats took control of the council, however, their opinion underwent a transformation: Not only was the job indispensable, it requires a full-time commitment. One had to wonder whether the change of heart was due to "enlightenment" or a political vendetta against the then-borough clerk who also filled the role of borough administrator. Regardless of which it was, Democrats stripped the borough clerk of the administrator position and appointed a full-time borough administrator.

Now, after several years of musical chairs, Democrats suddenly realize that a full-time administrator is unnecessary. In fact, they boast how they can save money by making the position part time and giving (or should that be gifting?) it to a former political pal who they appointed as borough clerk. The result? We are back where we started before the Democrats took control. Oh, but with one exception: Our wallets are lighter from all the tax dollars wasted in the mean time.

One would hope that the politicians that lead the town would act responsibly. Sadly, it seems they never will.

**SINCERELY,
BRUCE MADDEN**

Dear Editor:

NJ TRANSIT rail customers will soon begin to reap the savings from the expansion of the agency's reduced fare ticket program. NJ TRANSIT plans to adjust its peak and off-peak hours restrictions, increasing the number of reduced fare tickets available to all rail-riding customers. Travel restrictions on senior citizens 65 and over and people with disabilities also would be lifted, allowing those passengers to ride at half-fare any time of the day.

Currently, weekday peak hours are 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., based on New York arrival and departure times. NJ TRANSIT plans to trim peak hours to 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. to allow more customers to take advantage of off-peak reduced rates. Those adjustments will make over 30 more trains avail-

able to customers at discounted off-peak rates.

Under the NJ TRANSIT plan, the rate restrictions for peak hour travel for senior citizens 65 and older and passengers with disabilities would be dropped. The agency is not changing the pricing of tickets for seniors aged 62 to 64. Those riders will continue to enjoy reduced fares on weekdays, except for peak hour trains.

I applaud New Jersey Transportation Commissioner Jaime Fox and the NJ TRANSIT board for being so responsive to consumer concerns. All customers of the rail system will benefit from the adjustment of the restrictions.

For further information regarding these changes, please visit the NJ TRANSIT website at www.njtransit.com, or contact my district office at (908) 757-1677

**VERY TRULY YOURS,
PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.
ASSEMBLYMAN-DISTRICT 18**

To the Editor,

The turnout for the South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop production of *Footloose* was absolutely amazing—and our kids did it again. They brought the house down every night, especially Friday, the night the lights went out.

That night those kids—the cast, the crew, and the orchestra—performed the second act flawlessly without benefit of lighting or a sound system, and got a rip-roaring standing ovation from the audience.

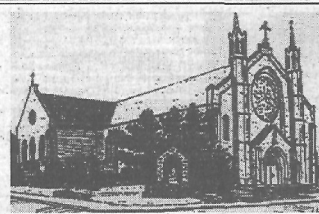
I wrote a letter to the editor a few months ago to tell everyone about the tireless work of the cast and the backstage crew of *Hello Dolly*, and to let everyone know that our children have an 'Angel' in Lory Alcaro, the stage manager. I decided to put my money where my mouth was and I joined the crew for *Footloose*. For five hours a night, every night for five weeks, we all worked incredibly hard. I got a chance to see every aspect of the play built from the beginning, and was

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Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Ave.
South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul Alvarado, Pastor



Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.

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

Weekdays 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

Vacation Time

**We will
be Closed
Aug. 10
Through
Aug. 18**

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Pathmark Store Holds Grand Opening Ceremonies at New Location in Hadley Center

On Sunday morning, Pathmark held a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony at their newest store located in the Hadley Shopping Center. The new store moved from its Middlesex Mall location. That store was closed on the same day the new

one opened.

Pathmark acquired the 50,000 square foot store from A&P in July and will employ approximately 200 associates.

The new store includes Pathmark's latest merchandising concepts, includ-

ing farmstand produce, service fresh seafood and a deli department with hot prepared foods. Also featured are a fresh bakery department with their popular cake decorating section, a floral department with fresh cut flowers, an in-store pharmacy and a Trust Company bank branch. This Pathmark store also has state-of-the-art scanners to provide customers with an efficient checkout, with four scanners dedicated as self-checkout registers.

"Pathmark controls the space long-term at the Middlesex Mall and is currently working with the landlord to have the space occupied within the next six months," stated Pathmark Senior Vice President Harvey Gutman.

The store's regular hours of operation are 6 a.m. to midnight, seven days a week.

Borough Notes

Council News

• Charlie Butrico reported that the Helen Street project has moved a step closer to being finalized. He said that he plans to give a complete updated report at a future council meeting, perhaps in September and will be announcing an exact date soon.

• Robert Post will be hired to fill in for Plumbing Subcode Official Gary Annack, who will be on vacation.

• Flags and stars have been purchased by the Borough. They will be placed on the street signs around the Borough which have been named after Veterans.

• The closing of the following roads to hold block parties was authorized: Delany Court on Saturday, Aug. 24 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sherman Ave. on Sept. 2 from 1 to 7 p.m.; and Revere Rd. on Sept. 1 from 12 noon to midnight.

• The Senior Center will be open on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

• Police Officer Joseph Campagna has been authorized to take a six-month leave of absence.

• Danielle Gorini has resigned from her job as a public safety telecommu-

nication effective Aug. 23. She will remain as a part-time employee.

• Suzanne Marie Dias has been promoted to the position of full-time public safety telecommunication employee.

• Garden State Power Sweeping has been awarded a contract for street sweeping services at a cost of \$23,740.

Planning Board

• Federated Fire Service, located on South Clinton Ave. was granted approval to use their property as a warehouse for existing fire safety equipment business.

• Strong Tower Development was granted two variances and approval to build a seven lot subdivision with conditions.

3rd Quarter Taxes Deadline Extended

South Plainfield residents have been granted a 15 day grace period to pay their third quarter taxes, due the late mailing of the third quarter tax bills. Third Quarter taxes must be paid by Aug. 30.

All residents should have received their tax bills in the mail this past week.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Ken Morgan

Here's more news from your friendly neighborhood fully-air conditioned South Plainfield Public Library:

Starting with our children's programs, our Game Gang program will be held this morning at 11 a.m. Children may play one of our board games, or bring in one of their own to share. (Leave the foosball tables at home, kids.) The next day, Saturday, is the last to check in books for the Summer Reading Club. Then, on Monday evening at 6:30, we'll have a Summer Reading craft program for children ages six and older. Later on next week, we'll hold our usual slate of Storytime programs for children ages three and over. Those programs are held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. No pre-registration is required. Be advised, though, that we won't be holding Storytimes for the remainder of August, so Miss Linda can catch her breath. If you'd like further details, please call us at (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda.

Here's children's A/V news: The Library is adding audiocassette copies of children's books that have won the prestigious Newberry Award. Some of these titles include *The Door in the Wall* by Marguerite De Angeli, *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E.L. Konigsburg, *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeline L'Engle,

and *Holes* by Louis Sachar. These audio books are available in the Children's Room and may be borrowed, four at a time, for two weeks. (And how did we receive these titles? Actually, we won them. See our director, Mrs. Fenn, for the details.)

Starting on Monday, the Library will once again be offering notary service. Please call ahead to check on his specific schedule.

The Library Board of Trustees will meet on Tuesday evening at 7:30. Members of the public are welcome to attend and learn more about the Library's present and future plans.

The Library is continuing to offer classes in basic computer use, including Internet searching and e-mail. Please call for more details or to register; ask for Allan or Marcia.

We have a new display in place at the Library. Our display wall and cabinets now feature a variety of craft projects, including such styles by craft designer and South Plainfield resident Ronda Wisniewski. The display will be in place throughout August.

Finally, as previously noted, the Library is not able to offer new or replacement borrowers' cards. This will go on for the next few weeks, until the newly redesigned cards arrive. From what I hear, though, they'll be worth the wait.

That's about all for now. See you next Friday, and do the best you can to get through the proverbial Dog Days of Summer. (So, do cats get days during some other season, then?)

