

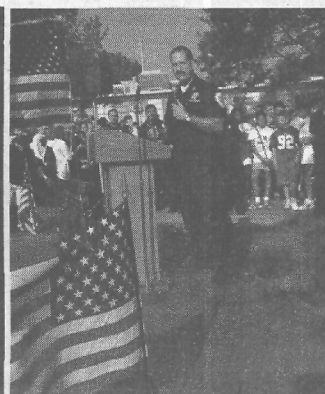
# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 6, NO. 4

50 CENTS

SEPTEMBER 20, 2002

## WE WILL NEVER FORGET!



On the first anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks, ceremonies were held all over town. American flags were visible from homes, businesses and cars throughout the borough. A South Plainfield fire truck parked in front of the firehouse displayed a banner remembering those who lost their lives last year.

The ceremonies began early in front of the Middle School. The American flag was raised, then lowered to half-staff. The ceremony was attended by students, teachers, fireman and police officers. A special service was also held in the courtyard shortly after. (Story on page 6.)

District schools held special services during the morning hours, as well as several businesses in the area. (Story on page 7.)

A special candlelighting service was held at Spring Lake Park and, as last year, the residents of South

**South Plainfield paid respect to all who lost their lives in the senseless tragedy we will always remember – September 11, 2001– in memorial services.**

Plainfield answered the call, filling the park. For more than half an hour before the ceremonies started, all entrances to Spring Lake Park were filled with people filing into the park to take part in the service.

In addition to the thousands of residents, the ceremony was attended by Mayor Dan Gallagher, members of Borough Council, clergy from all over South Plainfield, the South Plainfield High School Band and Chorus, the South Plainfield Fire Department, the Police Department Honor Guard, the Rescue Squad and a bagpiper.

Many attending the ceremonies wore red, white and blue, carried flags and some displayed posters. The crowd included young and old, mostly families. The evening services included prayers from the many clergy attending and patriotic songs led by the high school chorus and band.

Despite a very windy night, many brought their own candles and placed them along the lake's edge as they did last year. Mayor Gallagher placed a wreath in the lake in memory of those who had died one year ago.

## Off. Born and Det. Darby Rescue "Darby" After Fire

By Jane Dornick

Several hours after the fire at the Traditions complex last Monday had been extinguished, South Plainfield Police Officer Wendell Born and Detective Jim Darby were dispatched for security detail outside the burned-out building. While doing a routine check, Officer Born looked up and noticed a small dog in the second floor hallway.

The two officers searched each apartment looking for the stranded animal and finally found him laying in his little bed on the floor. The Chihuahua growled and didn't want to be picked up. A call was made for the Humane Society to come out and



assist. South Plainfield volunteer firefighter Mario Abbruzzese, who also lived in the building, heard the call about the dog. He knew who the owners of the dog were and immediately contacted them.

In the meantime, the dog, who's name coincidentally is 'Darby,' ran out

of the building into the parking lot. Within 20 minutes, Darby the Chihuahua, was reunited with his grateful owners, who thought he had perished in the blaze. Amazingly, their unit had only sustained water damage which must have been the reason he survived the fire.

## Smoking Cause of Fire at Traditions

Last week's fire at Traditions, which left 60 people homeless and destroyed 24 units, was caused by a smoker who carelessly discarded a cigarette. The fire has been ruled accidental and no charges have been filed.

The conclusion was made after an investigation by the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office, in conjunction with South Plainfield Police and Fire Department officials and inspectors. Also providing information were privately hired fire scene examiners from Mid-Atlantic Association and Liberty Mutual Insurance Company. The investigation located the point of origin on a third floor balcony.

The fire badly damaged all of the units in Buildings 1. It also damaged the facade of the building directly behind, melting the siding. No one was seriously hurt, but many are now homeless. Some of the condo owners apparently had not purchased any fire insurance.

Police and fire officials entered the buildings last week to recover items of importance for the homeowners.



# IN YOUR OPINION

## Dear Editor:

On the anniversary of September 11, our family community in South Plainfield joined people from all over our powerful nation in a memorial candlelight service. Spending the first anniversary with our South Plainfield family, friends and neighbors was truly healing. This day's event would not have happened without the hard work and dedication of Chief Robert Merkle, Emergency Management Coordinator Michael Zushma and Sgt. Kevin Murtagh. Thank God for these heroes, South Plainfield Police Honor Guard, Mayor and Council, clergy and bagpiper. This night would not have been complete without our own fire, rescue squad and police departments.

Thank you all and of course thank you to my friends who I can always count on. That night the stars were out. These stars were the souls of the victims of 2001 looking down on South Plainfield and saying thank you South Plainfield for remembering us.

May God Bless all of you and God Bless America.

MARION GALLAGHER

## To the Editor:

Last week we suffered a horrible loss, the destruction by fire of an entire building of condominiums in the Traditions development off New Durham Road. I'm sure I express the feelings of everyone in town when I say our hearts go out to the people who lost their homes and belongings.

When things like this happen, it makes us appreciate even more the hard work of our police and fire departments and our rescue squad. These people are our hometown heroes, and we owe them plenty. They deserve our thanks.

We shouldn't forget that the fire department and rescue squad are volunteer organizations. It takes special people to donate time, talent and energy to protect the lives and safety of South Plainfield's residents. Again, we owe these people our respect and gratitude. In the case of this one fire, I know that our volunteers put in many, many hours — late into the night — to get the fire under control and the area secured.

Our thanks should also go to our neighboring communities. It's nice to know that they can be counted on to pitch in and volunteer their help during an emergency.

## ing an emergency.

While we suffered a horrible loss, we also saw how something like this brings out the finest South Plainfield has to offer. Our volunteers are the best. Thank you to each of them.

JAKE CATALDO

## To the Editor:

I am a concerned parent who speaks for many parents who have children that go to Kennedy School. I would like to know one thing. . . At what point does a child's safety become secondary to something being over budget????

For the past fifteen years my husband and I have put four children through the Kennedy School system. I still have a child currently attending there. During all these years, there has never ever NOT been a crossing guard at the corner of West Fairview and Norwood avenues. I live close to that intersection and I see what happens during the hours of 8:15 a.m. and 3 p.m. every day. I can honestly say that without a crossing guard there we have an accident waiting to happen. It's a very congested area at that time of day. Cars line up all along West Fairview and Norwood avenues. So in order to see while crossing Norwood Ave., children and parents have to walk out onto Norwood Ave. so that they can see past the cars parking along Norwood Ave. That's what the children do and that's what the parents do, which makes for a very dangerous situation. Many parents have called Traffic Safety and will continue to do so until this problem is resolved.

So I ask you, please put a crossing guard back where one is so needed!!! There is no dollar amount you can put on our children's safety. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

A VERY CONCERNED PARENT,  
CAROL MASZCZAK

## To the Editor:

This is in response to Dawn Jefferys' letter dated September 13, 2002.

Your long winded, poorly written, self-aggrandizing letter was par for the course. It contained dangerously unfounded accusations, distortions of facts and malicious misleading comments.

Let us set the record straight Mrs. Jefferys: contrary to what you have written, you most certainly have, as a Board of Education member, used your position to intimidate teachers. Aside from the long-term substitute teacher you just publicly maligned in your letter, how about Kathy Zoda (just to name one), whose anguish you instigated?

As for the long-term substitute teacher, you certainly gave the public your own version — the version that points the finger at everyone but yourself. You've failed to tell the public that the complication in hiring this young man as a contracted certified teacher was due to a temporary glitch in the State regulations, a complication which has since been rectified. By the time this letter is in print, the issue of his certification will no longer be a problem. Your concern with this young man has little to do with his certification and more to do with your own personal agenda. You accuse this teacher of several things, one of which is that he used profane language to your son at practice. You also claim that whenever you have to, you "used the chain of command properly." You never reported this issue to the building principal. Your failure to do so gives your actions the appearance of a personal vendetta. You called this teacher at home at least three times (as a Board Member...or a parent?), then handled yourself unprofessionally at a basketball game. When this teacher tried to reach you at home, you refused to speak with him. Shame on you Mrs. Jefferys.

In your letter you are justifiably upset that anyone would use profane lan-

## Submit Letters to the Editor:

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

Letters may be submitted by email at our website at spobserver.com or faxed to 908-668-8819. Deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. 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.*

guage aimed at your child — or I imagine anyone else for that matter. Remember those high standards of behavior you set for everyone else, when you use vulgarity in public places in reference to me (and others).

You stated in your letter that you "resent the fact" that I, the SPEA Vice President influenced teachers to make announcements to their students in school "to come out" to the board meeting. As usual, your facts are dangerously distorted. That behavior would be unethical and illegal. Be aware that it was the students in an outpouring of united support for this teacher, who came to their coaches and expressed their desire to address the Board in support of him. Never, in my 26 years of teaching have I, or would I, "manipulate" any students as political pawns. That's your area of expertise Mrs. Jefferys.

You have continually slandered me in public and now you choose to libel me as well — shame on you again. Evidently you know nothing about what I stated in a private meeting, so in the future, make sure you get your facts straight before embarrassing yourself and publicly accusing me, any other educator, administrator, or fellow BOE member of wrong doing. As a matter of fact, if you were as critical of yourself as you are of every educator who crosses your path, you'd be a better board member.

Mrs. Jefferys, please understand that being the leader of witch hunts can be a most dangerous game.

DIANA JOFFE,  
SPEA VICE PRESIDENT

## To the Editor,

This past year has had a lot of memories instilled upon us due to the 9-11 2001 tragedy. We all can thank the freedom that we have and the privileges we have in this country—one of those great privileges is the right to vote.

