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South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 6, NO. 3

50 CENTS

SEPTEMBER 13, 2002

Fire Leaves 60 Homeless

A devastating fire Tuesday afternoon destroyed an entire building of condominiums at *Traditions*, the recently completed development on New Durham Ave. Less than a year old, the community was built on the former Coppola's Farms and is now apartments, condominiums and townhouses.

Police received a 911 call saying there was smoke and flames coming from Building 1 on Frank Ct. in the *Traditions* complex. Police Officer Wylam arrived within seconds of the call and immediately began evacuating Building 1, which was fully involved. As he was evacuating, he was knocked down by an explosion, which is still under investigation. Building 2, which was receiving heat related damage was also evacuated.

The building was engulfed in flames and within minutes, dark smoke could be seen everywhere in the borough and surrounding towns.

Evacuated residents were taken to the welcome center near the pool, as well as the residents who arrived home to find their homes in flames or in danger.

Once again, the South Plainfield Fire Department, Rescue Squad and Police Department and Emergency Management rose to the occasion. They did what they were trained to do in an emergency and all should be commended for their professionalism. Marion Gallagher, Mayor Gallagher's wife, who lives in the *Traditions* complex, began gathering some of the shocked residents into her home while they awaited news on the fate of their own homes. Rescue members were on hand to help those injured or distressed.

Police evacuated an elderly female resident from the third floor just prior to the flames overtaking her apartment. Several pets were also rescued from the burning buildings.

New Durham Ave. was closed to traffic, but crowds did gathered across the street to watch the fire. Flames were visible coming from the windows of Building 1 for several hours.

When the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department responded they immediately sent out a request for mutual aid assistance. A general alarm was sounded and fire personnel from 14 other jurisdictions responded. A total of 13 engine companies and two aerial trucks were on the scene, including 80 firefighters, all participating in the fire fighting operation.

Rescue Squad personnel from six jurisdictions, including two rigs from the South Plainfield Volunteer Rescue Squad (which totalled approximately 25 EMS personnel) responded. Both the South Plainfield and Middlesex County Office of Emergency Management responded to coordinate the operations. South Plainfield OEM made arrangements



Flames engulf the top floor of a condominium unit at the *Traditions* development on New Durham Ave. Fire quickly destroyed a huge portion of the building.



to have counselors on scene for the residents of the complex. The Red Cross was also on hand making arrangements for clothing and other immediate needs of the displaced residents.

The fire resulted in extensive damage to Building 1, which contained

24 units. Jack Morris, developer of the complex, made arrangements to temporarily house the approximately 60 displaced residents in a hotel in Edison. The residents of Building 2 were allowed to reoccupy their apartments at approximately 8 p.m. The only apparent damage to that build-

ing was damage to the exterior siding and the main doors which the firefighters forced open to gain entry to ensure the apartments were unoccupied. The firemen and police were on the scene until late Monday evening.

The fire has been classified as suspi-

As our wounded country shows its steel at ceremonies around the nation honoring the heroes of September 11, South Plainfield again gave its heart with quiet resolve on Sept. 9.

On that day, we witnessed a fire in our own community that destroyed many condos. We saw firsthand and truly understand what police, firefighters, rescue squad and EMS workers risk when they kiss their loved ones goodbye as an emergency sounds. Emergency workers came from all our surrounding towns.

We cannot tell everyone thank you enough for protecting and saving us. May God Bless them and their families.

—Marion Gallagher, Arlene Hasselgren and Catherine Oberlander

cious and is still under investigation by the South Plainfield Fire Department, the Police Department and the Middlesex County Arson Task Force to determine its origin.

At presstime, an explosion of some kind has been confirmed, but the

Continued on page 6

IN YOUR OPINION

To the Editor,

Labor Day in South Plainfield is always one of the highlights of the summer. It brings everyone together for a great time at its unofficial end. The Labor Day parade is just one example of why South Plainfield is the greatest town in New Jersey.

Last Monday was a day that I will never forget. My family and I had one of the most memorable experiences of our lives. It was a privilege and an honor to ride with my family in the parade. Everyone went out of his or her way to make sure we had a special time. Thank you to John, Mike, Darlene, and everyone on the parade committee. I am still overwhelmed that you chose me over others. All of the parade marshals, especially Mary, thanks for the use of the car, and Carolyn, you didn't have to do what you did, thanks.

Thank you to the Mayor and Council, Assemblyman Diegnan, and especially Ray Petronko. It must have taken a great deal of time to make that banner. Thank you to Sue, Cal, Gloria, and the rest of the judges; it was a pleasure spending the day with you.

Thank you to Bill, Pat, Marion, and everyone else on the reviewing stand. Thank you to my family. Most of all thank you to all of our friends in town. I said on Monday, "Finer friends a person could not have."

Our sense of family, togetherness, and patriotism in South Plainfield shone brighter on a cloudy Monday. We carry that feeling throughout this week as we reflect on the anniversary of our nation's most horrific tragedy.

**THANK YOU,
JOE DEANDREA JR.**

Mark your calendars

Log on to
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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 16 Thursday, September 19

Monday, October 7 Thursday, October 10

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

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

Sept. 26, Oct. 3, Oct. 17, Nov. 14, Nov. 21, Dec. 5, Dec. 19

board of education meetings

Grant School Gymnasium on Cromwell Place unless otherwise noted

Committee of the Whole meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. - 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.

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.

To get an article published in South Plainfield Observer:

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

To the Editor,

On behalf of South Plainfield's youth, I'd like to publicly thank my fellow residents for all the time and effort they devoted to creating the new Skate Park.

Mike English, Bill Cochrane and the entire Recreation Commission made us feel welcome at their meetings. The boys and their parents were treated with respect and given many opportunities to voice opinions and desires. Councilman Ray Petronko backed the idea from the very beginning and worked every angle to keep the project before the Mayor and Council. Our town's *Observer* and *Reporter* gave us a voice and kept everyone informed.

Careful planning and thorough research conducted by the Recreation Commission resulted in an enthusiastic approval by the Mayor and Council. This town has always recognized its youth as an important asset. I am proud to call this community my home and grateful to the teens, neighbors, volunteers and town officials who came together in support of this idea.

**IN APPRECIATION AND PRIDE,
DEANNA FREDERICKS**

To the Editor,

Remember that night your neighbor came over and unclogged your toilet at 10 a.m.? How about that time the guy across the street gave you a great deal on your vinyl siding? Or the time when that guy around the corner put in a ceiling fan for you at half the cost of all the other estimates you had gotten?

If you live in South Plainfield, you probably have had at least one experience like this. You know your landscaper, the trash collector, the plumber, and your electrician, because they are your neighbors. Family owned and operated businesses are a huge part of South Plainfield. These hard-working, taxpaying, and voting families are what have woven the fabric of our town! Most of them contribute to rising property values we have all come to enjoy, by maintaining their own properties using the skills of their trade.

It seems now that our mayor and council are forcing these honest tradesmen out of the lifestyles and businesses that support their families, through their taxes, like the mayor himself. However selectively, turning a blind eye to the contracting businesses that are run by certain municipal employees during their off hours.

In the past 12 years I have had five addresses where I have lived in South Plainfield. I have lived across the street from the owner/operators of a siding company, down the street, at three different addresses from landscapers, up the street from the owner/operator of a huge roofing company, across from the owner/operator of a carpet installation company, etc., etc. My experience is that these are our best neighbors.

They keep up their properties and try harder than most to get acquainted with and along with their neighbors.

And so I say, Dan Gallagher, if I have to choose between you and them, you can go.

CYNTHIA GUANCIONE

Dear Editor:

This week marks the start of the campaign season. I know Mayor Gallagher and I disagree on the direction South Plainfield needs to head in, but I'm sure we both agree that the voters deserve to be well and fairly informed. The essence of democracy is a well-informed public.

With that in mind, I suggest that our campaigns follow a few ground rules. Campaign finance reform shouldn't just be a state and federal concern. We should all do our part. I propose the

Submit Letters to the Editor:

**South Plainfield Observer
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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. 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.*

following:

- That we both limit campaign expenditures to \$7,500. This would be a combined figure for each side's mayor and council races. We are a small community, and we should not turn our elections into big-money politics. Frankly, I don't plan on even spending half of the limit.

- I make this suggestion because the last election got out of hand. The mayor spent over \$50,000, and unfortunately, much of his donations came from the lawyers, auditors, and other professionals he and the council hires on the town's behalf. Much of it also comes from builders. A voluntary spending limit would put both sides on an even playing field and make sure we are not beholden to these special interests.

- Allow all candidates open and free access to non-confidential borough records. The borough's new policy of making people wait a week for copies of records makes it difficult to answer questions from the public. In addition, the cost—up to 75 cents a page for photocopies—is prohibitively expensive. The mayor has my promise that I will only ask for a reasonable number of documents and view as many as possible at Borough Hall.

- That we stick to the issues. There are enough issues to keep us busy. He and I should run issue-oriented campaigns, as should the council candidates. Yes, we will disagree—even hotly clash—but we should keep a civil tone and not attack one another personally.

I am ready to stand by these ground rules, and I ask Mayor Gallagher for his pledge of support as well as the pledge of the Democratic council candidates. To that end, I've sent him a copy of this letter and have asked him and his running mates to sign on. Marge Reedy, Geoff Champion and I want a fair campaign and are ready to commit to one. I hope the mayor and his people will do the same.

**JAKE CATALDO, CANDIDATE
FOR MAYOR**

To the Editor,

I have been an active volunteer in this community for nearly 17 years, the most recent 5 years as a member of this Board of Education. I have attended all assigned committee meetings, and COW and Regular Board meetings

with very few exceptions. Most know in addition to the responsibilities of meeting attendance, I attend functions throughout this district in support of our students and staff, athletic events, music department events, drama presentations, National Honor Society ceremonies, Booster dinners, etc. High school through elementary I attend as many events as possible.

I have two active children in this district. Most of the educators who have had my children either as teacher or coach will tell you I do not interfere with the relationship between my children and them. Most would say I almost move in completely the opposite direction, I have never asked for any special considerations with regard to expectations of my children in the classroom nor on any of the playing fields. Because I am their mother and a Board member I expect my children to be treated not better than another, but certainly not any differently because of my position on this Board. Most have behaved professionally even during last round of negotiations, although there were a few instances that needed to be addressed and they were by the building principal and you know who you are, it was not brought to the board, or the superintendent, it was handled in the same way any other parent would have handled it through the chain of command. Because I do not use the system any differently, nor have I ever used my position as a board member to access any special privileges for my family.

