

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 5, NO. 51

50 CENTS

AUGUST 23, 2002



The trophies are ready to be awarded after this year's Labor Day Parade. Inset is 2002 Grand Marshal Joe DeAndrea.

Labor Day Parade Route May Have Changed, But Still Promises Fun

Even though the Labor Day Parade route had to be changed due to the closing of Veterans Park, the annual event is shaping up to be another fun-filled day.

Instead of starting at Wesley Methodist Church on Plainfield Ave., the parade will be kicking off near the Middle School at Merchants Ave. The actual parade is slightly shorter, 1.4 miles versus 1.5 miles as in the past.

The parade marchers will go down Plainfield Ave. past Borough Hall, turn left at the fire department onto Maple Ave., then proceed on Maple Ave. and turn right at the PAL.

All events normally planned for Veterans Park will be held on the field behind the PAL building. Vendors and plenty of food will be set up for the public. Several downtown business owners who have complained to the

parade committee because of the change in the parade route have been invited to set up a booth at the PAL. The old parade route went through the downtown area. If a downtown business would a spot at the PAL, they should call Darlene Pinto at (908) 561-1517 to reserve a spot.

Everyone who has signed up to march should have received a letter informing them of the change and a map of the new route in the mail by now.

The 5K Run and 1.5 Mile Family Walk will begin at the PAL and take the same route as the parade marchers. The exact turnaround street has not yet been determined.

The band "Back Splash" will also be performing at the PAL during the afternoon festivities.

Activities so far include pie and watermelon eating contests, balloon

toss, egg toss, tatoos, face painting, awarding of trophies and lots of hand-outs from vendors.

The *Observer* will be there as usual. In honor of this year's theme, "Celebrating Our Freedom," we are running a poster contest. Everyone who enters the contest will receive a prize. The grand prize winner will get a \$50 gift certificate to Sportworld. See page 3 for more details.

The evening entertainment takes place in Spring Lake Park. The band "Sound Investment" will perform in the gazebo starting at 6:30, followed by a patriotic fireworks display put on by Garden State Fireworks.

Everyone is invited to come out and enjoy the daylong events. Next week's *Observer* will have a complete list of all participants, vendors and festivities.

2003 Tax Rate Unchanged

Municipal Budget Introduced

The 2003 municipal budget was introduced at a special meeting held Monday night in Borough Hall, with less than a dozen people in attendance.

In addition to keeping the tax rate the same, CFO Glenn Cullen reported that the municipal debt has been reduced by 40 percent, or about \$9.7M. Most of the Borough's debt was incurred in 1993-1994 by a previous administration. Cullen added that in the next four years, if we continue to follow our current fiscal policy, another 40 percent of the Borough's debt will be paid off.

Mayor Dan Gallagher said, "For the third time since 1995, there will be no municipal tax increase."

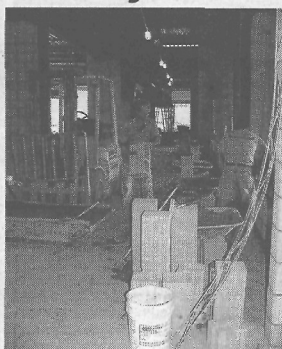
Next year's proposed budget appropriation is \$20,501,609.61, an increase of \$130,777. The South Plainfield municipal tax rate will remain the same as last year at .861. The average assessed value of a house in South Plainfield is \$115,000, which reflects \$990.15 for the municipal tax portion of a residential tax bill.

According to an article in last week's *Courier News*, South Plainfield has one of the lowest property tax bills in the area. The data was taken from the 2000 census. According to the article, South Plainfield's tax rate was \$3,773, compared to Piscataway at \$4,157, Dunellen at \$4,199, Plainfield at \$4,215 and Middlesex at \$4,264.

Councilman Ed Kubala, as well as several members of the council, praised CFO Glen Cullen for his work on this year's budget, saying that the day he started working in the borough, he went right to work on the budget. Kubala also thanked the department heads, who were given a challenge by Mayor Gallagher in the beginning of the year to keep costs down.

The municipal budget will be published in the Sept. 6 issue of the *Observer*. A public hearing will be held on Sept. 19 in Borough Hall at 7 p.m. The public will be able to express their objections or ask questions.

School Wiring Upgrades Ready for Start of School



Work continues on the Grant Central School expansion, slated for completion in Fall 2003. Photos by Christopher Abbott

Contractors have been working all summer in all the district schools, completing the plans to upgrade the wiring, so all the classes in the schools will be able to use computers.

At Tuesday night's Board of Education meeting, Ed Izbicki announced that all schools will be completed on time for opening day, Sept. 4.

All the elementary schools, including the middle, and the high school, have undergone extensive wiring upgrades. Having the contractors working in the schools during the summer meant no summer school this year in South Plainfield. It also meant the cancellation of Tiger Day Camp.

Grant Central Sixth Grade not only

was rewired, but an addition was put on to the back of the school. Work is on schedule and completion is due next year. The extension means more classrooms can be added so that the school can be converted a fifth/sixth grade school to help alleviate the overcrowding expected in the district.

A new Roosevelt School is also under construction, but will not be completed until the 2003-2004 school year. At that time the present Roosevelt School will be converted to an administrative building. Currently, administration personnel are located in offices all over the district. A few are even in converted closets.

Police Make Drug Bust on Edgar Ave.; Five Arrested

The South Plainfield Police Detective Bureau, assisted by the Union County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Canine Unit, executed a search warrant at 149 Edgar Ave. at approximately 1 a.m. Thursday morning. South Plainfield Police Captain John Ferraro stated that the warrant was the culmination of an investigation into possible drug trafficking on the premises.

A search of the residence yielded undisclosed amounts of suspected cocaine, heroin, narcotic paraphernalia and a pellet rifle with a scope.

Stephanie Hollis, 49, was arrested

and charged with possession of cocaine with the intent to distribute, possession of heroin and possession of narcotic paraphernalia. She is currently being housed at the Middlesex County Adult Correction Center. Bail was set at \$20,000.

Another member in the house at the time, James Michael Arrindell, 51, was charged with two outstanding contempt of court warrants and an outstanding non-support warrant out of Middlesex County. He is currently being held on \$10,700 bail at the Middlesex County Jail.

Jesse Runyon, age 27, was also in

the house at the time police discovered a pellet rifle with a scope. He was charged with the unlawful possession of a weapon and was released on a summons.

While the search was being conducted, patrol officers stationed outside for assistance, stopped a vehicle which had approached the house and then left at a high rate of speed. Leland Jones, 22, of Plainfield and Damien Tippet, 22, of Edison were arrested for possession of marijuana. Tippet was also charged with an outstanding contempt of court warrant. Both were released on summonses.

Please note that we will have limited hours next week due to vacations. If you would like to drop off posters for the Poster Contest, please leave them next door at High Tech Data Floors.

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 (NJSA 10:4-6 et seq) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Avenue.

planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month

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

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. 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.

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. - 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. - 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

Dear Editor,

Politics is supposed to be the second oldest profession. I have come to realize that it bears a very close resemblance to the first, especially in South Plainfield.

The Mayor and Council knew all along about the situation in Veterans Park! For three years they knew it was contaminated and they just let the issue go on without telling the people. Then we have this PMK Group that works for the Borough of South Plainfield. Did you think they were going to make it public? You never bite the hand that feeds you! I have saved the headlines from other newspapers, to pass on. I think it was criminal the way this situation was handled. I hope all the people and children go and have blood work taken and are examined, as various cancer causing agents were found. One man has an ill dog due to stepping in the ooze. Where was our famed Emergency Management Team? Why didn't they act on this matter?

Did you know our Senior Citizen's Housing is built over an old dump also? There used to be a junkyard on that site and all companies dumped material there.

That park for the last three years hosted many events. I just hope the people who have been there go to a doctor and have themselves checked.

Also, there was a joke a few weeks ago—a man put a letter in the paper thanking Jack Morris for building the new Senior Citizens Center! It cost him \$100,000 to build, then he took away \$70,000 worth of good dirt, of course without a permit as needed. So this center only cost him \$30,000 to build and that much he will write off as a donation to the Borough of South Plainfield. In return he got to build 100 units of housing. Don't you think he made more money on that deal? He is now laughing, also as I am, all the way to the bank. Now he wants to add housing on the old Tingley Rubber Site! Just what the area needs, more traffic. South Plainfield has been over developed enough! It was also a disgrace that the State Police had to be called in to handle speeders on Maple Ave! Where are our police? When are the State Police going to come back and slow down the trucks on Hamilton Blvd?

I urge all minority residents to come out and vote this November for a new mayor and council! These have to go!

JUAN RIVERIA

To the Editor:

I recently read a letter authored by Tony Romano which appeared in the *Courier News* on August 14, and feel compelled to respond with factual information to his demeaning comments regarding the South Plainfield Police Department.

First, the NJ State Police Commercial Carrier Safety Inspection Unit responded to town at the request of the SPPD to assist us in addressing FEDERAL truck regulations over which we do not have legal enforcement authority. Conducting in-depth truck inspections are the primary function of this unit and they have the equipment, training and expertise to do so. This unit was not present to address speeding issues, did not operate radar and did not issue any speeding summonses. Members of the SPPD did, however, participate in this operation and issued summonses for violations of State Motor Vehicle laws discovered as a result of these inspections.