Planning Board OKs Five Story Hampton Hotel

During the last Planning Board Meeting, the board granted preliminary approval to construct a Hampton Hotel on the property where Lean Line was once located. The property is directly behind the Day's Inn and borders Rt. 287.

The new hotel will be five stories tall, have 100 rooms and a swimming pool.

Both the Holiday Inn and Days Inn opposed the new hotel, saying the applicant was asking too much and attempting to put too much on the site.

According to Walter Abrams, attorney for Hampton Inn, said that the applicant, Benderson Development Company has owned the property since 1998 and that the Board of Adjustment approved the building of a hotel on this site, but a revision made to the zoning ordinance created a new zone on this property. He also said the applicant is requesting a five story hotel, but it is only four feet higher than the zone permits, whether it is four or five stories.

Board member Cornelia Calderone expressed reservations as to whether

granting five stories to a newly created zone is the right thing to do. She was also concerned about a hotel with five stories in the event of a fire in the rear of the building.

When the first two variances came to a vote, one for a maximum height and the other to allow five stories, Wayne Grenier, Paul Grzenda and Cornelia Calderone voted against both of them. Both variances passed by a 6-4 vote. The rest of the variances were voted on and all passed unanimously.

SPHS Classes of 1972-73 Reunion

A joint reunion of the South Plainfield High School classes of 1972 and 1973 will be held on Oct. 12, at the Clarion Hotel and Towers Windsor Ballroom on Route 27 in Edison.

If you are a member of either class, contact one of the organizers listed below.

For information, call the Clarion at (732) 287-3500, Jo Anne Kaschak Catelli at (732) 286-4310 or Carol Garrubio Boyer at (908) 771-0901.

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Kids Craft Classes
registration with this coupon

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\$5 Gift Certificate with any
Adult Craft Class
registration with this coupon

Creation vs Evolution

Presented by
Mission Imperative
Aug. 17 & 18

Doors Open at 9 AM

Location:

New Durham Chapel
225 New Durham Ave.
Piscataway

There is no cost for the seminar

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Events Around Town

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!

Republican Club Monthly Meeting

August 14

The regular meeting of the South Plainfield Republican Organization will be held on Wednesday, August 14, at 8 p.m. at the American Legion Hall on Oak Tree Rd.

All South Plainfield residents are invited to meet the candidates and discuss issues and concerns in our Borough.

SPHS Music Booster Meeting

August 14

The South Plainfield Boosters will hold a meeting in the band/chorus room of the high school on Aug. 14 at 7 p.m.

We will be discussing Labor Day, band camp, cutting and sewing flags and much more!

Parents of all music students are invited and encouraged to attend.

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.

Community Pool to Host Hawaiian Night For Members Only

Aug. 20

The South Plainfield Community Pool will have special hours on Tuesday, Aug. 20. The pool will be open

What's happening in AUGUST

Daily Events
9-11 AM Coffee & Cake
9 AM-4 PM Cards & Pool
(908) 754-1047

The Senior Citizens Center is open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Senior Center EVENTS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Make Your own Sundae Aug. 20 NOW Open Saturdays 9a.m.-1p.m.			Walking Club 9 AM Shopping 9AM	Walking Club 9 AM Bingo 10 AM - 2 PM Pizza 11:30 AM (\$2) Adult School Mtg. 10AM
Walking Club 9 AM Sign-up Friday Pizza \$2 Yoga 10:30AM	Walking Club 9AM Bingo 10AM-2PM Sign up for Pizza \$2 Blood Pressure 10-12 Aerobics/Dance 10:30AM	Atlantic City Trip 8 AM \$15 Walking Club 9AM AARP Crafts 1 PM Movie 11:30AM	Walking Club 9 AM Shopping 9AM	Walking Club 9AM Bingo 10AM-2PM Pizza Lunch 11:30AM
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE PAL BUILDING ON MAPLE AVE.				

Spring Lake Park 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.

AUG. 11	The Verstyles Polka Band (<i>Nick Novicky Leader</i>)
18	The Associates (<i>Arr Smith Leader</i>)
25	The Chet Varner Band (<i>Chet Varner Leadet</i>)

at 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. for members only. The pool will be closed between the hours of 2 and 6 p.m.

From 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. the pool will host a "Hawaiian Night" for members only, 18 years and older. Events will include a DJ, tournaments, games, etc.

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 or contact Maria at (908) 769-7735.

Seniors' Trip to the Woodlock Pines

Oct. 28-Nov. 1

South Plainfield Senior Citizens are

planning a trip to Woodlock Pines from Oct. 28 through Nov. 1.

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

— Out of Town —

Durham Chapel TO Hold Seminar

August 17-18

Durham Chapel, located on New Durham Ave. will be holding a seminar entitled: "Creation vs. Evolution" presented by Mission Imperative. The seminar takes place Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 17 and 18.

Doors open at 9 a.m. There is no cost for this seminar.

Middlesex East WOWs Plan Dance

August 9

Middlesex East WOWs Carteret Chapter, will hold a dance for widows and widowers on Friday, Aug. 9, at St. Demetrius Community Center, 681-691 Roosevelt Ave., Carteret. Admission is \$8. Live music and refreshments 7:30 to 11:30 p.m.

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

Autumn Woods Presents Summer Carnival

August 10

Autumn Woods presents a Summer Carnival on Saturday, Aug. 10, 2 to 5 p.m. at Autumn Woods Assisted Living, 680 Rt. 202/206, Bridgewater. Join the Autumn Woods Summer Carnival for an afternoon of carnival games and great snacks. For R.S.V.P. call (908) 252-3400.

Author Lecture to Speak

August 10

On Saturday, August 10 at 1 p.m., the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation will host a lecture by Vietnam Veteran author Harry Dilkes about his book, *Five Years to DEROS*, at the Vietnam Era Educational Center in Holmdel.

Harry Dilkes' *Five Years to DEROS* (Date Eligible to Return from Overseas Service) is a true story of the US Army 4th Infantry Division's 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, known as the "Red Warriors," and the five years the battalion was deployed to South Vietnam. Endorsed by Lt. Gen. Harold

G. Moore, this book accurately depicts the dangers experienced and the hardships suffered by American combat infantrymen fighting in Vietnam.

Dilkes, a resident of Edison, was drafted into the Army in 1966 and arrived in Vietnam in March 1967. He served with the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division, along the border of Cambodia in the Central Highlands of South Vietnam. Since leaving the Army, Dilkes earned his college degree and started his own industrial lawn maintenance company. At age 42, he re-enlisted into the Army Reserves and served a seven-year hitch. He developed a desire to write of his Vietnam experience and the story of his unit in Vietnam.

RSVP one week prior to the event to (732) 335-0033. Donation of \$5 per person is suggested. The Vietnam Era Educational Center is located adjacent to the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial off the GSP at exit 116.

The center is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free for veterans and active-duty military personnel. General admission is \$4; student and senior citizen admission is \$2. Children under 10 are admitted free.

Woodbridge Area WOWs Plan Dance

August 18

Woodbridge Area Widows or Widowers (WOWs) Dance/Social Sunday, Aug. 18, 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Live Band and refreshments. Admission is \$8. The event will be held at the Elk's Hall at 665 Rahway Ave. in Woodbridge.

For more information, call (732) 297-1775.

Cedar Oaks Care Plans Baby Parade

August 24

Cedar Oaks Care Center, located on Durham Ave. is planning a Baby Parade on Saturday, Aug. 24 at 10 a.m. Children five and under are invited to join the parade. Prizes will be awarded for most photogenic and best dressed in each group.

Call Kelly Finnegan at (732) 287-9555, ext. 139 for an application.

CHATS Support Group Meeting

August 26

Adoption Support. CHATS (Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support), will meet from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 26, at Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church, 170 Watchung Ave. in North Plainfield.

"A Korean Adoptee's Story"-Deborah Celmer will share her story of growing up and returning to Korea to meet her birth parents. Open sharing of adoption-related stories and light refreshments.