When any parent, student or staff member has reached out to me for help, I have helped to the best of my ability to direct those to the correct path to have their problem addressed. I have never handled it myself, and not until they were frustrated with lack of response have I brought it to the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent or Business Administrator's attention. I have never used a meeting of the Board to address those issues; I have allowed the professionals to do what they are paid to do. It is not our responsibility to handle such matters. If you didn't know already, not one of us are paid for the role we play in this district.

This leads me to the reason I am making this statement. We ask our administrators to make the best recommendations to us, the Board, in the areas of personnel, programs, etc.

We trust that the recommendations placed before us are of the highest quality and meet the State and County certification requirements and regulations for the students and residents of South Plainfield. That is not what happened last school year. Instead of a qualified, certified teacher recommendation for Physical Education, we were encouraged to appoint a Long Term Substitute assignment to a person that had not yet received their certification. As mid point of the school year approached, it was reported to the board

Continued on page 12

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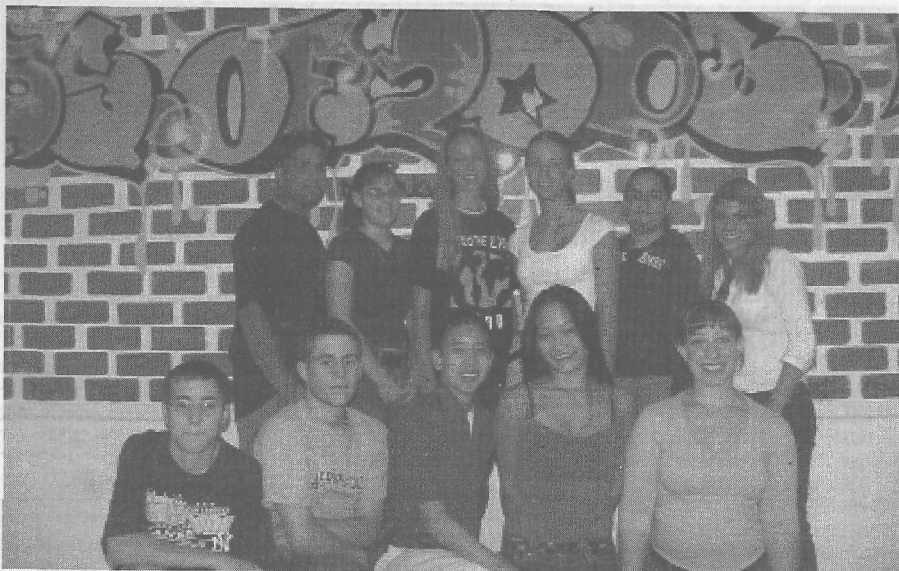
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High School Seniors Leave Their Mark

Story/photos by Patricia Abbott

It's no secret who created the graffiti on the South Plainfield High School cafeteria walls. The artists, members of the class of 2003, proudly signed their names to the work. The

huge murals are the final results of the Senior Project, a program created in 1996 that gives the Senior Class an opportunity to give something back to the school. Thirty students and Advisor Tom Baker spent weeks planning the project. The students worked

25 hours a week for four weeks in the chilly cafeterias. A fresh coat of white paint was put on each wall before the creative process began. Moving away from one central theme, the class created a compilation of original designs, including a life-sized brick wall complete with graffiti lettering, a tribute to America, a mesmerizing abstract field, toys, cartoon characters and other childhood memories, classes and school activities, a movie screen for football players and more. They finished the project by leaving their handprints and signatures on a wall bordered with stars.

Class Secretary Alex Huynh worked up some figures on the project that go far beyond the hours and weeks. He noted there were: 27 items displayed on Janara's wall, four shades of red used for the flowers on Ashley's wall, 50 plus memories on Jaci's wall. More bricks than one can feasibly count—painted without a level on the wall he and Nikki did. He summed up his list with "Infinity, how long this project should remain part of the high school.

Participating in the Senior Project were: Nikki Woo, Class President, Alex Huynh, Class Secretary, Ashley Madalone, Meg Mercurio, Jen Ganun, Jaci Noonan, Alexis Montanaro, Eva Rodriguez, Chrissy Millard, Meredith Cooper, Nathalie Londono, Janara Garcia, Richard Muglia, Janine Turrise, Kim Dziomba, Chrissy Furka, Matt Wells, Nick Green, Avi Patel, Jaun Ricon, Ariel Curtis, Amanda George, Meredith Kalman, Laura Painton, Drew Hedler, Appi Iyengar, Alain Amazan, Dereck Smith, Lance Smith, Nadia Deba, Rupel Patel and Christine Benak.

The colorful murals throughout the school have become a tradition, a gift that gives to all who pass through the hallways of SPHS.

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Auto Accident Sends Four to Hospital

On Sept. 5 at about 2:15 p.m., a two-car collision occurred at the intersection of Durham Ave. and Hadley Rd. Four persons were injured, with one person sustaining serious injuries.

A 1997 Mitsubishi Diamante operated by Debbie Hampton, age 27 of Farmingdale, was traveling southbound on Durham Ave. with a green light, when a 1995 Saturn, operated by Louis Fernandez-Lopez, age 32 of Plainfield, made a left turn from northbound Durham Ave. onto Hadley Rd. when the collision occurred. The collision activated the airbags in both vehicles.

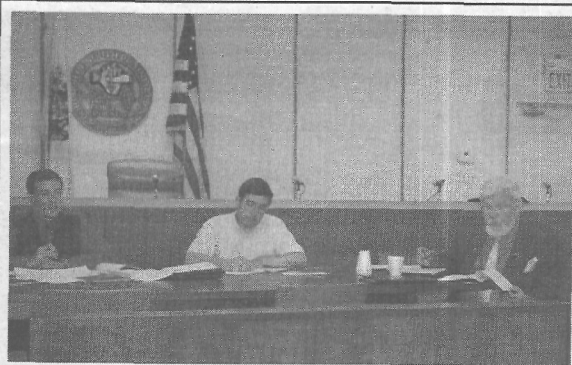
Hampton was transported by the Clara Barton Rescue Squad to JFK Hospital in Edison for treatment of minor injuries. Fernandez-Lopez was transported by the South Plainfield Rescue Squad to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick for treatment of serious

internal injuries. Two passengers in Fernandez-Lopez's vehicle were also transported by the South Plainfield Rescue Squad to Muhlenberg Hospital for treatment of minor injuries. The passengers were Franklin Escalan, age 35 and Havie Andosilla, age 28, both of Plainfield.

Paramedics from Muhlenberg Hospitals Mercy 6 Unit responded, along with the South Plainfield Fire Department.

Fernandez Lopez was issued a summons for an improper turn at a traffic signal.

Officer Raymond Zajickoff and members of the South Plainfield Police Traffic Safety Unit investigated the accident. This intersection has seen several accidents this past year, with people turning left onto Hadley Rd. unaware that through traffic still has a green light.



Budget Hearings Open to the Public

CFO Glen Cullen, Councilmen Jim Vokral and Ed Kubala held Municipal budget hearings for department heads on Monday. They will hold additional meetings on Friday, Sept. 13 from 6-8 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

New Officers Elected to Terra Nova Garden Club

The Terra Nova Garden Club is pleased to announce the new officers for the 2002-2003 year. They are: President Debbie Czech, Vice President Gail Sulinski, Treasurer Joan Lippi and Secretary Lenore Broyard.

The September monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 25 at 7 p.m. at the North Edison Library, 777 Grove Ave. in Edison. New members are always welcome.

The main topic of the meeting is to

finalize the club's preparation for the Metuchen Country Fair, held Oct. 5. Terra Nova Garden Club is sponsoring a booth featuring many items for sale as well as information on gardening.

The ongoing community service project, Borden Therapy will resume at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 25 at the Muhlenberg Adultcare Facility in Plainfield. The flower arrangements will feature miniature birdhouses.

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Girl Scout Leaders/ Boy Scout Leaders

We now offer outlined programs designed specifically towards meeting badge requirements.

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OTHER CLASSES AVAILABLE:

- Mommy/Daddy & Me (2-4 y/o)
- Kindergarten Corner for AM & PM kindergarten classes
- Project of the Week (each week themes changes-assorted crafts)
- Buddy Day (bring a friend, they pay 1/2 price)

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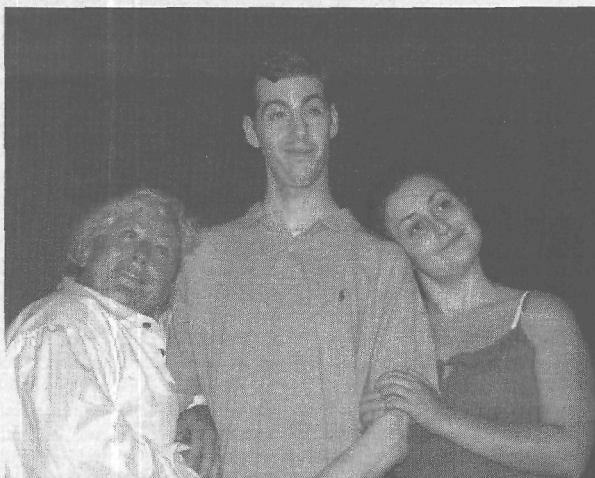
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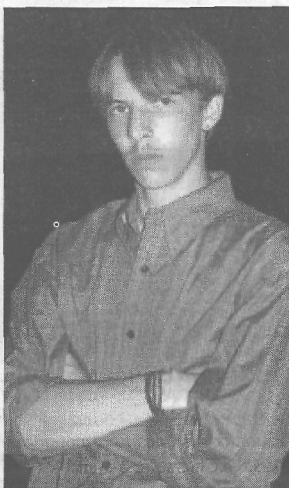
Local Residents in *Sleepy Hollow* at Brook Arts Center in Bound Brook



Pictured left to right are: Jackie Ostrowski of Bound Brook as Mrs. Von Tassel, Eric Branda of East Brunswick as Ichabod Crane and Nicole Rodriguez as Katrina Von Tassel

South Plainfield residents Christopher and Patricia Abbott will be appearing a musical children's version of *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* at the Brook Arts Center in Bound Brook. Christopher a South Plainfield High School junior, will portray Ichabod Crane's nemesis, Brom. The rivalry over Katrina Von Tassel takes the form of a Rap song in this modern take on Washington Irving's classic tale. Patricia is an ensemble member portraying various characters. The original show was written by playwright Mark Sarto who was a writer/performer for many years on several Nickelodeon shows.