Next, it appears the writer would like readers to believe there are 75 SPPD employees available specifically to work the road. Of our 72 full-time

IN YOUR OPINION

Opinion

How Clutter Turns Into Litter

By Alice Tempel

In this age of information overload, a hundred things compete for our attention. Messages from the radio and television assault our ears. On news broadcasts, we can read unfolding news items scrolling across the bottom of the screen while watching and listening to a reporter describing a different story above. Billboards shoulder highway directional signs. Storefronts announce today's sales. Banners and bunting call attention to car dealerships, distracting us from the Men Working signs up ahead. Our telephones ring with computerized telemarketing messages, and our computers announce that we have e-mail. Log on to the Internet, and advertising banners pop up on your screen.

Among all the visual jumble, two categories of advertising are actually illegal: signs on utility poles and fliers under automobile windshield wipers.

New Jersey State Statute 27:5-9 says "A sign may not be painted, drawn, erected or maintained upon trees, rocks, other natural features or public utility poles." This law applies to garage sales as well as to businesses ("Lose Up To 30 Pounds in One Month," "Earn Big Bucks Working At Home"). The Borough's garage sale license includes a note that it is illegal to post signs on utility poles. Apparently, many people do not read their permits, because all over town the utility poles sprout garage sale signs like odd fruit on trees. Worse, the license holders don't take their signs down when their sales are over. The signs stay up until they deteriorate, fall off the poles and turn into litter.

The fliers placed under car windshield wipers turn into litter even faster. Some are not well secured, and simply blow away. Irritated motorists who want to clear their view as quickly as possible discard others. Borough Code Chapter 114, "Handbills," prohibits distributing handbills except directly to a person, or by securing them so as to "...prevent such handbill from being blown or drifted about such premises, sidewalks, streets or other public places..." Any person found guilty of violating these provisions is subject to a fine not to exceed \$1,000.

The Borough's Property Maintenance Code Enforcement Officer contacts violators and has them remove the illegal signs or fliers. If they don't, he issues a summons. However, one person cannot keep up with the constant influx. The Clean Communities Advisory Board is asking all Borough residents to lend a hand. Please do not post bills on utility poles or trees. Please do not advertise your event or business by placing fliers under car windshields. And please feel free to remove any of these illegal additions to the visual clutter and physical litter we live with, and dispose of them properly.

For more information about the South Plainfield Clean Communities Program, call the Clean Communities Coordinator at (908) 226-7621.

employees, 56 are sworn officers (assigned to various divisions within the police department), nine are 911 operators and the rest are support staff.

Furthermore, the writer indicates, "our police were out joyriding around in their cars wasting tax dollars." I would like to offer a few statistics for thought: for the first seven months of 2002, on average per month, we have issued 609 motor vehicle summonses and handled 3,279 events. Events are any action taken by an officer during his/her tour of duty, such as calls for service, motor vehicle stops, assist stranded motorists, etc.

"South Plainfield's Finest" consists of a group of dedicated professionals of which I am extremely proud to be associated with and which is second to none in the State of New Jersey. My door is always open to discuss any issues residents may have and I value their opinion. I do ask, however, that criticism directed at the SPPD or its hard working employees be based upon the facts of the situation and not partial or misleading information.

**ROBERT K. MERKLER,
CHIEF OF POLICE**

(Editor's Note: This letter was published in last week's *Observer*, however some of its contents were eliminated due to an error. We are printing the letter in its entirety.)

Dear Editor,

I received my tax bill last week, and in it was this year's first campaign ad from the Democrats. It's a litany of so-called successes brought to us by the Gallagher administration. I thought after reading it, what would happen if it spoke the truth? This is how it might go:

Dear Fellow Resident,
I hope you are enjoying your summer!
The first half of 2002 has been very busy.

We have squandered a million—yes I said a million—dollars more this year than last. We had a hard time spending it, but were finally able to do it by giving big raises, big salaries and big contracts to our political buddies and campaign donors.

Oh, and by the way, this year is Dan Gallagher's re-election campaign, so we are playing our once-every-fourth-year tax trick on you. That's right, we are holding the tax rate even for one year so we can raise it again after he gets elected. Remember our motto: taxes are under control! (Hey, if we keep saying it enough, you might not recall that municipal taxes jumped almost 80% since we took over.)

Speaking of taxes, don't forget to check your tax bill for the big school-tax increase. We had nothing to do with it—blame the school board. Just don't look too close, or you might realize that the multi-million-dollar school construction project resulted from the carte blanche we gave our builder friends.

And don't forget about the Helen Street project. We've been promising this for more than a decade. But trust me, it will happen soon, as will our plans to reverse aging, find a cure for the common cold, and achieve world peace.

Finally, we hope you're enjoying all the roads we've repaved. South Plainfield is the only town in Middlesex County, possibly the nation, that has paved roads.

Continued on page 12

Submit Letters to the Editor:

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

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

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in South Plainfield Observer:

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

Nothing Could Stop This Cast!

You've heard the audience's point of view on this Summer Drama Workshop's show, now it's time to hear the story from the cast. No matter what happened to the SDW cast, they kept going strong. Whether it was heat, electricity, or the weather, nothing could bring down the spirit of these individuals.

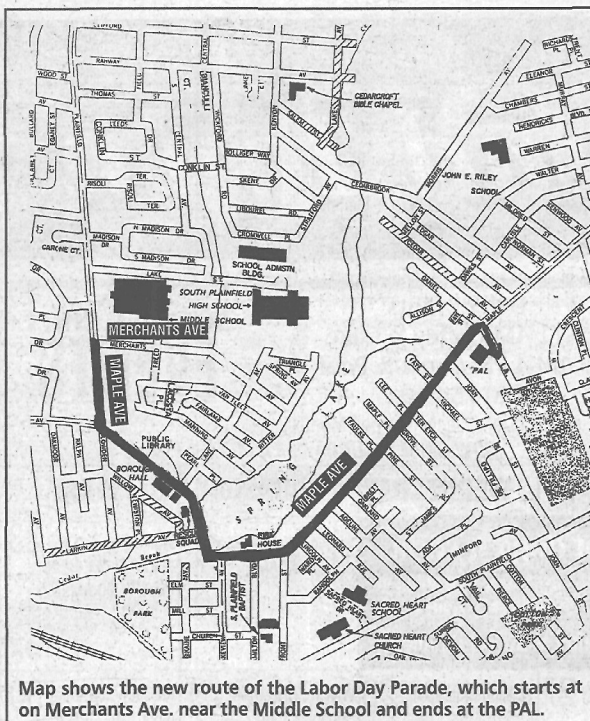
On Thursday, Aug. 1, opening night, everything was going fine. It was very hot out and not many people were drinking a lot of water. Towards the end of the show, though, the heat started to get to us. One of the cast members started to wobble and then passed out. Those of us that were near him helped him out and he got back on his feet and was perfectly fine by the end of the show. We all drank plenty of water after that.

Friday was a little more interesting. If you were in town that night, you know that we had a huge storm. At the beginning of the night, everything was going fine. Later on, however, we looked out the windows and saw that it was pouring outside. We started to worry, but they said that as long as we didn't go outside, we'd be fine. This was during intermission. Later, at the end of intermission, the cast was in place for the second act. It was almost curtain time, when the power went out. There were a few screams, but that's normal. The cast then moved out into the hallway. The emergency power supply turned on automatically, and the lights in the auditorium came back on.

Meanwhile, the cast, crew and orchestra were sitting in the chorus room waiting for instructions. After a few songs were played by various people on someone's guitar, the directors came back in and said that we were just going to go out and sit on the stage and sing the songs from the second act. But when we got out onto stage, we found that the auditorium lights were bright enough to light the whole stage, so we could actually do the whole second act, dancing, singing, and everything in between, even without power. Since none of us had microphones now, we were projecting as though our life depended on it. Just about everyone in the audience could hear us loud and clear that night. I think that was the best performance of all. No other performances could have topped that one.

This cast had spirit that was indestructible. Nothing could have brought it down. I hope next year's cast is the same, or maybe even better!

Submitted by cast member Jeff Sesselberg



Map shows the new route of the Labor Day Parade, which starts at on Merchants Ave. near the Middle School and ends at the PAL.

Ricochet/SPASA 12th Annual Labor Day 5K Race and 1.5 Mile Family Fitness Walk

This year marks the 12th year that the South Plainfield Alliance for Substance Awareness and the Club at Ricochet will sponsor the 5K race held on Labor Day. The annual race takes place prior to the parade on Labor Day and begins at the PAL. The race featured its first group of 40+ runners back in 1991. Last year drew a record number of runners who completed the 3.1 mile course which covers the parade route up and back. Runners will take the same route as the parade marchers and the finish line will be back at the PAL.

The race would not be possible if it were not for the many local South Plainfield sponsors, especially The Club at Ricochet. The staff at Ricochet offers a wide variety of health and fitness activities along with the 5K race and recently incorporated a 1.5 Family Fitness walk.