I ask that all of the registered voters please come out to vote this year. When you come out to vote, I ask that you look at our local Democrats and all that has gone on in our town in the past few years. We have a beautiful new senior recreation center. This center can accommodate many of our seniors at one time. We also have a new senior housing complex. This also is the work of our present local government. Take a look at all the beautiful parks, all the new paved roads. The list goes on and on. I ask that you support Mayor Dan Gallagher for his bid for re-election, as well as Councilmen Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral.

CHRISTINE DIMAIO

## Letter to the Editor:

It seems that the only thing the Republican candidates for mayor and borough council want to do is complain—they even complain about our fine police force. We get a lot of complaining, but no suggestions on how to improve our town. Well, I think it's time to point out the positive things that Dan Gallagher and the Democrats have done to improve South Plainfield.

Just drive around town and you can see all of the excellent new things going on in our Borough—the big addition to the PAL building, the new senior citizen center, new senior housing and all of the roads that have been paved. Has anybody been out to the baseball fields, the Pop Warner field and soccer fields down Kenneth Ave.? All the new roads and parking lots courtesy of the Mayor and Borough Council? When people can deliver all these new things without increasing taxes, then those people deserve to be re-elected.

On election day, support people who have shown the ability to accomplish positive things in South Plainfield by re-electing Dan Gallagher as Mayor (Continued on page 12)

## Mark your calendars

### 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, October 7 ..... 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

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## SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in South Plainfield Observer:

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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Several members of the Rotary presented a check to the South Plainfield High School Athletic Booster Club for \$7,000 to be used towards a new scoreboard at Jost Field. Receiving the check is SPHS Athletic Booster Club President Mickey Wrublevski. Representing the Rotary Club are Fred Skrocki, Joe DeAndrea, Vito Ratti, Gene Bataille, Dick DeAndrea and George Jaghab.

## Helen Street Update Slated for Oct. 10

Councilman Charles Butrico announced that he will present a forum on the latest plans for the Helen Street Project on Thursday, Oct. 10.

The Helen Street Project, which has been in the planning stages for a few years, will help alleviate truck traffic in town when completed. Since it is a federally funded project, the plans must be okayed by the State and Federal governments, making each step take much longer to complete.

Any interested parties are invited to attend this special meeting.

## Candidates Debate Oct. 23

The South Business Association announced that a debate between the candidates for council and mayor will be held at the American Legion Hall on Wednesday, Oct. 23.

The public is encouraged to attend. The Republican and the Democratic candidates for council and mayor have agreed to attend.

The public will be able to ask questions. If you would like to suggest questions, you can do so by faxing to (908) 668-8819, mailing or bringing them to the *Observer* office at 1110 Hamilton Blvd. in South Plainfield.

## WANTED:

Senior Center is seeking the donation of a piano in good cond. Call Sue Mishka, 908-754-1047

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## Dr. DeCosta Celebrates Silver Anniversary

Dr. Anthony J. DeCosta, located at 129 South Plainfield Ave. in South Plainfield, is pleased to announce the celebration of the beginning of his twenty-fifth year in private practice.

Dr. DeCosta is a family chiropractor. He treats patients of all ages, from infants to the elderly. During his career, Dr. DeCosta has delivered over 200,000 spinal adjustments.

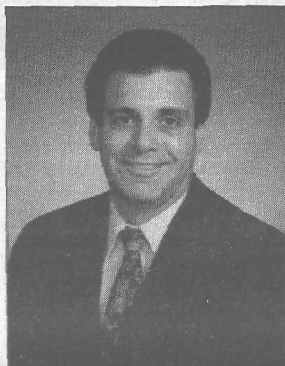
A biology graduate of Kean College of New Jersey (where he was on the Dean's list), Dr. DeCosta graduated from the New York Chiropractic College, where he received the B.J. Palmer Memorial Award. He is a Diplomate of the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners. He has been in practice since 1978.

Dr. DeCosta is a member of the International Chiropractors Association, the Central Jersey Chiropractic Society, and the Council of New Jersey Chiropractors. He is also a member of the International Chiropractic Pediatric Association and is certified in the Webster Technique. He is licensed to practice in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania.

## Recycling Center Accepting Paint

The Recycling Center and Yard Waste Site on Kenneth Ave. will be accepting paint for recycling this Saturday, Sept. 17, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Keep oil based paint separate from latex. We also take thinners, stains and varnish.



Dr. Anthony J. DeCosta

Dr. DeCosta has been President and Chairman of the Board of the Garden State Chiropractic Society. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Council of New Jersey Chiropractors and was the recipient of the Outstanding Service Award for 2000.

Dr. DeCosta is a chiropractic author, lecturer, and teacher. He is actively involved in educating the public about Chiropractic. You can reach him at (908) 755-1117, or visit his website at [www.drdecosta.com](http://www.drdecosta.com).

From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Once again, here's the latest news from the South Plainfield Library:

We'll hold our usual schedule of children's Storytime programs next week. These programs are for children ages three and over; no pre-registration is required. Each program lasts about an hour and features stories and a craft activity. The programs are held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. If you'd like more information, please call (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda.

The next class from the Library's Job Information Center is called "Job Searching on the Internet." It's scheduled for Tuesday morning at 10:30. There's no charge for the class, but space is limited, so you must sign up in advance. For further details, please call and ask for Allan.

We've just added (or are about to add) a number of new tapes to our children's video collection. New titles include the Oscar-nominated *Monsters, Inc.*, the Disney sequels *The Hunchback of Notre Dame II* and *Cinderella II*, several tapes in the "Baby Einstein" educational series, and new tapes featuring, respectively, Kipper, Dora the Explorer, and SpongeBob Squarepants. Videos may be borrowed, four at a time, for two days.

Here's a word for students regarding reading lists and assigned books: We at the Library do our best to accommodate your needs. If (note we say "if") we're informed of assigned books, we'll try and purchase multiple copies of them. However, we have limited resources, so we can only get a few extra copies. As a result, you may have to wait for our copies to be available, or to obtain an Inter-Library Loan. Please take this into account, especially if you're reading against a deadline. Also, be aware that we don't always get copies of school reading lists. (We hope you're teachers picked up on that.) This usually adds to the delays in availability. As always, we appreciate your consideration.

Previously, we told you about our new, redesigned Library cards. We also told you that older Library would still be accepted, provided that our computer could recognize the bar codes. Several people, though, have asked about trading in their old cards for a new one. We've decided to allow this; if you're interested, please stop by the Circulation Desk. There will be a 50-cent charge for trade-ins.

Finally, there may be those of you who didn't make it to the Labor Day Parade and didn't get a chance to see our Award-winning Elvis Float. Don't worry; we're planning to add pictures of it to our website in the near future. We'll let you know when they're ready. (Oh, one other note: No, I did not play Elvis on the float.)

That's about all for now. We'll be back next Friday with more. See you then.

## Dinner Planned to Honor Former Police Deputy Chief

Tulio Caparelli, former South Plainfield deputy chief of the police department will be honored at a dinner on Saturday, Oct. 12 at the Senior Citizens Center, for his dedication to

the youth of South Plainfield.

Cost of the dinner is \$15. Anyone interested in attending, please visit the PAL Building on Maple Ave. to purchase a ticket.



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**(908) 561-5445**



# Events

## VFW to hold Meatloaf Supper

September 20

A meatloaf dinner will be held on Friday, Sept. 20 at the VFW Post #6763, located at 155 Front St. from 5-8 p.m. The cost for adults is \$7, takeout is \$7.25, children are \$3.50.

For more information, phone (908) 668-9751 after 3 p.m. daily and after 12 noon on weekends.

## 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. All are welcome.

On Sept. 22 we will host a Spaghetti Luncheon after Sunday service.

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

## Unity Bank to Sponsor Concert for Senior Citizens

September 24

Unity Bank will be sponsoring a concert entitled "Walk Down Memory Lane" on Tuesday, Sept. 24 in the new senior citizens building located on the corner of Maple and Lake avenues. The concert begins at 2 p.m.

There is plenty of parking in the rear of the building. All are welcome.

## Czestochowa Plans Spaghetti Supper

September 28

The Rosary Society at Our Lady of Czestochowa will be holding a spaghetti supper in the Parish Hall, located at 907 Hamilton Blvd., 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.

## Ponytail Softball Meeting Date Change

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 SP 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.

## Send Your Events To:

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

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
<b>Walk Down Memory Lane</b> <b>September 24 • 2 pm</b> <b>Old Songs &amp; Food</b>				
<b>23</b> Walking Club 9 AM Adult Crafts 10:30-11:30 Yoga 10:30-11:30 AM	<b>24</b> Bingo 10AM-2PM Aerobics/Dance 9AM Walk Down Memory Lane Singing and Food 2 PM	<b>25</b> Walking Club 9AM Movie 11:30 AARP Crafts 1 PM	<b>19</b> Shopping at Pathmark 9AM Practical Crafting 10-11AM	<b>20</b> Walking Club 9 AM Bingo 10 AM-2 PM Pizza 11:30 AM (\$2)
<b>26</b> Shopping at Pathmark 9AM Practical Crafting 10-11AM	<b>27</b> Walking Club 9AM Bingo 10AM-2PM Pizza Lunch 11:30AM			

We welcome new members.

## 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.

## Columbiettes Holding Charity Fashion Show

October 6

The South Plainfield Columbiettes will hold a charity fashion show and luncheon on Sunday, Oct. 6 at the Knights of Columbus Hall located at 334 Hamilton Blvd. Doors open at 12:30 p.m.