The cast features Eric Branda of East Brunswick as Ichabod Crane. Kevin Gunther of Helmetta takes on the roles of Mr. Von Ripper, the Preacher and Grandma Von Tassel. Katrina Von Tassel is portrayed by Nicole Rodriguez of Middlesex, Jackie Ostrowski of Bound Brook is Mrs. Von Tassel, Bubby Von Tassel is played by Michael Beckwith of Somerville. The show is directed by Patti Murtha of South River. Murtha is Associate Director of Education & Assistant Director of The Shoestring Players, a



Chris Abbott as Brom Bones

Professional Children's Theater company based in New Brunswick. This modern treatment of the *Sleepy Hollow* is appropriate for kids of all ages. The fast paced show offers toe-tapping tunes that will delight young and old.

Legend Of Sleepy Hollow is part of a continuing series of original children's shows springing from the arts incubator at the Brook. *Sleepy Hollow* will be performed Saturdays only Sept. 14 through Sept. 28 at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. The Brook Arts Center is located at 10 Hamilton St. in Bound Brook, across the street from the Bound Brook train station. Tickets are only \$6 and can be obtained by calling the Brook at (732) 469-7700. Join our mailing list by e-mailing us at gerry@brookarts.org or call to receive information about upcoming events. The Brook's "In-The-Lobby Series" presents live dramatic and musical performances on a regular basis. For more information, visit www.brookarts.org.

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events Around 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.

Ecumenical Praise Service has resumed 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.

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.

AARP Chapter #4144 Meeting

September 16

AARP Chapter 4144 will meet at our new location—The Senior Center located at 90 Maple Ave. in South Plainfield. We also have a new meeting day which is the third Monday of each month. The September meeting will start at 12:30 p.m. on Monday Sept. 16.

The speaker will be Hope O'Neill, Clinical Assessment Associate - Beneficiary Outreach Peer Review Organization. O'Neill's presentation will focus on Medicare Patient's rights (what to do if you think you are being discharged from the hospital too soon) and preventative services that are covered by Medicare such as immunization, screening monograms

and prevention of complications of diabetes. There will be time for questions and answers. Hope everyone had a good summer!

Republican Organization Mtg.

September 18

The monthly meeting of the South Plainfield Republican Organization will be held Wednesday, Sept. 18 at the American Legion Hall on Oak Tree Road. The meeting will begin at 8 p.m.

All residents are invited to attend and meet the candidates for mayor and council and discuss any issues or concerns.

Adult School Trip Night Planned

September 18

The South Plainfield Adult School fall semester brochure has been mailed. 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.

Czestochowa Plans Spaghetti Supper

September 28

The Rosary Society at Our Lady of Czestochowa will be holding a spaghetti supper on Saturday, September 28 from 4 to 8 p.m.

Cost for adults is \$7, senior citizens are \$6, children 5-12 are \$3.50 and under five are free.

Open Your Heart to Cruise on Cornucopia

October 4

A benefit for children battling cancer and blood disorders will be held Friday, Oct. 4, aboard the Cornucopia Princess, out of Perth Amboy.

The Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer Foundation, a non-profit-organization, formed by a group of Realtor-Associates at Century 21 Moretti Realty, is accepting requests for seating reservations aboard the Cornucopia.

Tickets can be purchased at \$100 per person, which includes dinner and dancing on two private decks aboard the Cornucopia Princess and a silent auction. Seating is limited, so reserve your seats by calling (908) 755-5051, ext. 406.

Many businesses offer a Matching Gifts Program, check with your company to see if they have this program. Monetary pledges will also be accepted for this worthwhile cause. To find out more about how you can help, call (908) 755-5051.

Ponytail Parents to Hold Art Auction

October 4

The Ponytail Parents Association will hold an Art Auction on Friday, Oct. 4. A variety of artwork, including sports memorabilia will be available for purchase. The preview is from

6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Auction begins at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$5 per person. Soft drinks, finger sandwiches and desserts will be available. MasterCard, Visa, Discover and American Express will be accepted.

For ticket information call (908) 791-9439 or (908) 756-2823.

Roosevelt Plans Penny Sale

October 12

The Roosevelt School P.T.A. will conduct a "Penny Sale" on Oct. 12 at the South Plainfield Middle School.

Their goal is to raise \$12,000 for the fifth grade's two day class trip to Stokes State Forest in Montague in November of 2002. This amount, large as it appears, will cover meals, lodging, transportation and special educational programs, for the 90 students projected to attend.

For tickets or information, please call Cindy at (732) 248-1596.

Rainbow Academy Open House

October 12

Rainbow Academy Child Care Center, located at 2177 Oak Tree Rd., will hold an Open House on Saturday, Oct. 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Rainbow Academy offers a variety of programs to fit your child's needs, from ages six weeks to 10 years. There is limited space available for the infant, nursery, pre-kindergarten and Before & After care programs. Everyone who registers will receive one free month of ParentWatch, an internet viewing service. For a demo of their video services, visit their website at www.parentwatch.com.

In addition to the Open House, you are invited to visit the center for a tour during normal operating hours (7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday). For directions and additional information, visit their website at www.rainbowacademy.com.

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 the organizers listed below.

For 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 info, call 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 The-*

(Continued on next page)

What's happening in

SEPTEMBER

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
<p>EVENTS</p> <p>Walk Down Memory Lane-Sept. 24 2pm-Old Songs & Food</p>	<p>Candlelight Memorial September 11 • 7 PM Spring Lake Park - Bring a candle</p>	<p>Shopping at Pathmark 9AM Practical Crafting 10-11AM</p>	<p>12 Walking Club 9 AM Bingo 10 AM-2 PM Pizza 11:30 AM (\$2)</p>	<p>13 Walking Club 9 AM Bingo 10AM-2PM Pizza Lunch 11:30AM</p>
<p>16 Walking Club 9 AM Adult Crafts 10:30-11:3 Yoga 10:30-11:30 AM AARP Meeting 12 PM</p>	<p>17 Bingo 10AM-2PM Aerobics/Dance 9AM</p>	<p>18 Walking Club 9AM Movie 11:30 AARP Crafts 1 PM</p>	<p>19 Shopping at Pathmark 9AM Practical Crafting 10-11AM</p>	<p>20 Walking Club 9AM Bingo 10AM-2PM Pizza Lunch 11:30AM</p>

TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE PAL BUILDING ON MAPLE AVE.

southplainfieldpeople

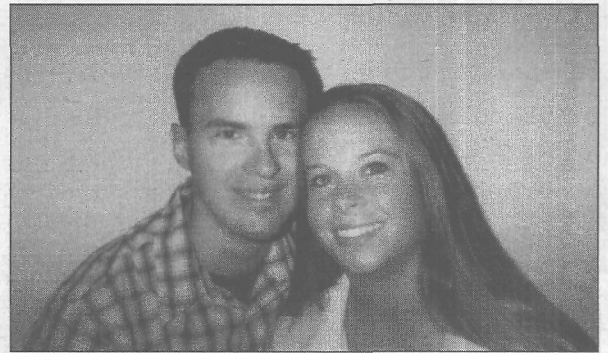
Milestones

Pelechs Announce the Birth of David Michael Jr.

David and Heidi Pelech of South Plainfield are proud to announce the birth of a son, David Michael Pelech Jr. The Pelechs have also have a daughter, Ashley.

David Jr., who was born at 5:27 a.m. on July 28 at J.E.K. Medical Center, weighed in at 8 pounds 3 ounces, was 21 inches long.

David's maternal grandparents are Larry and Olga Zampel of South Plainfield. His paternal grandparents are Walter and Lorraine Pelech, also of South Plainfield.



Jacquelyn Herzog and David Butler

Jacquelyn Herzog and David Butler To Wed in June of 2003

Denise and Thomas Herzog of South Plainfield announced the engagement of their daughter, Jacquelyn Marie Herzog to David Bryan Butler of Manville, formerly of South Plainfield.

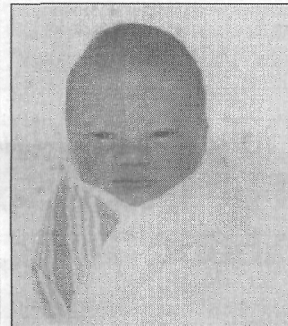
Jacquelyn is a 1998 graduate of South Plainfield High School and presently attends Kean University, working on a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, with a minor in Earth Science. She is employed at Creative Kids Academy as a preschool teacher.

David Butler is the son of Thelma Hunlock of Raritan and Robert Butler of Hamilton. He graduated from South Plainfield High School in 1998 and is presently employed at Corbo's Automotive in Somerville as a mechanic/class car restorer.

A June 2003 wedding is planned.

Share Your Good News With the Community!

Send your milestones to the Observer at 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 18, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or email: ggnan@aol.com



David Michael Jr.

Clinical Psychologist To Discuss Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome

The First New Jersey Depressive and Manic Depressive Support Group's monthly lecture meeting on Sept. 25, will feature Catherine Bianchi, Ph.D., who is a Clinical Psychologist with extensive experience in treating survivors of trauma. Dr. Bianchi has a private practice in Morristown, New Jersey.

The topic for her talk is: Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome. Her lecture will include general information, specific treatment options, including medications used to combat symptoms, therapeutic approaches, plus the use of coping skills and recent research developments. Questions from the audience will also be invited.

The organization's monthly educational meetings take place on the last Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, 21 Normandy Heights Rd.

(about one block east of the Morris Museum) in Morristown. Meetings are open to the public; a nominal donation is requested from non-members. Free literature is available to all attendees and there is a lending library of educational audiotapes for members.

