

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 6, NO. 6

50 CENTS

OCTOBER 4, 2002

Vote
TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 5

Still Time To Register to Vote in Nov.

Residents who are new to South Plainfield or those who have not already registered to vote are encouraged to do so before the Nov. 5 elections. The last day to register is Oct. 7. The Borough Clerk's office will remain open on Oct. 7 until 9 p.m.

Anyone following the recent elections around the country knows that every vote does count. The ballot this Nov. 5 includes candidates for U.S. Senate, several members of congress, freeholders and locally, two seats on the South Plainfield Council as well as the mayor.

It's easy to register. Pick up a form at Borough Hall in the clerk's office. The form can be filled out there, or later and mailed. The form includes a self-addressed stamped envelope.

If you are registered, but are not able to vote because you will be out of town, working late, or unable to get to the polls, you may obtain an absentee ballot up to seven days before the election. A voter registration form can also be downloaded from the New Jersey League of Women Voter's website at <http://www.lwvnj.org/guide/regform.html>.

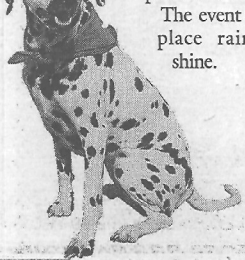
Annual Fire Department Open House

The South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department announced that its 2002 Fire Prevention Day will be held on Saturday, Oct. 12 from noon until 4 p.m. at Fire Headquarters, located at 123 Maple Ave.

Planned events include Smokey the Bear, The Saint Barnabas Burn House, P.S.E.&G. Co., apparatus and equipment display and much more.

So plan to come on out and support our local fire department.

The event takes place rain or shine.



Local Volunteer Organizations Receive Sept. 11 Memorials



Accepting the 9/11 memorials and representing each branch of South Plainfield's emergency services are (left to right) Police Chief Robert Merkler, Fire Chief Larry Del Negro, Emergency Management Director Michael Zushma, Rescue Squad Captain Ron Sward and Middlesex County Fire Training Academy Administrator Michael Gallagher.

Jeffrey Wood wanted to make his own memorial tribute in honor of those who gave their lives on Sept. 11 in the World Trade Center.

Using material from the rubble of the World Trade Center that was taken to the Arthur Kills Landfill in Staten Island, the Scotch Plains resident created his own special memorial made from the stone, which he placed on wood and added engraved plaques. Unlike the salvaged steel that would eventually be melted down and re-used, every stone fragment from the Twin Towers terrorist attacks was destined for burial in the landfill. Upon hearing this, Wood decided to use some of the rubble for his tribute.

(Continued on page 5)

Two Robbed At Gunpoint

Last Friday night two 41-year-old men from South Plainfield were robbed at gunpoint on the 100 block of Fairmount Ave. Two suspects approached the victims and sprayed them both in the face with pepper spray. One victim had his wallet and his ring stolen. A handgun was held to the head of the other victim, who was robbed of his wallet. Neither victim was injured.

The suspects fled on foot. They are described as black males in their early 20's, medium build. The assailant armed with the handgun was listed as 5'8", wearing a white hooded sweatshirt. The other assailant, armed with pepper spray, wore a gray or light colored sweatshirt.

The public is asked to contact the South Plainfield Police Department Detective Bureau at (908) 226-7667 if they can provide additional information or if they possibly witnessed the suspects leaving the area.

Update on Helen Street Project Slated for Oct. 10

Councilman Charles Butrico 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, could help to alleviate truck traffic in town when completed. Because 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.

The public and any interested parties are invited to attend this special meeting.

Skateboard Park Gets Rave Reviews

Story/photos by Patricia Abbott

The long awaited South Plainfield Skateboard Park has seen non-stop activity since it opened several weeks ago. The park was officially opened by Mayor Dan Gallagher and Recreation Director Mike English on Sept. 7. Attending the ribbon cutting were Council members Ray Petronko, Ed Kubala, Bob Cusick, James Vokral, Charlie Butrico and Dennis Cerami.

Youths of all ages stood by with their skateboards, eagerly waiting for an end to the brief speeches. They'd had enough talk about the proposed park, and were anxious to experience the reality. Registered participants donned helmets and other safety gear and dashed onto the blacktop. On skateboards and roller blades, they sped up ramps then flew down again, dropping off heights up to five feet. Pint-sized beginners skated alongside older, more experienced youths and the Central Jersey Skate Shop Team members.

Central Jersey Skate Shop set up a table offering equipment and safety information. They also donated numerous giveaways including equipment bags. The C.J.S. Skateboard team presented a demonstration—flying acrobatics that appeared to defy the laws of gravity and physics. In reality, they used physics to their advantage as they executed complex flips and turns leaping and skidding over obstacles at top speeds.

Team member Rob Antonucci



The new skateboard park behind Borough Hall which opened last month, has been well used.

stated, "The whole CJS team had a great time! The park was well laid out and presents a good environment for the kids to continue their progression with the sport, and of course to have fun." Jim Dwyer, another CJS team member said, "The park was exceptional, and the demo went extremely well due to the organization

and the participation from the crowd. There is an opportunity to make the park a little more organized by moving some of the obstacles around, but overall it's a good time for everyone."

Deanna Fredericks and her son Ryan were also on hand for the open-

(Continued on page 12)

Illegal Students Offered Amnesty Until Nov. 1

For the past few years, there has been a problem in the South Plainfield School District with students who are attending our schools illegally. Two years ago, the district hired Kenneth Van Kleef to serve as their residency officer. A former police sergeant with 25 years of experience, Van Kleef began investigating students who may live within the district.

Over the past two years, he has also initiated many removal proceedings for students who are not lawfully entitled to attend school here. Because of Van Kleef's efforts, the district has saved hundreds of thousands of dollars in tuition cost. It costs the district approximately \$9,000 per year to educate a child. Thus, for every illegal child who is removed, the district saves that amount per year.

At the last month's meeting, the School Board voted to offer an amnesty period for those individuals who are illegally sending a child to school

in our district. Specifically, if you are such and individual, you will be given until Nov. 1, 2002, to voluntarily come to the Registrars Office to disenroll your child from our district and no questions will be asked. In other words, the district will waive its right to collect back-tuition which would otherwise be owed until this date. Anyone who fails to come forward before Nov. 1, 2002, will face whatever steps are necessary to remove their child from the district and to recover the tuition which is due, in accordance with the procedure, established by law.

As a separate matter, Van Kleef is asking that if any parent/guardian or community member has knowledge or suspects that a student is illegally attending any of the schools in South Plainfield, to contact his office at (908) 754-4620 ext. 222 immediately. Names will be kept strictly confidential.

Mark your calendars

Log on to
southplainfieldnj.com
for the latest
meeting agenda

council meetings

Meets twice a month on the first and third Thursday.

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. (New Time) • Questions? 908-226-7605

AGENDA MEETING **PUBLIC MEETING**

Monday, October 7 Thursday, October 10

Monday, October 21 Thursday, October 24

All meetings of the Governing Body are held in accordance with New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Avenue.

planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month

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

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

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. - Oct. 15, Nov. 19, Dec. 17, Jan. 21, 2003, Feb. 18, March 18, April 8.

South Plainfield Observer

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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 ggann@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.

Submit Letters to the Editor:

Letters may be submitted to our office: South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, 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.

Dear Editor:

If 9/11 taught us anything, it was to value the freedoms we enjoy as Americans. One of those freedoms is our ability to vote. This coming election, Nov. 5, New Jersey voters will elect a senator, several members of Congress and various local officials. It is a critical election because these elected officials will be part of the national, state and local leadership that will lead us during what appear to be difficult times ahead.

If you are not registered to vote you must submit the application and postmark it by Oct. 7. You may obtain a voter application form on line from the New Jersey League of Women's Voters at <http://www.lwvny.org/guide/regform.html> or from your local borough or town hall.

In addition, current law allows any voter who cannot make it to the polls on election day to cast an absentee ballot, which can be obtained up to seven days before the election from your town hall. (Oct. 29 is the deadline.) This is a change in the previous law, which had various restrictions for casting an absentee ballot.

Also, permanently and totally disabled citizens can obtain an absentee ballot for the entire year by indicating that on the absentee ballot application.

If recent history, and in particular recent elections, have taught us anything, it is that our vote does count. And when we vote, we cast a vote for freedom.

**PETER BARNES,
PATRICK DIEGNAN,
ASSEMBLYMEN FOR
THE 18TH DISTRICT**

To the Editor,

I stumbled across the Democrats' campaign manual recently while leaving Borough Hall. Apparently one of them dropped it while scurrying out of the building. It's fascinating. Here's a taste of the definition section:

"Pay-as-You-Go Government-Leasing instead of borrowing (shhh... may be the public won't find out).

"Personal Attack"-Questioning the Gallagher Administration.

"Open Space"-A place to put self-congratulatory billboards.

"Overgrowth"-How our yards look before the landscaper comes.

"Tax Cut"-See "Broken Promise."

"Paved Roads"-Something South Plainfield residents should be grateful to us for.

"Broken Promise"-See "Tax Cut."

"Helen Street Project"-The mythical solution to every traffic problem in town. (Note: As stated in the 1995 edition of this manual, always put the words "soon-to-be-started" before "Helen Street Project").

"School Board"-The ones to point the finger at for high taxes (Note: never admit that we allowed all the building

IN YOUR OPINION

that created the need for the new school and extra spending).

"Crime Rate"-The interest rate banks use to set their lending rates. (Note: if pushed on this, feign a hearing loss and keep talking).

"Media"-The dastardly folks who forced us to confront the problem in the park.

"Two-party government"-Unnecessary since we don't need-nor do we want-anyone looking over our shoulders. (Note: this definition replaces the one from the 1990 edition of this manual that describes two-party government as indispensable).

The rest of the document is even more captivating. There are sections on campaign strategy, use (or was that abuse?) of facts and figures and developing meaningless slogans. I can't wait to give everyone a glimpse. But I'll save that for another letter.

BOB JONES, JR.

(Editor's note: Just in case anyone is unsure, the author assures us this is satire.)

To the Editor,

Yes, taxes have gone up. But the municipal tax rate has not. And the overall tax bill is still lower than in most surrounding communities.

The school tax went up because of the addition of a new school. If that was of concern, people should have come out to vote on the school budget. If you don't come out to vote, who do you blame but yourself?