Cost is \$20 and includes a family-style luncheon, catered by Flanagan's and a fall fashion show for misses and women's sizes, provided by Dress Barn and Dress Barn Woman of

South Plainfield. Door prizes will be drawn. Proceeds from the event will go to support local charities in the area.

Space is limited, tickets must be purchased by Oct. 2. For tickets or information, contact Geraldine Diegnan at (908) 753-2032.

## 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](http://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](http://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.

## Trip to Broadway's 'Movin' Out'

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 (908) 226-7713.

## 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 is Oct. 17 to the Lafayette House, featuring the Ragtime Grannies. Cost is \$40 per person. The second is on Dec. 23 to the Hunterdon Playhouse for their "Christmas Show." Cost is \$50 per person.

For information and registration contact the PAL at (908) 226-7713.

— Out of Town —

## 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](http://www.co.middlesex.nj.us/extensionservices/4hclubs.asp).

## CHATS Adoption Support Meeting

September 23

CHATS (Connected Hearts Adoption Tirad Support), will meet on Monday, Sept. 23 from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. at the Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church, 170 Watchung Ave. in North Plainfield.

Open sharing of adoption-related stores and lights refreshments. Call Alyce at (732) 227-0607 or <http://community.nj.com/cc/chats> for information.

## NJ Challenge for the Osborne Cup

September 23

The Plainfield Country Club in Plainfield will hold their New Jersey Challenge for The Osborne Cup, on Monday, Sept. 23 starting at 8 a.m.

The tournament's format will consist of both an A-Flight—18 hole medal play-gross score, two best balls of four-USA handicap index 10.0 or lower to enter and a B-Flight—18

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

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

## South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department

123 Maple Avenue  
South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080  
(908) 756-4701

## WINE TASTING

Sponsored by Oak Tree Discount Wines & Spirits

**Saturday, November 9, 2002**  
**6 p.m. to 11 p.m.**

Embassy Suites, Piscataway, NJ  
Tickets - \$40 per person

**Ticket price includes:**  
Wine Tasting Reception 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
Cash Bar, DJ and Dancing 9 p.m. - 11 p.m.  
Special Hotel Room Rates Available for Overnight Stay

**For Tickets or More Information**

**Please Contact:**  
**Mike Gallagher (908) 755-9874**



## southplainfieldpeople

# Milestones



Yorka Aneika Rawlins, daughter of Yorka and Anthony Rawlins, celebrated her Sweet Sixteen with a masquerade party on Sept. 14 in her honor hosted by her parents at the American Legion of South Plainfield.

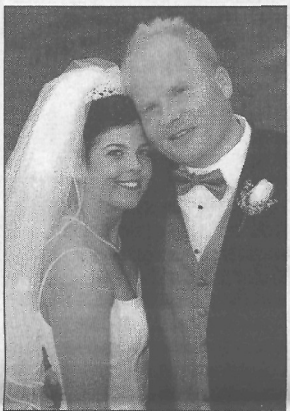
### Melinda Ingerto, Eric Wordel are Wed

Melinda Anne Ingerto of South Plainfield, daughter of Kathleen and John Ingerto of South Plainfield, was married on June 1 to Eric Wordel of Iselin, son of Evelyn Wordel of Iselin.

Monsignor Armando Perini performed the ceremony held in St. Helenas Roman Catholic Church, Edison. A reception immediately followed at the Manor in West Orange, NJ.

The bride graduated from South Plainfield High School and Montclair State University, Montclair, with a bachelor of arts degree in Political Science. She is employed by Johnson & Johnson in New Brunswick.

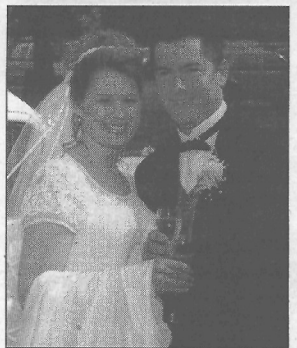
The bridegroom graduated from DeVry Institute of Technology in North Brunswick and is employed by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.



Mr. & Mrs. Eric Wordel

The couple enjoyed a honeymoon in Hawaii and now reside in South Plainfield.

### Kristine Lauten, Brian Kingsbury are Wed



Mr. & Mrs. Brian Kingsbury

Kristine Lauten of South Plainfield, daughter of Michael and Anne Marie Lauten of South Plainfield, was married to Brian Kingsbury of South Plainfield, son of the late Marsha Kingsbury, formerly of Clark.

The wedding was celebrated at St. Bernard of Clairvaux in Plainfield on April 14, 2002.

The bride is employed by AT&T in Basking Ridge.

The groom is employed by PMK Group in Cranford.

The couple resides in South Plainfield.

### From the Republicans

## Republican Candidates Offer South Plainfield A Refreshing Change

"South Plainfield has been under one-party rule for too long—we need a change," said South Plainfield GOP Chairman David Gouth this week. "We've recruited three exceptional candidates—Jake Cataldo, Marge Reedy and Geoff Champion—to lead our ticket. These are stellar candidates who can bring much-needed change to Borough government," he said.

Gouth is proud of the team he's assembled: "The GOP candidates come from diverse backgrounds and represent each of the town's cornerstones: community, family, and business. Mayoral candidate Jake Cataldo is a former South Plainfield police officer and is active and well-known in the community. Joining him are council candidates Marge Reedy and Geoff Champion. Marge is a former school board president and leads several groups serving South Plainfield's families and children. By contrast, Geoff offers a business background—a key piece of the puzzle."

Cataldo is especially happy to have Marge Reedy on his team: "Marge is one of the most qualified candidates to ever run for Borough Council. She served three terms on the Board of Education, and her peers on the board elected her president. She goes non-stop. It's a wonder she has time to sleep, because she's always doing something for our kids. Whether it's the band, Vision 2001, or the Cultural Arts Commission, we can always count on Marge to be there for our youth. This experience will serve the people of South Plainfield well."

"Geoff Champion will also be an asset," Cataldo added. "Geoff's business experience is sorely needed, and he will bring a new dimension to the Council. What's more, he is eager to get involved and can't wait to offer his ideas. Given the Borough's financial condition, Geoff's background makes him a top-notch choice for a seat on the council."

"But don't forget Jake," added Reedy. "Jake was born and raised here. He knows this town like the back of his hand. He coached South Plainfield's kids in baseball for 17 years, chaired the Recreation Commission, and is a member of the American Legion. He also helped build the PAL, and in what little spare time he had, was the fundraising chair for the Spina Bifida Association. This is on top of serving as a career police officer. I could go on and on."

"It's sad to think that his opponents have questioned Jake's commitment to the community," said Champion. "Especially since he is a veteran who served abroad in the Korean War. Jake's given so much to his hometown and his country it's inconceivable that the politicians would challenge his dedication for political gain."

"Well no matter what," said Cataldo, "we are sticking to the issues. While I don't agree with the mayor and council on the direction they are taking our town in, the three of us will not resort to questioning their personal backgrounds. Three issues dominate the voter's minds this year. They are rising taxes, increasing traffic, and mounting crime. In addition, a common theme unites these issues: They result from the unprecedented growth—more appropriately overgrowth—that's taken hold of South Plainfield over the past decade. These are the things we will continue to talk about."

Gouth summed it up best: "Our message is simple. Republicans offer an alternative to more taxes, more traffic, and more crime. Jake Cataldo, Marge Reedy, and Geoff Champion are first-class candidates who will serve South Plainfield well. They deserve your vote."

### From the Democrats

## South Plainfield is a Safe Town and Our Police Are the Reason Why

Mayor Dan Gallagher and Councilpersons Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral pointed out how safe South Plainfield is. Mayor Gallagher commented, "There is one reason, above all others, that so many people want to move to South Plainfield. It's because it's one of the safest places you can live in. This Mayor and Council are committed to keeping our police force at full strength and giving them the tools they need to protect our citizens. During the last nine years we have purchased a new communications system, purchased the best available weapons and support equipment and of course, bullet proof vests. Every one of our patrol cars are equipped with computers and we budget every

year for police needs including two or three new patrol cars. This year we will be putting in place a state-of-the-art Computer Assisted Dispatch system,

so that our police can instantly react to any emergency. But above all else, the thing that makes South Plainfield so safe is the quality, integrity and dedication of the members of our police force, led by our Chief, Bob Merkle."

Councilman Ed Kubala expanded on the Mayor's comments: "It pains me to read the accusations of our opponents who say that South Plainfield is a crime ridden community. The Republican Candidate for Mayor constantly claims that South Plainfield has one of the highest crime rates in Middlesex County. Actually the crime rate is exactly the same as when Mr. Cataldo was a member of the South Plainfield police force. Because of our shopping centers, we have a number of petty offenses, such as shoplifting, but we have one of the lowest violent crime statistics in the county. *In point of fact, we are one of the few communities that doesn't get federal funding because our crime rate is too low!* Dan and Jim and I can take it, but the fine men and woman, who put their life on the line every day, deserve better than these baseless Republican attacks."

Council President Jim Vokral summed up the Democrats' feelings, "I just can't understand the mentality that it's easier to tear something down than to build it up. The campaign is only starting and the Republican candidates are trying to tear down everything that we have all worked so hard to accomplish. They belittle 'pay as you go government,' they attempt to confuse the numbers which prove there has been no municipal tax increase in three of the last five years, they question the new senior rec center, the senior housing complex and even the addition for our kids at the P.A.L. But by far the most reprehensible thing that they have done is attempt to destroy the reputation of our town as one of the safest in the county and by implication, the ability of our police officers to protect us. Dan, Ed and I are simply not going to stand for this type of campaign."