In addition to the lecture series, peer group support sessions led by experienced facilitators are held on the first and third Tuesday evenings of each month in Morristown (at the Fellowship) and on the second and fourth Tuesday evenings of each month at the Madison Medical Center.

Job Information Center Programs for September

The South Plainfield Free Public Library, located at 2484 Plainfield Ave. (adjacent to the Municipal Building) has planned the following program schedule for September 2002

Tuesday, Sept. 17, 10-11:30 a.m., Resumes and Cover Letters.

Saturday, Sept. 28 10-11:30 a.m., Job Searching on the Internet Programs are free; space is limited. Reservations are required. For more information please call the library's Reference Desk at 908-754-7885 or visit the library web site at: www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

(Continued from previous page)

ater on Oct. 17. \$80 per person includes bus trip, Amish style lunch, theater spectacular, taxes and tips.

Checks made payable to OLC Rosary Society immediately. Mail your check to Maria Seliga, 1710 Pershing Pl., South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or contact Maria at (908) 769-7735

Sen. Ctr. 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 be 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.

For information and registration contact the PAL at 226-7713.

Seniors' Trip to the Woodlock Pines

Oct. 28-Nov. 1

South Plainfield Senior Citizens are planning a trip to Woodlock Pines from Oct. 28 through Nov. 1.

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

SPHS Class of 1982 Reunion

November 9

South Plainfield High School Class of 1982 announced that plans are underway for their 20 year reunion. The date is Saturday, Nov. 9.

If you have a new address or know of other classmates' whereabouts, contact Rosanne Demico-Illardo at (732) 878-9877. Please log onto www.classmates.com for more reunion information.

— Out of Town —

Tourette Syndrome Mtg.

September 12

The Tourette Syndrome Association of NJ - Middlesex/Union County Family Support Group will meet on Thursday, Sept. 12, 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.

Middlesex WOWs Plan Dance

September 13

Middlesex East WOWs Carteret Chapter, will hold a dance for widows and widowers on Friday, Sept. 13, at St. Demetrius Community Center, 681-691 Roosevelt Ave., Carteret. Admission \$8.

Live music and refreshments. Hours are 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. For more information, call 732-969-1123 or 908-757-0515.

Metuchen VFW Plans Flea Market

September 14

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 65 in Metuchen is hosting their Fall Flea Market.

The American Legion Auxiliary Fugle-Hummer Unit 65 will be hosting their Fall Flea Market on Sept. 14, with a Sept. 21 rain date. The Pearl Street Parking Lot in Metuchen will contain a wide variety of vendors providing items for you to discover beginning at 8 a.m. Food will be available for purchase during the event. Vendor check in begins at 7 a.m. and spaces are still available. Contact the Legion if you have any questions.

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 information, call 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.

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Fire Leaves 60 Homeless

Continued from page 1

source remains under investigation. Also confirmed by investigators is the fact that a contractor was on site. However, there has been no direct correlation made between the fire and the contractor at this time and the investigation is continuing.

Because of the fire, the structural integrity of the building has been compromised and is slowing the in-

Need a Trumpet? Piano? Baritone?

A loan program available to students grades K-12 began in 1981. Although there is no formal curriculum for this wonderful free opportunity, it is once again open to all music students in Central New Jersey.

Due to the exceedingly high cost of certain items, South Plainfield teacher Paul Sturm has worked very diligently to either purchase or acquire music books, records, cassette tapes, compact discs, cats, musical scores, encyclopedias, posters, etc. All of these items are once again available—contact Mr. Sturm at 908-754-4620, ext. 378 or email: ptrumpetman@earthlink.net

vestigation of the incident. Wednesday morning residents were asked to make a list of what minimal personal effects they needed from their burnt out apartments. Since it was too dangerous for them to enter the premises, firemen went into the building and attempted to retrieve some clothes and other belongings.

One resident was taken to Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center when she was overcome with emotion. A member of one of the rescue squads suffered an ankle injury in the early stages of the operation and had to be taken to Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center for treatment. Two firefighters from South Plainfield were also transported for treatment of dizziness and knee injuries.

Participating in the fire were fire departments from South Plainfield, Metuchen, Colonia, North Stelton, New Market, Dunellen, Middlesex, New Brunswick, Passaic, Edison, Perth Amboy, North Brunswick, Iselin, East Brunswick and Plainfield. Rescue Squads assisting came from South Plainfield, Metuchen, Edison, North Stelton, Rutgers and Always Caring. South Plainfield Police were assisted by officers from Piscataway.

From the Democrats

September 11 Remembered

Mayor Daniel Gallagher and Councilpersons Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral this week reflected on September 11, 2001.

Mayor Gallagher said "When one thinks about the tragic events of last year, so many different thoughts and images run through your mind. The enormity of the collapse of the twin towers, the senseless loss of life, the courage of the brave men and women of the police and fire departments and rescue and emergency personnel. It was one of the most terrible days in American history, but at the same time it showed the fortitude and unity of our people."

Ed Kubala agreed with the Mayor saying: "Dan and Jim and I just couldn't do a normal campaign release this week. I think all Americans feel the same. We need to take pause of our daily routines and give proper

respect to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice last September 11th. We all remember where we were when the first plane crashed into the World Trade Center. We know how our shock turned into disbelief then into anger and finally into determination. The reaction of our nation over the last twelve months demonstrates what the United States of America is all about. We haven't sought blind vengeance against any particular group. We are even giving "due process" to suspected terrorists. This once again shows why we are the beacon of freedom and justice for the entire world. We are a principled, loving, and kind people."

Jim Vokral expanded on Mayor Gallagher and Councilperson Kubala's thoughts: "As Dan and Ed said, that awful day brought out the best in all of us rather than the worst

and that says a lot for our country. We will always remember those brave men and women who raced into that inferno without regard for their own safety to rescue others. We must acknowledge the young men and women of our armed forces who risk their lives half way around the world to put to an end this senseless fanatical terrorism. The resulting unity and determination of the American people is remarkable. If there is one thing that the terrorists learned it's that they don't know the spirit and high morals of this great country of ours."

Mayor Gallagher summed up everyone's feelings "There will be time enough for politics next week. This week let us all join together to say a prayer for those who were taken from us and thank God for the land we love."

From the Republicans

The Issues South Plainfield Cares About: Taxes, Crime, and Overgrowth

"The 2002 election in South Plainfield promises to be the most exciting in over a decade," said mayoral candidate Jake Cataldo this week. "People approach me constantly about skyrocketing taxes, our high crime rate and the problems caused by overgrowth. These are the issues people care about and these are the issues we need to discuss."

Council candidate Marge Reedy echoed these sentiments, "A few weeks ago I challenged the Democrats to make this a campaign based on ideas. There's still time for them to take this challenge—I hope they will. We have some big problems ahead due to nearly a decade of neglect, and we need to get to work on the solutions," Reedy said.

"Taxes are up almost 80 percent since the Democrats took control," added Geoff Champion, Reedy's running mate. "Last year alone spending went up well over a million dollars, and while the mayor and council brag that spending is flat under the budget they are about to adopt, they admit in the newspapers that it actually grows by over \$125,000. I don't know about the mayor and council, but for most people that's a lot of money" Champion added.

Reedy agreed, "With a twenty-million-dollar budget, you would think they'd be providing top-notch services, but they're not. In fact, even though the Democrats boast about paving about a dozen or two roads each year, isn't that what towns are supposed to do? With a budget that large I would hope they could pave a few roads."

"We also have to reverse the crime rate," Cataldo added. "The 2000-2001 Uniform Crime Report put out by the State Police lists South Plainfield with the fourth-highest crime rate in the County. This is unacceptable. We should be at the bottom of the list, not the top. But let me be perfectly clear: I support our hard-working police officers. I was one of them, and I know they face a difficult task. We need to give these officers the resources they need to get the job done, and we must start requiring accountability from the top. I believe my background in law enforcement will be an asset in the fight to bring down crime."

"And don't forget all the building," said Reedy. "I wish we had all the solutions for this one, but we don't.

Only turning back the clock could erase the damage done when the Democrats allowed builders to construct scores of townhouses, condos, and apartments. But looking ahead, we must do what we can to prevent the problems from becoming worse. We need to slow the growth."

Cataldo summed it up best, "The Democrats are so busy patting themselves on the back, they fail to see the

problems they've created. The mayor said recently that I should congratulate him and his colleagues for a job well done. I wish I could. While I'm sure he and his friends believe they've done a good job, the facts tell a different story. We need new leadership, and I hope the people of South Plainfield will allow me, as well as Marge and Geoff, to provide that leadership."

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Here's the latest news from the South Plainfield Library:

We'll resume our popular Sunday operating hours this weekend. We'll be open from 1:30-5 p.m. and all of our usual services will be available.

Turning to our children's programs, there will be a Kidcraft program for children ages six and older on Monday evening at 6:30. The Library will provide all craft materials; children are asked to register in advance for the program. Also, we'll be following our usual schedule of children's Storytime programs next week. Those programs are for children ages three and older; no pre-registration is required. Each program lasts about an hour and features stories and a craft activity. If you'd like more information, please call us at (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda.

Our next class from our Job Information Center will be held on Tuesday morning at 10:30. The subject for this class is "Resumes and Cover Letters". The class is presented free of charge, but space is limited, so please call to register. For more details, please ask for Allan or Marcia.

We're featuring three displays throughout the month. Our display wall features several works by artist Jason V. Limbo of Warren. The large display cabinet features a number of patriotic figures and dioramas by South Plainfield resident John Petronella. And the small display case features some craft items made by members of the South Plainfield Senior Citizens Center.

Congratulations to the winners of

the Library's Labor Day raffle: Lois Henderson, Debbie Peterson, Cindy Eichler and Katie Muglia. If you haven't picked up your prizes yet, please be sure to do so.

Here's another computer-themed reminder: Please do not try to download files from the Internet onto either your own computer discs or the terminal's hard drive. Not only are patrons prohibited from using their own discs with our Internet terminals, but also putting extra files and programs on the hard drive can easily foul up existing programs on that drive. If you need to hang onto something from the Net, please print out the file, rather than try to save it. Also, please remember to click the "print" icon only once for each job. Clicking it several times overloads the printer with data and freezes it up. As always, check with us if you have any questions.