If you recognize that the mayor and council have been right on the issues-preserving open space, maintaining roads and community services, making government efficient and cost-effective-then you must come out and vote for the Democrats on Nov. 5.

WALTER KALMAN

Dear Editor,

For the past 25 years the South Plainfield Ponytail Parents Association has operated its girls softball program with a set of clear and consistent rules. These rules are in place to maintain the integrity and fairness of our program. Recently a letter was sent to the Observer by Glen Ettman. In his letter, Mr. Ettman berated the leadership of Ponytail Softball for a decision regarding his daughter. Ponytail bylaws are clearly stated that ALL players participating on our traveling teams must be residents of South Plainfield.

After selecting our teams, we were informed by several parents that Mr. Ettman's daughter was in fact not a resident of this town. We were able to confirm the child's residency with her mother who lives in North Plainfield. It turns out that the child resides full time in North Plainfield and in fact goes to school in Scotch Plains. We explained this to Mr. Ettman, and under our bylaws we were required to remove the child from our roster as she clearly did not reside in our town. Throughout this process we attempted to put Mr. Ettman in contact with the North Plainfield softball league in an effort to find his daughter a place to play.

Our residency rule is cornerstone to our attempt to promote softball in this

town. By enforcing this policy we ensure that young women residing in our town will have equal opportunity to explore their love for softball. Mr. Ettman questions the intent of our organization. We can emphatically state that our intent has always remained steady, to encourage fair play, good sportsmanship and teamwork in an environment of healthy competition.

P.S. Mr. Ettman also questions the actions of Mike English, Director of Recreation. It should be noted that Mr. English had no involvement in this situation.

**SINCERELY,
STEVE SENZ, PRESIDENT
SPPPA; MARK SUTHERLAND,
VICE PRESIDENT SPPPA**

To the Editor:

On Election Day, please support Dan Gallagher for Mayor and Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral for Borough Council.

These fine gentlemen have done an excellent job by delivering a budget with no municipal tax increase. They have shown the willingness to make tough decisions on budget matters. They stopped the Boroughs dependence on borrowing to pay ordinary expenses. Just look at the number of streets being repaved without incurring massive debt. They have opened up the process of government by creating citizen advisory groups such as the Taxpayers Advisory Committee. They have led the way on open space preservation and acquired the land at the intersections of Park Ave. and Oak Tree Rd. and Tompkins Ave. and Clinton Ave.

It is this type of leadership that we need in our elected officials. Dan, Jim and Ed are dedicated to making South Plainfield a better place to live and deserve your support on Election Day.

FRANK FURINO

To the Editor:

Two weeks ago Jake Cataldo asked the Democrats to pledge to conduct a clean campaign. He suggested some ideas like limiting campaign spending, sticking to the issues and making sure everyone had access to information at Borough Hall. Two weeks have gone by, but we've received no response from the mayor.

Instead, we've received a different type of response. The Democrats apparently don't want a clean campaign. They'd rather attack the Republican candidates personally. They'd rather harass merchants who put up signs supporting Cataldo, Reedy and Champion. They'd rather pen letters to the editor that make baseless claims, and they'd rather circulate rumors that try to drive a wedge between the Republican candidates and the people who serve this town. This must come to an end.

I call upon the mayor and his team to stop this now. While we cannot control what other people do, we can control what comes from our own parties. We can also make sure that people working on our behalf act responsibly. We've tried to do that. Our press

(Continued on page 6)

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Congressman Mike Ferguson addressed nearly forty South Plainfield supporters at a cocktail party Saturday honoring mayoral candidate Jake Cataldo, council candidates Marge Reedy and Geoff Champion and former Middlesex County Republican Chairman Dennis Little. Pictured left to right are Cataldo, Ferguson, Reedy and Champion.

Kennedy Playground Nearing Completion



Because of the generosity of many local businesses and the people of South Plainfield, John F. Kennedy Elementary School finally has new playground equipment.

This past January, playground equipment inspectors deemed the

wooden and older metal structures to be unsafe. Board of Education members immediately had these items removed and the school began its long journey towards raising enough money to replace the equipment.

The final new section of equipment

was installed in August. Playworld, the company from whom the new pieces were purchased, has also donated several pieces to the school. The new pieces will be attached to the existing older equipment in the next few weeks to make it handicapped accessible, therefore bringing it up to code. Without these pieces, the slides—part of the old equipment which still remain—would also have had to be removed.

Home Depot has donated some wooden fencing which was used to burn in the names of all the donors who contributed to the fundraising. This will stand as a memorial to the people who helped rebuild Kennedy's playground.

Many thanks to the companies that donated the digging equipment and the mulch, and especially to the fathers who spent long hours installing the new equipment. Through the efforts of these volunteers, Kennedy School saved a lot of money.

Flu Shots Available At Twin City Pharmacy Saturday

Twin City Pharmacy, located on Park Ave., will be giving out flu shots this Saturday, Oct. 5 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost is \$20 per participant. Pneumonia shots are also available at \$25 each.

Medicare Part B must be your primary insurance in order to receive a flu shot at no charge. QSMS will bill Medicare. If Medicare Part B is not your primary insurance, you must pay cash and you will receive a receipt to submit to your insurance for reimbursement.

For further information, call (908) 755-7696.

AIDA SANTOS
ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT
BRANCH MANAGER

Valley National Bank

Durham Ave. & Hamilton Blvd
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

(908) 757-5868
Fax (908) 757-0494

southplainfieldpeople Milestone

Students Commended in the 2003 National Merit Scholarship Program

South Plainfield High School Principal Anthony Massaro has announced that Elayne M. Russell has been named Commended Student in the 2003 National Merit Scholarship Program. A Letter of Commendation from the school and the National Merit Scholarship Corp. (NMSC), which conducts the program, will be presented by the principal to this scholastically talented senior.

Being recognized for their exceptional academic promise are a total of about 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation. Although they will not continue in the 2003 competition for Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than one million students who entered the 2003 competition by taking the 2001 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship qualifying test.

An NMSC spokesperson commented, "The young men and women named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for future academic success

by their high performance in the extremely competitive National Merit Scholarship Program. These scholastically talented youth represent a valuable resource to our nation and it is important to publicly recognize their attainments and to credit schools for the important part they play in their development. We hope this recognition will help broaden the educational opportunities of Commended Students and encourage all students to develop their abilities to the fullest."

Shannon Bishop Named to Dean's List

Shannon Bishop of South Plainfield was named to the Dean's List for the Spring 2002 semester at Rowan University.

Shannon is enrolled in a five-year Master's Program with a double major in Elementary Education and Special Education.

Council/Mayor Candidates Debate Set for October 23

The South Plainfield Business Association debate between the candidates for council and mayor will be held at Roosevelt School on Oct. 23.

This election has become a very contested event. At stake are two seats on the Borough council and a mayoral election. Judging by letters the *Observer* has been publishing, we think it will turn out to be a very interesting evening.

The public is encouraged to attend, as well as all groups and organizations. Both the Republican and Democratic candidates for council and mayor have agreed to attend.

The moderator for the evening, a member of the League of Women Voters, will be in charge of asking the questions that evening and making sure everyone answers in the time allotted. If for some reason you cannot attend, you may submit your ques-

tions ahead of time. None of the candidates will be allowed to see the questions before the debate.

If anyone would like to attend but doesn't have a ride, contact us and we will try to arrange transportation.

If you would like to suggest questions, you can do so by faxing to (908) 668-8819, mailing or bringing them to our office at 1110 Hamilton Blvd. in South Plainfield or you can email us at ggman@aol.com.

School Board Meeting Changed

The South Plainfield Board of Education Committee of the Whole Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 8, in the Grant Central Sixth gym has been changed to Room 5 in Grant School at 7 p.m.

Open Sundays

10AM-4PM

FOOTBALL SPECIALS

Heros • Salads • Chips • Sodas

4-1/2 HEROS, 1LB. POTATO SALAD, ONE 2-LITRE BOTTLE SODA

\$19.99 Valid thru 10/10/02

HOMETOWN HEROS

BUY 1 HERO GET 6" HERO

.99¢ Valid thru 10/10/02

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Hair Salon

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

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

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COME VISIT SPORTWORLD AT THEIR NEW STORE
17 SOUTH PLAINFIELD AVENUE (FORMERLY PIK-A-TOY)
(908) 753-5403

Events

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 are \$100 per person and includes dinner and dancing aboard the Cornucopia Princess and a silent auction. Seating is limited. Reserve your seats by calling (908) 755-5051, ext. 406.

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.

VFW Country Breakfast

October 6

VFW Post 6763 at 155 Front St. will hold a country breakfast on Oct. 6 from 8 a.m. until 11 a.m. with an assortment of food. Adult price is \$5, children 12 years and under, \$2.50.

For more information, call (908) 668-9751 after 3 p.m. daily and after

South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department
Open House
Saturday, October 12, 2002
12:00 - 4:00
123 Maple Avenue

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

What's happening in

OCTOBER

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
EVENTS Line Dancing Begins Oct. 30 • 10 am Flu Shots Oct. 15, 10 am				
Walking Club 8:45 AM 7 Adult Crafts 10:30-11:30 Yoga 10:30-11:30 AM	Bingo 10AM-2PM 8	Walking Club 9AM 9 Movie 11:30 AARP Crafts 1 PM AARP Board Mtg. 2PM	Shopping at Pathmark 9AM 10 Practical Crafting 10-11AM	Bingo 10 AM-2 PM 4 Hamburger Lunch 11:30
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE PAL BUILDING ON MAPLE AVE.				

12 noon on weekends.

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 contact Geraldine Diegnan at (908) 753-2032.

Athletic Booster Club Meeting

October 8

The SPHS Athletic Booster Clubs next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 8, at 7 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. Come and join us! All are welcome!

We will be hosting a "Sports Auc-

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

tion" on Saturday, Nov. 16. Tickets are limited this year, so get them early from a Booster Club Board Member.

Historical Society Mtg.

October 8

The next regular meeting of the Historical Society will be Tuesday, Oct. 8, at 7:30 p.m. in SPHS library. The public is invited to attend.

Roosevelt Plans Penny Sale/Auction

October 12

The Roosevelt School P.T.A. will conduct a "Penny Sale/Auction" 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.