Prizes include \$100 in cash, a one month free membership to Ricochet, \$50 gift certificates donated by Home Depot and Nike running shoes donated by Sportworld. Trophies are also awarded to first place finishers, in each age group, male and female. Trophies are donated by Joe Romer Trophy.

Entry fee for the walk is \$5 for individuals or the family. The first 50 entrants receive a t-shirt. The 5K run entry fee is \$15 if received before Aug. 26, or \$12 on the day of the race. The first 200 entrants receive a t-shirt.

Registration starts at 8:15 a.m. on race day. The race starts at 9:25 a.m. at the PAL Building.

Aiello Chiropractic Center will be on hand to offer pre- and post-race/walk massages.

Participants are asked to park in the parking lot at Jost Athletic Field and not park on either Cady Lane or Avon Ave. Those roads will be used for the parade floats to exit after the parade.

Proceeds from the race help support the Drug Awareness activities of the South Plainfield Alliance for Substance Awareness.

Applications for the 5K race can be obtained at the Club at Ricochet on St. Nicholas Ave., the PAL building or the South Plainfield Observer office.

Bill Beegle, who is the principal at Riley School and race coordinator, can provide any additional information.

Beegle can be reached at (908) 754-4620, ext. 345.

Sponsors for this year include, South Plainfield Liquor Store, David's Stationery, Sherban's Diner/Restaurant, K.C. Korner Bar and Restaurant, Vail Hardware, Spring Lake Texaco, Domino's Pizza, McCrisken Home For Funerals, James W. Conroy Funeral Home, Giakas Cleaners, Joe Romer Trophy Shop, Sportworld, Home Depot, Rodolfo's Pizza, Oak Tree Farms, Bagel Pantry, Twin City Pharmacy, Ciccio's Pizza, Poland Spring Water, Casablanca is Hair, Flanagan's Restaurant, Mohr's Florist, Aiello Chiropractic Center, Physiques in Motion, Buy-Rite Auto Parts, Presto Printing and South Plainfield PAL.

Residents Can Use the Pool For \$2 on Labor Day

After the long Labor Day Parade march down Maple Ave., residents can go over to the community pool and swim for only \$2 per person. So bring your swimsuits and cool off at the pool all afternoon.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Wow! We at the Library have been very busy for the last several weeks, what with Summer Reading and all. The pace will pick up again pretty soon, once school is back in session. At the moment, though, we're throttling back a bit and taking some time to rest and reorganize things for fall. That doesn't mean, though, that nothing at all is going on here. So, here's some news from South Plainfield Library:

Monday will be the last day you can borrow items from the current group of Circuit videos and DVDs. Titles this month include, "How Bugs Bunny Won the West", "An American Werewolf in London", "The Thin Red Line", "Nurse Betty" and, on DVD, "Ali." Videos and DVDs may be borrowed, four at a time, for two days.

As Miss Linda and Miss Cheryl are both away on R&R, no children's

Storytime programs are scheduled. Our children's programs will return on Sept. 10. Meanwhile, children can still pick up their Summer Reading Club certificates here at the Library.

Here's some advance word: We'll continue to offer computer instructional classes in September. We'll also restart our Job Information Center classes, following a summer hiatus. Space is limited for these classes, so you must sign up in advance. If you like to learn more about the class schedule or to sign up, please call us at (908) 754-7885 and ask for Allan or Marcia.

And here's a reminder to parents: The Library can be a really fun place for your children, but it isn't a babysitting service. Leaving your children here unattended and unsupervised is not at all advisable. Our staff is busy enough with normal Library duties; they shouldn't be expected to keep a constant eye on your kids. And, unfortunately, it's very possible for unattended children to damage our equipment or, worse, damage themselves at the Library. So, we strongly advise you to accompany your children to the Library or, failing that, to make arrangements for their supervision. Be advised that, if a child is left here alone for an extended period of time, we will contact the Police and other appropriate authorities. We treat this matter very seriously, and we expect you to do the same.

That'll just about do it for now. As always feel free to pass along your comments, questions and suggestions. We'll be back next Friday with more news. Now please give us a moment to catch our breath...

New Subscribers—BEWARE

The Observer recently received a call saying someone representing the Observer had telephoned him to solicit a subscription, and requested credit card information. This call was not from the Observer.

Please beware of telephone solicitors claiming to represent the Observer. At this time, we do not do any phone soliciting, nor do we accept credit cards.



Twin City Pharmacy

Tel. (908) 755-7696 Fax (908) 755-6003

1708 Park Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080 (Next to ACME)

Today's Modern Pharmacy with Old Fashioned Values

DME Provider for US Healthcare/AETNA & CIGNA
Medicare and Medicaid Provider
Solaris In-Network DME Provider

- Ostomy Supplies including Hollister & Convatec
- Full Line of Diabetic & Wound Care Products
- Hospital Beds - Commodes
- Wheelchairs - Walkers
- Enteral Feeding Supplies & Supplements

Haven Hospice Provider for JFK & Muhlenberg Hospitals

24 Hour Emergency Care Service - Free Delivery

ENTER THE OBSERVER'S

"Celebrate Your Freedom"

POSTER CONTEST

Illustrate your interpretation of what freedom in America means to you.

Entries must be received in the office of the South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Boulevard, South Plainfield, no later than Wednesday, August 28, 2002. Entries will be on display at the Observer booth at the Labor Day Parade. All entrants will receive a prize. Grand prize is \$50 gift certificate to Sportworld. Contest is open to all South Plainfield residents. Posters can be no larger than 22" x 17". Any media is allowed. Only one entry per person. Posters will be judged on the theme, "Celebrate Your Freedom," on Monday, September 2, 2002.

Events

Last Concert in Park Series

South Plainfield residents are invited to attend the final summer Sunday concert in Spring Lake Park, sponsored by Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders Department of Parks and Recreation. The Chet Varner Band will perform this Sunday, 6:30-8 p.m. The event is free. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy the music.

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

Battle of the Badges Charity Game

September 1

The annual Battle of the Badges Charity Softball Game, sponsored by the South Plainfield Elks Handicapped Children's Society, will be held Sunday, Sept. 1, starting at 7:30 p.m. The South Plainfield Volunteer Firemen will be pitted against the South Plainfield Police Department. This annual event is a must see for all residents and the proceeds all go to the Elks Handicapped Children's Fund.

This year's softball game will be played at the Little League Field #2, in the Junior Baseball Complex, off of Belmont Ave.

Tickets for Mets and Yankees Available

September 3

Let's Go Out to A Baseball Game! 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.

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.

SPHS Field Hockey Alumni Game

September 8

The SPHS field hockey field, located between the middle school and high school, will be rededicated as the Carol Espinosa Memorial Field on

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.
NOW OPEN SATURDAYS 9 A.M. TO 1 P.M.

Senior Center EVENTS

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| Enjoy hot dogs & soda prior to the Labor Day Parade beginning at 9 a.m.). Pre-registration is required. The Senior Center is air conditioned. | | | | |
| EVENTS Walking Club 9 AM 26 Sign-up Friday Pizza \$2 Yoga 10:30AM (Last (Sign up for next session) | Walking Club 9AM 27 Bingo 10AM-2PM Sign up for Pizza \$2 Aerobics/Dance 10:30AM (Sign up for next session) | Walking Club 9AM 28 AARP Crafts 1 PM Movie 11:30AM | Walking Club 9 AM 29 Shopping 9AM | Walking Club 9 AM 30 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. | | | | |

Sunday, Sept. 8. The rededication will take place at 3 p.m. The alumni game will follow. All alumni are welcome. For more information, call Karen Maszszak at (908) 769-7136.

VFW Annual Picnic to be Held

September 14

Memorial Post #6763 will hold their annual picnic September 14 on the post ground, located on 155 Front St. in South Plainfield. In addition to food and beverages there will be music by Luke O'Malley, a Moon-Walk and pony rides for the children.

The event will be held rain or shine. Admission is free for children five years and younger, \$6 in advance for children six to 12 years and \$7 at the gate; \$12 in advance for 13 years and old and \$14 at the gate.

Tickets are available at the Post Home daily after 4 p.m or 12 noon on weekends. For more information phone (908) 668-9751 during the above hours.

SPHS Classes of 1972-73 Reunion

October 12

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 Rte. 27, Edison.

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

For more information, call the Clarion, (732) 287-3500; JoAnne Kaschak Catelli, (732) 286-4310; or Carol Garrubbo Boyer, (908) 771-0901.

Rec Sponsors Trip To Broadway

October 16

On Oct. 16, the South Plainfield Recreation will sponsor a trip to see Billy Joel's new hit musical, *Moving Out*. The cost is \$100 and includes transportation and orchestra seat tickets. Leave from PAL at 4 p.m.

For more information contact the PAL at 226-7713.

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 Theatre* 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.

Senior Center to Sponsor Dinner Theatre Trips

October 17 & December 23

The South Plainfield Senior Citizen Center will be sponsoring two dinner theatre trips.

The first trip will on Oct. 17 to the Lafayette House, featuring the Ragtime Grannies. The cost is \$40 per person.

