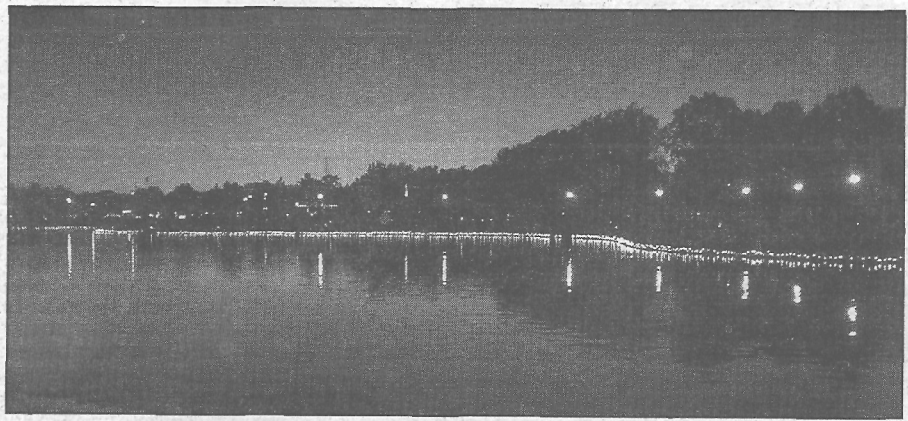


FILE



## Public Invited to Attend Candlelight Memorial Wednesday, September 11

A memorial candlelight vigil will be held at Spring Lake Park on September 11 at 7 p.m. It will be similar to the service held last year after the September 11 terrorist attacks. The SPHS 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 at the end of the service.

**Labor Day Parade Photos, Pages 6 & 7—Additional Coverage Next Week**

# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 6, NO. 2

50 CENTS

SEPTEMBER 6, 2002

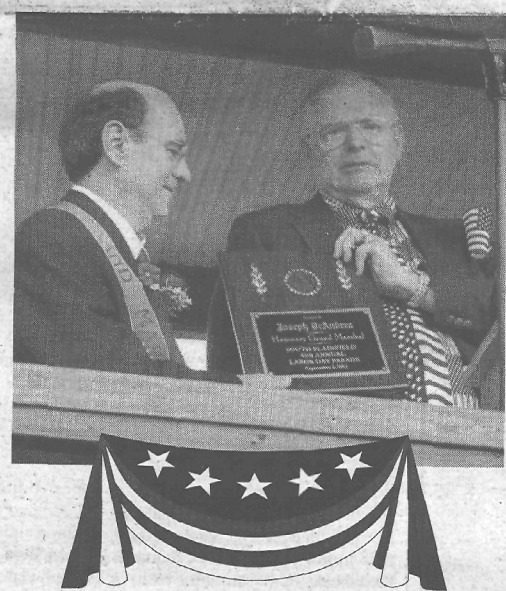
## Rains Couldn't Dampen 45th Annual Parade Celebration

The 45th Annual South Plainfield Labor Day Parade, the oldest continuous parade in New Jersey, again proved that when the community comes together, we put on a great show. Despite the last minute rerouting of the parade due to the closure of Veterans Park, and the heavy rains that washed out many area events all weekend, South Plainfield's Labor Day Parade and the rest of the day's events went off without a hitch. The only thing cancelled were the games planned for after the parade, due to the muddy conditions.

The Parade Committee held a meeting early Monday morning (while the rain was still coming down in buckets) to consider cancelling the parade. After checking with the weatherman, the committee decided that the parade would go on, but because of the muddy ball field behind the PAL, the vendors would be moved inside the building. The food vendors would still set up outside the building and cook outdoors.

Last month's decision by the parade committee to change the route because of the Veterans Park closure, upset many people, especially the retailers in the downtown area. The committee invited the merchants to set up a booth at the PAL.

On Monday morning, as vendors arrived and were told to set up inside, no one knew what to expect from the parade goers and were unsure if anyone would come into the PAL at all. It turned out to be a great decision. The PAL was filled with people, during and after the parade, and the food vendors outside sold most of their food by 1 p.m. Everyone we asked seemed to agree that was it better than being outside in the mud. The crowds also seemed to enjoy going inside and visiting the various booths set up by businesses and organizations.



Many politicians also participated in the Labor Day Parade, marching and shaking hands along the parade route.

Also appearing were Sponge Bob Square Pants, Spiderman and Scooby Doo, much to the delight of the children.

Crowds enjoyed the afternoon entertainment by "Backsplash" and, in the evening, "Sound Investment." The fireworks display was the final event and it was spectacular.

Nothing would have happened on Labor Day if not for the many volunteers who spent months of planning, and then worked tirelessly on Labor Day. If you see any of them, tell them what a great job they did. The only pay they receive is the satisfaction of putting together this yearly celebration. (What would this town be without our volunteers!)

Committee members are John Sorrentino, Don Alexa, Darlene Pinto, Marion Gallagher, Pat Vargo, Mike English, Joe Scrudato, Michael Mannix, Jr., Councilman Ray Petronko and Emergency Management Coordinator Mike Zushma.

In addition, working countless hours before and after the parade, were members of the police department, rescue squad, fire department, R.A.C.E. radio operators and the public works employees. Many thanks to Hall's Trucking for donating the use of their trucks for the floats, as well as the volunteers who drove them.

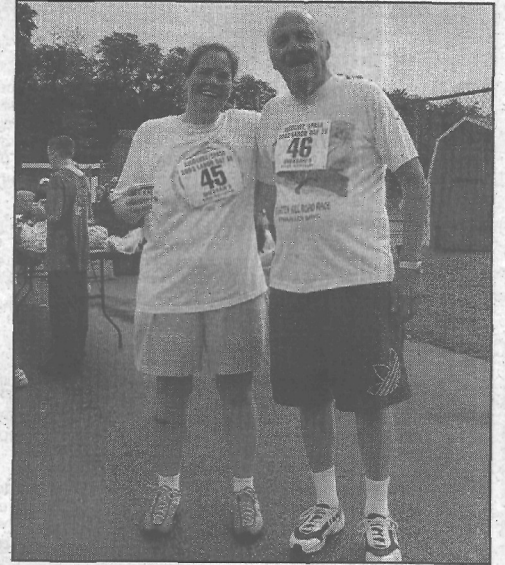
We will have more Labor Day coverage in next week's *Observer*.

The new parade route also seemed to be a success. Parade marchers thought the route was easier than the old one, with less sharp turns for the large floats. The entire route was packed with spectators who didn't seem to mind that the route had been changed or that it had rained all morning. They just enjoyed the festivities. Most spectators we talked to said it was one of our best parades, and they loved the small town feeling that our parade conveys.

Beginning with the first event early Monday morning with the police department awards and concluding with the evening fireworks, everything stayed on schedule. Members of the parade committee, who spent the entire summer planning this event, were all smiles by the end of the day, knowing that despite all of the problems that cropped up, the day was a success.

Race organizer Bill Beegle and his volunteers were gearing up for the 5K run and 1.5 mile walk by 7:30 a.m. Over 200 participants ran this year.

Bill Cochran, who has been the official parade announcer for years, kept everyone informed at the reviewing stand as the parade progressed, and introduced the groups as they arrived. Leading the parade was the SPHS Marching Band, followed by the 2002 Honorary Grand Marshal Joe DeAndrea, a life-long resident who was the architect for the PAL and Senior Citizen buildings.





# IN YOUR OPINION

## To the Editor:

The Cub Scouts of South Plainfield would like to thank Joe Tomei and Hall's Trucking for helping us out once again with the Labor Day Parade. As usual, Mr. Tomei volunteered his time and effort to coordinate the floats and gave us time to decorate them. We'd also like to thank the driver that volunteered his time to drive the float through the parade. Thank you!

**THE CUB SCOUTS OF  
FRANKLIN SCHOOL, KENNEDY  
SCHOOL, RILEY SCHOOL**

## Dear Editor,

Well, here we are again, election time in South Plainfield. Now many of you I'm sure don't pay too much attention to "politics" about now, when it gets to be the "Silly Season," and I don't blame you. Most of the rhetoric of the Republican Mayoral and Council candidates to date has been negative comments trying to imply that there is something "wrong" with the way Democratic majority is doing things. Many things have happened to us since last year. Particularly, the events of September 11 have made us realize how very important our democratic process really is, and that the quality of our elected officials is extremely important.

Don't you think that it's about time to "Stop the Baloney?" In these times when we are on the brink of serious global issues, state issues as well as local issues, can't we concentrate on the real issues facing our taxpayers, businesses and residents and solve them? That's what this Council is doing.

The current Council takes a lot of time to review information and develop solid plans and proposals to manage things like balancing the budget with no tax increase, paving many roads on a "Pay as You Go" basis, reducing the debt by 42%, managing traffic and environmental issues, dedicating open space, senior housing/rec-

reation, etc. We all work as a team, each with various talents to make the progress that you have seen over the last few years.

This year, Dan Gallagher, Ed Kubala, and myself are running for reelection. We have dedicated ourselves to making South Plainfield a better place to live and we would like to continue to do that for the taxpayers of this town. Please give us a chance to serve you for another term. Thanks!

**JIM VOKRAL, COUNCIL  
PRESIDENT**

## Dear Editor,

As much as I hate to, I must respond to Bill Thomas' letter in last week's paper. Mr. Thomas misrepresented some things I said, and then he attacked the misrepresentations.

First, I do not favor converting South Plainfield into a town of "row houses." Nor do I favor "congested neighborhoods," "less open space," or "flooding" as Mr. Thomas implies. I don't know what other accusations he plans to make, but for the record, I don't favor plagues, mass murders or stealing food from the poor either. I know he did not accuse me of these things yet, but who knows what's to come.

Second, I want to explain to Mr. Thomas the point of my letter he responded to. The big builders get away with things ordinary residents would never be allowed to. I witnessed them. My purpose was not to attack the Zoning Board for turning down someone's variance request. I did not even take a position on that. Rather, my purpose was to say how unfair it is for ordinary residents to be held to one standard while big builders who make donations to the Democrats are held to another. (Notice how Mr. Thomas never denied the donations.)