Mayor Gallagher made a final appeal to the Republican candidates. "It's not too late to stop this negative campaigning and to start talking about your plans for South Plainfield's future. The residents of South Plainfield will be better for it."

# 2002 VOTE

**Your Vote Counts!**  
Get Out and Vote  
November 5, 2002



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- Hospital Beds - Commodes
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Haven Hospice Provider for JFK & Muhlenberg Hospitals

**24 Hour Emergency Care Service - Free Delivery**

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



## Happy 40th Birthday to Mike G!

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Carol, Joey, Jonathan,  
Dad & Mom

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"Best Homemade Potato Salad in Town"  
"Quality Food For The Everyday Hero"

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**.99¢**  
Valid thru 9/26/02

**\*\*BREAKFAST SPECIAL\*\***  
"The Fat Boy"  
2 Eggs, Ham, Sausage, Cheese, Potatoes  
on a Hard Roll  
**\$1.99**  
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**BUY 1 LB. POTATO SALAD, GET 1/2 LB. OF ANY SALAD FREE**  
Valid thru 9/26/02

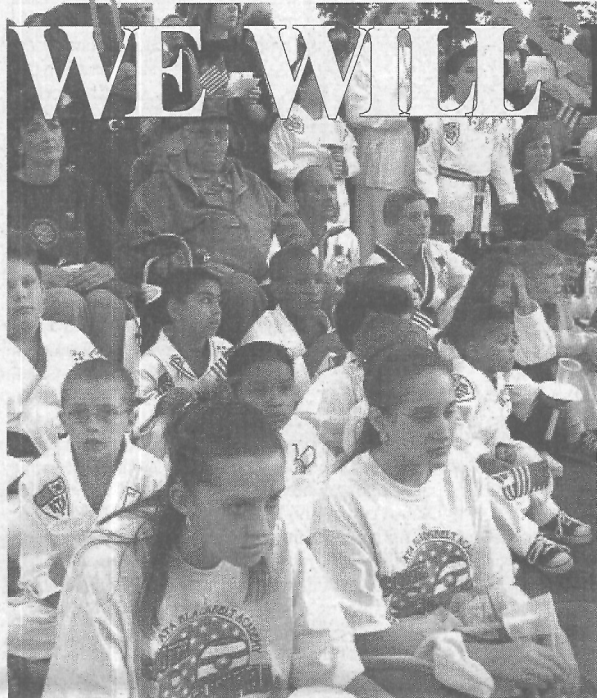
**Share Your Good News With the Community!**  
Send your milestones to the Observer at 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or email: ggnan@aol.com



In varied expressions of respect, schools, businesses and individuals spoke to the victims of 9/11:



WE WILL NEVER FORGET!



## Middle School Pays Tribute to 9/11 And Our Own Local Heroes

By Jane Dornick

In a solemn ceremony last Wednesday, Middle School teachers and students paid homage to both heroes past and present on the anniversary of the tragic events that occurred one year ago on that day.

The morning began at 7:50 with the raising of the school flag and then lowering to half staff. At 8:30 students, teachers and members of the South Plainfield Police and Fire Departments gathered in the courtyard. Dressed in an NYFD hat and t-shirt, Principal Fred Oberkehr gave a tearful opening speech. Filled with emotion themselves, teachers Joe

Bennet, Rob Richkus and Joe Blondo also reminded everyone of why they were there that day.

Eighth grader Wael Kanj rang the infamous five, five, five, five bells, the fire department's signal for a fallen firefighter. A recording of *Amazing Grace* was played as a tribute to the police department, followed by a moment of silence at 8:46. *Taps* was played by eighth grade student Taylor Mandel for military personnel.

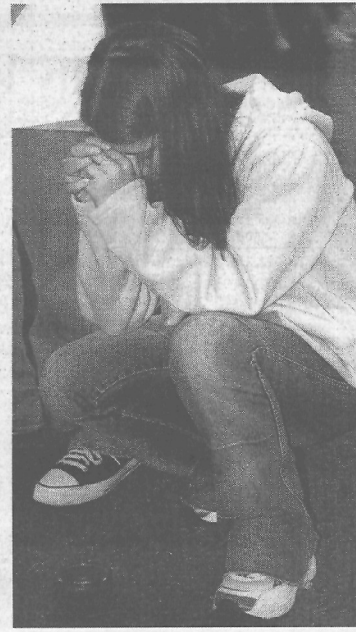
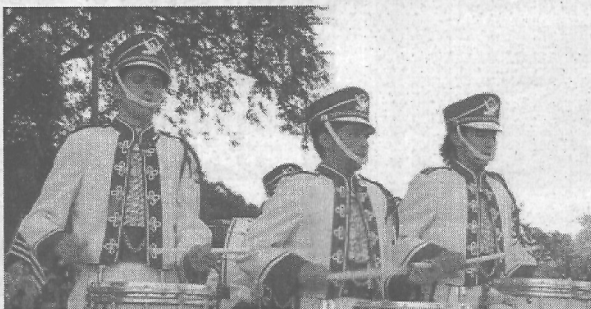
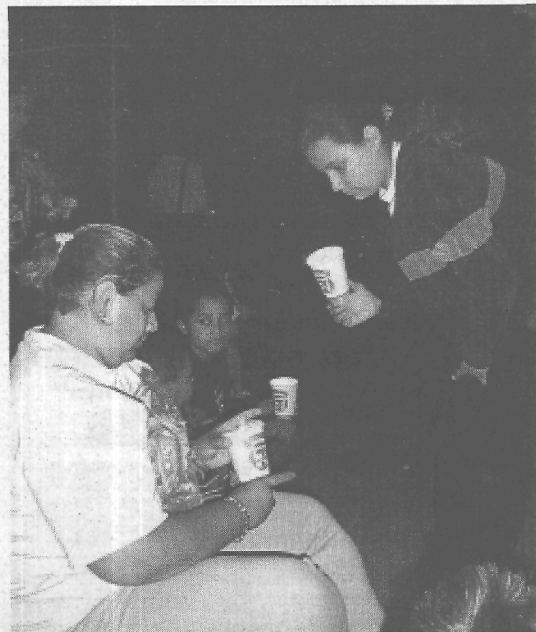
In closing, Mr. Oberkehr encouraged the teary eyed students to spend a few moments shaking hands and thanking our own finest and bravest firemen and police officers

who attended the event.

Afterward, several of the firefighters and policemen commented on how touching the ceremony was and how amazed they were at the emotions displayed by such young people.

The students are also holding a commemorative 9-11 lollipop sale to raise funds to purchase a brick at the new firemen's memorial.

Because of the actions of a few, September 11, 2001 will be a day that so many of us will never forget. The tribute by the Middle School last Wednesday will truly be a day in which everyone who witnessed the ceremony won't ever forget.







9/11/01



## Ferro and OMG Employees Plant A September 11 Remembrance Tree

Employees of Ferro Electronic Materials and neighboring OMG located on So. Clinton Ave. held their own September 11 memorial ceremony last Wednesday.

In remembrance of the victims, they planted an oak tree in the Precious Meadows Park grounds, which is shared by the two buildings. Of all their locations, the South Plainfield site

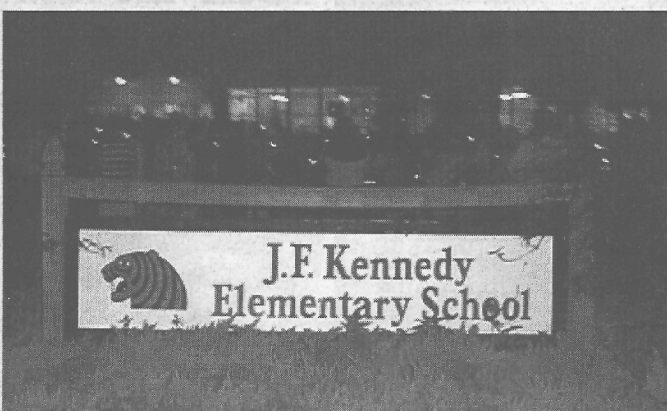
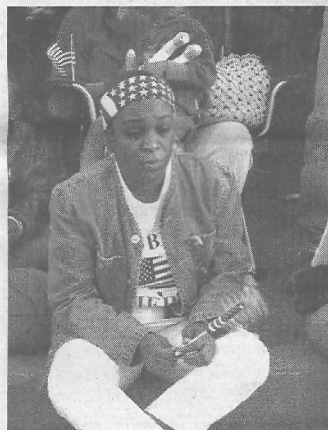
is the closest in proximity to New York City and is a fitting place for a memorial site.

After a few words by Ferro's Human Resources Manager Tania Reivich, and other corporate personnel, South Plainfield Police Chief Robert Merkler was asked to place the first shovel of dirt on the tree. Invited guests and employees were also en-

couraged to help bury the sapling.

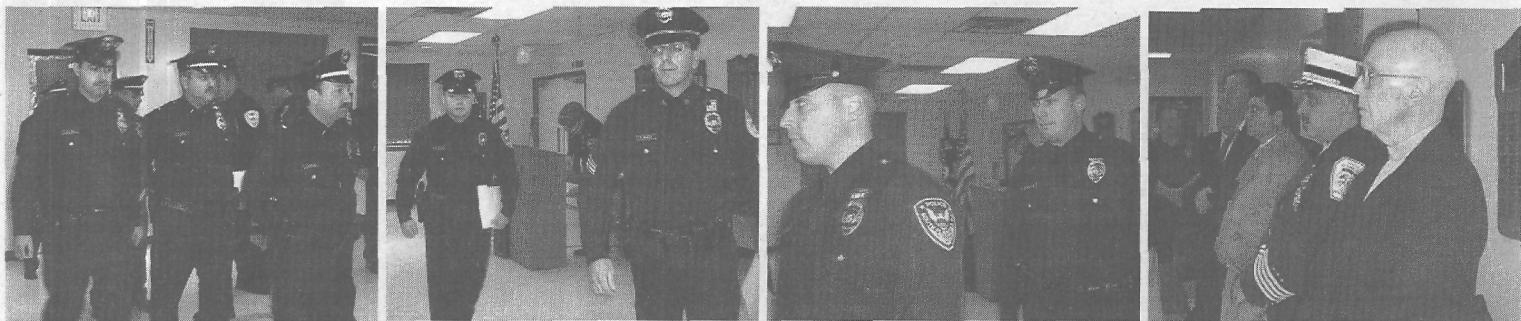
A special plaque dedicating the tree to the heroes of 9-11 was also placed in front of the tree.