The second trip will be held on Dec. 23 to the Hunterdon Playhouse for their "Christmas Show." The cost is \$50 per person.

— Out of Town —

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.

VP of Natl. DMDA to Discuss John Nash's A Beautiful Mind

August 28

The First New Jersey Depressive and Manic Depressive Support Group's monthly lecture meeting on Aug. 28 will feature David Chowes, Professor of Psychology at Baruch College of the City of New York. Chowes was chairman of the New York Mood Disorders Support Group for 13 years and has been on the Board of Directors of the prestigious National Depressive and Manic-Depressive Association since 1996. He is presently VP of the Association.

The topics for his talk are: "John Nash and *A Beautiful Mind*—The Movie and Book," and a general discussion of the downside of using the word "consumer" when speaking about or to psychiatric patients. He will also hold a question and answer period.

In addition to the lecture series, peer group support sessions are held on the first and third Tuesday evenings of each month in Morristown

Free Community Festival in Dunellen

August 31

Free food and gifts, live music, arts and crafts for children, a teen corner, and an appearance by David and Goliath—these are only part of the entirely free program being offered at "Praise in the Park," Saturday, Aug. 31, in Washington Memorial Park on Washington Ave. in Dunellen. The festival, sponsored by First Presbyterian Church, begins at noon, with entertainment for the whole family until 5 p.m.

"Praise in the Park is our gift to the community," explains the Rev. Jeff Wildrick. We hope that people of all ages will come and enjoy our free food, great music, kids' crafts and have lots of fun without worrying how to pay for it."

For more information, call (732) 968-3844. Rain date is Sept. 2.

Alliance Bible Church Plans Sept. 11 Services

September 11

Alliance Bible Church located at 52 Mount Horeb Rd. in Warren will be holding a remembrance service on Wednesday, Sept. 11 at 7:30 p.m. to honor those who died in last year's tragedy, and also to give hope to those still living. Testimonies will be shared from a man who was inside the towers when the planes hit, and also from a soldier just returning from Afghanistan. There will also be a time of recognition for our honored guests including local politicians, police, fires, rescue workers and military personnel. The service will end with a candle-light vigil.

For more information please call the church office at (732) 469-1425 or check our website at www.alliance-biblechurch.com.

POLICE VS. FIRE DEPARTMENT

IN THE ANNUAL

"Battle of the Badges"

BENEFIT BASEBALL GAME

to be held on

Sunday, September 1 • 7:30 p.m.

at the Junior Baseball Complex, Little League Field 2



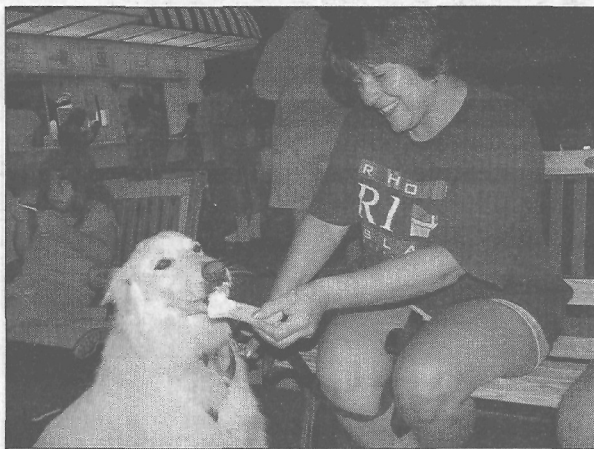
This annual charity game benefits the South Plainfield Handicapped Children's Society through the South Plainfield Elks Lodge #2298.

Last year the police department won by a whopping score of 15-6 and the fire department

is out for revenge. A variety of refreshments will be available, as well as a 50/50.

This is a fun event, so plan on coming out to not only have a good time, but to support a worthy cause.

Pets Eat Sweet at Rita's "Dog Day Mondays" Fundraiser



By Patricia Abbott

Those dreaded dog days of summer are upon us; hot, humid seemingly endless hours of sweltering heat and blinding sun. "Dog Day Mondays" at Rita's Italian Ice on Park Ave. bring a little frosty relief to canines and their owners. On Mondays in August from 6-9 p.m. customers who bring their furry friends along and make a purchase, get a free bowl of custard

topped with dog biscuits for their pet. The cool refreshment helps beat the heat and support the Plainfield Area Humane Society on Rock Ave. in Plainfield. Ten percent of the day's ice sales is donated to the shelter.

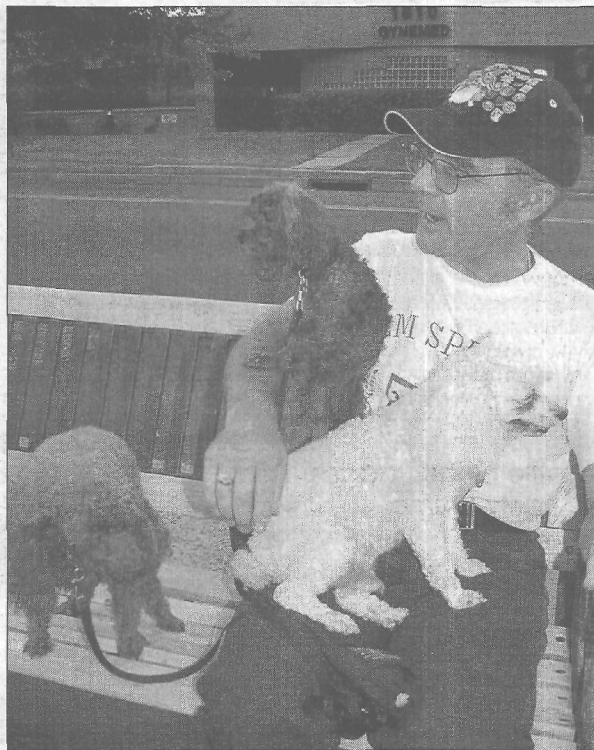
The "doggie sundae" fundraiser was the brainchild of Rita's owner Mary Ann Hendri, a serious animal lover. Mary Ann said, "People were always asking for a cup of ice cream for their dogs, especially in hot weather. I came

up with the idea and called the Plainfield Humane Society. It's fun and it makes the evening go faster."

This past Monday, Aug. 19, visitors enjoyed a dog agility demonstration. Cody, owned by Kate Mason of Plainfield, showed off as she jumped over barriers, across platforms and through a tunnel. Cody was adopted from the humane society about six years ago. Sue MacWhinney, director of the Plainfield Area Humane Society, is thrilled with the fundraiser. Money will go towards the shelter's new air conditioning system.

With one week still left, Mary Ann declared "Dog Days Mondays" a success. Monday, August 5, saw only a half dozen pooches visit; the following week a dozen. This week saw a large increase in posters from the shelter, word of mouth and a write up in a daily newspaper brought in hordes of animal lovers. Over 50 doggie bowls were served before 9 p.m.

The last day of "Dog Days Mondays" is Aug. 26, between 6 and 9 p.m. Throw off those lazy dog days, treat yourself and your pooch to an icy confection and help support the Plainfield Area Humane Society.



American Martial Arts Bigger and Better

To all those parents in need of after school care that provides your child with many life building skills, such as, confidence, concentration, self-esteem, and discipline, the answer is here. Starting with the new school year, American Martial Arts, located at 902 Oak Tree Rd. in South Plainfield (next to Fleet Bank), introduces a new program called Kickin' Kids, After School Martial Arts.

Students will be transported from

school to the facility to take part in their new adventure. With the recent expansion and renovation to our school, students will complete their homework in a comfortable and warm environment with NJ Certified Teacher assistance. Students will take part in many new and exciting activities each day. And of course, the day will end with a martial art class under the instruction of Fifth Degree Black

Belt, Master Kevin Vigneri, the only Licensed Instructor in Middlesex County.

If you're like most parents, you're probably on a budget. Kickin' Kids makes it easy for you to give your child two activities for the price of one... convenient after school care and exciting martial arts lessons.

For more information, call (908) 561-4100.

Catholic Women's Rally in Sept.

The "First Annual Catholic Women's Rally," sponsored by good news international and Catholic Women of Zion, will be held at Christian Brother's Academy, 850 New- man Springs Rd., Lincroft, on Saturday, Sept. 28, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This inaugural year's theme is derived from Jesus' words in John 4:24: "God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

The rally features popular and inspiring speakers, praise and worship, uplifting and spirit-filled music performed by "Selah." The closing liturgy will be celebrated by Reverend Brendan Williams, Pastor of St. Veronica's Church in Howell.

Pre-registration must be post- marked no later than Sept. 10. Same-day registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

Cost is \$35 and includes a boxed lunch. Praise and worship begins at 9 a.m. and is followed by a presentation by one of three featured speakers.

The speakers are Johnette Benkovic, executive producer and host of "The Abundant Life," a television program that discusses contemporary issues from a Christian Perspective, seen primarily on EWTN; Adriane Gullotta- gsell, ph.d. and licensed psychologist, as well as founder and president of a catholic Ecumenical Organization called, "the healing power of prayer ministry"; and Rosalind Moss, convert from Judaism and Evangelical Protestantism, staff apologist from "Catholic Answers," and co-host of EWTN's television program, "House of Faith."