Call Alyce at (732) 227-0607 for information.

Send Your Events to:

South Plainfield Observer,

1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B,
South Plainfield, NJ 07080,
fax (908) 668-8819;
or email ggnan@aol.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Pictured (l to r) are: Dinesh Patel, Tony Wargacki, Kamini Patel, Mayor Dan Gallagher, Jitu Patel, Champa Patel, Ashwin Patel and Deepak Patel celebrate the grand opening of \$ Plaza.

\$ Plaza Holds Grand Opening Ceremony

On July 20 \$ Plaza, located at 907 E. Oak Tree Ave. next to the A & P in Oak Park Commons, held a ribbon cutting for their new store.

Mayor Dan Gallagher took time out of his busy schedule, between attending the Rally for Riley and per-

forming a wedding, to help them celebrate.

\$ Plaza considers themselves an "upscale dollar store" with items such as pet supplies, gifts, housewares, snacks, seasonal items, baby products, party supplies, balloons and stationery.

They even take special orders.

The store is owned and operated by the Patel family of Deepak, Champa, Ashwin and Jitu.

For store hours and questions, please contact them at (908) 226-5558.

Keep Out Of The "Food Danger Zone"

By Marie Markey
Independent Kitchen Consultant
The Pampered Chef

Food safety is especially important as the outside temperature rises. Failing to refrigerate perishable, prepared or leftover foods within two hours can carry them into the "Danger Zone." A temperature zone of 40 to 140 F is

a breeding ground for bacteria. During these hot summer months, keep cream cheese, deli meats, block cheese, mayonnaise, sour cream, and other perishable items in coolers or in the Chillzanne products when transporting them or at picnics.

Cross contamination is also a factor. The following tips will assist you in safe food preparation:

- Use one cutting board for meats and another for fruits and vegetables.
- Wash your hands and tools that have come in contact with raw meat thoroughly before touching other foods.
- After handling raw meat, sanitize your workspace using a light solution of bleach and water. Use 2-3 teaspoons of household bleach to one quart of water. For ease of use, put the solution in your labeled kitchen spritzer.
- Use separate plates for raw and cooked meats.
- NEVER reuse a marinade to baste cooked meats after it has been used to marinate raw meats.
- Take internal temperatures of meats using a pocket thermometer.

A pocket thermometer is a great way you can check the internal temperatures of meats. For specific food safety questions, contact the USDA's Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-800-535-4555.

For information on Pampered Chef Kitchen Shows, fund raising or to become a representative contact Marie Markey 908-755-3213 or MMPmpr-Chf@aol.com.

Special Appeal For "Fate"

Fate is a young Rottweiler who was born in a puppy mill being closed down by animal control authorities. Along with all the other puppies and dogs at the puppy mill, Fate at eight weeks of age was to be euthanized. Fate smiled on our 'Fate' and she was one of the fortunate puppies to be rescued and adopted.



Fate is now two years old and unfortunately fate is no longer smiling on her. She is diagnosed with a very painful and serious condition, rupture of the anterior cruciate ligament in both rear legs that affects the dog's ability to walk. Every step is torture and the suffering increases the more she walks. Fate must have surgery on both rear legs or she will soon be crippled. The surgery will be costly

and will require a long recovery period with physical therapy including water therapy. This sweet and gentle girl should make a good recovery.

Your donations are desperately needed to cover the cost of her surgeries, medication and physical therapy. Please send what you can to Fate, People for Animals, 433 Hillside Ave., Hillside, NJ 07205. Consider making a donation in honor of your pet dog knowing how lucky you are that your pet is healthy. Include the name of your pet with the donation.

For more information about Fate, call People for Animals at 908-688-1073 and press 1 to leave a message.



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

Where you are always treated like one of the family

Carousel

Hair Salon

Want a New Look?

Stop in at Carousel Hair Salon for an appointment. We're always happy to see you!

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SUBSCRIBE to the Observer at spobserver.com or call 908-668-0010.

southplainfieldpeople

Milestones

Jessica Zipkin and Robert King Announce Their Engagement

Jessica Zipkin, daughter of Betsy and Jerry Zipkin, of South Plainfield, is to marry Robert King, on May 10, 2003, in the New Hope, Pa. area.

Jessica recently graduated from Wheelock College of Boston, Mass., with a masters degree in child development, and early childhood education. She is employed by Bright Horizons Family Solutions in Watertown, Mass.

Robert King graduated from The University of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass. in 1996 with a Bachelor's degree in mathematics and finance. He is currently employed by Putnam Investment of Boston, Mass.



Jessica Zipkin and Robert King.

Danielle Porcelli Graduates From Kean University

Danielle Porcelli of South Plainfield recently graduated from Kean University, receiving a BA in Criminal Justice.

Danielle resides with her mom, Marilyn and brother, Steve on Fairmount Ave.

Her future plans include obtaining a job in law enforcement, preferably with the Federal Government.



Danielle Porcelli

Danielle Lacasale Promoted at Pearson Learning Group

Danielle Harris Lacasale has been promoted to the position of Northeast Regional Consultant for the Pearson Learning Group, based out of Parsippany.

Pearson Learning Group, a part of Pearson Education, is the leading publisher of supplemental materials for grades K-12 and includes the imprints

of Modern Curriculum Press, Globe Fearon, Celebration Press and Dale Seymour Publications.

Danielle Harris Lacasale will be responsible for conducting professional workshops and providing staff development and training at the state and local level throughout the Northeast region.

Share Your Good News With the Community!

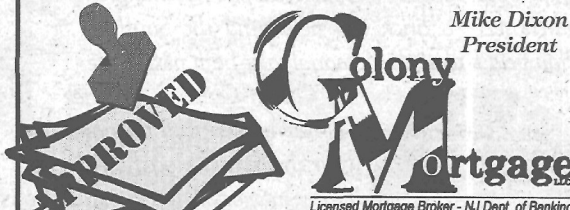
Send your milestones to the Observer at 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or email: ggann@aol.com

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Despite Blackout, Footloose Production Continues

Continued from page 1

was pure excitement. It was an opportunity to do a show without any 'technology.' They managed beautifully, working as a team. We're quite used to working in the dark! It was a situation we were presented with and the crew went on to do their job and I'm so proud of them; the crew, cast and orchestra, for handling it so well. 'The show must go on' was the theme for all of us and we set out to give the audience the best show ever. The backstage hugs all seemed a little tighter and the smiles even brighter having all come through such a nasty storm so beautifully together." The blackout didn't phase the crew in the least, in fact Lory noted, "They asked if we could do it again!"

The cast of *Footloose* went from fearful to fantastic. The energy seemed to emanate from the stage pouring into the audience, as each number was rewarded with wild applause. The evening ended with a thunderous standing ovation.

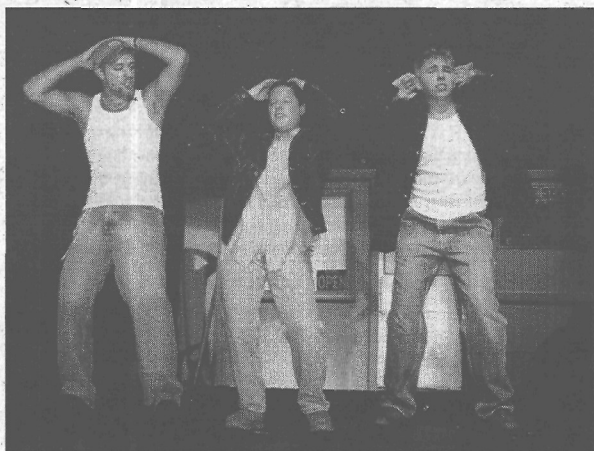
Eric Hafen offered his thoughts on the eventful performance saying, "To look out into the faces of those kids backstage, wondering, worried, staring at me for some guidance; then for

me to look out at them performing without any lights or sound and giving everything they had for that audience was a very special moment in my 25 years in show business. It was a night neither they nor I will ever forget. They were determined to entertain. Saying I was proud would not be enough!"