Dinner to Honor Former Police Deputy Chief

October 12

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 dedica-

tion to the youth of South Plainfield.

Cost of the dinner is \$15. Visit the PAL Building on Maple Ave. to purchase a ticket.

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.

Summer Drama Workshop Reorganization

October 15

The South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop will hold their reorganization meeting Tuesday, Oct. 15 at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the high school cafeteria.

Anyone wishing to join the producing board or getting involved in the 2003 program, should contact the Summer Drama Workshop at (908) 561-5255 or through their website www.spsdw.com.

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, *Movin' Out*. The cost is \$75 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.

Alumni Soccer Game Date Changed

October 19

The alumni soccer game date has been changed. The new date is Oct. 19, at 2 p.m. on the Varsity Soccer Field on Lake Street in front of the high school. If you have any questions, please call Millie at (908) 561-0349 or email plumb7620@yahoo.com.

AARP Chapter #4144 Meeting

October 21

The October meeting of AARP Chapter #4144 will held on Monday, Oct. 21 at the new Senior Center, starting at 12:30. We will have a *Show and Tell*. Members are asked to look in their attic, closets, basements and garages for that very special item which brings back old memories and tell us about it. This is going to be fun.

American Legion Pancake Breakfast

October 27

Come enjoy eggs, sausage and bacon with the American Legion (Post 243) at their Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, Oct. 27, 8 a.m. to 12 noon at the Post Home at 243 Oak Tree Ave.

Tickets for adults are \$5, children are 3. Under 6 are free.

For more information call (908) 668-9414.

— Out of Town —

Frenchtown Businesses To Hold Open House

October 12-13

The Frenchtown Business and Professional Association will hold their Annual Fall Open House Weekend, scheduled on Saturday and Sunday Oct. 12 and 13. Special events include horse drawn carriage rides around town, scarecrow making (\$10 donation) at Schneiderwind Farm just across the Delaware River bridge and puppet shows performed by River Union State will be held at noon, 1:30, 3 and 4:30 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday.

Several Business members will be sponsoring give-a-ways, raffles and sales. check www.frenchtown.com or call 1-800-989-3388 for updates or additional information.

Belleville UNICO Columbus Day Dinner

October 14

The Belleville Chapter of UNICO Nation will celebrate its Ninth Annual Columbus Day dinner and dance on Monday, Oct. 14 at 7 p.m. This gala affair will be held at the Branch Brook Manor, 13 Washington Ave. Belleville.

Honored guests will be Assemblyman Paul DiGiacinto and Frank Vespa-Papaleo.

The price is \$45 per person and includes antipasto, full course dinner with wine, beer and soda, assorted Italian pastries, coffee, espresso bar and music by Jerry Tolve.

Tickets must be purchased in advance and are available through Vice President Savino Balducci (973) 751-7003. Checks should be made out to Belleville UNICO and mailed to Savino Balducci at 65 Fairway Ave., Belleville, NJ 07109



Cornerstone's "Team Tambo" Participates in MS-100 Bike Tour

Five members of South Plainfield-based Cornerstone Architectural Group participated in the 15th Annual MS-100 Bike Tour on Sept. 21 and 22, in support of the Greater North Jersey Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Riders Frank Delligatti, Eric Giuliani, Bob Longo, Vito Tamborino, Jr. and Alyssa Tamborino pedaled over 100 miles during the two day ride through Morris, Passaic and Bergen counties. Mike Soriano and Alyse Soriano were part of the volunteer support staff, manning the rest stops.

The team raised over \$7,500, which will go towards national research, as well as local programs and services for MS patients and their families. We

wish to thank all of our friends, family members and business associates who sponsored our ride. Because of your generosity and support, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society is a step closer to finding a cure for this disabling disease.

The group would like to thank their South Plainfield sponsors: Plainfield Animal Hospital, Lynn Graphics, Patrick J. Diegnan Jr., Jack Pedersen, Gene Baker, Century 21 Moretti Realty, Muglia Enterprises, Thatcher & Lanza, Harris Steel, John Checchetti Insurance, Steve Belenger, Cornerstone Architectural Group, Robert and Candy Longo, Oaktree Discount Wines & Spirits, Halls Fast Motor Freight and Arm-R-Lite Doors.

Local Volunteer Organizations Receive Sept. 11 Memorials

Continued from page 1

During the Sept. 19 council meeting, Mayor Dan Gallagher presented one of Wood's creations to each branch of South Plainfield's emergency services. Representatives from the police, fire, rescue squad and emergency management services were on hand to receive the memorial on behalf of their departments. Each memorial was unique since none were designed the same.

Accepting the memorials were Police Chief Robert Merkler, Fire Chief Larry Del Negro, Rescue Squad Captain Ron Sward, Emergency Management Director Michael Zushma and Middlesex County Fire Training Academy Administrator Michael Gallagher.

Wood explained that the memorials weren't fancy, and they weren't meant to be. He wanted a simple design so as not to detract from the real meaning of the day when 23 New York Police Department officers, 37 Port Authority officers, 343 New York

firefighters and 2,400 civilians perished.

All he asked is that they be placed somewhere where they can be seen every day, so people will never forget.

Wood crafted the memorials in his home, on his own time, using his own personal resources. It was truly a labor of love. He has already donated over 110 memorial to police stations, firehouses and various local and federal agencies who either lost personnel in the attacks or sent officers and equipment to aid in the recovery.

The inscription on the plaque reads: "The piece of stone in this 'Memorial' came from one of the Twin Towers. By having it on display it reminds us of the events on that terrible day and the lives lost. By looking at the 'Memorial' and remembering those who are gone, we can think of them once more, in our minds and hearts." Sept. 11. 2001 WE WILL NEVER FORGET."

Jim Curcio Sentenced

South Plainfield resident Jim Curcio was sentenced last week to 46 months in prison for embezzling more than \$2 million from two employers over a 10-year period. U.S. District Judge James A. Greenaway also ordered him to repay the entire amount stolen and fined him \$2,500.

Curcio had pleaded guilty last year to charges of wire fraud and tax evasion over a 10-year period.

The plea deal with prosecutors had determined a sentence of 30 to 37 months, but Judge Greenaway increased the range to 46 months, saying he abused his position of trust.

Curcio has already forfeited assets worth about \$1.6 million. He was employed as a packaging engineer and manager at a cosmetic makers plant from 1987 to 1989. While employed there he admitted to submitting bills for fictitious companies, renting post office boxes, accepted the checks and funneling the money through 22 bank accounts, before he used the money for himself and his family.

Fourth Graders Remember 9/11

A red, white, and blue collage of text and images adorned the fourth grade hallway of J.E. Riley School as students paid tribute to the memory of the September 11, 2001 victims and heroes from NYC to Washington DC and Pennsylvania.

Some students recalled their first reactions upon learning of the tragic events from their parents and the news after school. Some recounted personal stories of family or friends, while many expressed themselves through renderings of the World Trade Center with its familiar Twin Towers still rising above the city's horizon.

Whatever form their expression took, it seems the 9 to 10 year old students found bittersweet pride as well as solace in memorializing the thousands of lost souls on that fateful day, as well as finding a voice to vent their emotions.—Submitted by Mrs. Linda Bohl, 4th Grade Teacher

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

It's the early days of both a new month and a new season. And, since it's also Friday, here's news from the South Plainfield Library:

The latest group from the Video Circuit is now available. Titles this month include *Richie Rich*, *South Pacific*, *Almost Famous*, *The Green Mile*, *Unbreakable* and, on DVD, *Memento*. Videos and DVDs may be borrowed, four at a time, for two days. Meanwhile, we're between groups on the Audiobook Circuit. They'll return later on this month.

Don't forget about the special program "Getting Published", featuring author/entrepreneur Mark Scordos, on Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. And, just a reminder that the Library's Sunday hours are 1:30 to 5 p.m. Please keep an eye on this column and our monthly calendar for schedule changes.

We've got our usual schedule of children's Storytime programs next week. For those who weren't paying attention, the programs are held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. They're for children ages three and over; no pre-registration is required. For more information, please call Miss Linda at (908) 754-7885.

By the way, here's a special request from Miss Linda: She needs some materials for upcoming craft programs, including a Pumpkin Painting program coming up on Oct. 19. In particular, she's looking for ribbons and lace, buttons, straight pins, and old jewelry. If you have these things and want to pass them along, please let her know ASAP!

The Library Board of Trustees will meet on Tuesday evening at 7:30. Members of the public are encouraged to attend this meeting.

Here's a serious computer note: Previously, if a patron has forgotten their Library card and needed their

bar code number to use our Net terminals, we've provided them with the number. However, we've had a number of problems recently with patrons (or others using a patron's ID number) fooling around with the terminal's programming. So, if you've forgotten your card, you must provide a valid ID before we'll give you your code number. If you've lost your card altogether, you must purchase a new one (and show valid ID) before you'll be allowed on-line. And we are very, very serious about this. We've had to spend a good amount of money on computer repairs, money that would otherwise have been spent on books, videos, DVDs, and other items. (Not to mention a few salaries.)

Here's another note regarding our notary service. Unlike our previous notary, our present notary is not bilingual; he only speaks English (and not very well, at that.) If you need something notarized and aren't fluent in English, please bring along someone who can translate for you. Remember the translator should also bring along their identification.

That's about all for now. As always, thanks very much for your attention.

SPHS Class of 1963 Reunion Looking for Alumni

SPHS Class of 1963 will hold their 40th year reunion at the Metuchen Country Club on Saturday June 7, 2003. A number of events are planned, cocktail party, golf outing and a breakfast over the four day reunion. If you have not received your reunion letter and were a member of the Class of 1963, contact Georgia and Ernie Temple at (908) 561-6464 or e-mail Hachidan@prodigy.net.

If you were a teacher for the Class of 1963 and would like to attend, please contact us for information.

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Recreation Dept. Plans Trip To Ireland

The South Plainfield Recreation Department is planning a trip to Ireland that will take place from Tuesday, March 18 to Sunday, March 23, 2003. The cost of the trip is \$800 per person based on double occupancy. Single supplement is \$169. The trip includes the following:

- Round trip bus transportation from PAL to JFK Airport
- Round trip airfare on Aer Lingus
- Four night first class hotel accommodations with private bath: 2 nights in Killarney, and 2 nights in Galway
- Breakfast & dinner daily, including a traditional medieval banquet
- Transportation via private deluxe motorcoach
- Portage of one suitcase per person
- All taxes and service charges for included features
- Admission fees to places of interest on tour
- Services of a professional driver/tour guide
- Sightseeing will include the Killarney, the Ring of Kerry, the Cliffs of Moher, Galway, the Royal Tara China showroom, the beautiful Connemara area and Galway Bay.