As the Zoning Board chairman, Mr. Thomas of all people should care about the things I reported.

In fact, the reason I attended the Aug. 15 Zoning Board meeting was

to learn whether the board would give Jack Morris the okay to stockpile dirt on the Tingley Rubber site. While I could not stay for the whole meeting, I later learned the board said yes. This is despite the fact that Morris started piling dirt on property that abuts wetlands before getting permission. Everyone else has to get a permit beforehand. I said it before and I'll say it again, I can only imagine what plans will emerge for that site after the election.

Finally, while I believe most people see through Mr. Thomas' thinly-veiled political agenda, I still must respond to his suggestion that simply questioning these violations equates to an attack on the people who volunteer their time to the Zoning Board. Many of us volunteer our time. That does not make our decisions immune from criticism. Moreover, I never said a word about the board or its members. Mr. Thomas should re-read my letter. He spent several paragraphs replying to an insult I never made — nor would make.

While I won't sink to using the condescending tone Mr. Thomas used toward me, I will end with one comment. People can see what's going on. The Democrats don't want to confront the problems they created. They don't want to admit taxes skyrocketed by almost 80%. They'd rather criticize me for saying it. They don't want to admit they knew about the problem in the park for over a year before the media embarrassed them into doing something. They'd rather criticize my running mate for pointing it out. If they would spend more time solving the problems than attacking the people who bring them to light, maybe they wouldn't have to spend so much time on damage control.

That being said, maybe we can now get back to the issues the people of South Plainfield tell me they care about: taxes, crime, traffic, and overbuilding.

**JAKE CATALDO, CANDIDATE  
FOR MAYOR**

## Dear Editor,

I have been honored to serve as your mayor for three terms. During this time, the new Democratic majority has literally turned South Plainfield around. I feel such a sense of accomplishment every time I pass our new Senior Housing Complex, the addition which doubled the size of the PAL, and the new Senior Rec Center. Nothing however makes me feel better than when I look at the financial statements of our Borough. Your Mayor and Council just introduced a Borough budget which for the third time in five years does not require a tax increase. At the same time we have once again included eight more roads to be repaved on a "pay as you go basis" which makes over 100 roads in just under seven years. The thing I'm most proud of is the reduction of our Borough debt. During the same time that our state government was going on a borrowing spree that put the taxpayers \$6 billion in debt, we here in South Plainfield actually reduced our debt by almost \$10 million. No other town in New Jersey can even come close to the fiscal stability of our Borough.

Clearly our Republican opponents have trouble accepting the facts about our Borough finances and they are trying their best to confuse the issue. I had to laugh at the letters from Republican Chairman David Gouth and Republican Mayoral Candidate Jake Cataldo in last week's paper. I guess they wrote them together because they both said exactly the same thing and they are just plain wrong on the facts. For example:

## 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](http://spobserver.com) or faxed to 908-668-8819. Deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. Letters must be accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. 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.*

(1) Both Gouth and Cataldo said, "When the Democrats took control in 1993." Well, the new Democratic majority led by Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral took office on January 1, 1994. South Plainfield is on a fiscal year budget which means the 1994 budget was adopted by the prior Republican administration in July of 1993 just before they were thrown out of office. It's good to see that even the Republican Mayoral Candidate is upset by that budget. Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral ran against the prior administrations borrow, tax and spend mentality. That's why the people elected them to council.

(2) Republicans Gouth and Cataldo go on to admit that the Borough tax rate dropped in 1999 "during Gallagher's last re-election bid." Well this one is kind of basic. The Mayor runs every four years. This year is 2002. The last time I ran for election was 1998. However, I am happy to see that the Republicans recognize that tax rate actually went down a small amount in 1999, it stayed the same in 2000 and it's flat again this year. That's three times in five years that there has been no municipal tax increase. Even my opponent admits the facts.

I think the voting public would respect the Republican candidates more if they simply congratulated the new Democratic majority on a job well done in terms of the Borough's finances and suggested ways we can work together to bring even more economies and efficiencies in the future. That would make it a win, win situation for all South Plainfield taxpayers. In the weeks between now and election day, Councilpersons Kubala, Vokral and I look forward to discussing the future of our Borough in a thoughtful and honest fashion with the Republican candidates.

**DAN GALLAGHER, MAYOR**

## Dear Editor,

As the Chairman of the Administration and Finance Committee, I am pleased to inform the taxpayers of South Plainfield that your Mayor and Council have introduced a budget which once again does not include a municipal tax increase. This is the third time since 1999 that there will be no municipal tax increase in South

Plainfield. I am proud to say that South Plainfield's finances have never been in better condition. What a difference from the last Republican budget which increased taxes six points and increased Borough borrowing by almost \$20 million. Since the new Democratic majority has taken control of our Borough's finances, South Plainfield's debt has been reduced by almost \$10 million. Compare that with the prior local Republican administration and the State Republicans under Christie Whitman who nearly borrowed the taxpayers into bankruptcy.

Between now and election day, our Republican opponents will be trying to confuse the facts about our Borough budget. As Casey Stengel used to say, "You can look it up." No tax increase in South Plainfield again this year. That's the third time since 1999!

Mayor Dan Gallagher, Jim Vokral, and I have worked hard to put South Plainfield's financial house in order. On Election Day, we ask for the opportunity to continue to work hard to keep you property taxes under control.

**VERY TRULY YOURS,  
ED P. KUBALA,  
COUNCILPERSON**

## Dear Editor,

One of the greatest honors one person can achieve in a democracy is to be elected by the people to be their representative and I am proud to say I did receive that honor to serve as a member of the South Plainfield Borough Council from 1999 to 2001. I have always been involved with the community, prior to politics, during and after my term expired. I have been on the Planning Board for five years and I am still active within the Democratic Party. Prior to running for office, I always viewed myself as "non-political." When I decided I wanted to get involved with local politics, I first sat back and tried to look at track records of both parties and how both parties conducted themselves during and after the campaign. One of the major issues that attracted me to the Democrats was the way they ran a clean, issue oriented campaign. I have lived in South Plainfield for 17 years, and I have never seen the Democrats throw mud at family members of candidates or Borough employees... even when those employees were relatives of the candidates. This was and still is an important issue to me, and to be honest, I wanted to stay out of this campaign and remain silent, but unfortunately I can not and I must speak my mind.

I can not sit back and have the credentials and the dedication of the Borough Clerk/Administrator and the Borough Chief Financial Officer be dragged through the mud. These two professionals are the finest and most qualified individuals who have ever

(Continued on page 12)

## South Plainfield Observer

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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.

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

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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)

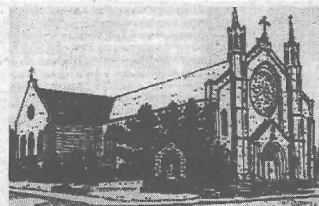
Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.

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



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### Skate Park Grand Opening Saturday

The grand opening of the new South Plainfield Skate Park, located behind Borough Hall, will take place this Saturday at 10 a.m. There will be professional demonstrations and contests. Fee for membership to the park is \$35 per person. To participate, you must register at the PAL, accompanied by a parent/guardian. Bring a report card, as well as your helmet. All participants must wear the required safety equipment in the park. The park will be open to all inline skaters and skateboarders, but bikes will not be allowed in the park.

### Remember Our Heroes by Donating Blood On 9-11

New Jersey Blood Services is inviting all residents to donate blood in honor of all those lost on September 11, 2001. NJBS has scheduled blood drives on Wednesday, Sept. 11, and asks that you please donate at one of the following locations:

Ethicon, a Johnson & Johnson Co., Rte. 22 West, Somerville, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.; Kean University, Morris Ave., Union, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.; St. Bartholomew's Church, 460 Ryders Lane, E. Brunswick, 3-8 p.m.; NJ Blood Services, 167-New St., New Brunswick, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Donors will receive a Commemorative Certificate that will be personalized with your name and presented to you at the drive.

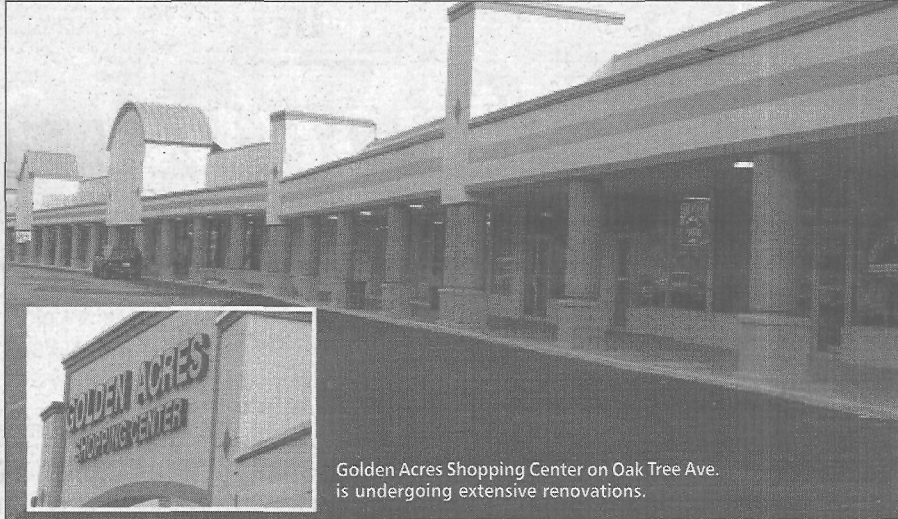
If these sites are not convenient for you, please call for additional dates and locations: 800-933-BLOOD (2566)

Donors must be between the ages 17\* and 75, weighing at least 110 pounds and be in good general health. The blood donation process takes less than an hour and includes a free mini medical exam (temperature, iron count, pulse rate and blood pressure).

Photo or signature ID is required and Social Security number.