That sense of pride was felt by staff, families and board members. The truly amazing performance is proof, "Youth are truly South Plainfield's pride and greatest asset." Those words that once greeted visitors to South Plainfield, is far more than a cliché, but an accurate description of South Plainfield's teenagers.

Each Summer Drama performance brings back memories of nearly 30 years working with the youth theater group. The evening of Friday, August 2 was no exception, it brought tears to my eyes, a fierce sense of pride to my heart and warmed my soul. The strength, spirit and determination of the youths on stage was a living breathing entity. I felt safe in the knowledge that SDW would be around for years to come.

(Patricia Abbott is a SDW Board member and a Footloose Producer.)



policereport

• On July 29 Darren T. Grant, 18, of Plainfield was arrested at Million Dollar Video on W. 7th St. for trespassing and simple assault. He was fired and was told to leave and then assaulted the manager.

• Gary Lee O'Neal, 39 of Piscataway was arrested at Home Depot for shoplifting. William O'Neal, 35 of Piscataway was also arrested at Home Depot for shoplifting and for two outstanding contempt of court orders. They were both trying to return an air condition for a refund of \$173.84

• A Linden Ave. resident reported that he had found a 16" boys bike in his driveway.

• An Oakmanor Parkway resident reported that a bike had been taken from his front lawn and another one left in it's place.

• Natoli Construction reported that locks had been pried off construction trailers at their Belmont Ave. site. It is unknown if anything was taken.

• A patron at the Club at Ricochet reported the theft of his wallet from an unlocked locker.

• A Clarke Ave. resident reported the theft of a bike from their open garage.

• A Franklin Ave. resident reported finding a girl's 18 speed bike on their lawn.

• A Plainfield Ave. resident reported the theft of two unlocked bikes from the side of the house.

• On July 30 Gary Sherwin Hawkins, 41 of Plainfield, was arrested at Pathmark for shoplifting \$100 worth of batteries and six contempt of court orders. Also arrested was Tonyjayne Morris-Rodriguez, 40, at Pathmark for concealing \$36.74 worth of batteries.

rested was Tonyjayne Morris-Rodriguez, 40, at Pathmark for concealing \$36.74 worth of batteries.

• Blockbuster Video reported that 66 Nintendo games had been taken from a display.

• On July 31 Robert L. Mathis, 41 of South Plainfield was arrested for writing a bad check on a warrant out of Readington Twsp.

• Lall Bahadur Ramnauth, 35 of New Brunswick was arrested at Marinoware on Metuchen Rd. for burglary, aggravated assault, terroristic threats and a contempt of court order.

• A patron of Liquid Assets reported that one of his license plates had been taken off his car.

• On August 1 Bravo Supermarket on 7th St. reported that an unlocked bike had been taken from their vestibule.

• Sullivan's Auto Body on Hamilton Blvd. reported that their trailer door had been pried open and a fax machine and phone were taken worth \$250.

• A Kenwood Ave. resident reported the theft of a hammock from their backyard.

• A Piscataway women had her purse taken in the Hadley Center parking lot. A car pulled up and the passenger pulled the purse from her arm and took off.

• On August 2 Stephanie Crowder, 39 of Somerset was arrested for theft and forgery. She had forged two company checks for a total of \$10,100.

• Prestige Landscape Design of Somerset reported that the lock had been pried off an excavator's gas tank and fuel was removed at their construction site on Maple Ave.

• On August 3 a Geary Dr. resident reported that the passenger side mirror had been taken off their 1997 Pontiac which was parked in the driveway.

• Manal E. Elkabani, 40 of North Plainfield was arrested at Macy's for concealing \$150 worth of jewelry in her shirt pocket and purse.

• On August 4 an employee of Red Lobster reported that his chained bike had been stolen from the railing outside.

• A Herbert Pl. resident reported that his house had been egged.

Practice Bike Safety

The late summer date for the annual South Plainfield Police Department Bike Rodeo (see page 12 for story and photos), may turn out to be a change for the better. A massive rash of bike thefts have been reported throughout town over the past several weeks. Police have repeatedly warned residents to take precautions. The registration of over 90 bikes may well deter the real life "Baron Von Pedaloffs." Bike thieves are on the lookout for bikes left unattended and unlocked. The SPPD offers some simple tips to foil would-be thieves. Don't leave your bike lying on the ground, don't leave it unlocked, don't leave garage door open and don't leave a bike out at night.

Do keep an eye out for bikers riding double, when they see a bike unattended they can easily grab it and be gone long before the owner returns. Do have your bike registered and marked. Copy the number and keep it in a safe place. Do use a sturdy tamper proof lock and keep an eye on your bike, check it from time to time. Aggressive bike thieves are equipped with cutters, pry bars and more. They have been known to break into sheds and garages to steal bikes.

Not to be forgotten is the safety of the rider. First order of safety is a properly fitted A.N.S.I. approved bicycle helmet. If the helmet is not correctly fastened or is the wrong size, the rider could be more easily injured in an accident or fall.

Check all equipment frequently. Make sure brakes are working properly. Bells and other audible devices should be in working order. Check to ensure all gears are working. Safe riding includes riding with the flow of traffic on the right side of the road, and communicating with traffic via hand signals. Riding double is dangerous. Obey all traffic laws.

Bike visibility is important at night. Before after dark pedaling, check reflectors and lights; white reflectors on front and red rear reflectors should be visible for at least 500 feet. Wear reflective clothing, such as tape on sneakers and clothing. For more information or to register your bike call the SP Police at 226-7693.

Labor Day Parade Route Changed

Continued from page 1
rade route change.

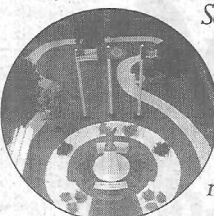
All of the special events planned for after the parade will take place at the PAL field. We will be reporting on all of the activities in the *Observer* in the next few issues.

The evening events take place in Spring Lake Park. The band "Sound Investment" will entertain in the gazebo until dusk when a fireworks display will be presented by Garden State Fireworks.

Do Your Bit -- Purchase A Brick!

Show your support for our local firemen. Your purchase of a brick will help fund the South Plainfield Firemen's Memorial to be built next to the

Senior Citizen Center. Your brick will be engraved with the name of your choice and placed on the path to the memorial. Bricks can be purchased for only \$75 for individuals or \$175 for businesses.



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

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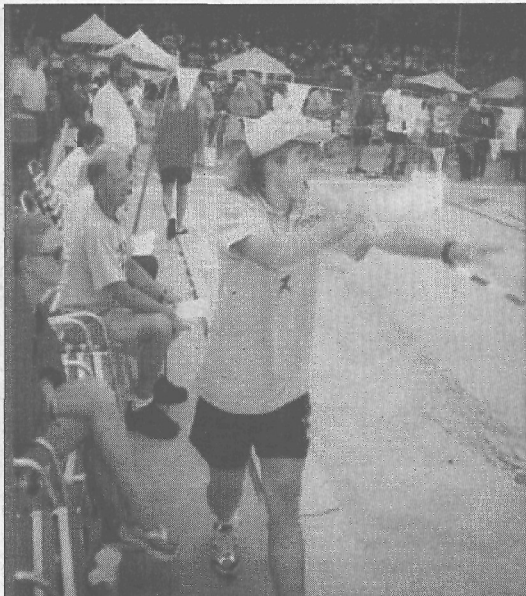


Sports

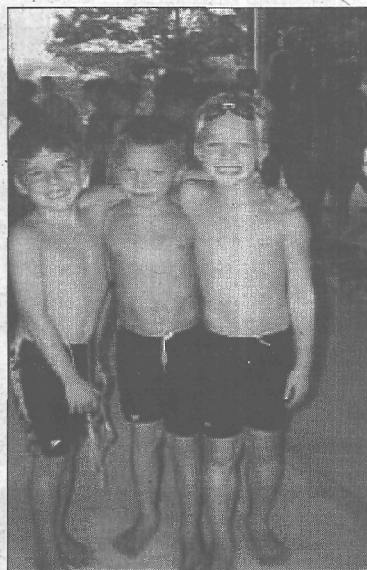
SWIMMING



Tiger Sharks display third place trophy at Championship.