Also attending the ceremony was Rescue Squad Captain Ron Sward, Police Sgt. Kevin Murtagh, Deputy Fire Chief John Mocharski and Borough Council President Jim Vokral.





# South Plainfield Police Dept. Commendations Awarded



Due to the inclement weather on Labor Day, this year's Police Department annual dress inspection was held indoors at the Rescue Squad.

The following police officers received recognition:

**Off. Michael Hoppe** was awarded a *Letter Of Commendation*—On March 8, 2002 Off. Hoppe, while on routine patrol checking side streets in his district, observed a suspicious vehicle parked on Oxford Ave. He illuminated the vehicle with his spotlight and observed that the vehicle had no license plates and the occupants were making furtive movements. When he investigated, the occupants gave responses making Hoppe suspicious. Further investigation revealed the vehicle was reported stolen in North Plainfield. After the occupants were arrested, a search revealed controlled dangerous substances in the vehicle. The occupants were charged with receiving stolen property and possession of controlled dangerous substance (CDS). Because of Hoppe's investigation of a suspicious vehicle, a stolen vehicle and CDS were recovered and an arrest was made.

**Det. Garrett Cassio** and **Det. James Parker** were awarded an *Honorable Service Medal*. **Lt. Michael Lane** and **Officers John McConville** and **Roberto Vega** were awarded *Performance Notices*—On April 5, 2002, Det. Cassio received information from a reliable informant that a known narcotics dealer was looking to sell a handgun, as well as a CD. Dets. Cassio and Parker, who had gained the trust of the informant, arranged to purchase these items in the area of W. 8th St.

and conducted a surveillance of the area while the deal was made. Cassio and Parker quickly moved in and arrested the suspects without incident. A loaded .22 caliber semi-automatic handgun, 13 bags of marijuana and drug paraphernalia were recovered. Lt. Lane was in charge of planning and coordinating the operation and McConville and Vega participated in the arrest team.

Due to the tenacity and dedication of those involved and the professional manner in which the case was handled, arrests were made without injury to anyone involved despite a high degree of potential danger. The suspects were charged with numerous crimes, including unlawful possession of a weapon, possession of a weapon for unlawful purposes, possession of armor penetrating bullets and possession of CDS, with intent to distribute.

**Det. Garrett Cassio** was awarded a *Performance Notice*—Over a period of time in 2001, numerous burglaries and thefts involving landscape equipment occurred in South Plainfield, Piscataway and Middlesex. Cassio developed information that a resident of South Plainfield might be responsible for these crimes. He interviewed the suspect and obtained a confession, clearing six burglaries, a theft and a criminal trespass.

Due to Cassio's perseverance, determination and skill as an investigator, numerous criminal cases in three different jurisdictions were solved.

**Det. Gary Muccigrossi** and **Off. Michael Hoppe** were awarded *Letters Of Commendation* and **Off. John Petriello** was awarded a *Performance*

**Police Chief Robert Merkler** holds a special awards ceremony each

## 2001 Commendations

year, which is attended by Rev. Mingle, Mayor Gallagher and members of the Borough Council, to honor those officers who have performed exceptionally in the line of duty. Twenty-two officers were also publicly recognized for having a perfect attendance record for the year 2001.

**Notice**—On Oct. 9, 2001 a burglary occurred at a retail establishment in South Plainfield. Muccigrossi, while responding to the crime scene, observed a possible suspect on a bicycle. He radioed his observations and attempted to stop the suspect. The suspect jumped off of the bicycle and fled on foot into the backyards of homes in the area. Hoppe, along with other uniformed officers responded to the area to assist in the search. As Hoppe checked the area on foot, he located the suspect hiding on a deck of one of the homes. The suspect again fled on foot with Hoppe giving chase through a number of yards. He was able to apprehend and secure the suspect. Off. Petriello, coordinated a professional response to both the initial burglary call, as well as the foot chase and apprehension of the suspect.

**Off. Daniel Noonan** was awarded an *Exceptional Duty Medal* and **Sgt. John Alles**, **Officers Bullard, Vega, Molinaro** and **J. Campagna** were awarded *Performance Notices*—On Oct. 23, 2001 a 911 call was received regarding a stabbing at Dunkin Donuts on Lakeview Ave. Off. Noonan, who was on routine patrol a short distance away, immediately responded. Prior to the arrival of additional police personnel, Noonan entered the premises alone and confronted an individual who was covered with blood, standing over the victim. A knife was lying on the chest of the victim, within easy reach of the suspect. Noonan, while giving verbal commands, approached the suspect and took him into custody without incident. As additional police personnel arrived, Noonan coordinated a search of the premises for additional victims, suspects and witnesses. The victim succumbed to his

wounds within an hour of the occurrence. Sgt. Alles, coordinated a professional response with Officers Bullard, Vega, Molinaro and J. Campagna. Off. Molinaro located and secured a witness to the murder, while Bullard and Vega administered first aid to the victim. Off. J. Campagna secured the suspect at the scene and transported him to the station. All of the officers were in one way or another, instrumental in protecting the integrity of the crime scene and the criminal case. The suspect, who was charged with murder, possession of a weapon for unlawful purposes, unlawful possession of a weapon, multiple counts of aggravated assault, is awaiting trial and faces execution by lethal injection.

**Off. David Franchak** was awarded an *Honorable Service Medal*—Over the past several years, the Highland Woods Nature Preserve has been the target of numerous acts of criminal mischief. Despite the efforts of many officers and detectives to resolve this problem, the vandalism continued and became a concern to the group of volunteers who oversee the preserve. Off. Franchak not only investigated the incidents, but also sought to prevent them from occurring in the future. He was able to locate a group of youths who were believed to be responsible for the on-going damage, and because of his communication skills, was able to convince these same youths to restore the preserve to its original state and to protect it in the future. Franchak's actions are consistent with the Community Policing philosophy of not only investigating problems, but also solving them.

**Off. Michael Redden** was awarded a *Letter Of Commendation*—On June

9, 2002 Off. Redden, while on patrol, conducted a random computerized license plate check of a vehicle in front of him. The check revealed an active domestic violence warrant for the registered owner. Further investigation revealed that the registered owner might be in possession of a firearm and other weapons. As a result of this information, a felony stop/removal was conducted and a search uncovered a machete, an imitation firearm and C.D.S. Due to Redden's alertness, a wanted felon was arrested and weapons were taken off the streets without injury to anyone involved.

**Off. Brian Larrapino** was awarded a *Letter Of Commendation*—On May 23, 2002 Off. Larrapino responded to a report of individuals pointing a handgun at an occupied vehicle in the area of 800 Corporate Ct. Upon arrival, Larrapino observed the subjects and engaged in a foot pursuit when they attempted to flee the area. During the course of the lengthy pursuit, Larrapino was able to coordinate the response of the other units and all three suspects were apprehended. A thorough search of the path where the foot pursuit occurred led to the discovery of a handgun that had been discarded by one of the suspects. Due to Larrapino's diligence and the coordination of other police units, a handgun was removed from the streets and arrests were made.

**Off. Vincent Campagna** was awarded a *Letter Of Commendation*—Off. Campagna asked his supervisor for training and certification in child safety seat inspections. His concern for the safety of infants and young children while they are passengers in motor vehicles was the reason of this request. As a result of his training and subsequent participation in child safety seat inspections throughout the area, nearly 500 child booster seats, numerous donated child safety seats and 50 coupons for child safety seats have been distributed. His enthusiasm for this program has made a positive impact upon the safety of infants and young children in the area and has generated a positive image of the South Plainfield Police Department.

(Continued in next week's Observer)

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### Hair Salon

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## Have You Purchased Your Brick Yet?

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

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

Please show your support for our local volunteers!



# Sports

## 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. Please note date change to Sept 30.

### Art Auction on Oct 4

On Friday Oct 4, the SPPPA will be hosting an art auction presented by Ross Galleries at the SP High School library. Preview is from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Auction begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5/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...SPONYTAIL.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 Webmastersponytail.com found on our home page.

## SPHS FIELD HOCKEY

By Sharon Miller

**Week of Sept 22**—The field hockey season is well underway. The first game of the week takes place on Monday, Sept. 23 at 3:45 p.m. in South Brunswick. On Wednesday, Sept. 25, the team will face Old Bridge at home on the newly dedicated Carol Espinosa Field at 3:45 p.m. The final game of the week is one not to be missed as the team faces a strong competitor, Piscataway on Friday, Sept 27 in

Piscataway at 3:45 p.m.

This year's team was listed in the Star-Ledger 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 books as this year's fundraiser. The book offers hundreds of coupons for clothing, 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.



## High School Age Basketball League

The South Plainfield Recreation Department is sponsoring a high school age basketball league.

All games will be played on Tuesday, nights at the PAL starting Dec. 3. All teams must have 10 players. Entrance fee is \$400 per team.