Call 800-933-2566 to schedule an appointment at one of these blood drives. Walk-in donors are welcome.

*\*17-year-old must present written evidence of a parent's or guardian's permission to donate and must present proof of age.*



Golden Acres Shopping Center on Oak Tree Ave. is undergoing extensive renovations.

### Revamped Center to Offer a Variety of Shopping

By Patricia Abbott

Golden Acres Shopping Center is rapidly transforming into the shopping mecca of years gone by. While still in progress, the long awaited renovation now offers shoppers an updated facade along with the typical jumble of construction.

Steady progress has been made on the freestanding Wendy's which will be located in the Oak Tree/Park Ave. corner of the mall. According to Paul Mullins of Polimeni Realty, all but a few small units and the former Bradlees store have been leased. They are currently talking with two potential retail businesses about the entire 70,000-square-foot site.

Other tenants include Quiznos, a sub shop that is popular in the western U.S., a bagel shop and an 8,000-foot dollar store. The dollar store is

scheduled to open in a few weeks. Tony's Pizza, one of the original businesses, will be moving into the former Chinese restaurant site. They will be expanding to include an upscale Italian restaurant in addition to the popular pizzeria.

Once a hub of retail activity, the mall

fell into a slump, as one-by-one tenants vacated for newer locations, leaving a handful of persevering businesses in the ghost-town atmosphere.

Polimeni Realty will update the community as plans are finalized. More new tenants will be announced in the near future.

### southplainfieldpeople Milestone

#### Jankoski Earns Red, White & Blue Collar

Tiffany Lewis, owner and head instructor of the ATA Blackbelt Academy of South Plainfield has announced Red Belt Nick Jankoski has successfully achieved the honor of Junior Instructor Trainee. Nick started with ATA two years ago and has dedicated himself totally to Tae Kwan Do. Nick has achieved the current rank of Red Belt. Along the way Nick became a member of the Academy's SWAT team (Special Winning Attitude Team), which is the beginning of junior instructor training. Nick, the lowest rank in the academy to achieve this level, had to demonstrate his knowledge of ATA forms by properly demonstrating them at the school's color belt promotions.

Nick is also an active participant of the school's tournament team consisting of all students wishing to participate in various ATA sponsored re-



Nick Jankoski with Tiffany Lewis

gional tournaments. Nick travels with his family to tournaments from up state New York to as far south as the state of Delaware. Nick's next goal besides a first degree Blackbelt is the opportunity to compete this fall in the ATA Fall Nationals held in Orlando, Florida.

Good luck and congratulations!

#### John W. George Named Branch Manager Of Columbia Branch in South Plainfield

Columbia Bank announced that John W. George has been named branch manager in charge of their community branch office in South Plainfield, located at 620 Oak Tree Ave. and Case Dr.

Prior to joining Columbia, George served in a number of executive positions within Hudson United Bank, including vice president and director of training and development; vice

president, branch administrator; and assistant vice president, branch manager. He also served in branch management positions at First Atlantic Savings & Loan Association and at The Savings Bank of Central Jersey.

A well-known figure in banking, business and community affairs, George is a graduate of Virginia Military Institute (VMI) with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics. He and his wife, Janet, live in South Plainfield. They have two children.

With assets of nearly \$2.7 billion, Columbia Bank is New Jersey's ninth largest banking institution. Columbia operates 34 offices in ten counties statewide.

#### Specialty Gift Baskets


Gourmet coffee, tea, popcorn, crackers and cheeses.

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Mayoral candidate Jake Cataldo (third from left) takes time before the Labor Day parade to welcome Doug Forrester, candidate for U.S. Senate (fourth from left) to South Plainfield. Joining them is council candidate Geoff Champion (second from left), along with friends and family.



## Prudential Rose REALTORS®

Welcome Rose Marie Pelton



Bob Rose, Broker/Owner of Prudential Rose Realtors, is pleased to announce the addition of Rose Marie Pelton to his staff of expert realtors.

Rose Marie has earned membership in the prestigious NJAR Multi-Million Dollar Club from 1992 through 2001 with sales totalling over \$110 million dollars. She has helped over 1,000 families realize their dreams of owning their own home and is averaging over 75 closed transactions per year and is ranked in the top 1% for properties sold throughout the entire Prudential network of over 42,000 sales associates.

Please call Rose Marie Pelton at 908-753-4450, ext. 128 for assistance with all your real estate needs.

# 908-753-4450

## Watchung, NJ

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# events

## Suburban Woman's Club Meeting

September 5

The September meeting of the G.E.W.C. Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield will be held Thursday, Sept. 5, at 2 p.m. at the American Legion Hall on Oak Tree Rd.

The speaker will be Jim Cowley, vice president of operations at the Elizabethtown Water Co. His program is entitled, "The Importance of Water Conservation."

Also on the program is Kristina Ogenowski, a South Plainfield High School senior, who was chosen last year by the Suburban Woman's Club as a delegate at the Career Girls Institute held at Douglass College in June. She is invited to this meeting to relate her experiences at the Institute.

The Suburban Woman's Club meets monthly with interesting programs. Throughout the year many fund raisers are held to support their annual scholarship award and donations to various community charities. Any women interested in joining are welcomed to attend Sept. 5.

For further information, call (908) 754-7410.

## 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 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 Maszczak at (908) 769-7136.

## 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 8:30 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.

## Senior Center EVENTS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>EVENTS</b> Candlelight Memorial September 11 • 7 PM Spring Lake Park - Bring a candle Walk Down Memory Lane-Sept. 24 2pm-Old Songs & Food			Shopping at Pathmark 9AM	Walking Club 9 AM Bingo 10 AM-2 PM Pizza 11:30 AM (\$2)
Walking Club 9 AM Open 8 am-12 noon Adult Crafts 10:30-11:30	Bingo 10AM-2PM Aerobics/Dance 9AM	Walking Club 9AM Movie 11:30 AARP Crafts 1 PM AARP Board Meeting 2 PM	Shopping at Pathmark 9AM Practical Crafting 10-11AM	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.

## Music Booster Mtg.

September 9

The Music Boosters will meet at 7 p.m. in the band room of SPHS. Every parent of a music student is encouraged to attend. We will be discussing football games, competition schedules, our festival, Meals on Wheels and so much more. Please come and help support our students in the music program—your help is needed!!!!

## Historical Society Mtg.

September 10

The regular next meeting of the Historical Society will be Tuesday, Sept. 10, at 7:30 p.m. in SPHS library. The public is invited to attend.

## VFW Annual Picnic To be Held

September 14

Memorial Post #6763 will hold their annual picnic on Sept. 14 on the Post ground, located on 155 Front St.

In addition to food and beverages, there will be music by Luke O'Malley, a Moon-Walk, pony rides for the children and door prizes. 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 and \$7 at the gate; \$12 in advance for 13 years and older and \$14 at the gate.

Tickets are available at the Post

Home daily after 4 p.m. or 12 noon on weekends. For info, (908) 668-9751 during the above hours.

## Adult School Trip Night

September 18

The South Plainfield Adult School fall semester brochure will be mailed out shortly. It contains many interesting classes and trips for the entire family.

On Wednesday, Sept. 18 at 7 p.m. at the SPHS auditorium, the Adult School will hold a Trip Night. There will be a slide presentation on a number of upcoming trips as well as refreshments and door prizes.

If you would like to attend, please call (908) 754-4620 ext. 213 or 217.

## — Out of Town —

## Wesley Methodist to Hold Open House

September

Wesley United Methodist Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave. would like to welcome everyone to "Open House Month" for September.

These special Sundays include our Coffee Hour, fellowship time and a tour through a church that has been serving the South Plainfield area for over 100 years.

Reinforcing the promise of Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors, a Service of Remembrance will be held on Sunday, Sept. 8 at 10:30 am for those lost in the national tragedy.

Ecumenical Praise Service resumes Sept. 5 at 7 p.m. and Childrens Church School begins Sept. 15 at 9 a.m. All are welcome.

Sept. 22 we will host a Spaghetti Luncheon following Sunday service.

For more information, call Pastor Leono at (908) 757-2838.

## Charity Fundraiser 5K Run & Fun Run

September 8

The 78<sup>th</sup> Division U.S. Army Reserve is sponsoring a 5K Run/Walk, the "Lightning 5K," as well as a 1-mile "Fun Run" on Sunday, Sept. 8.

Both events will begin at the Kilmer Reserve Center, 91 Truman Dr. South in Edison. "Fun Run" begins at 9 a.m. "Lightning 5K" starts at 9:30 a.m.

Events open to the public. Proceeds sponsor a holiday party for physically challenged children and young adults.

Runners pay an entrance fee of \$16 after Sept. 5. Fee on race day is \$20. First 500 to register receive a commemorative t-shirt.

For application and directions visit [www.78divarmy.mil/5k](http://www.78divarmy.mil/5k). For more info call Rich Miller (800) 575-9073 x1833 or Karl Chigas (732) 867-2046.

## 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 rec-

ognition 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 info, call the office at (732) 469-1425 or check our website at [www.alliancebiblechurch.com](http://www.alliancebiblechurch.com).

## Tourette Syndrome Meeting

September 12

The Tourette Syndrome Association of NJ - Middlesex/Union County Family Support Group will meet on Thursday, Sept. 12 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Neuroscience Institute of JFK Medical Center, 65 James St. in Edison.

Guest speaker is Cheryl Meehan from Arizona who will speak about her challenges with Tourette Syndrome and her healing process through alternative means.

For more information, call Marilyn at 908-757-5074 or after 6 p.m. call Debbie at (732) 283-1439.

## Woodbridge WOW Dance Social

September 15

The Woodbridge Area Widows Or Widowers (WOWS) Dance/Social will be held on Sunday, Sept. 15, 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Live Band and refreshments. Cost is \$8. The event takes place at the Elk's Hall, 665 Rahway Ave. in Woodbridge. For further information, call (732) 297-1775.