Coach Post cheering her team on a victorious race.



Joey Valentino, Aidan McDermott and Sean Cullen preparing for final relay at Conference Championship.

Tiger Sharks Chew up Glen Ridge

The South Plainfield Tiger Sharks racked up a decisive win over rival Glen Ridge at a home meet held July 13 at the South Plainfield Community Pool, defeating the other team with a 200 to 75 point victory.

Ribbons for first, second and third place wins in each race were awarded to the following South Plainfield swimmers: Girls, 10 and under Individual Medley, 100 meters, Emily Piekarski placed first, Chelsea Cullen, second and Sarah Konops, third. For the 11/12 year old group, 100 meters: Joanna Luzny took first and Abigail Petritsch took second, and for the 13-18 year olds, Shannon Dabrio claimed second and Becky Brzozowski took third.

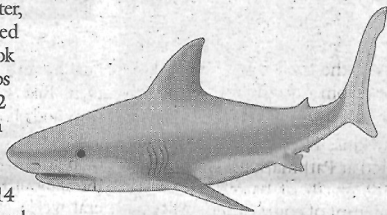
In the boys Freestyle competition, 10 and under, 100 meters: Dylan McDermott claimed first place and Brian Babinetz, third; for the 11/12 year olds Emmett Marsili took first in the 100 meter and for the 13-18 group, 200 meter, CalvinJohn Smiley took second place.

Girls Freestyle competitors for the Tiger Sharks did very well, claiming first place ribbons in all age groups and other points as well. Maggie Valentino took first place for the eight and under, 25 meter and Katie O'Brien took third, while for the 9/

10 year old race, 50 meter, Emily Piekarski claimed first, Teresa Gustafson took second and Sarah Konops placed third. In the 11/12 bracket, 50 meter, Joanna Luzny took first and Amanda Ray placed second; while for the 13-14 year olds, 100 meter, Leah Konops took first; and Nina Byard and Shannon Dabrio took first and second respectively for the older girls 15-18, 100 meter.

Boys Backstroke winners were David Brzozowski, first place and Liam McDermott, third, for the eight and under, 25 meter, while Steven Grzenda and James Sansone took first and third, respectively, in the 9/10 division, 50 meter. Emmett Marsili placed first and Matt Moates, second, in the 11/12, 50 meter, Philip Luzny took first in the 13/14, 100 meter, and for the older boys, 15-18, 100 meter, CalvinJohn Smiley placed second and Adam Timberlake, third.

The eight and under boys swept the Breaststroke race, 25 meter, with Dylan McDermott taking first, his brother, Liam, taking second and Michael Grzenda placing third. James Sansone claimed first place and Steven Grzenda, second, in the 9/10, 50

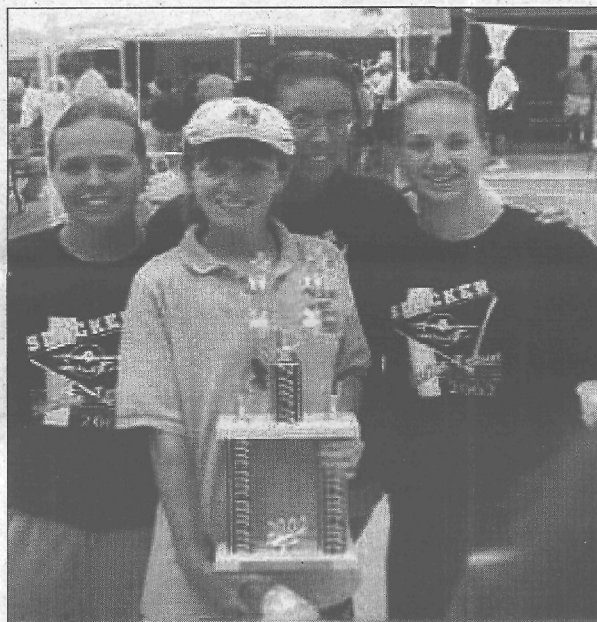


meter race; Matt Moates took third in the 11/12 50 meter; Philip Luzny took first in the 13/14, 100 meter, and for the 15-18 year olds, 100 meter, Adam Timberlake took first and Bill Moates, second.

In the girls Butterfly competition: Maggie Valentino took second and Katie O'Brien took third for the eight and under, 25 meter; Teresa Gustafson claimed first, Chelsea Cullen, second, and Michelle Gustafson, third, in the 9/10, 50 meter. Camille Romano took second and Anna Petritsch, third, in the 11/12, 50 meter; Leah Konops claimed first, Kelly Orlandini, second, and Diane Romano, third, in the 13/14, 100 meter race; and Nina Byard and Becky Brzozowski took second and third respectively in the 15-18, 100 meter.

All first place wins were recorded for the six relay races by Tiger Shark teams. In the Free Relay, eight and under, 100 meter: Charlie Dougherty, David Brzozowski, Patrick Boyle and Liam McDermott were the winning team; Matt Moates, Mike Boyle, Dylan McDermott and Steve Grzenda were victorious in the 9-12, 200 meter; and the team of Adam Timberlake, Philip Luzny, CalvinJohn Smiley and Emmett Marsili won the 13-18, 200 meter.

For the girls Medley Relays: the



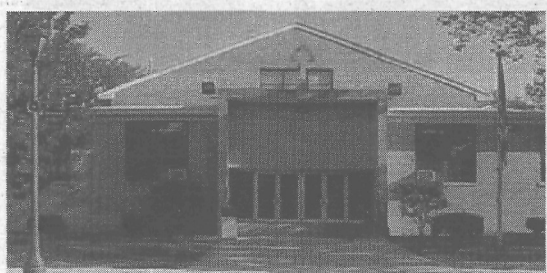
Coach Laurie Post and her graduates Lisa Revolinski, Shannon Dabrio and Mary Otowski.

team of Katie O'Brien, Maggie Valentino, Katie McLaughlin and Grace Piekarski took the honors for the eight and under, 100 meter; Emily Piekarski, Camille Romano, Chelsea Cullen and A. Petritsch took the 9-12, 200 meter race, and Nina Byard,

Megan Boyle, Leah Konops and Shannon Dabrio took the ribbon for the 13-18, 200 meter.

The Tiger Sharks were very excited to have racked up so many points in one day's competition.

Submitted by Donna Egan.



Sacred Heart School Registration

for pre-k, kindergarten, grades 1-5 is still open.

For more information,

call (908) 756-0631, 756-0632 ext. 33 or 756-0633.

Sacred Heart is open everyday from 7:40 a.m.-12:40 p.m. On Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, you may also call (908) 756-0632 ext. 34. Afternoon appointments are available.



AIDA SANTOS

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT
BRANCH MANAGER

Valley National Bank

Durham Ave. & Hamilton Blvd
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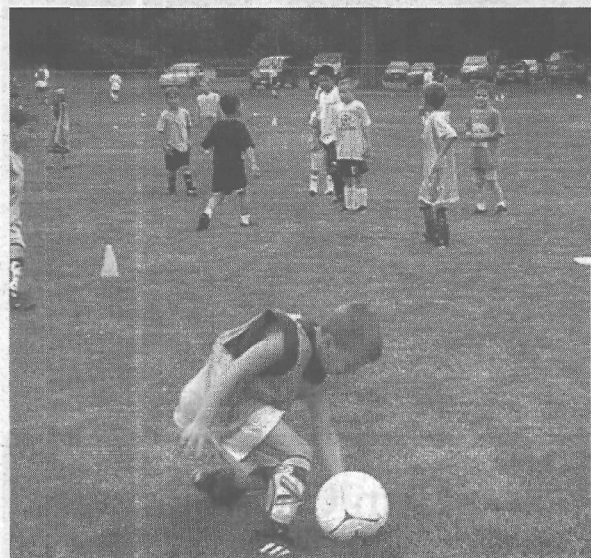
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Sports

SCENES FROM REC SOCCER CAMP

PHOTOS BY MARIE MARKEY



Ponytail Softball Batters Box

By Sharon Miller



All-Star Parkway Invitational Softball League Season

Our 12U "A" and 10U "A" teams finished off the season by winning the title of first place champs while our 14U "A" team captured second place in the American division of the Parkway League. Congratulations to all players and coaches for a great season.