If interested, a deposit of \$150 per person is required in order to confirm your reservation. Do not delay, because space is limited to 44 seats. The final balance for the trip will be due Dec. 15, 2002. Optional travel insurance is strongly recommended and will be available on request. A valid U.S. Passport is required. If you do not have a passport, or you need to renew it, please contact Joann Graf at (908) 756-0615.

To register, go to the PAL building to pick up a registration form.

Elks Are Selling Entertainment Books for 2003

The South Plainfield Elks Veterans Committee is selling the Entertainment book for \$30.

Contact Lou Peralta at (908) 756-6406.

(Continued from page 2)

releases and the letters from our candidates stick to issues: skyrocketing taxes, crime prevention, increased traffic and overgrowth. We once again ask the Democrats to do the same.

DAVID GUOTH

To the Editor:

I have never been more excited about an election than I am right now. We have three candidates running for office who have exemplified the true meaning of being a "public servant." Mayor Dan Gallagher, Council President Jim Vokral and Councilman Ed Kubala have served this community well during their years on the governing body and deserve to be re-elected.

Since January 1, 1994, Mayor Gallagher and Councilmen Vokral and Kubala have guided this Borough through its most prosperous time. Let me take this opportunity to share just a few of their accomplishments that have improved my quality of life and I'm sure, yours too.

First and foremost, under the leadership of Mayor Dan Gallagher, Councilmen Vokral and Kubala over 50 acres of land has been permanently preserved for open space. That means that NOTHING WILL EVER BY BUILT ON IT. Bravo guys! Also, they instituted "pay as you go" government in which they anticipate and budget for projects that will be done in the upcoming year rather than rely on borrowed money to pay for these projects. A far cry for the prior Republican regime that, in their last year of control borrowed over 10 million dollars and still raised taxes five points. Thank God we now have leaders who have the courage to run this town within its means. Oh, by the way, did I mention that this "pay as you go" philosophy has provided this Borough with 117 new roads, a new PAL Building, upgrades to every park in town and a new Senior Housing Complex? They even managed to get a state-of-the-art 10,000 square foot Senior Citizen Recreation Center built at no cost to the taxpayers. Now that's leadership.

I could go on for days about the accomplishments of Mayor Dan Gallagher and Councilmen Vokral and

Kubala, as well as the entire Democratic team. I think you get the picture. I would like to leave you with this one final thought and remember this on Election Day; Mayor Dan Gallagher, Council President Jim Vokral and Councilman Ed Kubala have tirelessly worked for this Borough during their tenure and we must continue to have leaders who have the vision, desire and know-how to get projects done. We need to re-elect Mayor Dan Gallagher, Council President Jim Vokral and Councilman Ed Kubala. Please cast your vote for them on Election Day.

MARIE DOLINSKI

Dear Editor,

I have known Mayor Dan Gallagher and Councilmen Jim Vokral and Ed Kubala for years and know they have the best interests of the people of South Plainfield in their mind. They have shown time and time again that they care about South Plainfield and the people that live here by the actions they have taken. They have implemented programs to control spending and reduce debt while at the same time continuing to complete projects to benefit all the people of the Borough.

Please join me this year by casting your vote for the Democratic team.

ELEANOR HAINES

To the Editor,

Election Season, also known as the "Daft Days of Autumn," is upon us. This is not unique to South Plainfield, it's happening in every city and town in the country. Pre-Election time means debates, issues, attacks and LIES. And the mud does fly! The serious political analyst and the honest politician knows better than to insult the intelligence of the voter, but many don't. And so it continues!

Common sense dictates that no town should be under the control of one political party. One political party is in control of South Plainfield. This leads me to think it's time for a change. A one-party council and mayor invite many special interest groups to exploit the town. This is a natural phenomenon and not always the fault of those in charge. It happens due to the lack of bi-partisan scrutiny.

A bi-partisan council and mayor provides checks and balances. There is definitely a watch-dog atmosphere. Our Federal Government is bi-partisan and there are many watchdogs in Washington. Our township government should be the same. This is the very reason why a two-party system was initiated.

The voter and taxpayer are capable of knowing whether or not their taxes are being raised and that promises of improvements have not happened. Projects that never materialize and promises that are never kept are very obvious to most. No need for excuses and lies. Most voters are knowledgeable. No need for self-praise or meaningless attacks. The voter knows what's really happening.

As a voter, I have the right to vote and the duty to be informed, and will prove it at the polls. Keep the campaign clean and only the issues, PLEASE.

Don't insult the intelligence of the voter.

"God Bless America."

ROSE CONTEY

To the Editor:

Councilman Kubala made a statement in the paper recently. He said the Democrats have held taxes even three times since 1999. He went on to say that no mayor and council has done

that in the last twenty years. Not true.

I have a *Star Ledger* article from August 1992 entitled, "Holding the Line on Taxes, South Plainfield budget keeps rate stable for fourth straight year." Yes, Republicans held taxes even for four years in a row.

The mayor and his running mates talk about how they miraculously turned around a town in financial ruin. Baloney. They benefited from the hard choices the Republicans made in the early '90's. And while these same Democrats love to bash the Republicans who held office through 1993, they forget the way they obstructed government back then. They took every chance to do what was politically expedient rather than what was right for the town. I won't rehash what Jim Eckert's letter last week said, but suffice it to say the Democrats play fast and loose with the facts.

I've been holding back writing a letter to the editor, but seeing the Democrats distort things week after week brought me to a boil. We need some people to watch over their shoulders, and Jake Cataldo, Marge Reedy and Geoff Champion are the people to do it. It's time for a change.

BILL DESABATO

To the Editor,

Jake Cataldo's letter to the editor last week asked if the mayor was getting forgetful. Apparently so. He forgot he promised us a tax cut. Yes, on January 1, 2002, Mayor Daniel Gallagher guaranteed he'd cut taxes this year.

Here is Gallagher's quote from the January 11, 2002 *Observer*: "We can and will reduce taxes this year!" The same issue of the *Observer* had a front-page story headlined "Mayor to Reduce 2002 Municipal Taxes."

The mayor promised a 2002 tax cut. Did you get it? I sure as heck didn't. I called a few friends, and they didn't either.

The current Democratic administration is so busy patting itself on the back and making grandiose claims and promises, it overlooks something important: after a while people catch on. Here's my suggestion. When you see the mayor, promise you'll vote for him. Then, keep your promise the same way he kept his, and vote for Cataldo, Reedy and Champion.

DAVID J. ALBUNIO

Dear Editor,

At the recent fire at the apartments on New Durham Ave., a few forgotten heroes were not mentioned. Our firemen did an outstanding job as usual to contain the fire.

The police officer who first arrived on the scene should be credited also for helping to vacate the apartments and also off-duty Police Officer Courtney was on the scene helping also.

I think they should be given as much credit as anyone there.

TONY PISANIELLO

Dear Editor,

I hope that the voters of South Plainfield will support Marge Reedy in her effort to become a member of the Borough Council at the November election.

Not only has Marge already served her community well by her nine years of service as a member of the Board of Education, but she still remains active in numerous local activities. She is currently president of the South Plainfield High School Music Boosters and president of Vision 2002 and is a member of The Historical Society.

Certainly she will bring a fresh and different approach to the discussions of the Borough Council which it seems should be welcome by all of us.

VERY TRULY YOURS,
LINDA TOWN

Dear Editor,

Something happened today and it has somewhat upset me! I am not involved in politics, but I do take an interest and keep as informed as I can.

Politics being at it is, I follow my own thoughts in voting for whom I feel will help most of the residents of South Plainfield (or state or country).

What occurred today was this:

A store owner was told Mr. Gallagher, our mayor, that a sign in the store was supporting his rival and should not be displayed! The store took it down! Now there are no signs displayed!

Is this America? Can we not, after we are shown or given information, decide on our own? I happen to think we can. It has been written: Power corrupts. Absolute power corrupts absolutely! Is this true in our town?

VERY SINCERELY,
MICHAEL DECARLO

The Community of
South Plainfield
is invited to a

Mayor and Borough Council Candidates' Debate

on Wednesday, October 23
at Roosevelt School, Hamilton Blvd.
7:30 p.m.

Light refreshments will be served

2002
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November 5, 2002

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From the Democrats

Democrats Proud of "Nine Remarkable Years of Achievement"

Mayor Daniel Gallagher, Council President Jim Vokral, and Councilman Ed Kubala reflected on the last nine years in South Plainfield. Ed Kubala said, "Jim and I have always run as a team and we have always thought of Dan as the quarterback. It's great to be running with the Mayor this year. In 1993 there was no traffic light at the intersection of Durham and New Durham Avenue, Hadley Road looked like a moon crater, Durham Avenue was a dilapidated two lane road, Hamilton Boulevard and New York Avenue was an unsafe curve, there was no turning lane on Oak Tree Avenue and Maple Avenue, there was no traffic light at Maple Avenue and Front Street, the curbs and sidewalks in the center of town were virtually non-existent, there were no decorative lights, no turning lane on Oak Tree Avenue and Front Street, and the borough's finances were in chaos. What a difference nine years has made!"

Council President Jim Vokral expanded on his running mates comments saying, "It feels good to drive around town and see the improvements that have been made. When I go to the library and see the renovations and enjoy the new air conditioning system or when I see the kids playing at the new addition to the P.A.L. or the new skate park or hockey rink behind borough hall or enjoying the improved soccer complex or the park improvements, I feel that we have made a positive difference in the quality of life in South Plainfield. Of course the thing Ed and Dan and I are most proud of is putting our borough on a sound financial footing. Paving over 100 roads on a 'pay as you go' basis, keeping borough spending under control and adopting a budget that included no tax increase in three of the last five years is quite an accomplishment. But the thing that stands out above everything else is the incredible reduction in South Plainfield's debt. When the new Democratic majority took control of the council on January 1, 1994, South Plainfield's debt was over \$20 million dollars, *not counting interest*. Today it is a little over \$10 million dollars. If we stay the course, our debt will be reduced by another \$5 million in the next three years."