## 2002 Middlesex Co. 4-H Open House

September 22

On Sunday, Sept. 22, there will be an Open House from 1 to 4 p.m. at the 4-H Center (645 Cranbury Rd.) on the corner of Cranbury and Fern roads in East Brunswick.

The Open House is part of 4-H's Fall Fest—a fun, free family event which takes place the weekend of Sept. 20-22. In addition to 4-H displays and demonstrations, Fall Fest will showcase animals, rides, a haunted house, vendors, games and crafts.

For more information on the Open House, contact the Middlesex County 4-H office, (732) 745-3446.

For directions to the 4-H Center visit [www.co.middlesex.nj.us/extensionservices/4hclubs.asp](http://www.co.middlesex.nj.us/extensionservices/4hclubs.asp).

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

## V.F.W. PICNIC

September 14, 2002  
12 Noon to 5 pm

Rain or Shine

- Moon Walk • Live Music •
- Pony Rides •
- Food & Beverages •

In Advance: Adults \$12, Kids 6-12 yrs. \$6.  
At the door: Adults \$14, Children 6-12 yrs. \$7.  
Kids Under 6 are Free



For tickets, call 668-9751

Door prizes include 2-24" bicycles

## EVENT RESCHEDULED

## POLICE VS. FIRE DEPARTMENT

IN THE ANNUAL

## "Battle of the Badges"

BENEFIT BASEBALL GAME

to be held on

Friday, September 6 • 7:30 p.m.

at the Junior Baseball Complex, Little League Field 2



This annual charity game benefits the South Plainfield Handicapped Childrens' 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. Elks Club will be operating the concession stand.



## From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

So, did you have a good summer? Are you planning on having a good autumn? Are you planning on spending time at South Plainfield Library? We hope the answer is "Yes" to all three questions. Here's the latest Library news: This month's group of Circuit videos is now available. Titles this month include *Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within*, *Powerpuff Girls: Birthday Bash*, *Silent Movie*, *Taxi Driver* and, on DVD, *Angela's Ashes*. Videos and DVDs may be borrowed, four at a time, for two days.

There will be a meeting for parents of homeschoolers in our Children's Room, Monday at 7:30 p.m. No pre-registration required.

Following an end-of-summer hiatus, we're returning to our usual schedule of children's Storytime programs next week. The programs are for children ages three and over; no pre-registration is needed. Each program lasts about an hour and features stories and a craft activity. Storytimes are held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. Also, there will be a Kidcraft program for children ages six and over on Monday, Sept. 16, at 6:30 p.m. Children are asked to sign up in advance. For more information, please call (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda.

The next meeting for the Friends

of the Library is scheduled for Tuesday afternoon at one o'clock. Both members and non-members are welcome to attend.

The Library Board of Trustees will hold a meeting on Tuesday evening at 7:30. The public is invited to attend what promises to be an informative meeting.

We'll continue to hold classes in basic computer use in Sept. We're also re-starting our Job Information Center classes. Space is limited, you must register in advance. To learn more about the classes, or sign up, call us and ask for Allan or Marcia.

We've made a change regarding books from the Foreign Language Circuit. Those books may now be borrowed for four weeks, rather than the previous period of two weeks. The present group from the Circuit includes books in Vietnamese, Korean, Chinese, Hindi and Gujarati. You'll find them shelved back by the public photocopy.

The newly redesigned Library cards are now available. Patrons have a choice between full-sized cards and key tags while supplies last. Those who signed up during our cardless period should stop by and pick up their new cards as soon as they can. Meanwhile, older library cards (even the ones with the metal plates) are still accepted, as long as our computers can read the bar codes.

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

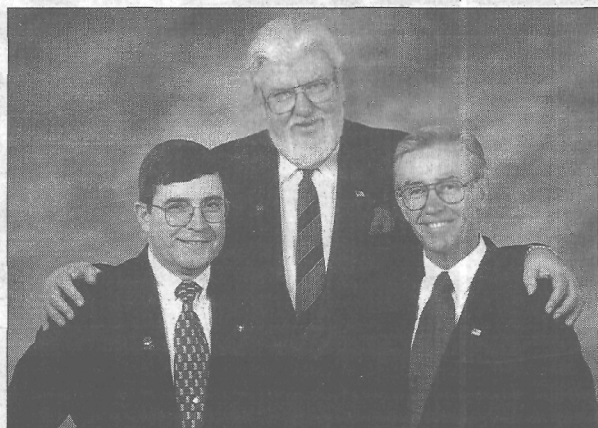
## From the Democrats

# Mayor Gallagher and Councilmen Kubala, Vokral Look Forward To Campaign 2002

"Labor Day marks the unofficial end of summer and the beginning of the campaign season," Mayor Dan Gallagher said this week. "I look forward to the nine weeks between now and election day as an opportunity to discuss what Ed Kubala, Jim Vokral and I, as part of the New Democratic Majority, have been able to accomplish for our Borough. Of equal importance is our goals for South Plainfield's future, if we are fortunate enough to be reelected."

Councilperson Ed Kubala agreed with Mayor Gallagher saying, "It's hard to believe that it's been almost nine years since Jim Vokral and I promised to 'take back South Plainfield' from the mismanagement of the prior Republican Administration. I am proud to say that we kept our word to the people of our great town. Remember when the Republicans doubled the borough debt by borrowing almost \$20 million in one year? Remember when Hadley Rd. looked like a moon crater and our parks were so bad, you were afraid to let your kids play in them? Remember when we were told we would never have senior housing, or a senior rec center or an addition to the P.A.L.? But my favorite of all... Remember when the Republicans publicly ridiculed us and said 'you can't have pay as you go in government?'"

Council President Jim Vokral expanded on his running mates comments, "Since the Democrats took control of the council, this will be the third time that there will be no municipal tax increase in South Plainfield. By comparison, there



(Left to right) Borough Council President Jim Vokral, Councilman Ed Kubala and Mayor Dan Gallagher.

were't even two years of level taxes during the prior 20 years. We have paved over 100 roads on a 'pay as you go' basis. The prior Republican Administration paved two and borrowed over a million dollars to do it. The Republicans ignored our seniors and our recreation program for decades. This Mayor and Council doubled the P.A.L., opened a beautiful 100 unit senior housing complex and a 10,000-square-foot state-of-the-art Senior Recreation Center, all in one year. I could go on and on but Dan and Ed and I will be discussing these items in the upcoming weeks."

Mayor Dan Gallagher summed up the Democrats position "On top of all of the things Ed and Jim talked about, the most impressive thing to me is the slashing of our Borough debt. The prior Republican Administration and its appointees so mismanaged our Borough finances that in 1994, the South Plainfield ship of state was sinking in debt. They had people in positions of authority who didn't even know how to use a computer. As a result of putting generally accepted business practices into effect, we have turned this borough's finances around where we have actually reduced South Plainfield's debt by

almost \$10 million. In fact, if we stay the course, our debt will be virtually eliminated within five years, which will result in more than a one million dollar savings every year. That is an almost ten point tax savings every year! If the New Democratic Majority is permitted to keep its conservative fiscal policies in place, we will be the first municipality in New Jersey to have permanent tax cuts along with 'pay as you go'."

Mayor Gallagher and Councilpersons Kubala and Vokral ended their comments by asking the Republican slate to run an issue oriented campaign. Jim Vokral spoke for the Democrats saying "I'm sure there are things about our record and their vision for South Plainfield's future that they disagree with us about. Lets all run a clean campaign that we all can be proud of."

### Environmental Commission Meeting Date Change

The Wednesday, Sept. 11 meeting of the South Plainfield Environmental Commission has been changed to Wednesday, Sept. 18.

Questions? Please call (908) 226-7621.

Come see us Sat., Sept. 7 at

## Art on the Green

10 am-4:30 pm Washington Park  
Stop by for a free gift

www.bunchis.com

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Mon.-Sat.  
9am-7pm  
Sunday 11am-4pm

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Gifts, Home Decor & Custom Painting  
179 & 175 Front St., South Plainfield (908)755-4049

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**Craft Party**  
booking with this coupon

**FRIDAY NITE SPECIAL**  
3 Hour-  
**One Stroke Project**  
7 p.m.  
with this coupon

**FREE**  
\$5 Gift Certificate with any  
**Kids Craft Class**  
registration with this coupon

### Budget Hearings Open to the Public

Municipal Budget Hearings for department heads are open to the public: Monday, Sept. 9 and Friday, Sept. 13, 6-8 p.m.

## Osteoarthritis Patients Needed for a Clinical Trial

### Do you have Osteoarthritis of the Knee, Hip, Hand, or Spine?

If so, and you are at least 50 years old, you may qualify for a medical research study to test an investigational medication to treat osteoarthritis. Benefits of being in the study include study medication, study-related physician visits, lab work, and reimbursement for study-related office visit travel.