For questions and more information, call 1-800-430-0586 or e-mail cwgner@stveronica.com.

Free Seminar Reveals Tips On College Planning

Mark Mauro, CPA of Somerville, a College Financial Specialist, will reveal the closely guarded secrets of college planning.

Learn why some middle- and upper-class parents pay close to nothing for their children's education and how to lower out-of-pocket costs to be able to increase your financial aid eligibility.

These are just a few of the topics that will be discussed at a FREE seminar to be held on Aug. 27 at 7 p.m. at the Bridgewater Commons Mall.

For reservations and information, call toll-free 1-877-656-2727.

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3rd Quarter Taxes Deadline Extended

South Plainfield residents have been granted a 15-day grace period to pay their third quarter taxes, due to the delayed mailing of the third quarter tax bills.

Third quarter taxes must be paid by Aug. 30.

AIDA SANTOS

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT
BRANCH MANAGER

Valley National Bank

Durham Ave. & Hamilton Blvd
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

(908) 757-5868

Fax (908) 757-0494

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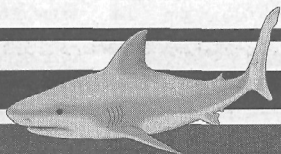
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www.mohnsflorist.com



Sports

SWIMMING



Tiger Shark eight-year-olds and under, free-style relay and medley relay champions.



Tiger Sharks gather at year-end party.

Sharks Competition with Roycefield Rapids Produces Five Team Records

The South Plainfield Tiger Sharks were in a tight race to the finish with the Roycefield Rapids swim team of Hillsborough at a meet held July 17 which also saw five team records and a pool record broken at the South Plainfield recreation facility.

Dylan McDermott, swimming in the eight and under age group, broke two records: a team record, swimming the 25 meter freestyle in 19.89 seconds, and a South Plainfield pool record, by finishing the 25 meter butterfly in 24.50 seconds, beating a record held since 1993. (Both record times were for eight and under age group swimmers.)

Other swimmers breaking team records during the races that day were: Emmett Marsili, age 11/12, 50 meter freestyle, in a time of 36.10 seconds; Calvin John Smiley, age 15-18, 100 meter freestyle, 1.08.57; Kate O'Brien, age eight and under, 25 meter breaststroke, 28.18; and Philip Luzny, age 13/14, 100 meter butterfly, 1.25.46.

Taking points for the Tiger Sharks in other finishes were: for Individual Medley, James Sansone, second place, and Anthony Baldassarre, third, in the 10 and under, 100 meter; Emmett Marsili, first place, 11/12, 100 meter; and Calvin John Smiley, second place, 13-18, 200 meter. For the freestyle 10 and under 100 meter girls race: Emily Piekarski took first place and Sarah Konops placed third; and for the 13-18, 200 meter race, Nina Byard took third place.

For the 9/10 year old boys, Steve Grzenda placed third in the 50 meter freestyle; Philip Luzny took second for the 13/14 year olds in the 100 meter and Karim Motani took third for the 15-18, 100 meter. In backstroke competition, the girls racked up points with Maggie Valentino in first and Kate O'Brien, second, for the eight and under 25 meter; and all three places were claimed in the 9/10, 50 meter race with Sarah Konops in first place, Michelle Gustafson, second; and

Teresa Gustafson third. Leah Konops took second place in the 13/14 100 meter backstroke, while for the older girls, 15-18, Nina Byard took first place and Becky Brzozowski, third, in the 100 meter.

In breaststroke, the eight and under girls also took second and third place, in addition to the first place record: with Maggie Valentino in second and Kelly McLaughlin in third for the 25 meter race; the 9/10 year olds swept their race with Emily Piekarski in first for the 50 meter, Chelsea Cullen, second, and Michelle Gustafson, third. Leah Konops took first place for the 13/14 girls, 100 meter; and Shannon Dabrio took first for the 15-18, 100 meter.

For the butterfly events, Steve Grzenda took third place for the 9/10, 50 meter and Michael Boyle took third for the 11/12 50 meter. For the older boys: Adam Timberlake took first place in the 15-18 100 meter and Karim Motani placed second.

At this point in the races, the two teams were almost tied for total points scored. The final outcome of the swim meet depended upon the number of points racked up during the relay races that conclude each meet. Swimming for the Tiger Sharks, the eight and under team of Maggie Valentino, Kelly McLaughlin, Gracie Piekarski and Kate O'Brien took the points for



Rachel Drause receives award at year-end party.

the 100 meter freestyle relay. The eight and under boys team for the relay, consisting of David Brzozowski, Patrick Boyle, Dylan McDermott and Liam McDermott, took the points for the 100 meter medley relay. However, the Roycefield Rapids picked up the remaining relay points and managed to

defeat the Tiger Sharks at the very end of the meet.

The Tiger Sharks have their own webpage, managed and maintained by 11-year-old team member, Michael Boyle. The web page can be found at www.webspawner.com/users/bdmmp209/index.html.

OPPORTUNITY Awaits

There are 21,000 good reasons why you should advertise your business in the Observer...

Here are a just a couple of them.

South Plainfield Observer

Call today! 908-668-0010

Do Your Bit -- Purchase A Brick!

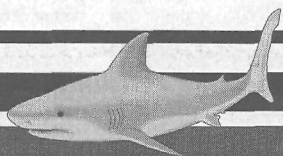
Show your support for our local firemen. Your purchase of a brick will help fund the South Plainfield Firemen's Memorial to be built next to the Senior Citizen Center. Your brick will be engraved with the name of your choice and placed on the path to the memorial. Bricks can be purchased for only \$75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

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

Where Would We Be Without Volunteers?

Sports

SWIMMING



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

Where Would We Be Without Volunteers?

Sports

Girls Varsity Field Hockey

Field hockey is a sport that has greatly risen in popularity over the past few years, especially for the South Plainfield High School Girls' Field Hockey team. Before the program expanded into the

middle school, it was almost lost. The girls had suffered several losing seasons until three years ago, when, after a slow start, they experienced a turn-about in the middle of the GMC Tournament. They beat just about everyone for their last few games and re-suscitated the program. The victories continued into every season afterward, and as a result, both the players and spectators became imbued.

The team is guided under the direction of Head Coach Fran Flannery, who will be entering her eighteenth season. Tammy Zurka will return as the Assistant Coach. Cheryl Hughes and Laurie Stoltz will run the middle school program. This year's captains are seniors Kristina Cwiekalo, Meaghan Schweers and Danielle Skoba.

As in gymnastics, there are no division battles because all of the teams in the Greater Middlesex Conference compete against each other for a singular title. East Brunswick and Piscataway are the Lady Tigers' main competition for that title.

Last year, the girls posted an impressive 14-4-3 record. They advanced into the finals of the GMC Tournament where they narrowly lost to East Brunswick. They also advanced into the finals of the State Sectionals where they gave a pertinacious effort against Warren Hills, who Flannery calls "a

preview
high school sports
by tim morgan



perennial state championship or runner-up team" (not bad for a group whose goal was to simply qualify for the Sectionals). Hence, the girls placed second in the GMC and in Central NJ Group III last year.

Flannery had undoubting things to say about her key Varsity players. Senior Michelle Desantis is an outstanding goalie who will be difficult to score against. Schweers is one of the best field hockey players both in the area and that South Plainfield has ever produced, having received numerous awards and honors, including the MVP last year. She will likely increase her scoring and execute transition playing. Cwiekalo will continue to be a center back and a key to the defense. Skoba will be positioned in the middle of the field and will be critical to both the offense and defense. Junior Ngozi Okparaacke, who was named to the first all-GMC team as a freshman, will be coming back skillful and strong in the offense. Sophomore Jess Miller could be a very important player as well. Sophomore Lauren Haus and senior Christina Dematos both showed promise last year as substitutes during the GMC Tournament games and could have an impact on this year's team. Sophomores Stefanie Miller (who was last year's Rookie of the Year) and Jessica Manning have all developed their skills and have legitimate shots at Varsity positions, as do sophomore Jamie Jakubik, juniors Taryn Carlton and Amanda Rastelli and senior Nicole Esposito.

Having only graduated four seniors, experience will be on the Lady Tigers' side. Flannery said, "The seniors (from) last year will be missed, but the kids coming back are very, very good."

Many, if not all of these girls, whom Coach Flannery says have a wonderful attitude and (sense of) cohesiveness, attend summer camps voluntarily to further improve their capabilities. Some of these camps include Farleigh Dickenson, Princeton, Rutgers and Syracuse.

South Plainfield will hold a scrimmage workshop on August 31 in

which other teams will compete against each other to assess their abilities and get an idea of what to focus working on before official competition begins. Also, there will be an alumni game held September 8.

Flannery was inducted into the NJ State Coaches Hall of Fame last year. She called the honor "prestigious," saying that she was surprised and that she was honored at a beautiful dinner. Her colleagues and athletes think that she is rather modest.