Finally, we'll close out today's column with a towering bit of immodesty. For the first time, we entered a float in the South Plainfield Labor Day Parade. Not only was the Elvis-themed float well received, but we also won a prize for "Best Municipal Group". (The trophy will be prominently displayed at the Library.) Special thanks to all who designed and constructed the float, including Library Board members Eric Aronowicz, Wesley Spear, Virginia Popik, Stephen Magura and Dorothy Berny, and to John Hudson, who rode on the float and filled in for the King of Rock and Roll.

That's about it for this week. We'll be back next time with more.



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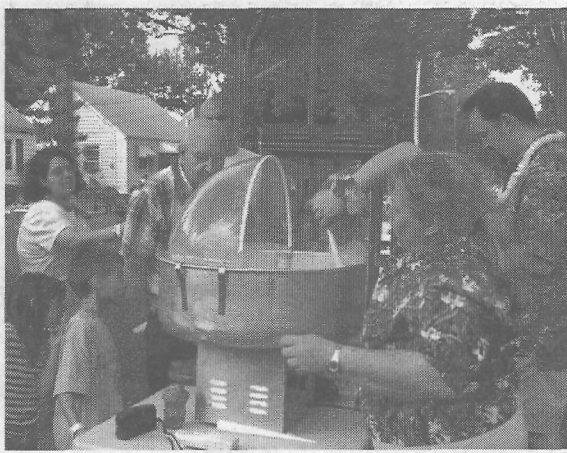
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Hawaiian Heaven at Morton Ave. Block Party

By Jane Dornick

Cool temperatures, cloudy skies and a little spritz of rain didn't dampen the spirits of the first ever Morton Ave. block party last month. Party organizer Betty Schiavi spared no expense in making the entire day a blast for everyone.

This year's party featured a Hawaiian theme with tiki torches, blow-up palm trees and grass skirts. The event really got going when DJ Paul Melillo arrived. Children and adults played water balloon and egg toss games while others were busy cooking on numerous grills that were lined up on the street. The movie theater popcorn machine and cotton candy maker were doing a booming business. There was even a brief appearance by the South Plainfield Fire Department fire truck. The evening hours brought a watermelon eating contest and were capped off with a bonfire.

According to Betty, nearly 100 people attended this year's memorable bash and she's already planning their second annual block party.



Ponytail Softball 12 & Under Team Takes Title

The 12 and Under Ponytail Softball All Star team wrapped up an outstanding season by winning the Parkway Invitational Softball League championship. The team entered the playoffs as the second seed on the strength of a 9-1 league regular season record. After a dominating regular season, they entered the championship game against a powerful Colonia team against which they split the season series winning once and losing once.

In the final game, South Plainfield fell behind early 3-1 before rallying for 6 unanswered runs to go ahead 7-3.

The South Plainfield rally was led by key hits from Stephanie Szeliga, Katie Hardy, Christina Schuetz, Amber Hartman, Lauren Fry, and Elizabeth Flannery. Defensively the team was led by the complete game pitching of Rachel Senz and a timely game ending catch by Kelly Downes. By the time the final out was registered, the South Plainfield squad had a hard earned 7-4 victory and the league championship trophy.

In addition, Juli Bosse, Allison Huffsmith, Tiffany Roth, Lauren Primavera, and Gina Seringo provided key plays throughout the season.

son.

This victory capped a season that saw the team finish with a final record of 23-5, including a 5-1 record tournament championship

in the tough Readington Tournament. In addition, the squad was a semi-finalist in the Monroe Tournament. Congratulations to all the players on an outstanding season.

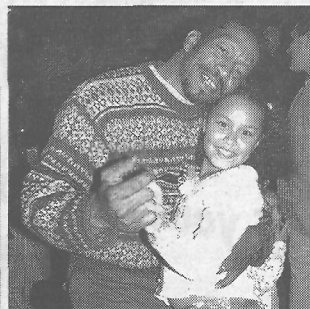
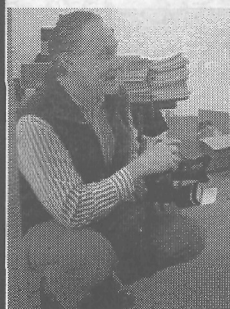
Eleven Year Old American All Star Team



The 11 Year Old American All Stars proudly show the trophies they received after placing fourth in the Cranford Tournament. Pictured back row left to right: Dominic Papa, Tom Pryor, Alan Kunie and Pat Muglia. Second Row left to right: Josh Rivera, Tramane Miller, Mike Muglia, A. J. Kunie, Garrett Kelly, Mike Dezmin, and Mike Niemczyk. Front row left to right: Nick Levendusky, Dominic Papa, Jeff Pryor, Steve Wiecek and Kenneth Breslau.

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Do You Know the School Traffic Laws?

Due to the continuing construction in and around the schools, many parking problems have occurred as this school year began. Numerous complaints were received by the South Plainfield Police Department regarding this issue and we would like to remind residents of the traffic laws apply to public roadways.

- Bus loading zones at schools are for school buses only, not for parents.
- Parking is prohibited within 50 ft. of a stop sign, within 25 ft. of any intersection, within 10 ft. of a fire hydrant and in front of any driveway.
- When discharging or picking up do not double park in roadways.
- Parking or standing in a crosswalk or within 25 feet is prohibited.
- Parking on a sidewalk is prohibited.

The police department is trying to correct school traffic problems at the following schools:

South Plainfield High School—When using the Lane Ave. parking lot, do not pull into the lot and discharge students by parking on the crosswalks. Discharge students at the curb nearest the school. At the Lake Ave. approach, cars are not allowed to double park in the circle area or the school entrance to discharge students.

Middle School—Parking or discharging students in the bus loading zones on Lake Ave. is prohibited. Double parking on Lake Ave. to discharge and pickup students is also prohibited and extremely dangerous.

Grant Central Sixth—Parking or discharging students in the bus loading zone on Cromwell Pl. is prohibited. The parking lot on the west side of the school should be used to discharge and pickup students.

Franklin School—Parking or discharging students in the bus loading zone on Franklin Ave. is prohibited. U turns at the intersection of Franklin Ave. and Gray Dr. is also prohibited.

Kennedy School—Parking or discharging students in the no parking zone on Norwood Ave. is prohibited. Also double parking on Norwood Ave., discharging or picking up students is prohibited.

Riley School—Do not use the senior citizen complex to park, discharge or pickup students. There is no parking on Walter St. near the school entrance. If your child enters/exits the school via the rear doors, use the parking lot on Walter St. near Mildred St.

Roosevelt School—Parents should use the new parking lot on Hamilton Blvd. to discharge and pickup students. Parents should enter the lot and discharge students near the curb line adjacent to the old school. Parking is still permitted on Evona Ave., but prohibited on Jackson Ave. between Hamilton Blvd. and Garibaldi Ave. While there are no restrictions for left turns from the new parking lot on Hamilton Blvd., the turn is difficult at most times. Instead motorists can exit the lot making a right turn onto Hamilton Blvd. and use an alternate route to travel south.

The following locations will be staffed with crossing guards: Plainfield Ave. at Maple, Lane, Sampton, Geary and Madison Dr.; Clinton Ave. at Walnut, Franklin and Tompkins Ave.; Grant Ave. at Franklin and Tompkins; Franklin Ave. at Franklin School; Maple Ave. at Front and Spring Lake Park entrance; Lakeview Ave. at Church St.; Park Ave. at Chambers, W. Crescent, Fairview and Clark Ln.; Norwood Ave. at Adams Ave.; South Plainfield Ave. at Norwood, Joan and Sacred Heart Dr.; Sacred Heart Dr. at Randolph Rd.; Cedarbrook Ave. at Morris Ave.; Rahway Ave. at Kenyon Ave.; Merchants Ave. at Freed Pl.; Hamilton Blvd. at Montrose, Belmont, Evona and Jackson.; Jackson Ave. at Evona Pl.

Continued from page 2

personnel committee that this person under the current regulations would be unable to secure that certificate, members of that committee were Jeff Seider, Dan Smith, Pio Pennesi and myself. The personnel committee then directed the assistant superintendent to repost and re-advertise the position and no recommendation was made. At the end of the school year, the new personnel committee, Pio Pennesi, Tom Delaney, Tim Morgan and myself, were reviewing the open positions for the coming school year and this position was not shown as open. When asked why is was not on the list, the assistant superintendent reported that the administration wanted to fill the position again with a long term substitute. It should be noted that use of a long-term substitute requires that certain rules need to be followed, none of which were. For example, after twenty days, the district has to supply to the county superintendent with an explanation of why a certified teacher has not been placed in that position, what action is being taken to secure such an individual, if any qualified individuals have applied for that position, and why a certified applicant has not been selected over a non certified individual. The committee objected, in fact we knew of a student teacher that had rave reviews and directed again for the position to be posted and advertised. We were again being offered a long-term substitute for this position who did not currently hold the proper certificate to be employed as a permanent teacher or offered a contract.

As to my personal experience with this individual, I will tell everyone who wants to hear what my personal objection is. This individual called my son a name during a scrimmage with the girl's varsity basketball team; I used the chain of command properly, and called the coach. When I spoke to this individual, he told me my son was in high school now and his mother shouldn't be calling the coach. I stated that he did not foster any relationship with my son after calling him a moron which would enable my son to feel comfortable talking to him. He told me that my son was over reacting to the name, mind you, and he did not deny calling him this name. I then told him that my son did not want to play for a person who would call him such a name. I also told him

that others from both the girls' and boys' teams had called that evening, and all recounted the name called. At the boys' next game, this individual gathered the team and told them in front of their parents that "he didn't know who Dawn Jefferys thought she was, but she was not the coach of this team, and that Nick obviously did not care about the team as he did not show for the last game of their season." Parents and members of the team called after that game was over to recount the comments made. I then went to the next step and called the Athletic Director. He responded that he didn't agree with what was said or done and that he would look into it. I never heard from him again and to my knowledge nothing was ever done. I do know that no apology was ever made to my son or myself. I did at that point tell the Superintendent and the assistant superintendent of the incident.