PARADE COMMITTEE—We are looking for parent volunteers to help out with this year's float for the Labor Day Parade. We need parents to meet and come up with the design for the float and others who will actually construct the float. If we do not get volunteers to assist with the float, the All-Star players will not be participating in this year's Labor Day Parade. Please contact me if you are able to assist in any way.

PONYTAIL SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION MEETING—August 27
The South Plainfield Parent's Association will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, August 27 at 7:30 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 the 27th. New members are always welcome. Please note time change back to 7:30 p.m.

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

By Kevin Lykes



juniorbaseballclubnotes

The South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club will be holding Fall Ball registration on Tuesday, Aug. 13 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the clubhouse.

Registration is open to children ages nine to 15.

Out of towners are welcome!

For more information call (908) 754-2090.

Forms can also be downloaded off the Junior Baseball Club website at www.SPJBC.com.

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Sports

Tiger Cagers Putting in Hard Work This Summer

By Greg Machos

The South Plainfield Boys Basketball Team has a lot of talent coming back this year, but Head Coach Jeff Lubreski is not putting that to chance. Not only are the Tigers playing in the 2002 J.P. Stevens Summer League sponsored by Edison Recreation, but they have also participated in a couple of team camps at Kean University and Seton Hall.

In June, the Tigers were at Kean, where they played in the Northern Division of a 28 team league. While Linden defeated Hillside for the Northern Division title, the Tigers went 9-1, and defeated Marist of Hudson County to win the Southern Division Championship. Some of the teams that competed in the Southern Division at the Kean camp were Marist, Kitaniny, Edison, Newton, Union, Vernon, Dunellen, and Bound Brook. The only team the Tigers lost to was Union, and only by four points. In other games, the Tigers defeated Dunellen 80-12, Kitaniny 54-24, Edison 54-16, Newton 50-41, and Vernon by 20.

The extra work accomplished at Kean along with the solid efforts of the Jersey Stallions AAU team has certainly paid off for the Tigers although Lubreski believes they still have a way to go before competing with the GMC's elite next season. "We played well at Kean, but we aren't ready to compete yet with the conference elite teams of East Brunswick, North Brunswick, St. Joseph's, and J.P. Stevens," said Lubreski. Well, the Tigers have been inconsistent at times so far this summer at J.P. Stevens although they have played sensational defense.

Coming into the tournament round this week at J.P. Stevens, the Tigers are 5-5 overall, which gives them the eighth seed in the sixteen team tournament. They play their first round game next week against Perth Amboy with the winner playing against Rahway, which is still unbeaten this summer at 10-0. South Plainfield has easily defeated Edison, Middlesex, Woodbridge, and pulled out a big win over J.P. Stevens despite only having five players.

July 17, the Tigers lost to Somerset County and Skyland Conference powerhouse, Bridgewater by the score of 57-34. However, the team played

with a number of reserves as Marquis Jones did not play due to an injury that he suffered recently. Against some of the stronger teams in the J.P. Stevens Summer League this year, the Tigers have struggled as they have lost to defending Somerset County Champion, Franklin by a score of 49-41, GMC runner-up Colonia by a score of 41-28 and perennial GMC contender Piscataway by a score of 62-45.

Nevertheless, the Tigers have been putting in the effort, and that should go a long way when the season begins in December. Meanwhile, there have been some changes in the GMC White Division for next year. First, last year's champion, New Brunswick, moved down to the Blue Division. Then, defending GMC Champion Carteret and Monroe moved up from the Blue Division, and Woodbridge moved down from the Red Division.

While Carteret is the defending conference champion, they lost their entire starting lineup from this past season as Omar Alston has moved on to Hofstra while role players such as Andrew Hill, Wilfredo Fuerte, Lamar Morris and Rob Carter will be attending junior college this fall. That combined with the move up to the White will make it tough for the Ramblers. Monroe has also lost some key players from this year's team that won 17 games.

Both top scorers Chris Felix and Matt Gigliello graduated while reserves Marcello Henriques, Jim Gaston and Mario Zylgado all graduated as well. However, Monroe has some decent talent coming up as seen at the Middlesex County College Summer League, and they also have Eric Gaston returning this year.

Woodbridge went only 2-19 last year with victories over J.P. Stevens and Edison, but with top player Rob Gaydos returning along with Devon Gilliard, and Hector Cruz returning, the Barrons will be competitive.

In addition, there have been a lot of changes throughout the conference with many schools losing key players to graduation. South Plainfield is one of the few teams in the Greater Middlesex Conference that will be returning a good nucleus of players from last season along with East Brunswick, N. Brunswick, St. Joseph's, J.P. Stevens, Spotswood and New Brunswick.

Varsity Girls Gymnastics

preview
high school sports
by tim morgan



Chabrak calls "the talented freshman group that I started with my first year as Head Coach," should leave behind a nice squad of predecessors when they finish their spectacular careers. "I think the

The South Plainfield High School Varsity Girls' Gymnastics team should have no problem continuing its string of successful seasons this year, especially considering their minor loss of only two departed seniors and one junior (who will be moving).

Head Coach Lori Chabrak, who will be entering her fourth season as Head Coach and seventh season altogether, will direct the team again this year with second year Assistant Coach Anthony Guida.

Seniors Kim Dziomba and Vicky Zappi will lead the small, but commanding assemblage of girls this year, each covering all four events (vault, balance beam, floor exercise, and uneven bars). Seniors Kelly Hardy and Danielle Larisch will both cover the vault and balance beam, and sophomores Lauren Darr and Kayleigh McGovern will both be all around gymnasts. The Lady Tigers have eight prospective freshmen this year, with two having a veritable shot at Varsity competition this year, according to Coach Chabrak. Those two girls are Beverly Jameson and Guiliana Kay. Senior Chrissy Furka should also see some competition time. Dziomba and Zappi are the captains for this year and were also captains as juniors.

Last year, the Lady Tigers posted a 6-1 Conference record and a 6-2 overall record, tying for first place in the GMC. An interesting fact that I was not aware of is that there are no division battles in this sport because only eight schools in the Greater Middlesex Conference have a gymnastics program. Thus, all the schools compete against each other for placement in the GMC rather than a Division Championship.

With such an impressive showing last year, the Lady Tigers will most

likely be even stronger this year since there is essentially the same group of seniors present that bolstered the credibility of the program four years ago. "I'm hoping that we can continue to follow in the trend we have established these past few years and I hope that the team this year can be as successful as the past three years," Coach Chabrak said.

The group of seniors that Coach Chabrak is referring to have improved every year to build on the previous year's record, which may lead to their best season yet this year. Last year, three girls qualified for the State Sectionals and Dziomba qualified for the State Finals. She went on to be named 2nd All State team and was a Courier News and Star Ledger All Area Selection. Kim also broke the school record in the balance beam event with a score of 9.55. Kim and Vicky Zappi were both All Conference Selections last year.

The team segment that Coach

newcomers will learn a lot from my seniors, step up and help out," said Coach Chabrak.

The eight GMC teams that the Lady Tigers will compete against are Piscataway, Old Bridge, North Brunswick, South Brunswick, East Brunswick, Sayreville and Bishop Ahr. Bishop Ahr will pose the biggest threat to the team, which will be a close, intense showdown this year.