Register at the PAL Monday thru Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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## SOCCER

## Comets Compete at New Soccer Complex

The U-13 Girls Comets played their first game this past Sunday at the new South Plainfield Soccer Complex on Kenneth Ave. Moving up two flights this season, they found themselves locked in a defensive battle against the Montgomery Charge. Trailing 1-0 in the first half, Clare Kelly had an unassisted goal off a deflection to tie the score.

Both teams struggled for field position in the second half, while Kate

Reichert in goal had several exciting saves. Rachel Senz, Allyssa Sutherland, Liz Diamant, Courtney Wilhelm and Allison Whitefleet all added greatly on defense to keep the game even to the end.

Back and forth the ball went with great footwork by Katie Baldassarre while Victoria Plasse and Clare Kelly added speed and assertiveness. Midfielders Stephanie Szeliga, Brooke McNitzio, Stephanie Lanza and Brit-

tany Halpin exemplified stamina and worked both offensively and defensively when needed.

With just two minutes to go, the tie was ended favoring Montgomery, but all heads were held high as South Plainfield gave it their all.

They walked away from their beautiful new field knowing they played a good game against a good team!

Submitted by Mary Jane DeNitzio

## So. Plfd. Fire vs the Montgomery Eagles

On Sunday, Sept. 15, the South Plainfield Fire played their first game of the season against The Montgomery Eagles. The game turned out to be a very exciting battle.

The offensive line lead by Johnathan Llerena, Joao Rafael Simon, Louis Acosta and Briant Valimar were in top form. They orchestrated many offensive attacks on goal by bringing the ball down the touch line and making some great crosses to the front of the goal. They produced some fantastic shots on goal unfortunately the Eagles Goalie did a great job by stopping the efforts.

The second half of the game Montgomery started with the ball possession and came out with a vengeance to put the ball into our net. The Fires defense had their own plan. The defense had a opportunity to show what they were made of and boy did they. The defense led by Scot Bishop, Greg Herbster, Mat Santos, and Derick Wilhelm rose to the occasion. They shut down the Eagles attacks. The Fires two goalies Anthony Baldassarre and Rich Szeliga were like brick walls not letting any shots go into the goal mouth.

After the defense shut down, the Eagles offensive attacks the Midfielders stepped up to the plate. The mid fielders led by Kyle Pompilio, Logan Green, Douglas Porzio, and Justin De Olivera did a great job controlling the middle of the field. They did a great

job transferring the ball from defense to the offensive line.

The Battle ended in a zero zero tie and was very exciting up to the last seconds. The game kept the parents on the edge of their seat all game, Coaches Scot Bishop and Paul Baldassarre were very happy with the way the Fire played.

The Fire will be playing their first

home game on Sunday, Sept. 22 against The Cranbury Kixx. This will be our first time playing on the brand new fields at Kenneth Ave. Game time will be 1:30 p.m. Please feel free to visit our clubs web site at [www.soplfd.soccerclub.com](http://www.soplfd.soccerclub.com) for more information.

Submitted by Coach Paul Baldassarre

## Sonics Victorious Opening Day

Sunday, Sept. 14, the Sonics U10 Traveling Soccer team had the honor of playing the first small sided game on the newly opened soccer complex on Kenneth Avenue. The Sonics presented their mothers with corsages in honor of opening day.

The Union Beach Stormers were leading 3-0 at the end of the first quarter with Rebecca Hinkel scoring all three goals. The Sonics came back fighting in the second quarter, not letting the ball go over the mid field line. The score was Sonics 4 Union Beach 3 at half time.

Newcomers Luke Goitiandia, Charlie Huber, Dana Hunt and Nick Tuyp made a strong showing in their first game for the Sonics. Outstanding defensive duties were shared by Shaun Alers, Luke Goitiandia, Charlie Huber, and Danny Sticco, who had two tremendous head shots. Offensive line was composed of Ryan Billich, Mike Dispenziere, Dana Hunt,

Danny Hunt, Steve Lanza, and Nick Tuyp. Sharing goal keeping duties were Nick Ross and William Mott, who together stopped the scoring cold. The Sonics went on to put four more in the net in the second half. Scoring for the Sonics were Dana Hunt, Danny Hunt and Steve Lanza.

The final score was Sonics 8 and Union Beach 3. Way to go Sonics!

## Sign-ups Youth Basketball League

Sign-ups for the Ed Niemczyk Youth Basketball League are now underway. The league is open to all South Plainfield youth ages 7 to 14 (as of Oct. 1, 2002.) The fee is \$35 per child. There are no refunds. Registration ends Oct. 21. Bring a birth certificate and proof of residency when registering at PAL.

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## Sacred Heart Church

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South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul Alvarado, Pastor

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Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.

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

Weekdays 9:00 a.m. (church)

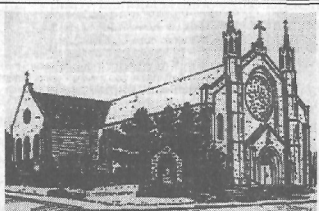
Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.

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

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

and after 5 p.m. Vigil Mass





# Annual Human Society Alumni Day Held

By Patricia Abbott

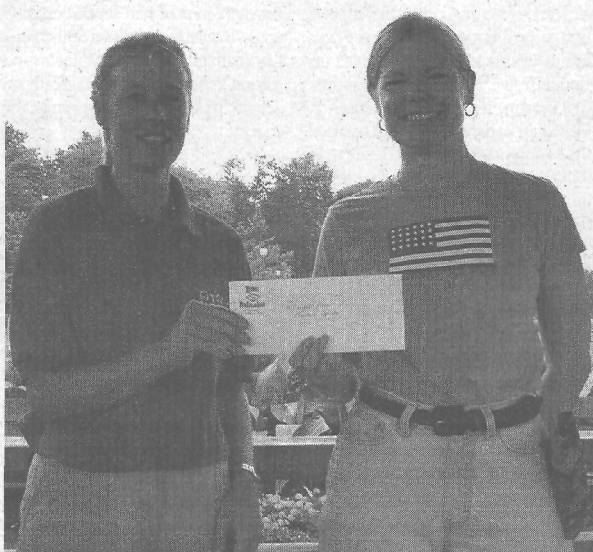
Showers and cloudy skies did not stop animal lovers from attending the Eighth Annual Plainfield Area Humane Society Alumni Day. About 15 dogs with owners of all shapes and sizes arrived at Spring Lake Park in anticipation of biscuits and blue ribbons. The games and various tables were moved into the gazebo when the showers turned into a downpour.

Most of the dogs had lived at the shelter, some for many years before being adopted. Ward Gardner of Warren adopted Wolfie six years earlier. The bear of an animal had been abused by the former owner.

The rain reduced the group to just eight dogs. Owners and pets participated in games such as best kisser, stupid pet trick, musical hoops and more. Some dogs went home with multiple ribbons earned by showing off for the crowd. The dogs enjoyed biscuits and lots of attention.

On hand with a treat for the two-legged participants was Mary Ann Hendri owner of Rita's Italian Ice on Park Ave. Hendri gave out free cherry ices. She had something for the shelter as well. During the month of August Rita's held Dog Day Monday's offering custard with dog biscuits to all customers who brought their pets with them. Ten percent of those Monday ice sales was designated for the shelter. Hendri presented director Susan MacWhinney-Ciuffo with a check for about \$220. Hendri has plans to continue the Dog Day Mondays next summer.

While the turn out was light due to the weather the volunteers were happy to visit with their furry friends and the adoptive owners. The Plainfield Area Humane Society has numerous fundraisers and events planned for the upcoming year including a doggie walkathon.



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## Obituaries

### Janice Cotoia

Janice Cotoia, died on Monday, Sept. 16, in Somerset Medical Center.

Born in Hazelton, Pa., Mrs. Cotoia moved to New Jersey in 1956, and she has been residing in South Plainfield since 1962.

She was employed by the South Plainfield Board of Education as a reading teacher for 35 years, teaching in various schools within the school district. She retired in June, 2002.

Mrs. Cotoia received her Bachelors Degree in Business from The Pennsylvania State University and her Masters Degree in Education from Rutgers University. She was a member of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield.

Surviving are her husband of 43 years, Anthony J. Cotoia; two daughters, Margaret of Hamilton Twp. and Patricia of South Plainfield; two brothers, Robert Magavich of York, Pa. and David Magavich of Hazelton, Pa.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, Sept. 21, in the McCriskin Home For Funerals, 2425 Plainfield Ave. followed by a Funeral Mass at 10 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church. Entombment will follow in Holy Redeemer Mausoleum.

Relatives and friends may call at the funeral home on Friday, 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Salvation Army, N.J. Divisional Headquarters, 4 Gary Rd., Union, NJ 07083.

### Antoinette D'Amico De Fellipo, 97

Antoinette D'Amico De Fellipo, formerly of South Plainfield, died on Thursday, Sept. 12 at the Ashbrook Nursing Center in Scotch Plains.

She was born in New York and was a longtime resident of South Plainfield. In 1955 she moved to Miami until 1996, when she returned to New Jersey, living in Warren for two years before entering the Care Center.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Michael DeFellipo, who died in 1973.

She is survived by two sons, Anthony (Flip) DeFellipo and his wife Shirley (Cris) of White House Station, Frank (Cheach) DeFellipo and his wife Genevieve of Scotch Plains; her grand children Sharonlee Ruggerio, Merilee Schneider, Thomas DeFellipo, Michael DeFellipo, Laurel Turchin. Jessica Wilkens, Frank DeFellipo and 13 great grandchildren.