It is interesting that since this information has come to light and others have heard about this, the whole story has now changed. Now the story involves the amount of time my son played during the season. The reason I find this an interesting addition to the story of our personal experience with this individual is that I can bring forward coaches who have had my son since he was five years old that know that my husband and I have never interfered with a coaches decision. Teachers who have had my children know I have never asked for any special consideration for my children, but all of a sudden since this person entered this school district, I have become a parent that demands more for my children because I am a Board member. This story lacks credibility and it is an absolute lie and I resent the fact the SPEA Vice President asked you to stand up for this and any educator who over the last week made announcements in their classes for children to come out. This is a blatant misuse of power, shame on you for manipulating our children! I have been contacted by parents who have reported that this individual cried at the soccer practice in order to upset them enough to come out. I have been called by parents who have had similar experiences with their child and this individual. If you want to know why they would not come forward, look at what you are doing to my son and me! What is the new

SPEA motto, "We care about your kids, unless he is a Board of Education member's son?" What type of individual who claims to care about children would do this?

I will finish by saying I hold administration responsible for this mess. We the Board would not be in this position today if a few would have done their jobs properly. When a parent calls for help it should be given, no matter whom that parent is. When a member of our staff manipulates, harasses, or humiliates children, action should be taken. When people act unprofessionally they should not be offered jobs here. When a person does not meet the certification standards or the level of expertise required they should not be recommended for the job.

I have said this before and I will say this again, I do not stand for liars, and I do not waste time on people who have no credibility because of past and current lies. As the Board approaches our next round of negotiations, I would appreciate professional behavior. After all the taxpayers and our students really deserve it.

DAWN JEFFERYS

Dear Editor,

The mayor and his buddies are trying to redefine the phrase negative campaigning — or maybe they just don't understand it. Apparently the Democrats think the term means criticizing or questioning the Gallagher administration. That's not what it means — check the dictionary.

It is not negative campaigning to question why taxes went up 80 percent since the Democrats took control, and it's not negative campaigning to ask whether the mayor and council are playing politics with high-level positions that cost taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars. Similarly, it's not negative campaigning to question whether the mayor's tax claim is false or to ask why he and the council president waited a year — until the news media came to town — to close the park. These are legitimate questions the Democrats refuse to answer.

Rather than resort to the negative-campaigning mantra, Gallagher, Kubala and Vokral should answer the questions. Why are you saying you've held taxes even three times since 1999 when it's not true? Why did spending go up over a million dollars last year,

and what did you spend the money on? Why are you allowing builders to get away with breaking the rules when you make the average resident jump through hoops to add a deck or expand a home? Are you really cutting debt or are you just putting it in other line items on the budget? These are all unanswered questions. Gallagher, Kubala and Vokral apparently don't have good answers.

JIM ECKERT

To the Editor,

I can't believe what I'm reading. Faced with the figures, the mayor still claims he's held our tax rate even three times since 1995. His running mate, Ed Kubala is now making even grander claims. He says the tax rate is unchanged three times since 1999.

Kubala said, "You can look it up." I did. It's plainly false, and you can look it up too. The New Jersey Division of Local Government has a website with tax information. If you go to it, you can see that Kubala is not telling us the truth. The address is <http://www.state.nj.us/dca/lgs/taxes/taxmenu.htm>. Simply look for the municipal tax rate column for South Plainfield for each year listed. These web pages prove that the Democrats did not hold the tax rate even three times since 1999.

Unfortunately, the site only goes back to 1998, so you can't use it to check the mayor's claim, which is also false. But the site undisputedly shows that Kubala, the mayor's running mate, is bragging about something the Democrats didn't do. I won't vote for someone who tries to mislead me. I hope the people who read this letter won't either.

GEOFFREY CHAMPION

To the Editor,

The numbers tell the story. Taxes have not been held even again, and again, and again. Mayor Gallagher claims this is the third time there has been no municipal tax increase since 1995. Undisputable figures show otherwise.

Now the mayor is repeating this claim on his political signs around town, even though it's untrue. I call upon the mayor to take down these misleading signs. If you agree, let him know. Mayor Gallagher, tear down these signs.

JOSEPHINE DIDOLCE

IN YOUR OPINION

Looking for good activities for your children?

K-5 youth groups

Middle School programs

High School activities

www.cedarcroft.org

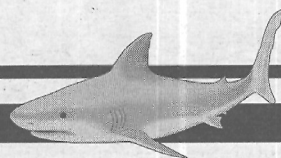
Everything starts this month!!!

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Information on the web or call 908-756-8244.

Sports



SWIMMING

Top Tiger Shark Swimmers Compete in Conference Championship Finals

The ten top swimmers from the Tiger Sharks swim team, represented the South Plainfield Recreation Community Pool and took home honors at the NJSDC Conference Swimming Championships held July 31 at the Frog Hollow Swim and Tennis Club in South Amboy.

Each of the ten swimmers representing the Tiger Sharks competed against top swimmers from 32 other New Jersey teams from A, B, C and D leagues in semi-finals to earn one of the top six spots in each age group and event. Earning one of the top six positions meant that those swimmers would qualify for the finals. All ten South Plainfield team members qualified for the final races.

All ten Tiger Shark representatives received medals at the finals.

Final placings for these swimmers were as follows: First place in the eight and under Medley Relay girls team, with a time of 1:44:65 went to Maggie Valentino, Kate O'Brien, Kelly McLaughlin and Grace Piekarski.

Calvin John Smiley, age 15-18, boys, took second in the 200m freestyle, fourth in the 100m freestyle and sixth in the 100m backstroke. Dylan McDermott, age eight and under boys, took two first place wins: in 25m freestyle and 25m breaststroke; he also took second place in the 25m butterfly.

Maggie Valentino, age eight and under girls, took fifth in 25m freestyle,

sixth in 25m breaststroke and fifth in 25m backstroke. Emily Piekarski, age 9-10 girls, placed fifth in 100m freestyle.

Katie O'Brien, age eight and under girls, won first place for the 25m breaststroke. Shannon Dabrio, age 15-18 girls, placed 4th in the 100m breaststroke and fifth in the 200m individual medley.

Matt Moates, age 11-12 boys, took second place in the 50m backstroke and fifth in the 50m butterfly. Philip Luzny placed second in the 100m butterfly.

South Plainfield can be very proud of the efforts of these swimmers and their team members who have worked hard all summer.

FIELD HOCKEY

Week of Sept 14

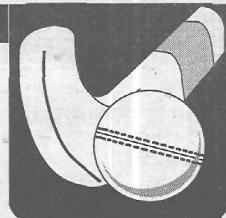
Scrimmages have been completed and the field hockey season is underway. The first game of the season takes place on Friday, Sept. 13 at 4 p.m. in Cranford. On Tuesday, Sept. 17, the team will face Monroe Township in Monroe at 3:45 p.m. The final game of the week will be against Sayreville at home on the newly dedicated Carol Espinosa Field at 3:45 p.m. This year's team was listed in *The Star-Ledger* this week as one of the Group 3 Field Hockey teams to watch. Please

come out in support of a wonderful team of players. The best of luck to both players and coaches for a great season.

Watch for an article on the Carol Espinosa field dedication in an upcoming issue of Field Hockey Corner.

KidStuff Fundraiser

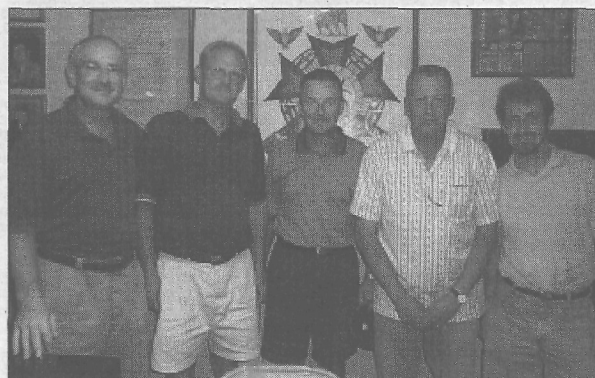
The varsity and JV teams are selling the KidStuff coupon savings book as this year's fundraiser. The book offers hundreds of coupons for cloth-



ing, shoes, toys, and sporting goods stores as well as food, recreational, educational and cultural activities.

The book is being sold for \$25.

Please support this year's field hockey team by contacting any member of the team to purchase a book.

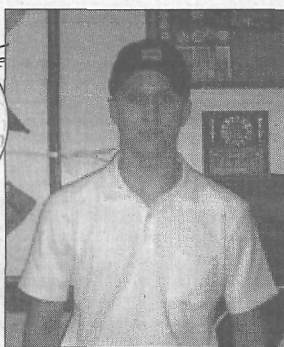
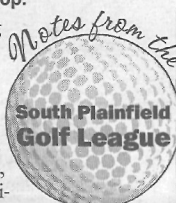


(Left to right) Todd Gregory, Dennis Bibby, Capt. Frank Matthews, Bob Besser, Jim Bishop.

In an exciting wind-up of the season, Sport & Social, winners of the National Division, faced Witty's Liquors, the American Division titleholder, for the over-all championship in the South Plainfield Golf League.

With a balanced team effort without any individual standouts, Sport & Social prevailed over Witty's to cap a remarkable season that saw them climb from ninth place in the twelve-team league last year to a first-place finish this season.

Joey Glowacki of Witty's earned Player-of-the-Year honors with the



Player of the Year Joey Glowacki

lowest scoring average in the summer league. Al Szumski of Masters garnered the Most-Improved Golfer Award.



Ponytail Softball Batters Box

By Sharon Miller

****Date Change - Ponytail Softball Association Meeting - New Date Sept. 30**

The South Plainfield Parents' Association will hold their next meeting on Monday, Sept. 30 at 7:30 p.m. in the South Plainfield Middle School library. If you are interested in becoming a member and being involved in girl's Ponytail softball, please join us on Sept. 30. New members are always welcomed.

Art Auction—October 4

On Friday, Oct. 4, the SPPPA will be hosting an art auction presented by Ross Galleries at the High School library. Preview is from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Auction begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 per person and can be purchased at the door or in advance by calling (908) 791-9439, (908) 756-2823, or by contacting any member of the Parents' Association.

Attention SPPPA members, the fundraising committee is looking for volunteers to help out during the auction. If you are able to assist in any way, please contact Debbie Boyle, Pat De Santis, or Mark Sutherland.