A few years ago, South Plainfield did not have the reputation of being competitive in gymnastics. Obviously that has changed since Dziomba, Zappi, and Hardy stepped onto the scene as freshmen. Darr and McGovern helped to solidify the team last year as freshmen with Larisch arriving as a junior. Furka joined two years ago as a sophomore. SPHS has gained some deserved recognition thanks to this season's apt team. This will be an especially fierce year for the girls, but they appear to be equipped and prepared for the challenge.

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IN YOUR OPINION

Continued from page 2

amazed every night. I had the best experience I've had in over 10 years. I got to know wonderful parents and talented, dedicated kids. I found another family and I am thrilled and thankful for that. I will hold that in my heart forever.

I want to thank the wonderful and tireless Pattie Abbott, Bill and Diane Seesselberg, Bill and Jayne Mott, and all of the hard-working board members, staff and volunteer parents who made me feel so welcome. I especially want to thank Bob and Lory Alcaro for letting my join their backstage crew. These are two of the most wonderful people I've ever been lucky enough to meet — they are fair and firm, and fun and loving with their crew, who they consider their extended family. Lory loves every kid that joined her crew with all her heart, with no exceptions. To all the powers-that-be at the high school, Lory is one of your greatest treasures. Don't let that woman slip through your fingers. Just as our children are our bright hope for our future, so, for our children, are people like Lory and Bob Alcaro.

Last of all, I would like to thank the people of South Plainfield who

turned out in great force, night after night, to watch the absolute magic these people created for us this summer. And a special thanks to four of South Plainfield's finest officers, providing all of us with such a solid sense of security, and an extra special thanks to the officer who provided such wonderful first aid to me, the only klutz in the house!

**THANK YOU ALL,
NANCY BARON**

Dear Editor,

Your July 26th headline caught my attention: "Sludge Resurfaces, Forces Park Closing." The story goes on to inform that Jim Vokral, council president and acting mayor while Dan Gallagher was off vacationing in the Caribbean, closed Veterans Park, because of a possible health hazard. While Vokral claimed all information showed asbestos and oil-based sludge oozing from the ground were safe, he decided to close the park nonetheless in the name of safety.

One word in the headline blew me away. That word *resurfaces*. Without all the information, I don't know if Vokral did the right thing

or not by closing the park. It appears he did given the possible health risks compared to the minor inconvenience the closing caused. When considering the health of South Plainfield residents, especially children, it is better to be safe.

But if the possibly-toxic materials had been found before, why did it take media attention to awaken Borough Hall? Channel 12 News was apparently on the scene, and I saw the story on one of the New York Stations, NBC I think. If, as the story says, "Last year the ooze was reported in several areas of the park near the parking lot," why didn't the town confront the problem then? Why didn't it try to determine who was to blame and hold them responsible then? Why didn't it close the park then?

For a mayor and council that like to boast about their actions, their inaction's say much more. They say that this crew does one thing in public and another when no one's looking. Guess what? We're looking.

**REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FOR
TOWN COUNCIL,
GEOFFREY CHAMPION**

Obituaries

Louis D. Longinotti, 90

Louis D. Longinotti, engineer and gardener, died on Monday, July 29 at the Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Newark, he grew up in East Orange, where he lived until moving to South Plainfield, where he has resided since 1957.

Mr. Longinotti was an employee for over 33 years of Bell Laboratories, of Whippany and later, in Murray Hill. He first worked in the company's shops as a precision toolmaker, and then in the research department. He contributed to the building of the first models of the transistor and was a co-inventor of a patented high transition superconductor.

After his retirement, in 1976, he assisted in establishing a laboratory for the study of superconductivity at the University of Konstanz in Germany.

His retirement years were spent perfecting his home vegetable garden, keeping up with the latest trends in

science and using his many talents to help family, friends and neighbors.

Surviving are his wife of 62 years, Doris, two daughters, Barbara Nargi of Green Brook and Cathy of New York City; a son, David of Laurel, Md.; a brother, Paul of San Rafael, Calif.; a sister, Rose McConville of Clermont, Fla.; four grandchildren John Nargi, Sharon Merola, Julia and Carla Longinotti; a step granddaughter, Xiaojing Fan and his great grandson Thomas Nargi.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home for Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to the donor's favorite charity.

John C. Millen, 81

John C. Millen of South Plainfield died on Friday, Aug. 2, at the Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City after a long illness.

He was born in St. Paul, Minnesota and was a former resident of Hamsted Heath, England. He then returned to the United States settling in Westfield, before moving to South Plainfield 58 years ago.

John was a graduate of the Carson Long Military School in Carlisle, Pa. and a 1942 graduate of the University of Maryland.

John had a love for track and field and was a volunteer coach for the Westfield, Plainfield and South Plainfield track teams, coaching the discus, javelin and shot put.

He was a member of the First

Methodist Church in Westfield for over 60 years and taught Sunday school for many years. His favorite pastime was photography.

John was a sales representative for American Standard in Piscataway for 15 years, before retiring in 1984.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 58 years, Helen Ejk Millen; a daughter, Linda J. Millen of South Plainfield; a son, John C. Millen Jr. and his wife Laura of Readington; his beloved grandchildren, Heather Bensko, Lindsay W. Tiedmann, Christian, Luke and Matthew Millen.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory can be made to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, 2520 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

Louise M. (Bulava) Bowers, 86

Louise M. (Bulava) Bowers died on Saturday, Aug. 3 in Genesis Elder Care Center, The Woodlands in Plainfield.

Born in South Plainfield, she had been a life long resident of the Borough. Louise was a member of Sacred Heart Church. She was a homemaker.

Her husband, Russell W. Bowers, died in 1994; her sisters, Mary Labno, Violet Skerlanitz, Wanda Janin, and her brother, John Bulava have also predeceased her.

Surviving are her son, Russell R. and his wife Patricia Bowers of South Plainfield; a daughter, Virginia L. Bogusz and her companion Donald McNally of Hillsborough; a sister, Frances Kravetsky of South Plainfield; a brother, Edward Bulava of Whiting Twp. Also surviving is her granddaughter, Beth Ann Manno and her husband, Phil and a great granddaughter, Alexa.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Memorial contributions in her memory may be made to JFK Medical Center Haven Hospice, 65 James St., Edison, NJ 08818.



Photo by Bill Tuthill

Residents are asked to obey the signs at Spring Lake Park, do not feed the geese and clean up after your dog.

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD Advertisement And Notice To Bidders

Notice is hereby given that sealed proposals will be received by the Borough of South Plainfield for the "BELMONT AVENUE CURB AND SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS" and publicly opened and read aloud at the Borough of South Plainfield, Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield, New Jersey 07080 on Thursday, August 22, 2002, at 10:00 a.m. prevailing local time.

The project generally consists of the construction of missing sections of curb and sidewalk along Belmont Avenue from Hamilton Boulevard to the Conrail Grade Crossing within the Borough of South Plainfield and all other work and services as contained in the Contract Documents and as ordered by the Engineer.

Contract documents and plans for the proposed work prepared by David J. Samuel, P.E., Borough Engineer, OME Associates, may be examined at the office of said engineer at 3141 Borden Avenue, Parlin, New Jersey, and at the office of the Borough Clerk, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey, during business hours and may be obtained at the Borough Engineer's office until 48 hours prior to the time set for the opening of bids upon payment of \$50.00 per set. No refunds will be made. Proposals and the Contract Documents must be enclosed in sealed envelopes bearing the name and address of the Bidder and the name of the work on the outside addressed to Mayor and Borough Council, Borough of South Plainfield and must be accompanied by a Statement of Consent of Surety from a surety company authorized to do business in the State of New Jersey and acceptable to the owner. All bids submitted prior to the bid opening shall be mailed or delivered to the Borough Clerk at 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

Each bid must be accompanied by a certified check or cash in the amount of not less than ten (10%) percent of the bid payable without any conditions endorsement as a guarantee that in case the contract is awarded to the bidder, he will within ten (10) days thereafter execute such contract and furnish satisfactory performance bond. Upon failure to do so he shall forfeit the deposit as liquidated damages and the acceptance of the bid will be contingent upon the fulfillment of this requirement by the bidder. No interest shall be allowed upon any such certified check or cash. A bid bond in the amount of ten (10%) percent of the bid may be substituted for certified check or cash.