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

### Peter J. Eckel, Jr., 45

Peter J. Eckel, Jr. died on Monday, Sept. 16, at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield, following a brief illness.

He was born in Jersey City, lived in Staten Island during his early childhood and had lived in South Plainfield for most of his life. While pursuing a firefighters career, he lived in Austin, Texas for four years, moving back to South Plainfield in 1985.

Pete was a 1976 graduate of South Plainfield High School. He had been a member of the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department since 1977 and in 1990 he was appointed to the Plainfield Fire Department and has served as a professional firefighter ever since.

For many years he had owned and operated his own landscape service in the South Plainfield area.

He was a member of the FMBA local #207 of Plainfield, the NJ State Firemen's Assoc., the NJ and South Plainfield Exempt Firemen's Associations and the BPO Elks Lodge 2298 of South Plainfield.

He was predeceased by his father, Peter J. Eckel, Sr.

Surviving are his wife, Katherine (Neufeld) Eckel; two sons, Jason Eckel of Austin and Justin Eckel of Manahawkin; a step daughter, Jessica Hon-

eywell of South Plainfield; his mother and her husband, Sally and John Norton of Toms River; three sisters, Patricia Meleo of Jackson Twp., Cindy Eckel of Richmond, Va. and Sally Gillis of South Plainfield; a brother, Phillip Eckel of Lake Ariel, Pa. and by several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, Sept. 20, at 1 p.m. in the Pilgrim Covenant Church, 3121 Park Ave. Interment will follow in the Hillside Cemetery.

Visitation will be held Thursday 2-4 and 7-9 at the McCriskin Home For Funerals, 2425 Plainfield Ave.

Fire Department services will be held on Thursday, 8 p.m. in the funeral home.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, memorial donations be made to the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department.

### Joseph J. Chiego, Jr., 89

Joseph J. Chiego, Jr. of South Plainfield died on Sunday, Sept. 15 at the Greenbrook Manner Nursing Home in Green Brook.

He was born and raised in Newark and was a former resident of Irvington before moving to South Plainfield 51 years ago.

Joe was a foreman in the H.A. Wilson Division of Engelhard Industries in Newark for 46 years before retiring in 1975.

He was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield, and a member of the parish Holy Name Society. He was a third degree member of the South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council 6203.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Julia Macik Chiego, who died in 1998 and four brothers, Bernard, Father Sebastian John, Michael, Vincent, Anthony and by a sister Jane Tischio.

He is survived by two sons, Ronald Chiego of South Plainfield; John Chiego and his wife Joan of Fair Lawn, a grandson, Robert Chiego; two brothers, William Chiego of Spring Lake Heights, Daniel Chiego of Clinton and a sister, Florence Russo of Montclair.

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

Donations in his memory can be made to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, 2520 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

### Antonio "Tony" Y Rualo, 56

Antonio "Tony" Y. Rualo died on Sunday, Sept. 15 at his home.

He was born in Manila in the Philippines and came to the United States in 1970, settling in Staten Island. He had also lived in Edison, before moving to South Plainfield in 1998.

Antonio had worked as a Right of Way Agent for Lourdes Inc., a communications company on Long Island. He is a graduate of Ateneo De Manila, where he earned a bachelor's degree in economics. He enjoyed golf and was a member of the St. Mathew's Bowling League at Brunswick Lanes in Edison. He was also a member of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield.

Antonio is pre-deceased by both of his parents.

Surviving are his wife of 11 years, Josephine (Quevedo); two daughters, Angelique Joie Rualo at home, Gledi Ann Gialombardo of Staten Island, three sons and daughters-in-law, Arnold and Colleen Rualo of Staten Island, Edward (USAF) and Susan Rualo, stationed at McGuire Air Force Base and Raymond and Erica Rualo of Brooklyn. Also surviving are six grandchildren, Kyle, Andrew, Jonathan, Dominic, Avelina and Sofia.

Funeral services will be held on Friday at 9:15 a.m. at McCriskin Home For Funerals, 2425 Plainfield Ave. followed by a Funeral Mass at 10 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church. Interment will follow in Resurrection Cemetery.

## LEGAL NOTICES

- BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**
- September 17, 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 September 12, 2002.
- A. Case #58-02-Todd Sacco-Block 232; Lot 4; 194 W. Nassau Avenue-Applicant's request for a front yard setback variance to construct a two story addition was hereby GRANTED.
  - B. Case #54-02-Denise Greco-Block 230; Lot 30; 110 W. Elmwood Dr.-Applicant's request for a lot coverage variance to construct an addition was hereby GRANTED.
  - C. Case #60-02-Kathy Ladao-Block 552.02; Lot 5; R-10 Zone; 1401 Durham Ave.-Applicant's request for a rear yard setback variance to construct a deck was hereby GRANTED.
  - D. Case #64-02-Cheryl Villa-Block 341; Lot 10; 312 Arlington Ave.-Applicant's request for a lot coverage variance to construct a deck was hereby GRANTED.

- GRANTED.**
- E. Case #68-02-John & Stacie Marsh-Block 152; Lot 143; 1303 Tooz Place-Applicant's request for a variance to install a solid six foot tall fence was hereby GRANTED.
  - F. Case #69-02-Ronald Calderoni-Block 345; Lot 13; 237 Tremont Ave.-Applicant's request for a rear yard setback variance to construct a deck was hereby GRANTED.
  - G. Case #59-02-TU-Edgewood Properties, LLC-Block 517; Lot 1; M-3 Zone; Tingle Road-Applicant's request for a temporary use permit for the storage of clean topsoil was hereby GRANTED, with conditions.
  - H. Case #50-02-John Grimes-Block 315; Lot 71; R-10 Zone-Applicant's request for front and side yard setback variances was hereby GRANTED to construct a two story addition.
  - I. Case #67-02-Nancy & Rick McMahon-Block 23; Lot 1; 553 O'Donohue Ave.-Applicant's request for a front yard setback variance for an existing above ground pool and deck was hereby GRANTED.
  - J. Case #72-02-Barry & Laura Towbin-Block 164; Lot 4; R7.5 Zone; 1922 Plainfield Ave.-Applicant's request for a rear yard setback variance and over lot coverage variance to construct a one story addition was hereby GRANTED.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Janice Mucilli,  
Secretary Zoning Board Adjustment

\$62.00 September 20, 2002

**BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

September 17, 2002

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Planning Board at its meeting held on September 10, 2002.

- A. Case #02-02/V-Nunzio Construction-Block 428; Lot 7; 1405 Peek Street-Applicant's request for a subdivision was DENIED.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Janice Mucilli,  
Recording Secretary Planning Board

\$20.00 September 20, 2002





A truck turning left onto Hamilton Blvd. almost lost its load of steel beams when they shifted. The truck blocked traffic both ways on Hamilton Blvd. for a few hours on Friday afternoon.

## policereport

- On Sept. 10 a Rush St. resident reported the theft of her vehicle's rear license plate which was parked in the driveway.
- A Pulaski St. resident reported that an unknown vehicle had driven across her front and side lawn leaving it torn up.
- On Sept. 11 the Gulf Station on Stelton Rd. reported that a 1998 Ford Explorer operated by a black male had sped away after receiving \$30 in gas without paying.
- On Sept. 12 Durable Undercarriage on Helen St. reported that graffiti had been painted on their sign.
- On Sept. 13 a Calderone St. resident reported leaving a COD check on her door for the UPS man. The check was missing and no package was delivered.
- A Harrison Ave. resident reported that her driver's side mirror had been broken.
- On Sept. 14 a W. Elmwood Dr. resident reported that someone had tried to gain access by smashing in a window next to the rear door of the house. No entry was gained.
- A Hamilton Blvd. resident reported that the passenger side window of his Pontiac Fiero was smashed.
- On Sept. 15 Franklin School reported that nine windows had been broken by various objects. No access was gained.
- S & W Quick Print on So. Clinton Ave. reported that a 2' X 3' front glass window had been broken.
- The Club at Ricochet on St. Nicholas Ave. reported that a member had \$100 in cash missing from his wallet which was in a locker. The lock had been tampered with.

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### PHOTOS AVAILABLE

Dept. Oldies concert, Plainfield Animal Hospital 50th Anniv., Sacred Heart Fair, Dennis Madalone's visit to So. Plainfield, OLC Fair, Middle & High School graduations, Senior Prank, Project Graduation, SPHS spring & winter concerts & Franklin Girl Scout workshop, Fire Dept. Wet Down, Labor Day '01 and much more. To see proofs, call 756-8011 or email angelonly@aol.com. Reasonable prices. Photos are printed on a high quality photo paper.

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# IN YOUR OPINION

Continued from page 2  
and re-electing Jim Vokral and Ed Kubala to the Borough Council.  
**EVELYN GORMAN**

Dear Editor,

Since Jake Cataldo first started running for Mayor over five years ago, he has consistently denied any knowledge or responsibility for the prior Republican administration's mismanagement of South Plainfield's finances. In fact, he and his running mates recently joined in our criticism of the 1994 fiscal years budget, which was adopted just before the Republicans were voted out of office. Mr. Cataldo claims that he and his group are different than those prior Republicans and they have no connection with the borrow, spend and tax philosophy which ended when the new Democratic majority took office on January 1, 1994.

Last week Mayor Gallagher and Mr. Cataldo were interviewed by the *Home News Tribune* Editorial Board. During the interview, he regularly referred to charts and graphs showing the Republican position on taxes. When asked where did he get them, Cataldo volunteered that they were prepared by the former Republican tax collector who is helping on his campaign. Then low and behold, I read a letter in last week's paper from the prior Republican clerk/administrator bragging about his support for and endorsement of the Republican slate. As hard as it is to believe, the Republican ticket is being advised by the same people who recommended borrowing \$20 million dollars and raising taxes over six points in one year. These are the same folks who said "you can't have 'pay as you go' government." This is like asking the designer of the Titanic to build a boat for you.