Mayor Gallagher summed up the Democrats position saying, "You have our word that we won't rest on our laurels. There are a lot of good things to come. Next year Hamilton Boulevard will be totally reconstructed from the overpass all the way to Stelton Road, with new curbs, sidewalks, a traffic signal at St Nicholas Boulevard and four lanes from Valley Bank to the Home Depot. We have already preserved almost 100 acres of open space. We plan on adding 50 more acres next year alone. Within a few weeks, the council will be retaining an engineering firm to seek state funding to acquire the flood prone properties along New Market Avenue to be permanently protected from development. Next year, we will again present a budget that has no tax increase and we will *prepay a portion of the borough debt*. Ed, Jim and I humbly ask for your support on election day so that we can continue to work at keeping South Plainfield the best town in New Jersey."



From the Republicans

The myth of pay-as-you-go government

"Pay-as-you-go government has been a Democratic campaign slogan for almost a decade," said GOP candidate for mayor Jake Cataldo this week. "Sadly, it's a myth rather than a reality. While the Democrats have been boasting about not borrowing money, they've been leasing things instead. People who lease their cars know the hard truth: you still have the monthly payment for several years. While it's not technically borrowing, it's still a long-term obligation."

"Nothing is wrong with leasing if it makes fiscal sense," added council candidate Marge Reedy. "But don't tell us you are running a so-called pay-as-you-go government when you're indebting us nevertheless. The leases are for necessary items, and if leasing is the better way to go, fine. At the same time, the pay-as-you-go slogan is deceptive. The slogan's what should go."

Council candidate Geoff Champion echoed this concern: "In theory you are debt-free, but you still have to pay the lease for years into the future."

"I guess the mayor and council realized that they couldn't keep all their promises, and at the same time, not raise taxes even more than they have," Cataldo said. "Leasing is fine as long as the leases are for large purchases that will be used for many years. From my review of the situation, we leased



2002 VOTE

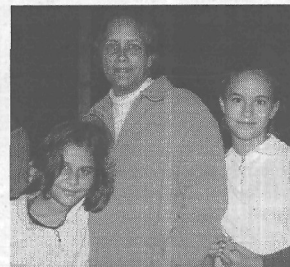
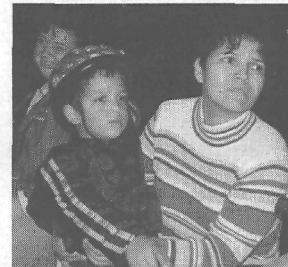
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November 5, 2002

things we needed. I have no complaints about that. Just be straightforward with us. Don't boast about not incurring debt."

Champion took it a bit further: "The Democrats would have us believe they weaved 'fiscal responsibility' out of 'financial chaos.' When you think about it, it sounds pretty good. But did they? Taxes are skyrocketing, and they're selling off assets — borough-owned land — to prop up the budget. They say they're not incurring debt, but they are leasing instead. At the same time, the budget increased over a million-and-a-half dollars last year. Is this what they mean when they say they've restored fiscal integrity? I'm afraid what other hidden problems are lurking in Borough Hall."

"If the Democrats failed at achieving their pay-as-you-go promise, you can't fault them for trying. But they should tell us. They shouldn't repackage their shortcomings as accomplishments via campaign slogans. People would respect them more if they were straightforward about their failures," added Reedy.

Cataldo summed up everyone's feelings: "Marge, Geoff and I are not making a lot of campaign promises. But we will promise one thing. We won't sugar coat things. If there's a problem, we'll do our best to deal with it. We'll also be your eyes and ears. Even if we win this year, the Democrats will still control the council, but at least you will have people looking over their shoulders. If you elect us, we will do our best to safeguard your interests. In the meantime, we hope to earn your vote in November."



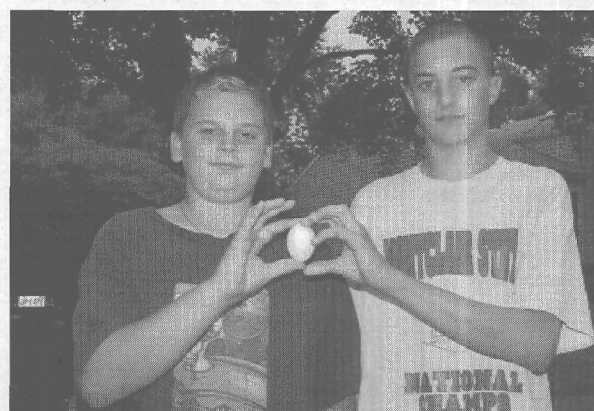
Rain Can't Drown a 40 Year Plus Tradition

Story/photos by Patricia Abbott

The residents of Revere Road were not about to let a rainy day stop their annual block party. After all it is easily the longest running block party in the

The festivities began a bit later than usual. The rain fell off and on throughout the day but the 100 plus neighbors, family and friends enjoyed the afternoon nonetheless. Picnic tables and seats filled the shelter to overflowing. During breaks in the rain they played their traditional games, including an egg toss for children and adults.

The friendly debate over the exact year of the first picnic is ongoing. When the development was still fairly new in 1959, picnics were held on a nearby farm owned by Charlie Russo. The first block party held on Revere Road was in 1961. It is a matter of personal opinion as to the correct beginning of the long standing tradition. Original organizers were Joe Scarpitto, Al Behr, Bob Lyons, Don Jackson, Ray Horomanski, Arty Porzio, Frank Cornell, Ron Weber (deceased) and Bill Macellara (deceased).



area; the first one was held over 40 years ago. In the early hours of Sept. 1 a huge tent made of several large tarps was erected in the street. The picnic has never been canceled because of inclement weather. Many years ago on one especially wet day the event was moved into the hall at Our Lady of Czestochowa Church.

The details of organizing the block party have been passed on to the children of the "original group" as the founders are fondly called. The organizers, now parents themselves, reminisce as they watch their children enjoy the day filled with family, friends and food. Rain or not, the tradition continues on Revere Road.

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Former South Plainfield Author to Teach Aspiring Authors about Publishing

Mark Csordos, both a published and self published author, will be doing a free workshop open to the public at the South Plainfield Library on Oct. 6 from 2 to 4 p.m. The workshop is "How to Get Your Manuscript Published." Mark has authored two

books in 2002, *Goal Set Your Way to Achieving Your Dreams* and *Business Lessons for Entrepreneurs: 35 Things I learned before the Age of Thirty*.

Mark is particularly proud of *Business Lessons*. Originally self-published, it received a five star rating on Ama-

zon.com and was picked up by South Western Publishing. The new version of the book includes a foreword and five additional lessons that Mark felt were important to include after the publishing of the first edition.

The workshop will teach people the differences and the pros and cons of self-publishing, getting published and using vanity presses. It will also cover questions such as, "Do I need an agent?" "How do you set up a book signing?" "How to generate publicity for your book" and "Why publishers pick one manuscript over another." From Mark's personal experience, the easiest part of being an author is writing the book. Most would-be authors neglect the business side of getting published.

Mark, a 1989 graduate of South Plainfield High School, graduated from Rutgers University in 1996. His books are available on Amazon.com and BN.com.

Music Boosters Sponsoring Marching Band Festival

The South Plainfield High School Music Boosters is sponsoring their 21st Annual Marching Band Festival on Sunday, Oct. 20 at the Frank Jost Football Field. Area bands will be performing their shows starting at 1 p.m. and culminating win trophies for each winning band in Divisions I, II, III, IV. Hot food will be available for sale, including baked goods prepared by the parents of band members.

The award winning South Plain-

field Marching Tigers will be performing their 2002 show "Civil War" and marching to the songs, *By the Sword*, *How Many Devils*; and *For the Glory*.

Ticket prices are \$6 for adults, \$4 for senior citizens and students. All proceeds benefit music scholarships for graduating seniors in the high school band and chorus programs.

Interested bands may still join our line-up by calling Bob at (908) 755-2709.

ATA Black Belt Wows at Championships



The ATA BlackBelt Academy of South Plainfield produced a phenomenal showing at the American Tae Kwon Do Associations Mid Atlantic Regional Championships held at Brookdale Community College in Lincroft. The academy was represented by 40 students out of 720 competitors from across the country.

These following students were recognized:

Paul Blackford-(adult div.-camo belt) placed second in sparring.

Elizabeth Blackford-(teen div.-orange belt) placed fourth in forms.

Jena Cianfrocca-(jr. div.-red belt) placed first in weapons and fourth in forms.

Bianca DiDolce-(jr. div.-black belt) placed first in forms and first in sparring.

Luis DiMacje-(adult div.-black belt) placed third in forms and sparring.

Kayla Gilman-(jr. div.-red/black belt) placed first in sparring.

Paul Granski-(adult div.-camo belt) placed fourth in forms.

Amy Hayes-(jr. div.-red belt) placed fourth in forms.

Chris Hunt-(jr. div.-blue belt) placed first in weapons and second in sparring.

Charles Izard-(jr. div.-purple belt) placed first in weapons and fourth form and sparring.

Nick Jankoski-(jr. div.-red belt) placed second in forms and third in sparring.

Kaitlyn Kenny-(jr. div.-brown belt) placed second in sparring and weapons.

Klayton McDaniel-(jr. div.-green belt) placed fourth in forms.

Mark Piltz-(jr. div.-yellow belt) placed fourth in forms.

Billy Ritchey-(jr. div.-black belt) placed third in sparring.

Glen Robicheau-(adult div.-camo belt) placed first in forms.

Nicole Terreault-(jr. div.-blue belt) placed third in forms.

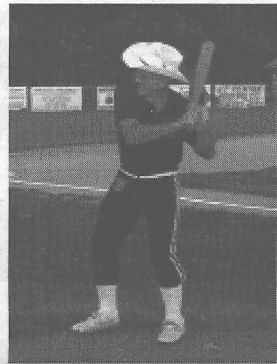
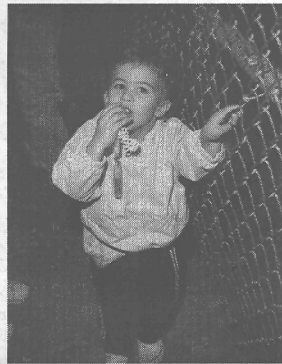
Thomas Zazzara-(jr. div.-brown belt) placed second in sparring and weapons.