Also recruiting for the following:  
**WEIGHT LOSS • INSOMNIA (Trouble Sleeping) • OSTEOPENIA (Bone Loss)**

For further information, please call:

**Anderson & Collins Clinical Research, Inc.**  
908 Oak Tree Road, Suite H  
South Plainfield, NJ 07080  
[www.centerwatch.com/pro230.htm](http://www.centerwatch.com/pro230.htm)  
(908) 561-5445

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## Carousel

### Hair Salon

### Want a New Look?

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

**307 Oak Tree Ave. 908-668-8397**  
Wed.-Fri 8am-4pm, Sat 6:45am-3pm, Closed Sun/Mon/Tues

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### Physical Therapy Center

of South Plainfield & Woodbridge  
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See Next Week's Issue for More Coverage of Parade and 5K Run



2002 Labor Day Parade  
Grand Marshal Joe DeAndrea

★ ★  
South Plainfield  
Celebrates at the  
45th Annual

★ ★ Labor Day Parade

***“Celebrating Our Freedom”***





# Labor Day Parade Brings Out the Best of South Plainfield



## ★ ★ ★ 2002 Parade Trophies Winners ★ ★ ★

**HONORARY GRAND MARSHAL TROPHY—SOUTH PLAINFIELD SOCCER CLUB**  
*Presented by Honorary Grand Marshal to best overall entry in his/her opinion.*

**JUDGES' TROPHY—SOUTH PLAINFIELD FOOTBALL EAGLES & CHEERLEADERS**  
*Best overall entry as determined by judges*

**GEORGE W. L. PAGE TROPHY—JJ GARDNER DETACHMENT MARINE CORPS**  
*Presented to the best civic entry*

**BEST YOUTH MUSICAL GROUP—SPHS MARCHING BAND & FLAGS**  
*Awarded by judges to the best youth (high school and under) musical performing group*

**BEST ADULT MUSICAL GROUP—PASSAIC COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT BAND**  
*Awarded by judges to the best adult musical performing group*

**BEST APPEARING MARCHING GROUP—LEGIONNAIRE'S MARCHING BAND**

**BEST MUNICIPAL GROUP—SOUTH PLAINFIELD LIBRARY**  
*Given to the best overall entry connected to the borough government*

**BEST NON-INSTRUMENTAL PERFORMING GROUP—RESCUE HOUSE OF PRAYER WARRIOR DRILL TEAM**  
*Awarded to the best appearing drill team, twirling group, gymnastic group, etc.*

**BEST YOUTH GROUP—CEDARCROFT BIBLE SCHOOL**  
*Awarded to the best appearing youth (high school and under) entry*

**MOST OUTSTANDING FLOAT—SOUTH PLAINFIELD TIGER SHARKS & DIVE TEAM**  
*Best overall float*

**BEST YOUTH GROUP FLOAT—SOUTH PLAINFIELD JUNIOR BASEBALL 9-YEAR-OLD TRAVELING ALL STAR TEAM**  
*High school and under*

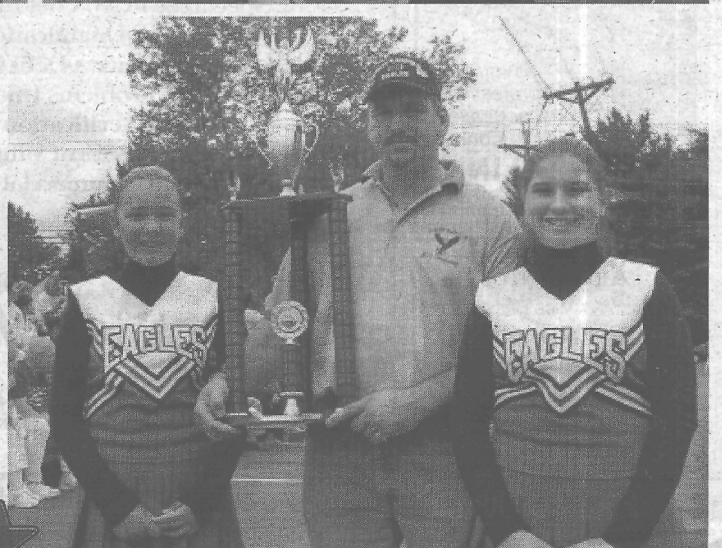
**BEST CIVIC GROUP—SENIOR CITIZENS VAN**

**MOST PATRIOTIC FLOAT—NEW MARKET FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**MOST OUTSTANDING VISITING ENTRY—JAM STEPPERS OF PLAINFIELD**  
*Awarded to the best appearing entry from outside South Plainfield*

**BEST ANTIQUE VEHICLE—SOUTH PLAINFIELD CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**  
*Awarded to the best appearing antique vehicle entry of any kind entered as a separate unit*

**MARIE D. PAGE MUSICAL PERFORMANCE AWARD**  
**—PAMELA JANIISZAK, MISS CENTRAL JERSEY**  
*Awarded to the best overall instrumental musical performance entry*





SOUTH PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

# Fall 2002

# SPORTS SCHEDULE

## VARSITY FOOTBALL

### SEPTEMBER

6	Fri.	Morris Hills (scrimmage)	Away	3:45
14	Sat.	Marist	Away	7:00
21	Sat.	J. F. Kennedy	Away	1:00
27	Fri.	Vineland	Home	7:00

### OCTOBER

5	Sat.	Monroe Township	Away	1:00
11	Fri.	Carteret	Home	7:00
18	Fri.	Colonia	Home	7:00
25	Fri.	North Brunswick	Away	7:00

### NOVEMBER

1	Fri.	Bishop Ahr	Home	7:00
15	Fri.	State Playoffs		
28	Thurs.	North Plainfield	Home	10:00am

## JUNIOR VARSITY FOOTBALL

### SEPTEMBER

6	Fri.	Morris Hills (scrimmage)	Away	3:45
16	Mon.	Marist	Home	3:45
23	Mon.	J. F. Kennedy	Home	3:45
30	Mon.	Vineland	Home	4:00

### OCTOBER

7	Mon.	Monroe Township	Home	3:45
14	Mon.	Carteret	Away	3:45
21	Mon.	Colonia	Home	3:45
28	Mon.	North Brunswick	Home	3:45

### NOVEMBER

4	Mon.	Bishop Ahr	Away	3:45
18	Mon.	North Plainfield	Away	4:00

## FRESHMAN FOOTBALL

### SEPTEMBER

13	Fri.	Marist	Home	3:45
20	Fri.	J. F. Kennedy	Home	3:45
27	Fri.	Vineland	Away	4:00

### OCTOBER

4	Fri.	Monroe Township	Home	3:45
11	Fri.	Carteret	Away	3:45
19	Sat.	Colonia	Away	10:00am
25	Fri.	North Brunswick	Home	3:45

### NOVEMBER

1	Fri.	Bishop Ahr	Away	3:45
18	Mon.	North Plainfield	Home	4:00

## VARSITY & JUNIOR VARSITY BOYS SOCCER

### SEPTEMBER

6	Fri.	New Providence/Roselle (scrim)	Away	3:30
11	Wed.	Bound Brook (scrimmage)	Home	3:45
13	Fri.	J. F. Kennedy	Home	3:45
18	Wed.	Sayreville	Away	3:45
20	Fri.	North Brunswick	Home	3:45
24	Tues.	Monroe Township	Away	3:45
26	Thurs.	Perth Amboy	Home	3:45
27	Fri.	Middlesex	Home	3:45
28	Sat.	Colonia	Away	1:00
30	Mon.	Woodbridge	Away	3:45

### OCTOBER

2	Wed.	J. F. Kennedy	Away	3:45
4	Fri.	Sayreville	Home	3:45
8	Tues.	North Brunswick	Away	3:45
10	Thurs.	Monroe Township	Home	3:45
15	Tues.	Perth Amboy	Away	3:45
17	Thurs.	Colonia	Home	3:45
19	Sat.	J. P. Stevens	Home	11:00am
21	Mon.	Woodbridge	Home	3:45
28	Wed.	Delaware Valley	Away	4:00

### GMC Tournament State Tournament

• football • soccer •  
tennis • gymnastics •  
cross country • field  
hockey • football •  
• cross country

## FRESHMEN BOYS SOCCER

### SEPTEMBER

6	Fri.	New Providence/Roselle (scrim)	Away	3:30
13	Fri.	J. F. Kennedy	Away	3:45
16	Mon.	Metuchen	Away	3:45
18	Wed.	Sayreville	Home	3:45
20	Fri.	North Brunswick	Away	3:45
24	Tues.	Monroe Township	Home	3:45
26	Thurs.	Perth Amboy	Away	3:45
28	Sat.	Colonia	Home	10:30am
30	Mon.	Woodbridge	Home	3:45

### OCTOBER

2	Wed.	J. F. Kennedy	Home	3:45
4	Fri.	Sayreville	Away	3:45
8	Tues.	North Brunswick	Home	3:45
10	Thurs.	Monroe Township	Away	3:45
15	Tues.	Perth Amboy	Home	3:45
17	Thurs.	Colonia	Away	3:45
19	Sat.	J. P. Stevens	Away	11:00am
21	Mon.	Woodbridge	Away	3:45

## VARSITY & JUNIOR GIRLS SOCCER

### SEPTEMBER

6	Fri.	Perth Amboy (scrimmage)	Home	3:45
11	Wed.	Bound Brook (scrimmage)	Away	3:45
18	Wed.	Sayreville	Home	3:45
20	Fri.	North Brunswick	Away	3:45
24	Tues.	Monroe Township	Home	3:45
26	Thurs.	Perth Amboy	Away	3:45
28	Sat.	Colonia	Home	11:00am
30	Mon.	Woodbridge	Home	3:45

### OCTOBER

4	Fri.	Sayreville	Away	3:45
5	Sat.	Spotswood	Away	11:00am
8	Tues.	North Brunswick	Home	3:45
10	Thurs.	Monroe Township	Away	3:45
12	Sat.	J. P. Stevens	Away	2:00
15	Tues.	Perth Amboy	Home	3:45
17	Thurs.	Colonia	Away	3:45
18	Fri.	North Plainfield	Away	7:00
21	Mon.	Woodbridge	Away	3:45
23	Wed.	Delaware Valley	Home	4:00

### GMC Tournament State Tournament

## BOYS & GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

### SEPTEMBER

10	Tues.	J. F. Kennedy	Home	3:45
18	Wed.	Carteret	Away	3:45
24	Tues.	Perth Amboy	Home	3:45

### OCTOBER

1	Tues.	Bishop Ahr	Away	3:45
9	Wed.	North Brunswick	Home	3:45
15	Tues.	Sayreville (boys)	Away	3:45
19	Sat.	GMC Meet	Away	
29	Tues.	Colonia	Away	3:45