As this campaign has shown, the Republican ticket doesn't have any new ideas for South Plainfield's future. They continue to attempt to confuse the facts and tear down this great Borough of ours. I am proud of what Dan Gallagher, Jim Vokral and I have been able to accomplish. I am particularly proud that our local taxes have remained flat three of the last five years, while at the same time our debt has been reduced by \$10 million. While fiscal responsibility was brought to borough government, senior housing was built, our parks improved, over 100 roads repaved on a 'pay as you go basis' and almost 100 acres preserved as open space. We ain't finished yet! If you support the ticket of Gallagher, Kubala and Vokral, over 50 more acres of open space will be preserved, more roads will be repaved, Borough debt will be further reduced and there will be no tax increase next year too!

**ED P. KUBALA, COUNCILMAN**

Dear Editor,

Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral and I decided not to put in any campaign material last week out of respect for the memories of the heroes of September 11. It is difficult to put into words the anger and disgust that I felt when I read two letters which recently ap-

peared in the newspapers, one signed by Arrayo Bonito and another signed by Tony Romano. In his letter, Mr. Romano, after endorsing my opponent Jake Cataldo, wrote that our police are "out joy riding in their cars wasting tax dollars." Mr. Bonito actually wrote that Chief Merkler's comment about "South Plainfield's finest was very amusing." I cannot imagine what motivated these two people into slandering what I believe to be the finest police department in New Jersey...but on the eve of September 11, with the memory of sacrifice still fresh in everyone's minds? It is simply inconceivable.

I am doubly concerned because both writers referred to this year's campaign and Mr. Romano openly endorsed Mr. Cataldo. I cannot believe that any candidate would accept the support of people who attack our police department!

I ask Jake Cataldo to stop this kind of trash in its tracks. He should write a letter to the Editor next week and repudiate these disgusting comments and make it clear as I do now:

*"If you are going to trash our police department, I don't want your support. You are no friend of mine and no friend of South Plainfield."*

Very truly yours,

**MAYOR DAN GALLAGHER**

To The Editor:

There was a recent letter to the editor from a former Democrat councilperson which attacked Jake Cataldo and inferred he's never done anything for South Plainfield. She stated she only heard of Jake when he first ran for mayor and now accuses him of "resurfacing" to run again for mayor. Perhaps if this person had lived in town long enough, she might rethink her nasty comments.

The following might help her to know more about Jake Cataldo. Jake is a life-long resident of South Plainfield. In his teens, he volunteered to put out fires and perform cleanup duties as a junior firefighter. Jake entered military service at the age 18. Upon his return from overseas, Jake worked with Tom Orlando, founder of South Plainfield's Little League, helping to get that program off the ground. He coached our kids for 17 years.

Later, Cataldo headed the Recreation Commission and was instrumental in getting lights for our ballfields and putting together what was at that time, one of the only programs for disabled kids in New Jersey. He also served as fundraising chair for the Spina Bifida Association.

The Democrats brag about the new addition to the PAL. It is unquestionably an asset to the community, but they should recognize that without the original PAL building, there would be no addition. Well, "Ms. Critic", Jake actually helped build the original PAL. He was up to his knees in mud working to help our kids, yet he and his fellow workers didn't take one dime for their effort. After completion, he spent years coordinating the funds that put life into the PAL's programs. He raised money to send 15 South Plainfield

boys to the National PAL Baseball Tournament where they finished fourth in the country. He was at the initial meeting when the Pop Warner program was getting off the ground.

Cataldo has been involved in delivering food to the needy at Thanksgiving and Christmas and to the Mountainside Children's Hospital. When there was civil unrest in a neighboring community, Jake and others were there to keep our town safe.

In 1975, he coordinated South Plainfield Day with the New York Yankees. The SPHS marching band played our National Anthem at Yankee Stadium and our baseball program was recognized by a plaque from the Yankees.

Jake is a proud life-long resident of South Plainfield. He served his country when called upon and he has also actively served his community. He doesn't deserve to be trashed by a relative newcomer to town. He will be a mayor South Plainfield can be proud of. He has no ties to outside interests. His only interest is for a better South Plainfield. He will serve you, not special interests.

**CHARLES C. HAUS**

Dear Editor,

Sean Mealey is, excuse me, was a Physical Education teacher at South Plainfield High School. He also coached basketball and soccer in his first year at the high school. His contract was not renewed by the members of the Board of Education at a special meeting on Aug. 27. This vote, (actually non-vote as not enough members of the Board were in attendance to break a tie vote concerning his contract) did, in effect, terminate his services. Sean had received the recommendations to continue teaching from the superintendent of schools, the principal of the high school and the athletic director. These recommendations were received before Aug. 27 by all members of the Board of Education.

I therefore pose this question, on behalf of myself and several perplexed parents of children attending South Plainfield High School and participating in the soccer program, to all members of the Board of Education. Why was this educator terminated with the endorsement of professionals whose job it is to evaluate and recommend the best qualified teachers for our children? Does this board think it is more qualified than the staff that they themselves empower with the day to day decision making operations of our schools? Personally I am embarrassed and ashamed to have this board represent my community for such total disregard towards the superintendent and the professional staff at South Plainfield High School. The board members that voted against Mr. Mealey, thereby depriving him and consequently, our children of his services, should be removed/recalled for the betterment of education in South Plainfield. Finally, I apologized to our students and athletes who are directly affected by this board's arrogance.

**PATRICK ENGLISH**

Dear Editor,

The Republican candidates for mayor and council of South Plainfield keep accusing the Democrats of lying about the taxes not going up. The Democrats are not lying. The truth is that the municipal taxes have not gone up while the Democrats have been in office. Check closely each item on your tax bill and check past bills and you will see that the council has not raised municipal taxes. Check each item quarter after quarter and you will see that it's the school taxes that have continually gone up. This time the county taxes went up a little, but not municipal taxes.

The mayor and council do not control the Board of Education and they are the people who raised our taxes 80%.

Marjorie Reedy, candidate for council, should tell the truth. She knows that the Board of Education is responsible for the huge tax increases. She was once a member of that board, and school

taxes went up on her watch. Why didn't she prevent increases then? How can we trust her when she passes the blame onto innocent, honest people? Can you imagine how much she'll contribute to raising municipal taxes? She did it once and will do it again. Marjorie Reedy isn't fooling me, don't let her fool you.

It's the school taxes that are killing us, and I'm grateful to the Democratic Council for keeping municipal taxes the same each year.

I ask the citizens of South Plainfield to carefully check your tax bills - be careful who you put the blame on. The blame falls squarely on the Board of Education and people like Marjorie Reedy.

I dread to think what will happen if the Republicans get in. That's when our taxes, all taxes, will go through the roof. Remember how it was when Woskey and the Republicans were in power? They just raised and raised taxes. Don't let that happen again. Vote Democrat!

**MARGARET STASHAK**

## Board of Education Votes to Hire Substitute Sean Mealey

This month's Board of Education meeting, which lasted beyond midnight, turned out to be a heated debate on whether to rehire substitute high school physical education teacher Sean Mealey.

The debate began during last month's Board of Ed meeting when Mealey's name was not on the list of substitute teachers hired. Mealey had been hired last year as a substitute teacher, because he had not yet obtained his teacher certification from the State of New Jersey. It was believed at that time that he would receive certification from the State shortly after being hired. He was certified teacher in Pennsylvania, before relocating to New Jersey.

During the last school year Mealey taught physical ed in the high school and coached basketball and soccer. As the year progressed however, his certification from the State did not get approved because of the change in state requirements.

When word spread that he would not be teaching or coaching in South Plainfield, a ground swell of support started forming. Last month several teachers and parents spoke on his behalf. Since then we also have published several letters, both for and against the matter of hiring Mealey.

Tuesday night's Board of Ed Agenda included a resolution to hire Mealey

as a substitute physical ed teacher in the high school for a period of 20 days. According to state law a substitute can only be hired for 20 days in any one position.

According to Dr. Krewer the State is expected to grant Mealey's certification sometime in November, after a new law changing the requirements is passed.

Board Member Dawn Jefferys said that the Superintendent was directed to find a certified teacher for this position last year when they were informed that Mealey still had not received his certification. She questioned why, after a year of allowing Mealey to teach as a substitute, as well as more than 130 resumes, this position still had not been filled by a certified teacher.

When the public was asked to speak on agenda items, the board heard from teachers, students and friends of Mealey, all supporting his return. In addition, he has received the recommendation of Dr. Krewer, the athletic director and many fellow teachers.

When the final vote was taken, Mealey's hiring was approved by a vote of 6-3, with Board Members Dawn Jefferys, Tim Morgan and Frank Mikorski voting no.

Mealey will teach physical ed for 20 days starting Sept. 18 and then must either teach another subject or leave the district.

## Tri-County American Red Cross Holds Volunteer Orientation

The American Red Cross Tri-County Chapter is holding a volunteer orientation on Thursday, September 26, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. It will be held at the Elizabeth Chapter House at 203 West Jersey St., Elizabeth, NJ. The orientation is open to anyone interested in volunteering for the Chapter. Please feel free to bring friends and family. Information on volunteer opportunities and the programs available at the Tri-County Chapter will be discussed. Volunteers are needed at Blood Drives and Disaster Services.

If interested in attending the orientation, call Victor at (908) 756-6414.

## CEDARCROFT BIBLE CHAPEL

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