The following students from the Tiny Tiger and Dragon Divisions, ages 3½ to 6 received awards for outstanding techniques: Justin Bannon, JJ Boehcher, Chris Cieszkewics, Johnny DiDolce, Kwami Evans, Frank Ferraro, Chris Fowles, Matt Fizur, Joshua Fennelly, Catherine Izard, Charles LaDelle, Tarrell Mitchell, Ernest Mejias, Micheal Newman, Daniel Pacheco, Kathryn Pacheco, Kelsy Prins, Nick Ruzicka, Wily Robio, DeVon Summers, and Laura Weinburger.

Sports



The Annual Charity Softball game, which pits the police against the fire department, was played last month and was attended by young and old alike. The police narrowly defeated the fire department by just one run. The proceeds of the event were donated to the Elks Handicapped Children's Fund.



Ponytail Softball Batters Box

By Sharon Miller



Ponytail Softball Association Meeting-Oct. 22—The South Plainfield Parents' Association will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 22 at 7:30 p.m. in South Plainfield Middle School library. If you are interested in becoming a member and being involved in girl's Ponytail softball, join us on Oct. 22. New members are always welcome.

Art Auction: October 4—Friday, Oct. 4, the SPPPA will host an art auction presented by Ross Galleries in SP High School library. Preview is from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Auction begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets, \$5/person, 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 DeSantis 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 the Parents' Association and All-Star teams. Feel free to contact me by keying on the email link Webmasterssponytail.com found on our home page.

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Sports

SOCCER

Bullets Fall to Wizards, 2-1

The South Plainfield Soccer Club Bullets U-9 boy's team suffered their first defeat of the year, 2-1, to the Metuchen Wizards. The Wizards worked their magic early, overwhelming the Bullets defense with crisp passing and numerous shots before tallying at the 7th minute. After that, the Bullets settled down to play the Wizards evenly for the remainder of the half. Just before the half ended, the Bullets capitalized on an errant Wizard throw-in, with forward Tony Franczak taking a pass from Ryan Marcoux and hitting a rocket from 18 yards.

The second half provided more exciting play, as the Bullets controlled play for most of the third quarter. Forwards Daniel Lyew, Daniel

Zwatschka, Steve Bichler, Nick Pleeter, and Ryan Marcoux provided many quality chances, including a disallowed goal. The fourth quarter found the Bullets playing mostly defense. Kevin Flanagan, Zachary Noll, Steve Bichler, Nicko Rivera, Nick Pleeter and Albert Vill thwarted all Wizard advances, but the Bullets could not control play beyond midfield.

With one minute left in the game, the Wizards scored on an end-to-end breakaway to seal the victory. Daniel Lyew and Tony Franczak shared goalkeeping duties for the Bullets, who are 2-1 on the year.

Come out and join the excitement this Sunday, Oct. 6, as the Bullets host the North Plainfield Wolverines in a 1:30 p.m. match at Kenneth Field.

Sonics Undefeated After Three

The South Plainfield Sonics played home on Sunday, Sept. 29 and took on the West Windsor Tsunami.

Although West Windsor scored within the first five minutes of the game, the Sonics came right back on Dana Hunt's redirect into the goal. During the second quarter, the Sonics took the lead on a direct kick just outside the penalty area only to have West Windsor tie it on a direct kick also. The score at the half was tied 2-2.

Midfielders Charlie Huber, Danny Hunt and Will Mott played outstanding. Attackers Mike Dispenziere, Dana Hunt, Steve Lanza and Nick Okoszeko worked together through-

out the game. The Sonics scored twice in the third quarter; Danny Hunt assisting Dana Hunt on both goals.

The defensive line consisting of Shaun Alers, Luke Goitandia, Charlie Huber, Nick Ross, Danny Sticco and Nick Tupp allowed West Windsor past the midfield line only three times in the second half. Keepers Nick Ross, Will Mott and Danny Hunt did a terrific job holding the Tsunami to only two goals. Although scoreless in the fourth quarter, the Sonics had nine shots on goal. The final score was Sonics 4, West Windsor 2, making the Sonics record 3-0. Keep up the great team effort.

Blaze U-14 Girls Win 2 in a Row

Facing Readington Rapsallions in an away game this past Sunday, the South Plainfield Blaze U-14 girls traveling soccer team went home victorious. A decisive 3-1 win against a talented team proves Blaze is on top of their game and ready to play.

Defensively fullbacks Ashleigh Gaspari, Tiffany Smith and Allison Harty shutdown explosive attacks from Readington's strikers while stopper Megan Boyle and sweeper Jackie Miller were relentless protecting the middle.

Batting balls right and left inside the box, talented keeper Becky Keller made numerous exciting saves. Dominating the center of the field with sheer athleticism midfielders Jennifer

Copeland, Jenna DeLillo and Elizabeth Flannery had an excellent day.

First strike of the game came in the 12th minute when on a corner kick from striker Katie Hardy midfielder Lauren Fry one touched it in for the score. The second tally of the game came when midfielder Lauren Fry sent off a nice crossing feed to striker Kim Marin who found the back of the net. Putting the game out of reach in the 75th minute striker Dorian Bishop took a breakaway and blasted a shot to the far post.

Well done girls and congratulations on a sensational win! Visit the South Plainfield Soccer Club web site at www.sopfldsoccerclub.com.

Submitted by Coach Hardy

Middle School Lady Tigers Win First Game

On Sept. 23 in their first game ever in South Plainfield Middle School Lady Soccer history, the Lady Tigers dominated the Lady Bulldogs of Metuchen for a 3-1 win.

A total team effort was needed to turn back the stubborn Bulldogs. Goals were scored by Lauren Fry, Stephanie Szeliga and Katie Hardy. Dominating the center of the field were playmakers Megan Boyle, Jenna DeLillo and Jen Copland. The outside was kept in check by the hustle of Rachel Senz, Ashleigh Gaspari, at defense, Bitsy Flannery (1 assist), Brook Denitzio, Joy Maszczak, Clare Kelly and Katie Reichart kept the midfield in check.

Keeping the attack going were forwards Victoria Plasse and Jennifer Capparelli. Solid goal-keeping by Becky Keller and with the help of a stellar defense, led by Jackie Miller, the

MS Tigers Girls Soccer Schedule			
OCTOBER			
Wednesday, Oct 2	South River	away	3:45
Thursday, Oct 3	Thomas Edison	home (Riley)	3:45
Tuesday, Oct 8	Hillsboro	home (Riley)	3:45
Wednesday, Oct. 9	Perth Amboy	away	3:45 Thurs-
day, Oct. 10	Thomas Edison	away	3:45
Monday, Oct. 14	Perth Amboy	away	3:45
Thursday, Oct. 17	Hillsboro	away	3:45
Friday, Oct. 18	Piscataway	home (Riley)	3:45
Tuesday, Oct. 29	Timothy Christian	away	3:45

This schedule is subject to change. Please call the Athletic Office for directions.

Lady Tigers were able to preserve the shutout. Coach Robert Richkus credits the success of the new program to the outstanding work by the parents and coaches of the South Plainfield Soccer Club.

The next day the Lady Tigers easily

defeated a determined Perth Amboy team by a score of 9-0.

Jen Copeland, with two goals and one assist, Victoria Plasse, with one goal and Jenna DeLillo with one goal, each chipped in. Helping the attack were Brooke Denitzio with one assist, Bitsy Flannery and Jennifer Capparelli. Megan Boyle, Ashleigh Gaspari, Rachel Senz and Jackie Miller gave another solid defensive effort holding Perth Amboy in check. Katie Reichart was between the posts and earned her first shutout.

SPHS FIELD HOCKEY By Sharon Miller

Week of October 6

The varsity team is having a spectacular season with a 6-0-1 record (as of Sept 30). The first game of the week takes place on Monday, Oct. 7 at 3:45 p.m. against Monroe Township at home on the Carol Espinosa Field. On Wednesday, Oct. 9 the team faces Sayreville in Sayreville at 3:45 p.m.

The final game of the week is against South Brunswick on Friday, Oct. 11, also at home 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.

Rutgers Clinic—Oct. 13

Reminder to all players: The Rutgers 2002 Mid-Season Field Hockey Clinic takes place on Oct. 13 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the "Bubble" located on the Busch Campus across from the stadium. The cost is \$25. Please submit your money and application asap. You will need to bring your stick, shinguards, mouthguard, running sneakers, goalie equipment(if applicable) and water.

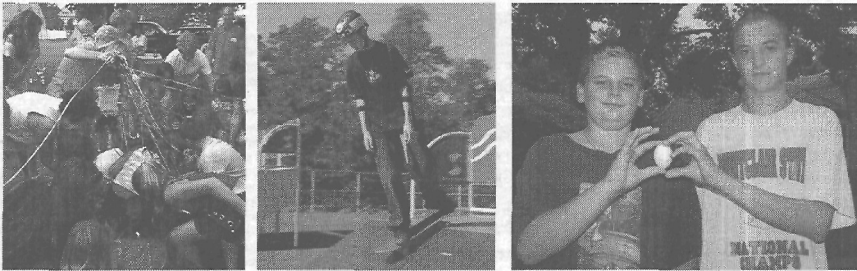
Sign up for HS-Age Basketball League

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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Obituaries

Gladys Einger DeLisle, 101

Gladys Einger DeLisle died on Wednesday, Sept. 23, in Durango, Col.

The daughter of Charles J. Benjamin and Jennie Anderson, Gladys was born in Friendship, NY. She had lived in Plainfield for many years, until the time of her marriage to the late Harold L. DeLisle, in 1923. Gladys had then lived in the Oak Tree Section of Edison for over 40 years before moving, to Colorado in 1978.

She worked for the former Bronson Hat Factory in Plainfield as a hat trimmer and supervisor during the 1940's. In the 1950's Gladys, along with her husband and son, owned and operated DeLisle's Confectionery Store in the East End of Plainfield.

Gladys was a member of the former Martha Washington Daughters of America Council #23 in Plainfield. She was also an avid bowler in various leagues in Middlesex and Union Counties for many years with her husband and son. In her later years, Gladys enjoyed knitting, writing and playing the organ.

She is predeceased by the late Harold L. DeLisle, who died in 1966 and by her brother, the late Percy Benjamin.