Flannery is quite enthusiastic about this upcoming season, stating, "I think that this is going to be one of the best, most exciting, and most positive field hockey teams South Plainfield has ever had. I have rarely been this positive or optimistic." She also said, "We're looking forward to a really exciting season and hope people come out to watch us and share in our excitement."

Some of the team's goals this season are to win the GMC Tournament and to at least equal last year's unexpected success in the State Sectionals. Flannery feels that the kids are confident and that these goals may not be easy to accomplish, but are definitely being looked at. She said, "We have talent, attitude, work ethic, and the components to get us into the finals."

The Lady Tigers have made considerable strides in the past few seasons and have rejuvenated a once struggling program. With increased success comes increased support, and the girls have been able to gain both exponentially. This upcoming season should not be a deviation from past ones, and the outlook is favorable.

Kevin Bickunas had the low-

round in the league Tuesday night, with a sparkling 33 to lead Witty's Liquors to a 12-8 win over Twin City Pharmacy. Jay Coppolla had an excellent one-over-par 34 in a losing cause.

Plainfield Animal Hospital wound up in a 10-10 tie with Pornovets to remain deadlocked for first place in the American Division as the league comes down to its final week of play. Marty Van DeVaart had a fine round of 37 for Pornovets as his team slipped to third place.

Fred Kirchofer's 36 led Aiello Chiropractic as they pummeled Hummel, 16-4. Stan Lipka & Mike Kavka also came through with solid play for Aiello.

Todd Gregory kept it out of the rough and fired a 39 as Sport & Social defeated Hank's Hacker's, 12-8,

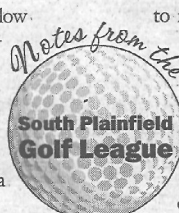
to maintain a one-game lead over Masters in the tight National Division race.

Patti Construction pulled the upset of the season in crushing Masters, 15-5. Matt Ward led the way for Patti's with a round of 37.

In the final week of the season before the playoffs, Witty's & Plainfield Animal Hospital, currently tied for first-place in the American Division, will face one another in a decisive match for the division championship.

In the race for first-place in the National Division, league-leading Sport & Social will meet Patti Construction, a team just coming off their big win over Masters.

Non-playing Captain George Popik of Masters expects to have a tough match with a very determined VFW team.



Kickboxing, Karate and Aerobics Classes at the PAL

KICKBOXING

Registration for fall kickboxing classes, which starts Tuesday, Sept. 10, is now underway. The nonrefundable fee is \$35 for an eight week session.

Registration is open to all South Plainfield residents 14 years and older. Birth certificates are required for registrants under 18 who are not yet in our computer database.

KARATE CLASSES

The South Plainfield PAL will hold Karate "A"/"B" classes beginning on Tuesday, Sept. 10. Classes will cost \$35 for an eight week session (no re-

funds.)

Karate "A" is open to all boys and girls, 8 to 12 years old and Karate "B" is open to all boys and girls, 13 and older.

Birth certificates are required for any registrants who are not yet in the computer database.

AEROBICS CLASSES

The South Plainfield Recreation Dept. will hold aerobics classes at the P.A.L. every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 to 10 a.m., starting Sept. 9. Cost is \$35 per person. Babysitting is available—\$20 per session.

Register for any of these programs at the Recreation Office, located in the P.A.L. Recreation Center. For more information, call the Recreation Office at 226-7714.

SHOTMAN Clinic in Sept.

Mike "SHOTMAN" Lanza will be holding another Score More Training Clinic at Wardlaw Hartridge High School in Edison in the fall. The training clinic will be held in September and will be for both boys and girls in grades six to 12.

The clinic runs on four Sundays, Sept. 15, 22, 29, and Oct. 6 from 10 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$125 for all four sessions. Enrollment is limited; register now. Online registration has begun at active.com.

For further information, contact Mike Lanza at (908) 754-2692.

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Obituaries

Julia Rostrowski Randolph, 101

Julia Rostrowski Randolph of Barnegat, formerly of South Plainfield, died on Thursday, Aug. 15, at the Southern Ocean County Memorial Hospital in Manahawkin.

She was born in Poland and resided in East Brunswick when she came to the United States. She was a long time resident of South Plainfield, before moving to Barnegat three years ago.

Mrs. Randolph was a seamstress for the former Star Dress Company in Plainfield for thirty years before retiring in 1947.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Harry Randolph, who died in 1992.

She is survived by a son, Ernest Barker and his wife Carole with whom she lived; a stepson, William Randolph of Bedminster; a daughter, Sophie Grossweiler of Sayreville; a sister, JoAnn Wisniewski of Brick, 10 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

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

James C. Ford, 70

James C. Ford died on Saturday, Aug. 17, at the Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

He was born in Bound Brook and grew up in North Plainfield, where he lived until moving to South Plainfield in 1955.

Jim served with the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict and was a former member of the Watchung and South Plainfield Elks lodges.

He had worked for the former David Smith Steel Company in South Plainfield for 27 years and for Hall's Trucking of South Plainfield as a security guard for 10 years, before retiring this past January.

He had an admirable love for his grandchildren and Cape Cod. Jim also had a passion for fishing and the outdoors as well.

Jim was also a member of Sacred Heart RC Church.

He was predeceased by a brother, Albert and by a sister, Margaret Preston.

Surviving are his wife of 48 years, Carmela (nee Curreri) Ford; two daughters, Caroline and Ed Sofo of Warren and Pat and Jim Rennie of Rahway; two sons, Jim and Michele Ford of Warren and Rob Ford and Denise Montefusco of Bedminster. He

is also survived by nine grandchildren, Jim and Mike Rennie, Ben, James, Tana and Trey Ford and Julia, Collin and Nicholas Sofo.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Memorial donations may be made to the Twins Mother's Club of Greater Plainfield Area or to the American Cancer Society.

Violet E (Riccardi) Pizza, 86

Violet E (Riccardi) Pizza died on Thursday, Aug. 15 in Simi Valley Care Center in Simi Valley, Calif.

Born in Plainfield, Mrs. Pizza resided in North Plainfield, Piscataway and Forked River before moving to Simi Valley 25 years ago.

She was a charter member of the North Plainfield Italian American Club and a member of St. Peter of Claver Church in Simi Valley where she was a member of the church's Altar Rosary Society. She was also a member of the Italian Catholic Federation of Simi Valley. Mrs. Pizza was a homemaker.

Her husband, Anthony, died in 1978 and her brother, Michael Riccardi, died in 2000.

Surviving are three daughters and sons-in-law, Carol and Frank Marinaro of Green Brook, JoAnn and Mike Apisa and Catherine and Michael Chabot, all of Simi Valley, Calif.; five sisters, Mary Pizza of South Plainfield, Evelyn Santy of Forked River, Madelyn Brueno of Whiting, Elinor Polkitor of Piscataway and Carmella Merrill of South Plainfield; four brothers, Anthony of Toms River, Fioravanti of South Plainfield, Irving of Fanwood and Frank of North Plainfield.

Also surviving are eight grandchildren, Joseph, Michael, Frank Lisa, Stacy, Andrea, Michelle and Michael; six great grandchildren and one great great granddaughter.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Mary L. (Brown) Morrice, 94

Mary L. (Brown) Morrice died on Monday, Aug. 19, at Old Bridge Manor Nursing Home.

Born in Lochgelly, Scotland, Mrs. Morrice had immigrated to the United States in 1932, settling in Newark. She had resided in Irvington and Newark before moving to Titusville, Fla. in the early 1970's. She had resided there for 10 years before spending time between her daughters homes in New Jersey and Florida.

Mrs. Morrice was a homemaker most of her life. She was a member of the Indian River City United Methodist Church in Titusville, Fla. and a member of the Order of the Eastern Star Liberty Chapter #88 of Kearny.

Her husband, Daniel Morrice, died in 1983. She is also predeceased by one sister and five brothers.

Surviving are two daughters; June

Issler of Edison and Elizabeth Rohrman of Jacksonville, Fla. Also surviving are four grandchildren, eight great grandchildren and one great great granddaughter.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Grant A. Smith, 76

Grant A. Smith of South Plainfield died on Sunday, Aug. 18 at his home.

Mr. Smith was born in Summit, where he grew up and attended Summit Schools. In 1949, he had earned his associates degree from the Union Jr. College in Cranford.

He moved to South Plainfield in 1954. For the past eight years he and his wife have also maintained a second residence in Dunedin, Fla.

He had retired in 1993 from the Hanover Twp. School System, where he had worked for 10 years. Prior to that, he had worked a salesman for the Horsefield Bros. Paint Store in Morristown for over 15 years.

Grant was an extremely proud veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard and during WWII he was attached to the U.S. Marines. He was stationed on the USS Cepheus AKA-18 and had operated landing barges for Marine Troops. He had been engaged in combat during the Invasion of Okinawa and other Pacific battles and had seen combat action in the European Theater including, England, France, Italy and Scotland. He had been awarded two Bronze stars along with his other various citations.

He was a member of the American Legion Chaumont Post #243 and the VFW Memorial Post #6763, both in South Plainfield. He was a former member of the Sons of the American Revolution. He was a former Boy Scout Leader in Summit for the Franklin School Troop in South Plainfield. He was also a former member of the South Plainfield Police Reserves.