### NOVEMBER

5	Tues.	Monroe Township	Home	
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### State Sectionals

## VARSITY & JUNIOR VARSITY FIELD HOCKEY

### SEPTEMBER

10	Tues.	Delaware Valley (scrimmage)	Away	4:00
13	Fri.	Cranford @ Orange Ave.	Away	4:00
17	Tues.	Monroe Township	Away	3:45
19	Thurs.	Sayreville	Home	3:45
23	Mon.	South Brunswick	Away	3:45
25	Wed.	Old Bridge	Home	3:45
27	Fri.	Piscataway	Away	3:45
30	Mon.	Lawrenceville Prep	Away	4:00

### OCTOBER

1	Tues.	East Brunswick	Home	3:45
3	Thurs.	Metuchen	Home	3:45
7	Mon.	Monroe Township	Home	3:45
9	Wed.	Sayreville	Away	3:45
11	Fri.	South Brunswick	Home	3:45
15	Tues.	Old Bridge	Away	3:45
17	Thurs.	Piscataway	Home	3:45
21	Mon.	East Brunswick	Away	3:45
23	Wed.	Metuchen	Away	3:45
25	Fri.	Westfield	Home	3:45

### GMC Tournament State Tournament

## GIRLS TENNIS

### SEPTEMBER

9	Mon.	Colonia	Away	3:45
11	Wed.	Monroe Township	Home	3:45
12	Thurs.	Carteret	Away	3:45
13	Fri.	J. F. Kennedy	Home	3:45
17	Tues.	Bishop Ahr	Away	3:45
19	Thurs.	North Brunswick	Home	3:45
20	Fri.	Mother Seton	Home	3:45
24	Tues.	Old Bridge	Away	3:45
25	Wed.	Perth Amboy	Away	3:45

### OCTOBER

1	Tues.	Metuchen	Away	3:45
2	Wed.	Colonia	Home	3:45
4	Fri.	Monroe Township	Away	3:45
7	Mon.	Carteret	Home	3:45
8	Tues.	J. F. Kennedy	Away	3:45
10	Thurs.	GMC Tournament	Away	
11	Fri.	GMC Tournament	Away	
12	Sat.	GMC Tournament	Away	
14	Mon.	Bishop Ahr	Home	3:45
16	Wed.	North Brunswick	Away	3:45
18	Fri.	Mother Seton	Away	3:45
23	Wed.	Perth Amboy	Home	3:45

### State Tournament

## GYMNASTICS

### SEPTEMBER

14	Sat.	Pioneer Classic @Somerville	Away	12:30
19	Thurs.	Old Bridge	Away	4:30
24	Tues.	Bishop Ahr	Away	5:00
26	Thurs.	Sayreville	Home	5:30

### OCTOBER

1	Tues.	South Brunswick	Home	5:30
10	Thurs.	Piscataway	Away	4:00
15	Tues.	East Brunswick	Home	6:00
17	Thurs.	North Brunswick	Away	4:30
24	Thurs.	GMC Championships Old Bridge		
29	Tues.	Somerville	Home	5:30
30	Wed.	Novice Meet		

### NOVEMBER

2	Sat.	Sectional Meet		
8	Fri.	Team & Individual Championships		

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President



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& CIGNA**  
Medicare and Medicaid Provider  
Solaris In-Network DME Provider

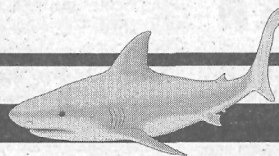
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# Sports



Joey Glowacki and Kevin Bickunas, who have been leading the way all season long for Witty's Liquors, came through once again as Witty's soundly defeated Plainfield Animal Hospital, 16-4, earning first-place honors in the American Division of the South Plainfield Golf League. Glowacki had a sparkling even-par 33 and Bickunas shot a fine round of 35.

Jim Pornovets fired a 37 to lead his team to a 12-8 win over Hummel to gain a third-place finish.

Aiello Chiropractic finally showed the form that was expected of them in crushing Twin City, 19-1. Mike Kavka had an excellent even-par round of 33, and Capt. Fred Kirchofer of Aiello had a 36 in leading his team to their resounding win.

In the National League, Sport and Social came out with a fired-up team effort and totally crushed Patti's Construction, 20-0 to gain the first-place title in the National League.

Last year, Sport & Social finished ninth in the twelve-team league. This season, after winning the National Division crown, Sport & Social has a chance to finish first over-all if they can get by Witty's Liquors in playoff action.

In other National Division matches, Kevin Boyce's one-over-par 34 helped Hank's Hackers gain a 12-8 win over the South Plainfield Police.

Masters easily defeated VFW, 16-4, as Vic Frederico shot a solid round of 36 and Al Szumski chipped in with a 37. Bob Nilan of VFW came through with a 36 in a losing cause.

## SWIMMING

### Tiger Sharks Take Third at Frog Hollow

South Plainfield Tiger Sharks took a third place trophy, losing second place by only six points, in the annual NJSDC B League Championships held July 27 at the Frog Hollow Swim and Tennis Club in South Amboy.

As a whole, the Tiger Shark team scored 288 points for the day long races, losing second place by 6 points to Roycefield Swim Club of Hillsborough. Crystal Springs of East Brunswick took the first place trophy with a score of 321 points.

Individual Tiger Sharks medal winners included the following swimmers, with medals given for each race from first through sixth place: In the eight and under division: Maggie Valentino took second place in the 25m freestyle and third place in the 25m backstroke; Kelly McLaughlin took fourth place in the 25m breaststroke; Dave Brzozowski claimed first place in the 25m backstroke (boys); Kate O'Brien took first place in the 25m breaststroke and fourth in the 25m backstroke; Grace Piekarski took fifth in the 25m breaststroke and Dylan McDermott claimed first in three events for the boys: 25m freestyle, breaststroke and butterfly. All events are divided into male and female categories.

For the nine- and ten-year-old swimmers, Tiger Shark scorers were: Sarah Konops, fourth, 100m freestyle, and fifth, 50m freestyle; Steve Grzenda, fifth, 100m freestyle and fifth, 50m breaststroke; Emily Piekarski, first, 100m freestyle; second, 50m freestyle and third, 100m Individual Medley; James Sansone, sixth, 50m breaststroke and Chelsea Cullen, sixth, 50m butterfly.

Eleven and twelve-year-old winners included Emmett Marsili first in 50m freestyle and second in 100m freestyle and Matt Moates who took first place in 50m backstroke, third

in 50m butterfly and third in 100m Individual Medley.

Tiger Sharks winners in the 13-14 year old events were Leah Konops, fourth 100m freestyle and third in 100m butterfly; Philip Luzny, second in 100m butterfly, fifth in 100m breaststroke; and Julia Dougherty who took sixth in the 100m breaststroke.

For the 15-18 year old swimmers: Becky Brzozowski place sixth in the 200m Individual Medley and fourth in 100m backstroke; Adam Timberlake took fifth, 100m freestyle and second 100m butterfly; Nina Byard took first in 100m backstroke and fourth in 100m freestyle; and Calvin John Smiley took first in 100m freestyle, first in 200m freestyle and second in 100m backstroke.

Also for the 15-18 Tiger Shark swimmers, Shannon Dabrio placed fifth in the 200m Individual Medley and second in 100m breaststroke; Mary Odlowski, sixth, 100m butterfly and fifth 100m backstroke; Karim Motani, sixth, 200m Individual Medley and sixth, 200m freestyle; and Lisa Revolinski took fifth in the 200m freestyle.

The Relay race results for all age groups are as follows: For the eight and under, 100m medley relay girls: first place went to the Tiger Shark relay team of Kate O'Brien, Kelly McLaughlin, Gracie Piekarski and Maggie Valentino; taking a sixth place finish were team members Allison White, Kate McLaughlin, Michelle O'Sullivan and Rachel Krause. For the boys in that age group: a fourth place finish was recorded by Dave Brzozowski, Liam McDermott, Michael Petritsch and Patrick Boyle.

For the 9-12 age group, the 200m girls medley relay scorers were as follows: sixth place went to Sarah Konops, Chelsea Cullen, Abigail

Petritsch and Camille Romano. For the boys, fifth place was recorded by Matt Moates, Michael Boyle, James Sansone and Brian Babinetz.

A first place win was made by the girls 13-18 200m medley relay team of Nina Byard, Leah Konops, Shannon Dabrio and Megan Boyle. Taking sixth place were Lisa Revolinski, Diane Romano, Becky Brzozowski and Mary Odlowski.

For the boys team in the same age group: sixth place was taken by Emmett Marsili, Adam Timberlake, Philip Luzny and Karim Motani.

In the eight and under 100m freestyle relay, the girls scored a first place win with the team of Kate O'Brien, Kelly McLaughlin, Gracie Piekarski and Maggie Valentino; fifth place was taken by Michelle O'Sullivan, Rachel Krause, Kate McLaughlin and Lauren Parelo. In the boys division, the 8 and unders also took a fifth place with the team of Liam McDermott, Patrick Boyle, David Brzozowski and Dylan McDermott.

For the girls 9-12, 200m freestyle relay: Sarah Konops, Emily Piekarski, Amanda Ray and Joanna Luzny took fourth place; and for the boys: Steve Grzenda, Matt Moates, Michael Boyle and Brian Babinetz took fifth place.

Two Tiger Shark relay teams took first place wins in the 13-18 year old, 200m freestyle relays: for the girls, the team of Leah Konops, Shannon Dabrio, Megan Boyle and Nina Byard placed first; and for the boys, the team of Calvin John Smiley, Philip Luzny, Adam Timberlake and Emmett Marsili took a first place win.

The B League Championships are the culmination of a summer season of hard work for all the teams involved and the Tiger Sharks look forward to competing next year.

-Submitted by Donna Egan

By Kevin Lykes



## juniorbaseballclubnotes

**S.P.J.B.C. ANNUAL PICNIC THIS SATURDAY**—This year's picnic will be held on this Saturday, Sept. 7, at the SPJBC complex. Here is a quick run-down of the planned events and approximate times for each activity:

12 noon - picnic begins	1:45 p.m. - Sack Race
All Day - Horseshoes, Food & Beverages	2:30 p.m. - Egg Toss
3:00 p.m. - Trophy Presentations	4:00 p.m. - Mother/Son, Father/Daughter games
1:00 p.m. - Water Balloon Toss	

On behalf of the new Board, I hope to see you all there and wish everyone a great time.