Ponytail Softball Website

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

Learn to Referee HS Basketball

Central Jersey Basketball Officials will be holding their annual clinic for the training of High School Basketball Officials. Interested? Contact: Ray Kelton at (732) 613-0520

WRESTLING

A New Era Begins for South Plainfield Wrestling

By Bob Hunter

With the retirement of long time coach Bill Pavlak, South Plainfield High School wrestling will begin a new era with hometown wrestling star Kevin McCann slated as the new Tiger head coach.

McCann, a 1991 graduate of SPHS and the third state champion in school history will take over the helm of a very successful program. McCann a long time assistant to Pavlak has some pretty big shoes to fill, as he attempts to continue the success Pavlak had.

"Don't expect many changes in the program," noted McCann, "It's basi-

cally the same system that was used when I wrestled here. Conditioning and physical toughness is what the Tigers are well known for will continue. I plan on doing more live wrestling in practice which will help our guys in those close matches. We went 9-5 last year and considered a down year by many, but considering the schedule and the quality teams we wrestled it was a very successful year."

The Tigers coming off another Summer Duals Championship this summer at the Old Bridge Wrestling Festival looked very good. They have won every summer team duals since it started about seven years ago. Expect this year's team to be good too,

with the help of the Middle School wrestlers moving up to the varsity level. Shane Kagan last years Middle School head coach will move up to the varsity as assistant to McCann along with Bill Hamilton.

The Middle School wrestling team went 23-3 last year and will have another hometown wrestler in Kevin Hajduk taking over as Middle School head coach replacing Kagan. South Plainfield is a die hard wrestling town and it's great to have our own hometown wrestlers come back to coach and continue with the winning tradition they help establish as athletes.

Good luck to coach McCann and coach Hajduk.



Mayor Dan Gallagher and members of the Council were on hand last Saturday to open South Plainfield's skateboard park. Deanna Fredericks, along with several skateboarders, helped to cut the ribbon. See next week's edition for story and additional photos.

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FRIDAY NITE SPECIAL

3 Hour-

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7 p.m.

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Kids Craft Class

registration with this coupon



Local kindergartner James Markey takes his first bus ride to Riley School last week.

Obituaries

Jeanne L. (Rybinski) O'Mara, 41

Jeanne L. (Rybinski) O'Mara died on Sept. 4, at the Lawrence General Hospital in Massachusetts.

Born in Plainfield, she was an active outdoors person who enjoyed tennis, snow boarding, rock climbing, fishing, wake boarding and hiking.

She was a vocalist who sang in clubs with many of the leading rock bands. She and her family recently began taking tae kwon do.

She attended St. Michael's Church in North Andover, Mass.

O'Mara is survived by her husband, William E. O'Mara Jr.; two sons, William E. III "Tripper" and Thomas Allen O'Mara, both of Andover; her father, H. Richard Rybinski of Spring Hill, Fla.; her mother, Dolores (Allen) Rybinski of South Plainfield; a brother, Richard A. Rybinski of South Plainfield and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

Memorial contributions may be made in Mrs. O'Mara's name to St. Michael's School, 80 Maple Ave., North Andover, MA 01845.

Eva DeAngelis, 86

Eva DeAngelis, 86, died on Thursday, Sept. 5 in Plainfield.

Born in Elizabeth, she has resided in Staten Island before settling in Edison.

She was a homemaker.

Her husband, Frank DeAngelis, died in 1975.

Surviving are two daughters, Gloria Wickensimer and Barbara Christ, both of South Plainfield.

Also surviving are nine grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Nancy A. Copeland, 59

Nancy A. Copeland died on Friday, Sept. 6 in Raritan.

Born in Mahanoy City, Pa., she had resided in the Bridgewater/Raritan area for the past 40 years.

She was presently employed as the office manager for Flavor Innovations of South Plainfield for the past 10 years. Previously, Nancy was employed as a research records coordinator for Ortho-Pharmaceutical in Raritan for 20 years.

Her sister, Joan Brown died in 1987.

Surviving are two sons, David G. Copeland and his wife Cynthia of Largo, Fla.; Darren Copeland of Scranton, Pa.; a daughter, Joanne L. Goldas and her husband, Robert of Raritan and a brother, Michael Fufia of Ringtown, Pa.

Also surviving are her grandchildren, Bobby, Kristen and Haley.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

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LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

ORDINANCE NO. 1601

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

Ordinance #1601 entitled: AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SALE OF MUNICIPAL LAND KNOWN AS BLOCK 118, LOT 4 IN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield on Thursday, September 5, 2002 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk
\$21.00 September 13, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

ORDINANCE NO. 1602

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

Ordinance #1602 entitled: AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$200,000 FOR THE IMPROVEMENTS TO PUTNAM STREET PARK IN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield on Thursday, September 5, 2002 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk
\$21.00 September 13, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

ORDINANCE NO. 1603

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

Ordinance #1603 entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #1363 ENTITLED: "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND CODIFYING ORDINANCE #730,922, 1115, 1184, 1232 ESTABLISHING A STATE UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE ENFORCING AGENCY, CONSTRUCTION CODE FEES, ETC." was adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, September 13, 2002 and that a public hearing be held at 7:00PM on Thursday, October 10, 2002 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ORDINANCE NO. 1603
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE #1363 ENTITLED: "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND CODIFYING ORDINANCE #730,922, 1115, 1184 AND 1232, ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ESTABLISHING A STATE UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE ENFORCING AGENCY, CONSTRUCTION CODE FEES, ETC."

BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield, Middlesex County, New Jersey, that Ordinance #1363 is hereby amended as follows:

SECTION 1.
b) SUBCODE FEES:
1. Building

(i) New Construction:
Residential R-3 & R-4
\$0.015 per cu. ft. volume
State Fee .0019 per cu. ft.
CO Residential \$50.00 per Dwelling Unit

All Other Use Groups
\$0.025 per cubic foot of volume for the first 1 million cu.ft.
\$0.015 per cubic foot over 1 million cu. ft.
State Fee .0019 per cu. ft.
CO 10% of Permit Fee, Min. Fee \$100.00

(ii) Additions:
Residential R-3 & R-4
\$0.015 per cu. ft. volume, Min. Fee \$35.00
State Fee .0019 per cu. ft.
CO Residential \$50.00 per Dwelling Unit

All Other Use Groups
\$0.025 per cubic foot of volume, Min. Fee \$35.00
State Fee .0019 per cu. ft.
CO 10% of Permit Fee, Min. Fee \$50.00

(iii) Renovations, Alterations & Repairs:
Residential R-3 & R-4
\$15.00 per \$1,000.00 of construction cost multiplied by the closest \$100.00 of construction cost. Min. Fee \$35.00
State Fee \$0.96 per \$1,000.00 of construction cost
CO \$25.00

All Other Use Groups
\$20.00 per \$1,000.00 of construction cost multiplied by the closest \$100.00 of construction cost. Min. Fee \$35.00
State Fee \$0.96 per \$1,000.00 of construction cost
CO 10% of permit fee, Min. Fee \$50.00
State Fee \$0.96 per \$1,000.00 of construction cost
CO 10% of Permit Fee, Min. Fee \$50.00

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield that all other provisions of prior ordinances shall remain in full force and effect.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ordinance shall take effect after final adoption and publication in accordance with the law.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri,
Municipal Clerk
\$98.00 September 13, 2002
Mayor Daniel J. Gallagher

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

ORDINANCE NO. 1604

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

Ordinance #1604 entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #1440N ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD AND THE METHOD OF PAYMENT OF SUCH COMPENSATION FOR THE YEARS 2001 THRU 2005 be adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, September 13, 2002 and that a public hearing be held at 7:00PM on Thursday, October 10, 2002 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ORDINANCE NO. 1604

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #1440N ENTITLED: AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD AND THE METHOD OF PAYMENT OF SUCH COMPENSATION FOR THE YEARS 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 AND 2005.

Be it ordained by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION 1. The rates of compensation for each employee of the Borough of South Plainfield shall be on an annual basis as follows except where indicated. Such rates of pay shall be effective on January 1st of the years shown.

POSITION	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
AFSCME EMPLOYEE					
CLERK/TRANSCRIBER	0	25,000	25,875	26,781	27,718

SECTION 2. INCONSISTENCY - All ordinance or parts of ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE - This ordinance shall become effective and operative ten days after the publication thereof after final passage.

Daniel J. Gallagher, Mayor

Attest:
Vincent Buttiglieri,
RMC Municipal Clerk

\$87.50 September 13, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

September 5, 2002

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Planning Board at its meeting held on August 27, 2002.

A. Case #656/V-Diversified Installations, Inc.-Block 308; Lots 30.02 & 30.03; Sylvania Place-Applicant's request for preliminary and final site plan with variances, to construct a one story warehouse/office was hereby GRANTED.

B. Amendment of Housing Element of Borough Master Plan-The Board ADOPTS the recommendations to amend the Housing Element.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janice Mucilli,
Recording Secretary Planning Board

\$21.00 September 13, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

September 5, 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 #3-01/S/S/A-J.H. Reid-Block 472; Lot 7.03; 3230 Hamilton Blvd.-Applicant's request for amended use and final site plan was hereby GRANTED.

B. Case #3-02-David & Jody Nissel-Block 154; Lot 10, 2039 Blecker St.-Applicant's request to withdraw their application was hereby APPROVED.

C. Case #56-02-Jeffrey Courtney-Block 78, Lot 12; 2366 Audubon Ave.-Applicant's request for rear yard variance and lot coverage variance for existing deck was hereby GRANTED.

D. Case #36-02-Thomas & Elaine Penicaro-Block 275; Lot 1; 295 Oakmoor Ave.-Applicant's request to withdraw their application was hereby GRANTED.

E. Case #53-02-Jeffrey Bogdan-Block 14; Lot 2, 121 Palmer Avenue-Applicant's request for a use variance to re-use the structure for two dwelling units was hereby GRANTED.

F. Case #54-02-Frank & Stephanie Chirilico-Block 144; Lot 6, 1502 Chestnut St.-Applicant's request for a variance to construct a two story addition was hereby GRANTED.