He was predeceased by his brother, Harry Smith, Jr.

Surviving are his wife of 49 years, Lore Eberhardt Smith and a son, David G. Smith of South Plainfield.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Joseph A. Aniunas, 90

Joseph A. Aniunas of South Plainfield died on Monday, Aug. 19 at the JFK Hartwyck at Oak Tree Nursing Center in Edison.

He was born in Trotter, Pa. and has resided in South Plainfield for the last 80 years.

Joe was a mechanic for the Public Works Department in the Borough of South Plainfield for 25 years, before retiring in 1974.

He was a communicant of Our Lady Czestochowa Church in South Plainfield. He was the first trustee appointed at Our Lady of Czestochowa and served there five years. Joe was also a member of the Holy Name Society and an usher for many years.

He was a life member of the South Plainfield Polish National Home.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 66 years, Anna Kozumbo Aniunas; a son, Joseph and his wife Lillian Aniunas of Piscataway; a daughter, Louise and her husband Henry Menapace of Gouldsboro, Pa; a brother, Theodore Aniunas of South Plainfield; a sister, Ann Malecki of South Plainfield; eight grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory can be made to Haven Hospice c/o JFK Medical Center, 80 James St., Edison, NJ 08818.

Statewide Drought Emergency is Declared

South Plainfield residents should be aware that a water emergency was declared on Tuesday by Commissioner of Environmental Protection Bradley Campbell.

Because of the continued lack of rain and the persistently high temperatures, the water restrictions that were in place have not been enough. Water restrictions were imposed in March and then loosened in June, when substantial rainfall started to again fill the reservoirs. Those restriction were varied according which region residents lived in.

However, this August has been very dry, resulting in restrictions which have been applied statewide.

Some of the restrictions are:

- **Watering of lawns is banned**, except for new sod installed around new construction sites;
- **Restaurants cannot serve water**, unless a customer requests it.

• **Washing your car at home is prohibited**. However it is permitted at a commercial car wash that uses recycled water.

• **Trees and shrubs can be watered** every other day, on an odd/even basis, according to your odd/even house number.

• **Golf courses can use only 80%** of their permitted water allocations.

Violations of the drought restriction can mean jail time or fines of up to \$1,000. Commissioner Campbell said the DEP will vigorously enforce the new rules and urged local police department to do the same.

For information on the restrictions, log on to the DEP's drought information website at: www.nj.drought.org. The site has a complete list and explanation of each of the restrictions. The site is also updated regularly for the latest drought information.

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD LEGAL NOTICE

August 15, 2002

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Planning Board at its meeting held on August 13, 2002.

A. Case #651/V—Federated Fire Service, Inc.—Block 297; Lot 4; M-3 Zone, South Clinton Ave.—Applicant's request for preliminary and final site plan approval was hereby GRANTED.

B. Case #01-04/V/A—Strong Tower Development—Block 170; Lots 36 & 37; R7.5 Zone; 2102 & 2103 Plainfield Ave.—Applicants' request for preliminary and final subdivision with variances was hereby GRANTED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janice Muccilli,
Recording Secretary Planning Board

\$22.75 1T August 23, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD LEGAL NOTICE

August 15, 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 August 15, 2002.

A. Case #36-02—Thomas & Elaine Penicaro—Block 275; Lot 1, R-10 Zone; 205 Oakmoor Ave.—Applicant's request to disburse their application was hereby GRANTED, without prejudice.

B. Case #57-02—Michael DeCarlo—Block 195; Lot 41; R7.5 Zone; 127 Daniel Street—Applicant's request for front yard setbacks to construct a roof over existing porch was hereby GRANTED.

C. Case #55-02—Frank & Stephanie Chiricillo—1502 Chestnut St.; Block 144, Lot 6.—Applicant's request for rear yard setbacks to erect an addition were hereby GRANTED.

D. Case #53-02—Jeffrey Bogden—121 Palmer Ave., Block 14; Lot 2; R-10 Zone—Applicant's request for a use variance for a mother/daughter home was hereby GRANTED.

E. Case #56-02—Jeffrey Courtney—Block 78; Lot 12; 2356 Audubon Ave.—Applicant's request for a rear yard setback variance and variance for exceeding lot coverage for a deck, was hereby GRANTED.

F. Case #33-02—David & Jody Nissel—Block 154; Lot 10; 2039 Blacker Street—Applicant's request to withdraw their application was hereby GRANTED without prejudice.

G. Case #3-01/S/S/V/A—JH Reid General Contractor—Block 472; Lot 7.03; OBC-3 Zone; 3096 Hamilton Blvd.—Applicant's request for amended use variance and preliminary and final site plan approval was hereby GRANTED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janice Muccilli,
Secretary Zoning Board of Adjustment

\$49.00 1T August 23, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Victor Jordao requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the erection of an 8 x 10' wood shed; proposed shed lacks the required 5' rear yard setback, 2' being proposed and lacks the required 5' side yard setback, 1' being proposed; and any other variances that may be required, said property being located on Block 430, Lot 8.02 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, Sept. 12, 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 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

\$35.00 1T August 23, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Patrick and Anita Diegnan, 128 Smith Street, South Plainfield, New Jersey, requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a 22' x 21' deck with attached steps, said property being located on Block 394, Lot 1.02 on the South Plainfield Tax Map. A variance for lot coverage is requested, 25% lot coverage is permitted, 28% lot coverage is requested. In addition, any other variances or waivers from the Land Development Ordinance will be requested.

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, the 12th day of September, 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 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Patrick J. Diegnan, Jr.,
Applicant
\$35.00 1T August 23, 2002

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policereport

• On August 12 Diane Cito, 19, of South Plainfield was arrested at Kohl's for theft.

• Larnardo Pittman, 36, of South Plainfield was arrested on Harvard Ave. for disorderly conduct.

• On August 14 a Walter St. resident reported that his neighbor's house which he was watching had a broken storm window next the front door.

• On August 15 David Emanuel Cross, 44, of Plainfield was arrested at Twin City for shoplifting two boxes of Tylenol, four boxes of Anacin and three boxes of anti-diarrhea medicine worth \$66.43.

• Edgewood Properties reported the theft of a bathroom vanity from an apartment under construction on Joseph Ct.

• MCRI on Corporate Ct. reported that Saxet Consulting in Newark used a stolen debit card to rent 11 laptop computers.

• Sovereign Specialty Steel on New Market Ave. reported that someone had thrown debris at the building breaking 25 windows.

• Henry David Smith, 51, of Piscataway was arrested during a motor vehicle stop for drunk driving, careless driving, failure to stay right and failure to stop at a red light.

• On August 16 Raymond Segers, 39, of Plainfield was arrested during a motor vehicle stop for a revoked drivers license and hindering arrest.

• A Delmore Ave. resident reported that someone had damaged a young tree plant in her front yard.

• A Jackson Ave. resident reported the theft of her daughter's bike from their unlocked garage.

• On August 18 Rekha Dharia, 44, of Edison was arrested at Pathmark for shoplifting \$61.23 worth of hair clips.

• A Terrace Ave. resident reported the theft of his vehicle, which was left running and unlocked in front of Bruno's Pizzeria on Park Ave.

• Rogelio Bimeda Santos, 23, of North Brunswick was arrested on So. 10th St. for simple assault.

• Regal Cinema reported the theft of a Motorola radio from the usher stand.

• An employee of Dunkin Donuts on Maple Ave. reported the theft of a license plate from a Dunkin Donuts van.

• A Plainfield woman reported that someone had used her credit card number to make purchases at Macy's.

• Dexter May, 38, of Piscataway was arrested at Pathmark for attempting to leave the store with 10 boxes of eye drops worth \$47.90.

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IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued from page 2)

Yes, and we did it with pay-through-the-nose - oops, I mean pay-as-you-go - government. Anyway, even if you're not enjoying the roads, remember, things are looking up in South Plainfield, and we're not just talking about crime and traffic.

If you have any concerns, don't hesitate to contact me, the mayor, or any of the council members. We might even get back to you if you're not Jake Cataldo.

Yours truly,

The Council President

I'm hoping that after the mayor and his buddies on the council read this they will insert copies in their next borough-paid mailing. They have my permission.

ROBERT JONES, JR.

Dear Editor,

There are so many issues and not much space, but I'd like to express my opinion, as others did theirs.

We all know that Richard Nixon was a "Bad Boy" and was forced out of the oval office. Then we had Bill "Draft Dodger Lover Boy" Clinton, who ran a very corrupt government, along with Vice President Hillary Clinton, (or was that vice president Al Gore?).

We have had two previous governors—actually acting governors—from the republican side and now as I see it, a one term democratic governor.

Also, in Central New Jersey, we have had two Salazar's in the news. One Salazar stole a cell phone and the other stole time at her graduation.

Yes, America is the *Melting Pot* of the world, but when the melt solidifies, the outcome should result in speaking and understanding the English language.

I am married to a wonderful Filipina (a good cook too) and I insist that she teach our three to speak Tagalog. The eldest is Filipina and learned English at the age of six.