**S.P.E.D. vs. S.P.E.D. RE-SCHEDULED FOR THIS FRIDAY** at S.P.J.B.C. COMPLEX, 7:30 pm—Set-up for the picnic will be Friday evening at 6 p.m. The coaches game, scheduled for Friday evening after the picnic setup, has been canceled to accommodate the re-scheduling of the annual game between the South Plainfield Police Dept. and the South Plainfield Fire Dept. This game was rained-out last Sunday. It is scheduled at our complex this Friday, Sept. 6 at 7:30 p.m., because of the closing of Veteran's Park. We hope to see you all there!

### FALL WORK DETAILS IN THE WORKS

We are hoping to get some major work done to the fields in preparation for next year during this coming fall and off-season. Please keep in touch by attending meetings (1st Mon. of the month, 7:30 p.m.), and by checking in the *Observer* to see when we might have something planned. Every few hours helps, and we always can use a hand.

The SPHS Athletic Booster Club is hosting a "Meet the Coaches" night on Tuesday Sept. 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. All parents/guardians are invited to attend to meet and talk with the coaches of all sports in the high school. There will be a complimentary buffet dinner for all attendees. Booster Club representatives will be selling SPHS clothing items as well as accepting membership dues. Please join us!

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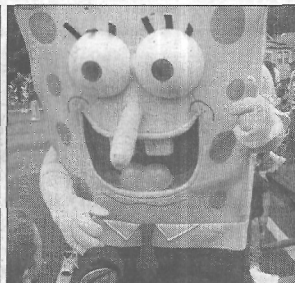
**Life Scan** now offers **EKGs** (chart the electrical activity of the heart); **pulmonary function tests** (measure how well your lungs are working); and **echocardiograms** (ultrasound to determine the function of the heart).

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**American Legion of S. Plainfield on Sept. 13**  
**Elks Lodge of Edison on Sept. 19**

Call toll free 1-877-722-6631 to pre-register.

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## Obituaries

### Eugene E. Demcoe, 69

Eugene E. Demcoe of Edison, died on Sunday, Aug. 25, at his home.

He was born in Perth Amboy and was a former resident of Metuchen before moving to Edison 33 years ago.

Gene was a plumber for the Plumbers and Pipefitters Union Local 9 for 41 years before retiring in 1994.

He was a communicant of Guardian Angels R.C. Church in Edison.

Gene served his country during the Korean War as a PFC in the United States Army.

He was predeceased by his first wife, Lorraine Katransky Demco, who died in 1967.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 33 years, Rachel Melillo Biozes Demcoe; two daughters, Gail and her husband Richard Schuller of Milford, Debra and her husband Mark Valor of Jackson; a stepson, David Biozes of New York City; a sister, Cele Fimiani of South Plainfield and four grandchildren.

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

### Dorothy M. (Totin) Donohue, 76

Dorothy M. (Totin) Donohue died on Monday, Aug. 26, at her home.

Born in Perth Amboy, Mrs. Donohue had resided in South Plainfield for 48 years before moving to Carlsbad last year.

She had been a homemaker and especially enjoyed time with her grandchildren. Mrs. Donohue enjoyed time gardening, arranging flowers and shopping, as well as being a communicant of Sacred Heart RC Church in So. Plainfield.

She is predeceased by her husband, Cornelius M. Donohue, who died in 1989.

Surviving are two sons, Cornelius M. and his wife Ann of Villanova, Pa.

#### Beauty

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

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and Scott and his wife Jennifer of Carlsbad, Ca., two sisters, Margie Stokes of Port Murray, NJ and Irene Donatelli of Vero Beach, Fla. and a brother, Bobby Totan of Metuchen.

Also surviving are her grandchildren, Ashley, Joshua, Taylor, Ali, Chelsie and Liam Donohue.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### Fausto N. Figueroa

Fausto N. Figueroa, 48, died on Monday Aug. 26, at his home.

Born in Ecuador, Mr. Figueroa came to the United States and settled in New York in 1967. He later moved to Plainfield and then to North Plainfield in 1977.

Employed as a truck driver, he has been the owner and operator of his own truck, working as a sub contractor for Jo-Lin Hauling of Carteret for the past five years.

Mr. Figueroa had served in the United States Navy in the early 1980's.

Surviving are his wife, Lucia Bohorquez; a son, Richard; two step daughters, Doris Espino and Gloria Podpora; a stepson, Angel Bohorquez; his parents, Flor Maria and Fausto; three brothers, Manuel, German and William; seven sisters, Jeaneth Mazzei, Francia Hemeregildo, Daisy Alvarado, Jenny Figueroa, Cristina Barsch, Ivonne Olmo and Sandra Figueroa. In addition, he is survived by numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, in-laws and other family members.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### Joyce M. Courtney

Joyce M. Courtney, 78, died on Tuesday, Aug. 27, in Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Westfield, she resided in Westfield and Woodbridge before moving to South Plainfield eight years ago.

Joyce was employed by G.O. Kellers Dry Cleaning in Westfield as a counter clerk for 20 years before her retirement in 1987.

Her husband John Courtney, died in 1984.

Surviving are a daughter, Kathleen Tucci of South Plainfield and a granddaughter, Brittany Tucci.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

## LEGAL NOTICES

### 2003 MUNICIPAL BUDGET of the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex for the Fiscal Year 2003.

#### Revenue and Appropriation Summaries

Summary of Revenues	Anticipated	
	SFY 2003	SFY 2002
1. Surplus	2,175,000.00	2,060,000.00
2. Total Miscellaneous Revenues	6,328,361.61	6,454,846.04
3. Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	38,850.00	31,000.00
4. a) Local Tax for Municipal Purposes	11,959,398.00	11,884,034.00
b) Addition to Local District School Tax		
Total Amount to be Raised by Taxes for Support of Municipal Budget	11,959,398.00	11,884,034.00
Total General Revenues	20,501,609.61	20,429,880.04

Summary of Appropriations		SFY 2003 Budget	SFY 2002 Budget
1. Operating Expenses:	Salaries & Wages	8,420,170.00	8,233,062.00
	Other Expenses	7,803,020.66	7,515,739.11
2. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations		439,084.00	615,806.93
3. Capital Improvements		400,000.00	550,000.00
4. Debt Service		2,545,342.00	2,610,207.00
5. Reserve for Uncollected Taxes		893,992.95	905,065.00
Subtotal		20,501,609.61	20,429,880.04
Adj. for Expenditures Included Above Which are by Statute Deferred Charges to Budget of Succeeding Years		0.00	0.00
Total General Appropriations		20,501,609.61	20,429,880.04
Total Number of Employees		135	136

2003 Dedicated Sewer Utility Budget			
Summary of Revenues		Anticipated	
		SFY 2003	SFY 2002
1. Surplus		363,548.00	378,995.62
2. Miscellaneous Revenues		3,362,500.00	2,932,000.00
3. Deficit (General Budget)			
Total Revenues		3,726,048.00	3,310,995.62
Summary of Appropriations		SFY 2003 Budget	SFY 2002 Budget
1. Operating Expenses:	Salaries & Wages	327,775.00	345,000.00
	Other Expenses	2,615,683.00	2,096,713.00
2. Capital Improvements			
3. Debt Service		718,000.00	742,275.00
4. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations		64,590.00	127,007.62
5. Surplus (General Budget)			
Total Appropriations		3,726,048.00	3,310,995.62
Total Number of Employees		3	6

Page 2

2003 Dedicated Swim Pool Utility Budget			
Summary of Revenues		Anticipated	
		SFY 2003	SFY 2002
1. Surplus		10,000.00	
2. Miscellaneous Revenues		154,300.00	149,771.00
3. Deficit (General Budget)		76,995.00	118,268.93
Total Revenues		241,295.00	268,039.93
Summary of Appropriations		SFY 2003 Budget	SFY 2002 Budget
1. Operating Expenses:	Salaries & Wages	103,000.00	102,440.00
	Other Expenses	78,250.00	74,250.00
2. Capital Improvements			
3. Debt Service		51,763.00	54,478.00
4. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations		8,282.00	36,871.93
5. Surplus (General Budget)			
Total Appropriations		241,295.00	268,039.93
Total Number of Employees		2	2

Balance of Outstanding Debt at June 30, 2002 (Includes Debt Service Appropriation Listed Above)				
	General	Water Utility	Sewer Utility	Swim Pool Utility
Interest Due-SFY 2003	578,260.00	n/a	268,000.00	7,963.00
Principal Due-SFY 2003	1,660,400.00	n/a	450,000.00	43,800.00
Remaining Principal Outstanding Balance	11,858,800.00	n/a	5,015,000.00	166,200.00

Notice is hereby given that the Budget and Tax Resolution was approved by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex on August 19, 2002.

A Hearing on the Budget and Tax Resolution will be held at the Municipal Building on September 19, 2002 at 7:00 o'clock P.M., at which time and place objections to said budget and Tax Resolution for the year 2003 may be presented by taxpayers or other interested persons.

Copies of the budget are available in the office of Vincent Buttiglieri, Borough Clerk at the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07060, (908) 226-7606, during the hours of 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.





A resident expresses their opinion on September 11, 2001.

## policereport

• On Aug. 25 Louis Beddoe, 41, of Bayonne was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving and on a disorderly persons complaint.

• On Aug. 26 Michael Anthony St. Blanchard, 25, of West New York was arrested for obtaining a prescription by fraud and obstruction of justice at CVS.

• On Aug. 27 Iris Charese Adams, 24, of Plainfield was arrested for a contempt of court warrant, a suspended driver's license and registration, and having no insurance at a motor vehicle stop.

• CQI Flooring on Front St. reported that someone had entered his warehouse and stole 68 boxes of refinished hardwood flooring.