Gladys is survived by her son, LeRoy P. of Durango, Col., and by several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Grace Keiderling Marks, 75

Grace Keiderling Marks of Phillipsburg died on Monday, Sept. 29, at the Easton Hospital in Easton, Pa.

Grace was born in and was a long time resident of Plainfield, before moving to Phillipsburg six months ago.

Grace was a waitress at many of the area diners and retired from the Somerset Diner in Somerset.

She was an avid bingo player.

She was predeceased by her daughter, Cheryl Lynn Marks, who died in 1955.

She is survived by a daughter, Jean Marks of Easton; a son, William Marks of Tampa, Fla.; five grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

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

Jacque E. Stark, 75

Jacque E. Stark died on Thursday, Sept. 26, in Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Morristown, Jacque resided in Netcong, Maplewood and Orange before moving to South Plainfield 44 years ago.

Jacque was employed by PSE&G of Clifton as a cable splicer and service dispatcher for 37 years before retiring in 1984.

He served in the U.S. Navy during

WWII.

Surviving are his wife, Grace E. (Iron) Stark; a daughter, Linda J. Innes and her husband Russell of South Plainfield; four sons, John J. Stark and his wife Kathleen of Edison, Robert E. of Tampa, Fla., Gary W. and his wife Denise and Glen V. Stark of South Plainfield.

Also surviving are eight grandchildren, Michael, Daniel, Jacqueline, Gary W., Jr., Vincent, Derek, Adrienne and Stevie Lia.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

George E. Takitch, 83

George E. Takitch died on Friday, Sept. 27, at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Mt. Pleasant, Pa., George resided in Cleveland, Ohio and then Port Newark until his marriage. He lived in Newark, Piscataway and in Arizona. He and his family returned to NJ, residing in Edison until 1983, at which time he settled in South Plainfield.

Mr. Takitch served in the US Army during WWII. He was stationed in the Philippines with the 574th Signal Battalion from 1943-1946. He was a life member of the South Plainfield Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Post #6763.

Mr. Takitch was the owner and operator of IPS Corp. of South Plainfield until his retirement in 1990.

His son, Mark, died in August of 2000.

Surviving are his wife, Grace "Connie" (Reider) Takitch; two sons, George M. and Jay E., both of Pa.; three sisters, Helen, Margaret and Agnes and four brothers, Joseph, James, Robert and Charles. He is also survived by five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Mildred Ely, 82

Mildred Ely died on Saturday, Sept. 21, in the Genesis Elder Care Center in Plainfield.

Born in Plainfield, she had resided in South Plainfield since 1946.

She was employed as an assembler for the American Flange Co. of Linden for 18 years before retiring in 1981.

Millie served in the U.S. Army during WWII. She was a member of the American Legion Chaumont Post #243 and the South Plainfield Senior Citizens.

Her husband, Harry Ely, died in 1981.

Surviving are two sons, Harry J. of South Plainfield and Ralph H. of Jessup, Pa. Also surviving is her grandson Alex.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.



North and South Madison Aves. Hold First Block Party

By Jane Dornick

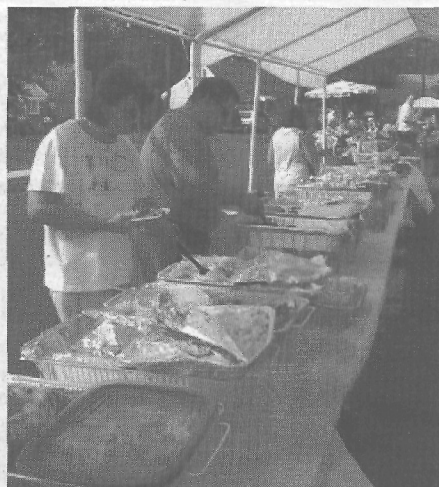
On an unseasonably warm September day, North and South Madison avenues combined their resources and met at the Plainfield Ave. entrance to have one huge block party.

The afternoon began with the children enjoying pony rides. Afterward they held egg and water balloon toss contests, a limbo contest and even a bobbing for apples contest.

Resident Ginny O'Brien was in charge of the 50/50 raffle and made sure everyone was having a good time. Each household brought their own homemade dish, which was a perfect compliment to the "hot off the grill" favorites. The rain held off and the day was deemed a success.

Ginny O'Brien, along with party planners Ann, Dawn and Doreen would like to personally thank everyone publicly who helped set up, clean up and cook. Everyone who help make this first ever Block Party a great one!

Also a big thank you goes out to the following companies for their generous donations: Debbie and Gary



Silverman from Platinum Entertainment who supplied the music, Park Ave. Deli in Piscataway for all of their donations, the Knights of Columbus for lending us their tables, the VFW for letting us use their chairs, Entenmanns, Arizona Ice Tea, Keebler, Hostess and Meier's Bread.

Thanks to everyone involved, we were able to raise \$500 for our cause. Without all of your help, this event would not have been possible.



LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANT (L.S.) STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO: Luis A. Torres, unmarried

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND REQUIRED to serve upon GOLDBECK McCAFFERTY & McKEEVER, A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION, plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is Suite 420; Sentry Office Plaza; 216 Haddon Avenue; Westmont, NJ 08108, phone # (856) 858-3242; an answer to the Amended Complaint (and Amendment to Complaint, if any), filed in a civil action, in which Countrywide Home Loans, Inc. is plaintiff, and Luis A. Torres, unmarried is/are the defendant(s), pending in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, Middlesex County, and bearing Docket No. F-5328-02 within thirty-five (35) days after October 4, 2002 exclusive of such date. If you fail to do so, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Amended Complaint (and Amendment to Complaint, if any). You shall file your answer and proof of service in duplicate with the Clerk of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Hughes Justice Complex - CN 971, Trenton, New Jersey 08625, in accordance with the rules of civil practice and procedure.

This action has been instituted for the purpose of (1) foreclosing a mortgage dated October 24, 2001, made by Luis A. Torres, unmarried as mortgagor(s), to Countrywide Home Loans, Inc. recorded on November 07, 2001, for Middlesex

County in Book 6977, Page 87 of Mortgages for said County, which mortgage has not been assigned; and (2) to recover possession of, and concerns premises commonly known as 310 Townsend Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901.

If you are unable to obtain an attorney, you may communicate with the New Jersey State Bar Association by calling 1-732-249-6000. You may also contact the Lawyer Referral Service of the County of venue by calling 1-(732) 828-0053. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may communicate with the Legal Services offices of the County of venue by calling 1-(732) 249-7800.

YOU, Luis A. Torres, unmarried, are hereby made a party defendant to this foreclosure action because you are the record owner of the mortgaged premises and because you executed the bond or note and mortgage being foreclosed herein and may be liable for any deficiency thereon, and for any lien, claim or interest you may have in, to or against the mortgaged premises.

Donald F. Phelan, Clerk
Superior Court of New Jersey

\$79.00 October 4, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

October 1, 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 26, 2002.

A. Case #65-02-Douglas Cooper-Block 234; Lot 40; 3223 Banta Road; Applicant's request for variances to construct a second floor addition and porch was hereby GRANTED.

B. Case #75-02-Victor Jordao-121 Pomponio Ave.; Block 430; Lot 8.02; Applicant's request for variances to erect an 8' x 10' wood shed was hereby GRANTED.

C. Case #74-02-Calvin Davis-Block 7; Lot 14.06; 26 McCarthy Court-Applicant's request for a variance to allow an 8' 100% solid fence along his side property line was hereby GRANTED.

D. Case #73-02-Shopper's World-698A Oak Tree Road; Block 254, Lot 2.02; OBC-3 Zone-Applicant's request for a variance for four facade signs was hereby GRANTED.

E. Case #52-02-Toni Hereford Boyce-1509 Clinton Avenue; Block 152; Lot 1601; Applicant's request for a use variance to erect a one story garage was hereby GRANTED.

F. Case #70-02-John & Joanne Perri-Block 75; Lot 5, 2312 Terrace Avenue-Applicant's request for a variance for a detached garage was hereby GRANTED.

G. Case #62-02-Patrick & Anita Diegnan-Block 394; Lot 1.02; R-10 Zone; 128 Smith Street-Applicant's request for a bulk variance to construct a deck was hereby GRANTED.

H. Case #66-02-Mary Ann Robinson-Block 10; Lot 12.03, 138 Maha Avenue-Applicant's request for a variance to erect a metal shed was hereby GRANTED.

I. Case #76-02/S-John Atcachunas-Block 208; Lot 4; 2318 Park Ave.-Applicant's request for a use variance to use the structure as a professional office on both floors was hereby GRANTED.

J. Case #79-02/S/S/V-Greystone Paving & Contracting Co., Inc.-Oak Tree Ave., HDD Zone, Lot 49; R-10 Zone, Lots 47 & 48-Applicant's request bulk variance, site plan and subdivision was hereby GRANTED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janice Muccilli,
Secretary Zoning Board of Adjustment

\$54.00 October 4, 2002

LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), parents and guardians, teachers, children, and employees of the South Plainfield School District must be notified annually of the district's activities regarding asbestos found in the schools.

In the past year, The South Plainfield School District has completed various inspections to comply with the management plan.

The management plan can be found in the main office of each school and is available for your review during school hours.

Edward F. Izbiok, Sr.
Board Secretary/Business Administrator

\$19.25 October 4, 2002



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policereport

• Jessie Russel Runyan, 27, of South Plainfield was arrested on Sept. 19 for possession of a weapon for unlawful purpose and criminal mischief. He is accused of slashing the tires of seven vehicles in the W. Hendricks Ave. area. Runyan was caught after a foot pursuit by Police Officer Jim McConville.

• A nine year-old South Plainfield resident had his bike stolen on Sept. 21 from the front of CVS on Plainfield Ave. The suspects were three black males between the ages of 13 and 14.

• On Sept. 16 Meka M. Beachum, 36, of Plainfield was arrested at Macys for shoplifting two pairs of jeans, a shirt and water bottle valued at \$97.50.

• 7-11 on Plainfield Ave. reported that two juveniles were tearing open bags of food and had left the store.

• On Sept. 18 a Holly Dr. resident reported the theft of two lawnmowers from their garage.

• A Bergen St. resident reported that the back door of her bus was open, however nothing was missing.

• A Fords resident reported that while his 1999 Pontiac was parked in a lot on Cragwood Rd., all of the electronic equipment had been taken. The equipment was valued at \$5,000.