Name a country and the best bet is that someone from that country lives here. Many countries are starting to teach English since English is becoming the world language.

I listen to B.B.C. at 11:30 p.m. and find many young people in foreign countries speak very fluent English.

In order to bring our country back on track, we must first cut down on immigration, so that the *Melting Pot* doesn't boil over.

Our politicians, including G.W. Bush, must stop catering to the Hispanic speaking people. They do so, not to help them, but for their votes.

When we Americans decide to wake up as to what's going on in Washington, we might get together and vote out much of the trash "running" this country.

I don't care what the color of your skin, or where you came from—as long as you are legally here—no matter what your religion or language

you speak. If we all work for the best America ever, then the *Melting Pot* will never boil over.

**GOD BLESS YOU AND AMERICA,
TED ZYCHLINSKI**

Dear Editor,

Out on the campaign trail South Plainfield taxpayers are asking me why some builders get away with breaking the rules, while the town forces other people to wade through miles of red tape. They're right. Some people do get away with breaking the rules.

Take politically-connected builder Jack Morris as an example. He and his company, Edgewood Properties, never received an occupancy permit for their building at 105 West End Ave. (block 538, lots 8 to 11). Yet the building is being used. In addition, across the street on Borough-owned property, I saw a mountain of stockpiled dirt and some of Morris's heavy equipment.

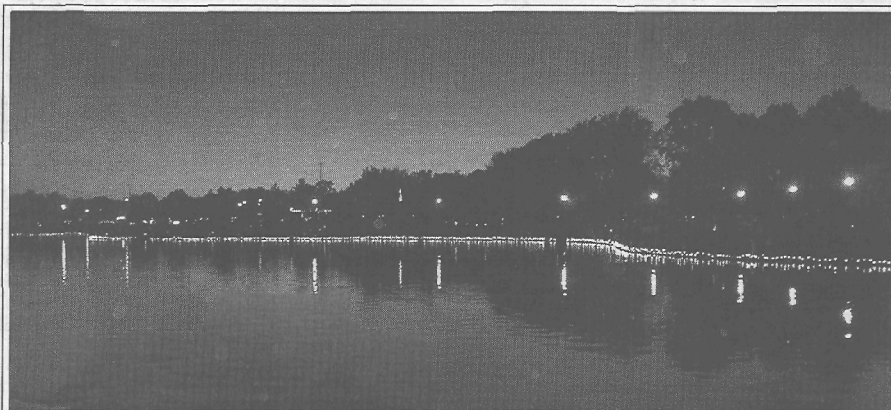
I then went to the building department and asked the secretary when the Borough issued an occupancy permit for Morris's West End Ave. building. Records indicate he purchased the site in April 2000. Yet, the Borough never required him to obtain an occupancy permit. I also asked about the dirt and equipment on Borough property. In response, they told me the mayor and council gave Morris permission to use the property. But when I asked if it was in writing, they had no answer.

The building department did have a request from Morris to stockpile dirt on property he purchased from Tingley Rubber on South Ave. (What could be in the plans for that site?) Even though the dirt's been there for a month, the Planning Board is not scheduled to review the request until Aug. 15 at 8 p.m.

The dirt's been there a month and Morris is asking permission to put it there now? Where did the dirt come from? Possibly the pond in Edison on the corner of Oak Tree Road and Plainfield Ave.? Or did it come from the site across from Lowe's in Piscataway? Or maybe Cappola Farms where Morris, with the town's permission, built 350 units of new housing? Given our experience at Veteran's Park, one also has to wonder whether the dirt is toxic or contains hazardous materials.

South Plainfield regulates where and how high dirt can be piled. In fact, in the recent past, the Borough issued a summons to a local excavator for this very infraction. Similarly, it's against the law to have a fuel-supply tank up against a building—something I saw when I drove past the site. Is the town going to issue a summons to Morris?

Some say Morris should get special treatment because he donated a \$100,000 senior citizen center to the town. Let's set the record straight.



Candlelight Memorial Set for Sept. 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 service held last year after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The event is the inspiration of Marion Gallagher, who was instrumental in planning last year's vigil. The SPHS Band, bagpipers and clergy, will lead the crowd in prayer and songs. The event will last about an half hour. Residents are asked to bring their own candles and to plan on placing them around the lake as was done last year.

While Morris did donate the labor and materials, he also benefited by taking between \$60,000 and \$70,000 worth of topsoil from the site. I witnessed it: for three days his people trucked it away. Morris also got a 350-unit site plan approved when he originally wanted a hundred fewer units. Given all this, I have one question: Who really paid for the senior center?

While the mayor and council's political friends get away with breaking the rules, local businesspeople pay a steep price for the same conduct. For example, a local excavator over the years donated use of his equipment and hours of labor to the Borough, but got very little credit in return. He helped with the construction of the PAL building, donated trucks with plows during snow storms and did excavation work for the rescue squad building and fire house at no cost to the taxpayers. What did he get in return? The Borough not too long ago, fined him \$8,000 for piling dirt and parking equipment on Borough property (a paper street) that dead ends to a railroad track. I see a double standard.

Also, consider the average homeowner who wants to add on a room or deck. They have to go through hours of aggravation and often hundreds or thousands of dollars just to get approval, not to mention complying with the town's onerous building requirements. In fact, a young couple in the Franklin School area just got turned down when they wanted to put an addition on their home. This was despite lack of opposition from the neighbors. The house is now up for sale. While all this goes on, those who are politically connected get away with breaking the rules.

It's the people of South Plainfield who pay when those in power allow their friends to get away with things. Just look at all the problems created by the construction projects. It's amazing how our quality of life in town is changing. It reminds me of a saying an old-time politician told me: "A town

falls apart one day at a time, and you can never afford to rebuild it."

**JAKE CATALDO,
CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR**

Dear Editor,

What's going on in Borough Hall? Over the past few months things seem to have run amuck. First our CFO resigned and was escorted out of the building after only a short time in office. Then we hired a new CFO at top dollar and a month or so later hired the old CFO to come in and tutor him. Maybe I'm missing something, but didn't the Borough Council recently tout the new CFO's credentials and abilities in this very paper? If the claims were true, why the training wheels? I later learned the mayor and council also gave ten grand to a former councilman turned borough clerk by adding the word *administrator* to his title.

After spending all this money, I still got my tax bill late—after it was due. And to top it all off, I just learned that the mayor and council only enacted a temporary budget. In doing this, they set a new tax rate, before even passing the final budget. One has to wonder how legit the tax rate is if the Democrats conjured it up before they even knew how much they were spending.

Is this the type of professional management the Democrats keep touting? The mayor and council boast about their so-called fiscal responsibility, but to me their claims are paper-thin. They fritter away our tax dollars much like Enron squandered shareholder money by heaping it on the company's top executives. In fact, it astounded me to learn from a letter in the paper a few weeks ago that the budget went up a million-plus dollars last year. I wondered how the politicians could spend so much more money in one year. Now I know. I'm voting Republican in November.

ANTHONY PISANIELLO

Dear Editor,

A few weeks ago a letter to the editor explained how a Democratic councilman was trying to trick people by distorting his opponent's positions and then attacking the distortion.

Well, they've done it again.

This time it's Council President James Vokral attacking one of the people who wants his job, Geoff Champion. Champion had a legitimate concern: the mayor and council knew about potentially toxic material in Veteran's Park for over a year before deciding to close the park. While he acknowledged that closing the park was a good thing, Champion questioned why town officials waited more than a year—until news crews came to town to do it.

Vokral responded by trying to smear Champion rather than answer the question. The council president chastised Champion for not being at a meeting—held long after the park was closed—where the council received information on the toxicity of the waste. At that meeting an environmental consultant explained that the sludge and asbestos found on the site probably create no imminent danger. Vokral's response also bragged about how the mayor and council "closed the park to be extra cautious to protect the health of our residents."

Vokral skirted the issue. Yes, we all agree (and even Champion agreed) that closing the park was the right thing. But why did it take reporters and news cameras to bring this about? Instead of being "sad" about Champion not being at some meeting, why didn't Vokral address that issue—the one Champion raised?

Instead of accusing people of "stooping to new lows," why didn't Vokral explain why he and the mayor let more than a year pass before closing the park? Apparently there was no good answer, so instead Vokral decided to distort Champion's position and then go on the attack. It didn't work.

The point here is simple. Don't brag about being "extra cautious" and "protecting residents" when the media embarrassed you into doing it. If you had closed the park and performed the testing when the problems first surfaced, you would have every right to boast. But instead you did nothing until you had to, and then you tried to look like a hero for doing it. It's the people of South Plainfield who should be sad, not you James Vokral.

KRYSTIEN FARAG

WANTED



We are looking for men to join the newly authorized Men's Auxiliary of the V.F.W. Memorial Post 6763.

Those joining now would be "Charter Members" of this organization. Eligibility requirements are: husbands, widowers, fathers, grandfathers, sons, grandsons, brothers of persons who were or are eligible for membership in the VFW of the United States.

For more information and/or application, call (908) 668-9751 or visit our post after 3 p.m. daily or 12 noon weekends.

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