• A South Bound Brook resident

reported that someone had thrown a bag of human feces at the driver's side window of his backhoe while parked in the Riley School parking lot.

• A Maple Ave. resident reported that someone had stolen two checks from his home. The suspect is someone who had been staying with him periodically.

• On Aug. 28 KB Toys reported that four black males had hidden three Web dual action blasters underneath their shirts and left the store. The blasters were valued at \$17.99 each.

• Rima Klodt, 52, of Piscataway was arrested for driving while intoxicated, consumption of alcohol and having an open beverage in a vehicle during a motor vehicle stop.

## 200 Ferro Corp. Employees Evacuated

At about 8:40 a.m. on Tuesday morning, more than 200 employees at the Ferro Corp. complex at 399 South Clinton Ave. had to be evacuated because of the reported odor of a sulfuric smell in the air.

Along with the South Plainfield Fire Department and Emergency

Management, responding were members of the Middlesex County Hazardous Materials Unit, who helped direct the evacuation of the 225 employees.

Officials tested the air, but could not find any hazardous levels of contamination. They also checked

storage tanks, but did not find any spills of sodium-sulfate, which is stored at the facility.

It was determined that the smell was caused by a sewer problem. The building was ventilated and employees were back inside by 9 a.m.

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### PHOTOS AVAILABLE

**OBSERVER STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER** Patricia Abbott has digital photos from recent events available. Middle, High School & Grant School plays, Jr. and Sr. Proms, Jo-Anne's Dance Studio Autism Benefit, Fire Dept. Oldies concert, Plainfield Animal Hospital 50th Anniv., Sacred Heart Fair, Dennis Madalone's visit to So. Plainfield, OLC Fair, Middle & High School graduations, Senior Prank, Project Graduation, SPHS spring & winter concerts & Franklin Girl Scout workshop, Fire Dept. Wet Down, Labor Day '01 and much more. To see proofs, call 756-8011 or email angelonly@aol.com. Reasonable prices. Photos are printed on a high quality photo paper.

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# IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued from page 2)

served the Borough in those positions and their salaries are a fraction of the previous Republican appointees. I can only ask that the Republican candidates and committee people to stay focused on the issues and stop hurtful attacks on individuals who aren't even part of the campaign. Believe me, the voters will respect you for it.

I can and will only write about some personal observations that I have made over time before, during and after my term on council. I first heard of Jake Cataldo when he ran for Mayor in 1999, the same time I was running for council. Mr. Cataldo lost the election; I did win and served on council for my three year term. Now it is time again for another Mayoral election. Again, Mr. Cataldo has resurfaced... where has he been the last four years???? During that four year time, has Mr. Cataldo been involved on any committees? Any boards or agencies? Anything pertaining to the town and really getting involved with issues or projects? In the five years I have been on Planning Board, I have never seen him at one meeting. Mr. Cataldo and his running mates, and even the Republican committee people, have weekly letters to the editor, commenting on everything from the Borough budget to planning to zoning to traffic issues... but yet not attend any meetings to try to obtain the facts!!!! In addition to my own planning board meetings, I try to attend as many council meetings as possible. I occasionally attend zoning board meetings myself to get the facts. To the best of my knowledge, I don't think a member of the Republican party ever attended a budget meeting in the three years I served on council. Mr. Cataldo has never volunteered to serve on one Borough board or agency, but expects to be Mayor of our town!!!

I admit that Dan Gallagher, Ed Kubala, and Jim Vokral are friends of mine. I am proud of that friendship and proud of everything they have done and will do for South Plainfield. They work everyday for the people of South Plainfield. I have learned a lot from Dan Gallagher and he is recognized as one of the best Mayors in New Jersey. Ed and Jim and the rest of the council have worked very hard to keep taxes under control and cutting debt. This entire team works for the people of South Plainfield and are very involved within the community outside of the politics. Dan Gallagher, Ed Kubala, and Jim Vokral deserve our vote in November; they are clearly the most qualified team and have done great things for South Plainfield.

**DARLENE M. PINTO**

Dear Editor,

My name is Brittany A. Hartman. I am a currently enrolled student at South Plainfield High School and will be attending my junior year there. The reason why I am writing to the *Observer* this week is because I am highly disgusted at the Board of Education over the Sean Mealey case.

From my knowledge, Mr. Mealey will not be rehired at SPHS in the position of gym teacher and also coach the girls' soccer team. On Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2002, I attended a Board of Education meeting to honor and support Mr. Mealey. It was an open meeting to the public, but was handled as if there was something to hide and completely UNORGANIZED! It began with roll as normal and we were also handed a platform of the meeting. We then progressed into a private Executive Session. As I was there in support with many others, we waited tirelessly and antsy for an hour and a half for their return. When they returned, they were telling us their votes on their session (Mr. Mealey issue and etc.). As we sat there and they spoke, we were dumbfounded as we had no

knowledge as to what they had just voted on. We did not have the packet of papers telling us what Item 1 to Item 5b was. Someone asked the Board to tell us what they were voting on and if there were materials to pass out. When that was done with, we requested the votes be reviewed again for us. It was denied by the superintendent! And then finally the meeting ended. We sat there, and I was thinking: Where is my part to speak on behalf of this man, Sean Mealey, who currently does not have a job. To the looks of it, we knew why we were there, and they knew why we were there, but turns out the Board of Education wasted our time.

I am here writing to the citizens of South Plainfield and to the Board of Education, to show you and tell you my part, since it was shunned. This was my support speech:

"A true gym teacher develops the skills in all students, whether they're great athletes or novices. He didn't just concentrate on the star athletes, because it made the classes less boring and frustrating on him. He put in 100% with the students to help them develop their skills. He didn't toss anyone aside because they didn't meet certain expectations. This also holds true in the soccer program. I can admit from my own experience with Mr. Sean Mealey, I wasn't one of the better athletes, I only progressed because of him giving me a better chance alongside the rest of the JV and Varsity team. He also gave me the privilege to be a JV captain last season (2001-2002), along with two other individuals who also progressed and became role models for the girls.

If this isn't a budget issue and someone has made a derogatory remark about his character, teaching, or other areas, I find it hard to believe, as I perceived him as one of the few teachers who was an asset to South Plainfield High School."

In addition to the speech that never made it, I am a very concerned young lady who is respectfully opinionated, and mature enough to attend a Board of Education meeting, regardless if there is a topic that bothers me. I just go there because it's good to know what is going on in the town and also if my education is at stake! And it's also a plus that I inform the general public of the meeting that took place that day. Trust me, you didn't miss anything but an angered bunch of old men and their kids. But also going straight to Mr. Mealey; the girls are still in strong support of you and won't stop fighting until things are set straight. No matter what, you will always be our coach. And I believe you even said so yourself. We pray and hope for the best, and that others join the next Board of Education meeting in support.

**BRITTANY-ANNE HARTMAN,  
SPHS JUNIOR**

Dear Editor,

As we approach September 11, some legislators have asked Governor McGreevey to declare that date an official state holiday and to close all state offices. On June 20, the State Assembly unanimously passed AJR 29, sponsored by Assemblymen Gordon Johnson, Matt Ahearn and myself, which permanently designates September 11 as "American Heroes Day." We are hopeful that a companion bill will be adopted by the State Senate, after which the Governor will sign it into law.

I do not believe that September 11 should become a day off from work. Just the opposite should occur. Every school in our state should be in session and every person should be at their job. Remember, virtually every person who lost their life on that awful day was at work. Rather than September 11 becoming another day we

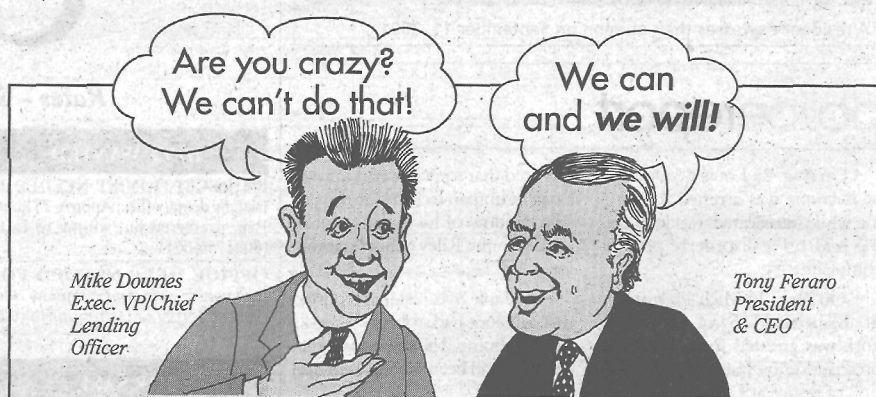
can sleep late and go shopping, we should all pause from our jobs and think about what a true "American Hero" is. I suggest that teachers ask a firefighter, a police officer, or an emergency worker to speak to their classes. Employers and employees should take time to thank those who literally put their lives on the line every day to keep us all safe. An office could

take up a collection towards a needed piece of emergency equipment or maybe just send a thank you note to their local department.

September 11 was a terrible and tragic day. I still find the enormity of the loss hard to comprehend. But it was also the date when we finally realized how precious our freedoms are and we came together as a people.

We now know that the true "American Heroes" are not athletes or movie stars, they are the men and women who work to keep us all safe and never seek recognition. Let's take time to remember them not only this year, but every year.

**ASSEMBLYMAN PATRICK,  
DIEGNAN, JR.**



Mike Downes  
Exec. VP/Chief  
Lending  
Officer

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& CEO

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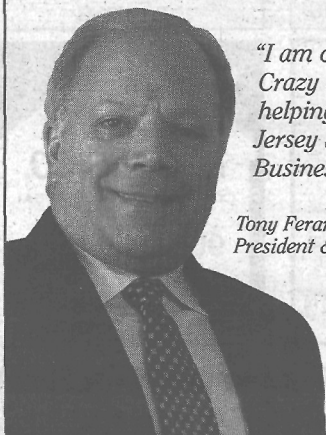
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