G. Case #57-02-Michael DeCarlo-Block 195, Lot 41; 127 Daniel Street-Applicant's request for front setback variances for roof over porch and deck was hereby GRANTED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janice Mucilli,
Secretary Zoning Board of Adjustment

\$45.50 September 13, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Anthony T. Pompilio requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the construction of a pool deck with a setback of a proposed 12' where 20' is required, and any other variances that may be required, said property being located on Block 380, Lot 1.04 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, September 26, 2002 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

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

\$35.00 1T September 13, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Vinod Patel requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the erection of a 16' x 32' wood deck, proposed deck lacks the required 20' rear setback, 11.4' proposed and exceeds lot coverage by 518 s.f. or 5.18%, and any other variances that may be required, said property being located on Block 366, Lot 2.06 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, September 26, 2002 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

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

\$35.00 1T September 13, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Peter Richkus requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the second story addition, proposed addition lacks the required 30' front setback, 22.82' proposed for roof over porch and 25.52' proposed for a second story addition, and any other variances that may be required (25.52' front setback currently exists), said property being located on Block 120, Lot 4 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, September 26, 2002 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

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

\$35.00 1T September 13, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD NOTICE TO BIDDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids will be received by the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey on SEPTEMBER 27, 2002 at 10:00AM *** prevailing time in the Council Chambers of the municipal building 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey at which time and place bids will be opened and read in public.

RENOVATIONS TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BUILDING

Specifications and other bid information maybe obtained at the Municipal Clerk's office in the municipal building at the above address during regular business hours 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Only bidders who have picked up specifications will be allowed to submit bids. All bids must be submitted on the Proposal Forms furnished by the Borough. A bid bond in the form of a certified check, cashier's check or bid bond payable to the BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD in the amount equal to 10% of the highest bid amount, including alternates, if any, but not to exceed \$20,000 and a duly executed Consent of Surety. Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, c.127 (N.J.A.C. 17:27 et seq.) the New Jersey Prevailing Wage Act, N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.25, Employment on Public Works N.J.S.A. 10:2 EOE. ADA

Vincent Buttiglieri
Municipal Clerk

\$36.75 September 13, 2002



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policereport

• On Aug. 31 Ricardo Reyes, 49, of South Plainfield was arrested for criminal mischief after breaking a window at 1509 Maple Ave.

• Henry Walker, III, 25, of Plainfield was arrested for during a motor vehicle stop for possession of marijuana (under 50 grams) and having a loud muffler.

• On Sept. 3 Daniel Pierre Washington, 21, of Metuchen was arrested for shoplifting \$270.98 worth of clothing beneath his clothes at Kohl's.

• Marcel Howard Hatley, 32, of Jamesburg was arrested for shoplifting at K-Mart for attempting to return a \$99.99 TV, which he had taken off the shelves, for cash.

• A Simms Pl. resident reported the theft of an unlocked bike from their driveway.

• On Sept. 5 Superseal Manufacturing Co. on Helen St. reported the theft of a truck containing 65 assorted windows from the rear of their factory.

• Sita R. Kanthamneni, 41, of Piscataway was arrested at Staples for theft by deception. She tried to obtain a \$100 refund with a cash register receipt that had already been credited.

• An Edison resident reported that her stolen credit card had been used to purchase \$299 worth of items from K-Mart.

• On Sept. 6 a W. Golf Ave. resident reported the theft of his 1994 Ford Explorer from Quick Food on Park Ave. The car had been left running and was unattended.

• On Sept. 7 Home Depot reported that someone attempted to purchase \$1,594 worth of merchandise which required a managers approval. The

suspect became nervous and left without his credit card and drivers license. The charge card was already under investigation by the credit card company.

• Home Depot reported that a black female, who was walking around with a TV, had switched receipts and left the store with the item.

• On Sept. 8 A Tremont Ave. resident reported the theft of a car stereo from their vehicle that was parked in front of the residence.

• Mardee Co. on St. Nicholas Ave. reported that someone had pried open the rear door, slipping the lock and took keys to a van, now missing, which was used to remove \$100,000 worth of computers, laptops, CD burners, color printers, blank DVD's, a professional camera, software packages, monitors, a Playstation and DVD player.

• An English Ct. resident reported the theft of his 1998 Ford Escort, which was parked in front of Coppola Farms during the Traditions fire.

• Staples reported that two Asian males had attempted to purchase a Compaq computer and a \$500 gift card with a credit card. The suspects fled when their card was being checked for verification.

• Sanitation Truck Repair on Roosevelt Ave. reported that someone had used a torch to cut the lock off the Pepsi machine and took the change. The lock was cut off the locker room, but nothing was taken.

• Arthur M. Trembley, 58, of Clark was arrested for driving while intoxicated, refusing to take a breathalyzer test, careless driving and failure to report an accident at Durham Rd. and Hamilton Blvd.

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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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9/11 Remembered With Ceremonies in South Plainfield

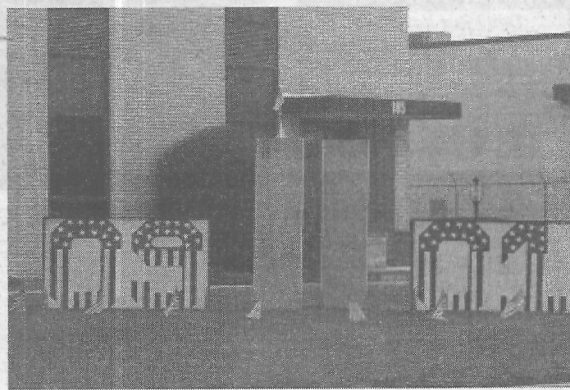
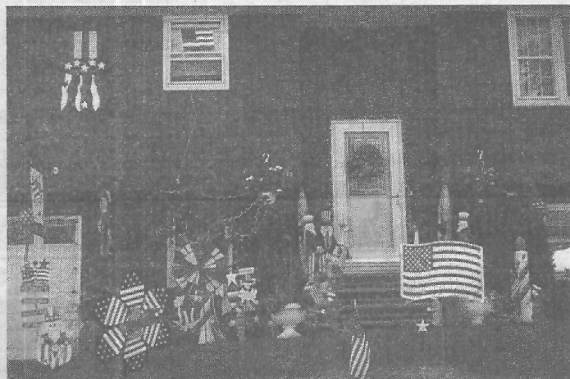


Wednesday marked the one-year anniversary of the terrorist attacks against the United States.

Ceremonies were planned at schools and businesses all over town. Businesses and houses were decorated with red and white and blue (pictured below.)

The morning started at the Middle School (pictured above), with the raising of the flag and then lowering it to half-mast. Then the entire student body and teachers, along with members of the police and fire, held a remembrance program in the courtyard of the school.

Some of the events planned for Wednesday took place too late for us to publish. We will have additional pictures and stories of the day's events in next week's *Observer*.



Observer Poster Contest Winner Announced

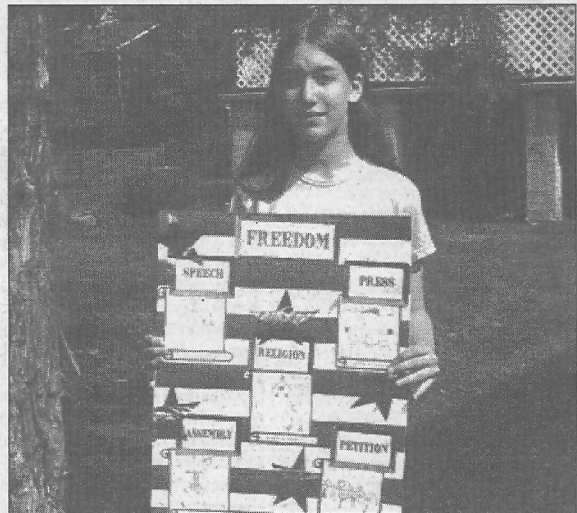
It wasn't easy to choose a winner to the *Observer's* Poster Contest. Each one depicted the theme of the parade, "Celebrating Our Freedom."

Pictured right is the grand prize winner, Davonna Approvato. She won a \$50 gift certificate to Sportworld.

Other entrants pictured are: Moriah Kunch, David Iacovone, Christine Nogans and Anna Petritsch.

All of the posters will be on display at Borough Hall for the next few weeks.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the Labor Day poster contest and the judges who helped make the difficult decision of selecting a winner.



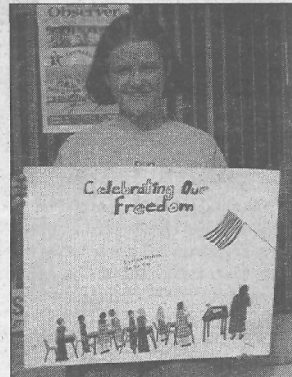
Davonna Approvato, poster contest winner



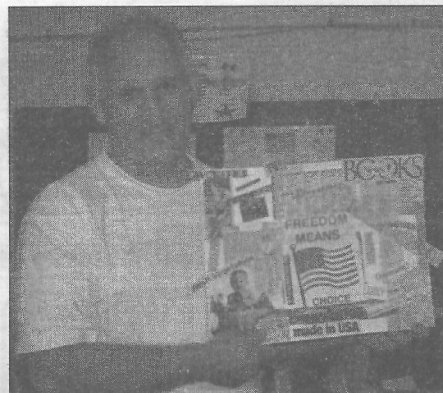
Moriah Kunch



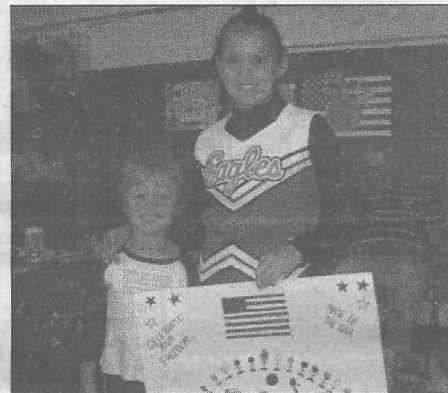
Christine Snogans



Ann Petritsch

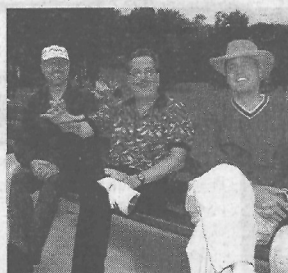


David Iacovone



Alexis Cargill

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