Each bid must also be accompanied by a certificate from a bonding company licensed to do business in the State of New Jersey guaranteeing that if the proposal of the bidder be accepted they will furnish the bond set forth in paragraph one of the General Conditions of the contract and the acceptance of the bid will be contingent upon the fulfillment of this requirement.

The Borough reserves the right to increase or decrease quantities specified in the manner designated in the Specifications. The Borough reserves the right to award this contract based on funds available.

The successful bidder shall be required to comply with the provisions of the New Jersey Prevailing Wage Act, Chapter 150 of the laws of 1963, effective January 1, 1964.

During the performance of this contract the Contractor agrees to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, c. 127 (N.J.A.C. 17:27), all requirements of the State of New Jersey Worker Health and Safety Act (N.J.A.C. 12:110 et seq.) as amended and the United States Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) (29 CFR 1910), as amended with regard to worker and jobsite safety.

No bidder may withdraw his bid for a period of sixty (60) days after the date set for the opening thereof. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a surety company bond in the full amount of contract price indemnifying the Borough of South Plainfield, New Jersey, for all proceedings, suits or actions of any kind of description and conditional for the faithful performance of the work.

All bid security will be returned to all Bidders except the three (3) apparent lowest bidders within 10 working days after the opening of bids, and to the three (3) apparent lowest bidders within three (3) working days after the successful Bidder has executed the Contract and his Contract security has been approved by the Borough.

The award shall be subject to the approval of the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

Bidders are advised that the capital improvements are partially funded by the State of New Jersey, 1984 Transportation Trust Fund Authority Act, and the successful bidder will be required to fully comply with the applicable current "New Jersey Department of Transportation Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction" if, and as amended or supplemented by the NJDOT Local Aid District Office.

The Borough reserves the right to reject any or all bids if in its opinion it is in the best interest to do so and to award the contract for any and/or all items.

BY ORDER OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD.

Vincent Buttiglieri, Borough Clerk

\$135.00

August 9, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD 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 SEPTEMBER 4, 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.

RESCUE SQUAD AMBULANCE

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

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Bike Rally Brings Out 200 Residents

By Patricia Abbott

The South Plainfield Police Department's Fifth Annual Bicycle Rodeo brought a stampede of youths and bikes to Spring Lake Park. Over 200 riders came on old and new bikes; two wheels and four wheels, pretty pastels with cute baskets and masculine mountain bikes in bold colors.

Fifty helmets were given to children who did not own one. Some of the helmets went to toddlers who travel on bikes with a parent. Those who had their own helmets had them fitted correctly by officers on hand including Dan Noonan, one of South Plainfield bike officers. The helmets were purchased with funds

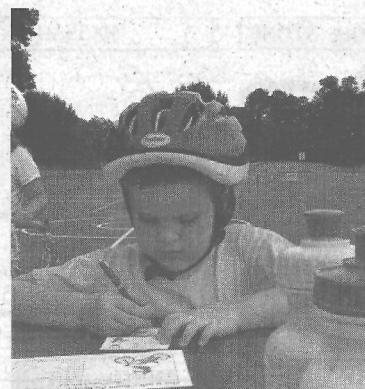
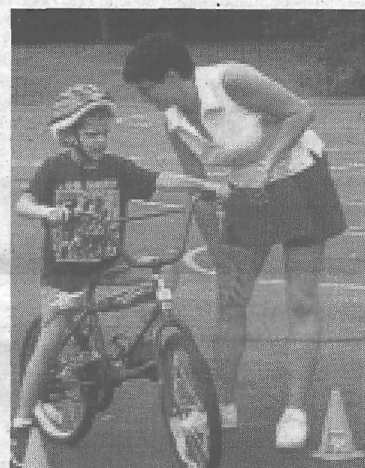
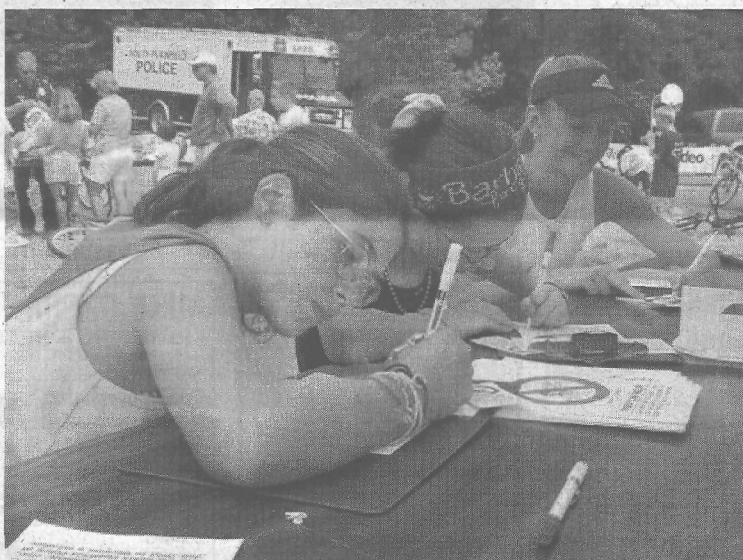
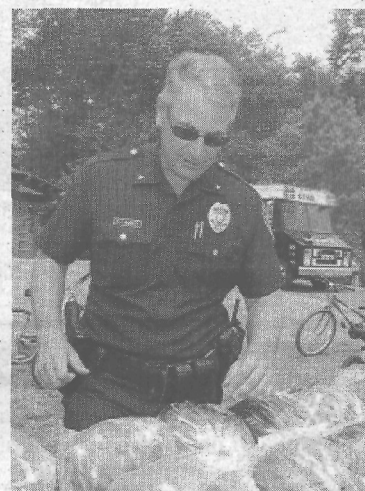
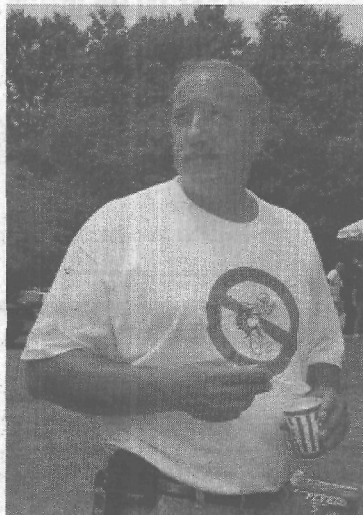
donated by the South Plainfield Traffic Advisory Commission. Local ordinance requires those under age 15 to wear a helmet when cycling.

Bikes were registered by Traffic and Safety Officer Karl Schuetz. He was assisted by Katie Egan, Rebecca Bosse and Stephanie Kelly, Junior Girl Scouts from Troop 431. The girls were working towards their Bronze Award. Also assisting was Schuetz's daughter Christina who has been a volunteer at the Rodeo for several years. The day included a bike safety check and safety obstacle course run by State Farm Insurance. Cyclists tried their hand at mounting and dismounting, circling, direction change, straight line control, weaving and maneuvering, stopping, short

radius turning, and slow speed. After completing the course the youths received a 'photo license.'

Adding to the festivities were prizes and goodies donated by area businesses. Each child who attended was entered into a raffle to win bikes, trikes or locks. Thirsty and hot visitors enjoyed cold soda, Haagen Dazs ice cream and Rita's Italian Ice.

The "Baron Von Pedaloff" anti theft program was founded by retired officer Bill Frink. Bill designed villain in 1998. The brochure encourages kids to "Ban the Baron" by registering their bikes with the police department. Registered bikes have a better chance of being recovered and returned to their owners than those not registered.



PHOTOS BY
PATRICIA ABBOTT AND
MARIE MARKEY