• Brian Christopher Magazine, 28, of South Plainfield was arrested at his home for simple assault.

• Perfect Touch Hair Salon on New Market Ave. reported that a window had been broken with an unknown object. Nothing was taken.

• A Maple Pl. resident reported the theft of a bike from the Middle School on Monday.

• A O'Loughlin Dr. resident re-

ported that he had given \$100 to his brother to return to another party; however the brother kept the money and won't return it.

• Quick Check on Sampton Ave. reported that several youths were using vulgar language and shoving each other.

• An Oakmoor Ave. resident reported that his tire had been slashed.

• A Plainfield Ave. resident reported the theft of his cell phone on Sept. 5.

• On Sept. 22 Maria Milagros Merritt, 34 of South Plainfield was arrested at her home for simple assault.

• A Lowden Ave. resident reported that two black males were in his backyard and had told him to "shut up." They then ran off into the woods.

• Andre Issac Hill, 31, of Somerset was arrested at Eckerd for shoplifting three cartons of cigarettes.

• A Lucy Ct. resident reported that his vehicle had been broken into. There were pry marks on the door, the steering column was damaged and the car was left running with the windows and doors locked.

• A Kenyon Ave. resident reported the left of a 20" Lynx bike.

• On Sept. 24 Alexandro Cruz, 33, of Newark was arrested on West Ave. for possession of a fraudulent insurance card at a motor vehicle stop.

• Joulé Inc. on Corporate Blvd. reported the windshield of their truck had been cracked and the gas line was cut.

• Sullivan's Auto Body on Hamilton Blvd. reported that air brakes and a shifter had been damaged on a vehicle.

• Cesar D. Javier, 49, of N. Plainfield was arrested at DMV for knowingly exhibiting a false document, while tried

to get a NJ driver's examination permit using a fake alien resident card.

• Rico Michael Iroth, 27, of South Plainfield was arrested at his place of employment on a warrant of deportation and was turned over to the FBI.

• An E. Golf Ave. resident reported the theft of license plates from his basement.

• Lynn Steel Corp. on St. Nicholas Ave. reported the theft of a campaign sign from in front of their building.

• A Ledden Terr. resident reported that someone had gone through their car. There was no damage and nothing was missing.

• A Zwolak Ct. resident reported that a mountain bike had been stolen.

• On Sept. 28 Peggy A. Lanza, 45, of South Plainfield was arrested at Stelton Rd. and Hamilton Blvd. for driving while intoxicated.

• A Babies Dr. resident reported that their mailbox had been broken.

• A Scalara Dr. resident reported that two mailboxes on the block had been knocked over.

• On Sept. 29 Juan M. Payano, 34, of New York City was arrested at Durham Rd. and McKinley St. for driving while intoxicated, failure to observe a signal and reckless driving.

• A Leeds Dr. resident reported a tree had been ripped out on their property.

• A Tompkins Ave. resident reported a leaf blower and lawn mower had been stolen from their shed.

• On Oct. 2 Jasmin Maria, 20, of South Plainfield was arrested at a motor vehicle stop for a contempt of court order, no license on possession and no seatbelt.

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Skateboard Park Gets Rave Reviews

(Continued from page 1)

Deanna was instrumental in bringing the need for a local skate park to the attention of the council. She often drove her son and his friends to area skate parks. The alternative, skating on the streets, in local public and private lots, is a safety hazard to the children. Injuries were of concern to local business owners. After traveling to Philadelphia to observe the Xgames Skateboarding competition, Deanna said, "Skateboarding is becoming mainstream, not just extreme." The trip prompted her to contact Councilman Ray Petronko. In October she spoke at a council meeting about the need for a safe place for local skaters and was directed to contact the Recreation Committee and thus, the journey of building a skateboard park actually began.

At the November Recreation Committee meeting, Deanna and a handful of youths backed by their parents spoke again, reinforcing the need for a park. Deanna was pleased when the children were encouraged to speak their mind and were treated with respect. Members of the Recreation Commission decided to study the pos-

sibility of a park and its cost after hearing their plea. Recreation Director Mike English enthusiastically proposed an ideal location, the vacant tennis courts behind Borough Hall. A survey sent via the schools came back with positive input; the interest was there, the need was great. The Recreation Commission then voted to recommend the construction of a skate park. By January plans for a skate park were set. The final approval came in March.

Insurance, bids, rules and more were among the details that still needed to be handled. The weeks ran into months. By August, skate park permits were being issued in anticipation of opening day. The opening exceeded all expectations. Deanna said, "I am grateful and proud of everyone involved with this project, especially Ray Petronko, Mike English, the entire Recreation Commission and most of all, my son."

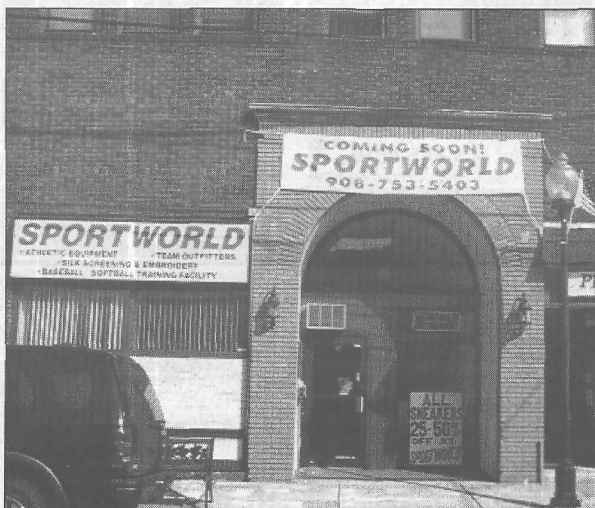
The rules for the skate park have been set up. All skaters must register at the PAL building. The \$35 fee includes a registration card and a sticker to be worn on helmets. The park is open to South Plainfield residents only.



Helmets and safety gear are mandatory. A complete list of rules is provided to each skater, along with their sticker. The park is limited to skateboard and inline skates. Bicycles and scooters are not allowed.

Problems that have occurred with after-hours trespassers were quickly resolved. Out-of-town skaters were eliminated by hiring an attendant who is on sight during hours of operation. The attendant checks ID cards and

stickers and monitors the use of safety equipment. English noted future plans include allotting hours for younger skaters to use the park, allowing them to skate without the breakneck pace of the older crowd.



Sportworld Opens in New Downtown Location

On Monday the doors of the old Park Theatre at 17 South Plainfield Ave. opened once again when Sportworld moved from their previous location in the Golden Acres Shopping Center. They had been at that location for 25 years.

The original 18-and-a-half-foot high tin ceiling is still intact, as well as the stage area which is now covered with football, soccer and baseball shoes, track spikes and wrestling shoes. The balcony will be used to do in-house embroidery and silk screening. Above the old theatre, work is in progress to turn that floor into a baseball and softball practice area, with two

cages for hitting and training and two more for pitching and catching. This space previously housed the Sons of Italy, a dress manufacturing plant, a dance studio and additional space for Presto Printing, located next door.

Co-owners Tom Kiczula and Kevin Brown hope their move will help spur the revitalization of South Plainfield's downtown area. Hours are Mon., Thurs, Fri, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Tues., Weds. and Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sun. from 12-4 p.m. They can be reached at (908) 753-5403 or at www.sport-world.net. Watch for their grand opening and 25th anniversary celebration coming soon.

Skateboarding in the New Millennium

By Patricia Abbott

Skateboarding has made its place in the sport world, but over the past 40 plus years it has come in and out of vogue many times. The history of the skateboard varies. While some recall primitive skateboards in the 30's and 40's, the most prevalent story has youths in California looking for a thrill ride when the ocean was too low to surf. Stories recall wheels removed from roller skates and attached to narrow pieces of wood. The goal was simple, start at the top of a hill and ride down, stay upright and avoid collisions—no small challenge with the improvised equipment and poor road conditions. Now thanks to decades of technology skateboarders have a higher calling, literally and figuratively.

The world of skateboarding can be confusing to the onlooker or beginner. Boards seem to become part of the skater. The CJ Skate Team assisted in comprising a list of terms to better understand the skater and his sky-bound goals:

Anatomy of a Skateboard

- **Deck:** the flat standing surface of a skateboard, usually laminated maple.
- **Grip tape:** sandpaper affixed to the top of the deck with adhesive, used to increase the friction between the deck and the skater's feet.
- **Nose:** the front of the skateboard, from the front truck bolts to the end.
- **Rail:** the edge of the skateboard, also, plastic strips attached to the board's underside.
- **Tail:** the rear of the skateboard, from the back truck bolts to the end.

to the end

- **Trucks:** the front and rear axle assemblies that connect the wheels to the deck and provide the turning capabilities for the board.
- **Wheels:** usually made of polyurethane and sized between 39 and 66 millimeters in diameter; their hardness is measured by durometer, a number ranging from 0 to 100.
- **Wheelbase:** the distance between the front and back wheels, measured between the two sets of innermost truck hole.

Skateboard Tricks

- **Grind:** scraping one or both axles on a curb, railing, or other surface.
- **Kickflip:** a variation on the ollie in which the skater kicks the board into a spin before landing back on.
- **Nosetide:** sliding nose of a board on a ledge or lip.
- **Ollie:** a jump performed by tapping the tail of the board on the ground; the basis of most skating tricks.
- **Railside:** a trick in which the skater slides the underside of the deck along an object, such as a curb or handrail.
- **Switch stance:** riding the board with the opposite footing than usual, i.e., "goofyfoot" instead of "regular foot."
- **Tailside:** sliding the tail end of a board on a ledge or lip.

Types of Skateboarding

- **Street skating:** skating on streets, curbs, benches, handrails and other elements of urban and suburban landscapes.
- **Vert skating:** skating on ramps and other vertical structures specifically designed for skating.

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

Weekdays 9:00 a.m. (church)

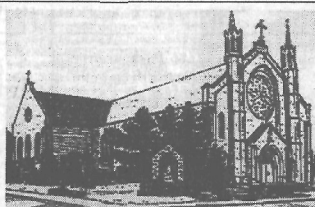
Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.

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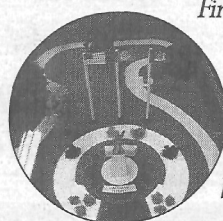
and after 5 p.m. Vigil Mass



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